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Trump, Netanyahu Hoisted by Their Own Petard

US media say a potential Tehran-Washington deal would mark a “resounding strategic failure” for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, exposing the collapse of his long-standing Iran doctrine, as Donald Trump seeks an off-ramp to exit the quagmire of war with Iran



A statue depicting Persian mythical figure Arash the Archer is displayed near a billboard on the facade of a building depicting the Strait of Hormuz with a caption in Persian reading “Forever in Iran’s Hand”, at Vanak Square in Tehran, May 6, 2026.

Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei to be laid to rest in Mashhad on July 9

TEHRAN - The funeral and burial ceremony of the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, will be held in the holy city of Mashhad on July 9.

The announcement was made in a statement issued by the office responsible for preserving and publishing the works of Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei. It said the late Leader will be laid to rest at the holy shrine of Imam Reza (AS). **▶ Page 3**

Iran says understanding with US possible within days, final deal still uncertain

TEHRAN - Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said Friday that Tehran and Washington could announce an initial understanding within the coming days, while emphasizing that any arrangement remains subject to final approval and would mark only the first stage of a broader diplomatic process.

Speaking in a televised interview, Araghchi described the prospective memorandum of understanding as a mechanism to consolidate 'Iran's strategic gains' following the recent conflict involving the United States and Israel.

“Iran emerged victorious from this war, and the Iranian people are the true winners,” Araghchi said, arguing that Tehran had prevented its adversaries from achieving their objectives despite their superior military capabilities. **▶ Page 3**

Washington’s monetary terrorism and the gangster diktat imposed on Iraq

By Garsha Vazirian

TEHRAN — Of all the political fictions staged by Washington over the past two decades, few match the cynicism currently playing out in Baghdad.

The United States is orchestrating a fraudulent narrative for a nation whose oil revenues sit in a Manhattan vault, whose airspace has been routinely violated by American and Israeli warplanes, and whose cabinet is subjected to blatant foreign vetoes.

Having utterly failed to neutralize the Iraqi resistance militarily, Washington has pivoted to an asymmetric model of warfare defined by financial strangulation and political subversion.

This coordinated campaign aims to transform Iraq into a strategic buffer zone, fracturing its deep alignment with Tehran to solidify a tightening imperial siege against the Islamic Republic.

Israeli soldiers suffer heavy casualties in Lebanon

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN - The Israeli regime’s health ministry released updated casualty figures on Saturday, confirming 10 new injuries among soldiers since the previous update issued on Friday.

According to the data, the total number of casualties admitted to hospitals since the unprovoked U.S.-Zionist aggression against Iran, which began on February 28, has reached approximately 9,160.

The figures showed that the total number of soldiers recorded in hospitals from the northern front alone following the ceasefire with Iran reached 1,261, distributed across various hospitals.

The data further highlighted that the total number of casualties admitted to hospitals from the northern front with Hezbollah, following the so-called “ceasefire” with Lebanon, reached 843 IOF troops.

On Thursday, the Israeli health ministry also announced 10 new injuries sustained by occupation troops on the “northern front”.

Kallas’ apartheid characterization of Israel is overdue but welcomed

TEHRAN - Kaja Kallas, the European Union foreign policy chief, has come under attack by Euractiv for comparing Israel to South Africa’s racist apartheid era during high-level talks in Mexico. It argued that she has broken ranks with the EU’s official foreign policy and deepened the controversy surrounding her leadership.

Kallas, a former Estonian prime minister, travelled to Mexico City from 20 to 22 May as part of a senior EU delegation attending a major summit in the country.

During closed-door and confidential meetings with Mexican government representatives, Kallas compared Israel’s treatment of Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank to the racist apartheid policies of South Africa, which ended in the early 1990s.

Officials and diplomats, including those present at the meeting, told Euractiv that she described how moved she was by a visit last year to South Africa and its apartheid museum in the capital, Johannesburg.

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Iran’s victory will echo worldwide, senior military commander says

TEHRAN - The commander of Iran’s Khatam al-Anbia Central Headquarters, Major General Ali Abdollahi, said on Saturday that the world would soon witness the victory of Iran and the triumph of the resistance front over ‘aggressor forces.’

In a message marking the first anniversary of the martyrdom of Major General Gholam Ali Rashid, the former commander of the headquarters, Abdollahi paid tribute to the late military leader’s legacy and contributions to Iran’s defense strategy.

Rashid was martyred in a terrorist attack carried out by Israel at the outset of the 12-day conflict imposed on Iran in June 2025.

Commemorating his predecessor, Abdollahi described Rashid as one of the principal architects of Iran’s modern defense doctrine, emphasizing that his vision and strategic approach continue to guide the country’s military establishment. **▶ Page 3**

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American soldiers need to refuse orders, says ex-US Marine on illegal war on Iran

TEHRAN - In modern militaries, obedience to command is treated as the foundation of discipline. Yet this principle is not absolute. International law, as well as the domestic law of many countries, recognizes that a soldier’s duty is not only to follow orders but also to refuse those that are unlawful.

Kenneth O’Keefe, a former U.S. Marine who served during the first Persian Gulf War, is among the most outspoken figures arguing that American service members must confront that dilemma today. **▶ Page 2**



Iran gear up for World Cup opener

TEHRAN - Iran’s national football team are putting the finishing touches on their preparations for the opening match of its 2026 FIFA World Cup campaign against New Zealand.

Team Melli will face the All Whites on June 15 at SoFi Stadium in Inglewood, California, as they begin their quest for a strong start in the tournament.

Iran’s coaching staff has been focused on final preparations, with players training intensively ahead of the crucial Group G encounter.

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

Normalizing aggression: America's new strategy toward Iran

Jam-e-Jam evaluated the US strategy toward Iran, quoting senior US-affairs analyst Fouad Izadi. The main US objective in its current actions is to normalize attacks on Iran, similar to what is now seen in Lebanon, where Israel strikes whenever it wishes, and such attacks have become routine. The United States wants to apply the same model to Iran. Their preferred scenario is to reach certain agreements with Iran while still maintaining dominance in the region. In such a situation, attacking Iran would no longer be considered costly or crisis-inducing; instead, the US could strike Iran gradually, at different levels and intensities, until such aggression becomes normalized. The way to stop this is to ensure that the Strait of Hormuz does not reopen.

Shargh: The battle of narratives over Iran-US MoU

Shargh wrote about the ongoing battle of narratives surrounding a possible memorandum of understanding between Iran and the United States. According to the paper, a final text has supposedly been agreed upon, yet no one is saying exactly what it contains. On one side, Pakistan's prime minister — acting as mediator — claims that “peace has never been this close” and speaks of a finalized agreement. On the other side, the accounts circulating in Tehran and Washington about the content of this agreement are so contradictory that they seem to describe two entirely different documents. Still, what can be gathered from statements and reports is that no precise, mutually agreed-upon final text has been released. What exists are fragments of a diplomatic puzzle that each side is trying to frame to its own advantage. Pakistan, however, insists that peace is near. Perhaps in just a few days, everything will become clear.

Siasat-e-Rooz: The Strait of Hormuz is not a stage for power displays from thousands of miles away

Siasat-e-Rooz dedicates its editorial to Trump's baseless claims. It wrote that Trump, using terms such as reconstruction, Marshall Plan, defensive strikes, retaliatory action, proportionate response, and limited and calibrated attack, is trying to justify continued aggression against Iran under the illusion of reopening the Strait of Hormuz and forcing Iran into submission. But Iran's decisive responses to aggressors send a clear message: the Strait of Hormuz is not a place for power shows or remote decision-making from thousands of miles away, and miscalculation can be costly. Iran has shown that it

will respond firmly to any threat and will not surrender or abandon its rights and principles. Western behavior only complicates the situation and increases global costs.

Hamshahri: Behind-the-scenes of two days of attacks and the sudden announcement of an agreement

Hamshahri analyzed Trump's claims and the background of the attacks and their sudden halt. Trump stated that “we brought Iran to the negotiating table under the shadow of military threat.” This is the narrative he has tried to promote in recent days to portray Tehran as defeated and Washington as victorious in diplomacy. But Trump is attempting to turn his own retreats and strategic failures into a victory, even though the reality shows that the US president has returned to the same basic framework of understanding that is not meaningfully different from Iran's recent proposed text. Despite the exposure of the ineffectiveness of weeks of threats, tensions, and clashes by Washington and Tel Aviv, developments on the ground and in diplomacy over recent days and weeks indicate something strategic: Iran did not retreat in the face of US threats or strikes — rather, it was the United States that ultimately announced a halt to attacks and a return to the negotiating table.

Kayhan: We closed the Strait with power

According to Kayhan, the unparalleled show of force by Iran's armed forces has brought the terrorist US military to its knees, pushing it toward begging for a ceasefire and resorting to media deception. Trump is using the endless cycle of “agreement-war” to control oil prices and secretly reopen the world's energy chokepoint. But the strategic lock on the Strait of Hormuz will never be opened with the key of American deceit or false diplomacy. This show of power has shattered the “hollow prestige” of the US military and trapped the enemy in deep economic crises and military paralysis. The White House — which once claimed through media propaganda that it had destroyed Iran's defensive capabilities — now, after receiving heavy transregional blows, facing the closure of the Strait and a sharp drop in domestic popularity, has turned to psychological operations and pleading for a ceasefire. In this new balance of power, Kayhan writes, absolute control over the Strait of Hormuz and the firm red lines of the Islamic Republic are deterrent levers that will not be traded for the rotten rope of Western deceptive diplomacy.

Judiciary chief: We have absolutely no trust in the Americans

TEHRAN - Judiciary Chief Gholam Hossein Mohseni-Ejei has highlighted Iran's distrust of the United States as Iran marks the first anniversary of the 12-Day War, which began on June 13 last year with unprovoked Israeli air raids.

Mohseni-Ejei wrote on social media on Saturday that the “amazing national unity” in Islamic Iran has left the world “astonished and bewildered.”

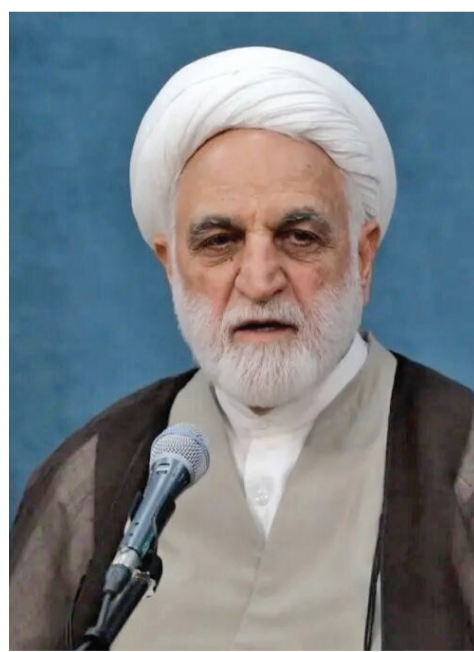
“This solid cohesion and unity has brought extra deterrence to our country,” he said. “We must protect this national solidarity and not allow ill-wishers to infiltrate the united ranks of the Iranian nation.”

“Let everyone know: we have absolutely no trust in the Americans. This distrust stems from historical facts and events,” he said.

The Judiciary chief noted that during the 12-Day War, all components of Iran's Armed Forces shone under the command of the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

On June 13, Israel launched a war of aggression against Iran by assassinating several high-ranking Iranian figures, including commanders and nuclear scientists, and civilians.

More than a week later, the United States also entered the war by bombing three Ira-



nian nuclear sites in a grave violation of the United Nations Charter, international law, and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

In response, the Iranian Armed Forces targeted strategic sites across the occupied territories as well as the al-Udeid air base in Qatar, the largest American military base in West Asia.

American soldiers need to refuse orders, says ex-US Marine on illegal war on Iran

From page 1 ▶ Since leaving the military, O'Keefe has become an activist and critic of U.S. foreign policy, particularly in West Asia. He points out that the oath taken by American troops—to defend the U.S. Constitution and follow orders only within the bounds of military law—places a moral and legal responsibility on soldiers to reject commands that violate those principles.

During an interview with the Tehran Times, O'Keefe reflected on his experience in the Marines, the moment that changed his view of the institution he served, and his belief that increasing numbers of U.S. military personnel are questioning the missions they are asked to carry out.

Below is the full text of the interview edited for clarity and conciseness:

Could you tell us about your time in the U.S. military?

I never planned to join the military, but ironically, and quite poetically, it began after I watched Full Metal Jacket. That movie is essentially a documentary. Stanley Kubrick—a Jewish director and my favorite of all time—created a classic. The first part of that film is a perfect depiction of boot camp, filmed at the actual location in South Carolina.

At the time, I had no intention of enlisting. I had a great job as a waiter in a French restaurant, I was making good money, and I had already moved out, living by the beach in San Diego. But after watching that movie, I felt it was the fast track to becoming a man. I was 19, and I didn't feel like a man yet. That is how innocently and naively it started. I didn't want just any branch; I wanted the Marines. They are a special breed. I didn't just want to be a Marine; I wanted the infantry. I wanted to be a grunt—the first ones in, the last ones to leave. I signed up and passed boot camp with no problem, earning top marks in every category. I became a machine gunner in the infantry, which is not a position usually given to a new Marine, but I was that good. I was an expert rifleman, and I even held the highest award for physical fitness.

However, everything changed because of the oath. I'll recite it: “I, Kenneth O'Keefe, hereby swear to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States, to fight all enemies, foreign and domestic, to bear true faith and allegiance to the same, to follow the orders of the officers appointed over me and the President of the United States, according to the Uniform Code of Military Justice, so help me God.”

The key line is “according to the Uniform Code of Military Justice.” Under that code, if you are given an unlawful order, your duty is to disobey it. So, I began acting out. When my platoon sergeant found out it was me, he declared his hatred for me and made my life hell. I went from being the best Marine to the most hated. That was my “red pill” moment. I realized that I had signed up for honor, integrity, and leadership, only to be violated for doing the right thing. I had two more years to serve with this man in charge of me.

By the time I got out, I was stripped of my veterans' benefits and received an “other than honorable” discharge, despite having acted honorably. The indoctrination—the supremacist ideology we were raised with—was gone. My mind became an open vessel for truth, and I swore I would never give up my freedom for anyone again.

I served in the first [Persian] Gulf War, but I didn't even have to fire my weapon. Most of the



Iraqis were either gone, dead, or surrendering. I spent three days straight awake in combat, adrenaline pumping, but I thank God every time I think about it that I didn't kill anyone. I might have ended up as one of those 22 service members who commits suicide every day because they realize they were just cannon fodder. I avoided that fate, but the experience confirmed that American history is, in many ways, a false history written by the victors.

Your activism began soon after you left the Marines. You became a very vocal voice against the Iraq War and other U.S. military interventions. What made you oppose the war being waged on Iran?

The Marines taught me important skills: how to use a weapon, how to navigate extreme situations, and how to soak up pain. They also taught me how to methodically and strategically approach a challenge. I applied those skills to activism. I started with animal rights—I became a vegetarian because I don't like harming anyone—and environmental work.

I was living in Hawaii, which is a nation that was stolen from its people, and I became involved in the Hawaiian independence movement. I made a film called The United States of Hypocrisy 25 years ago, and I formally renounced my citizenship, which made me a target. Then 9/11 happened, and I knew immediately that the official version of events was not the truth.

My anti-war stance has been consistent since I was a young Marine. Hollywood—owned by Jews—glorifies war, but there is nothing glorious about it, unless it is a war imposed upon you, as it is with Iran. Iran did not choose this, but they are finishing it. I have been against any war of aggression, but this particular conflict is especially offensive. I know who is behind it. They want a satanic world, while the Islamic Republic of Iran serves God. They see Iran as a threat because of that.

That is why I had to go to Iran. It was like a calling, similar to when I first went to Palestine. Iran is on the right side of history. I want to communicate to the American people that the path we are on will only expedite our own demise. We have inflicted suffering on millions, and that karma is coming back to America.

We need to extract the “parasite cancer” within our midst. I believe all those involved in this treason—the dual nationals and those complicit in pedophilia—need to be held accountable, even executed. If we remove this enemy from within, Iran and America could eventually be friends. But as long as we have this synagogue of Satan running our nation, that isn't possible. I want an end to the Jewish state of Israel, because there is no

room for that monstrosity.

Are you aware of members of the U.S. military who are second-guessing their decision to join today?

Yeah, I most definitely am. In fact, everything I'm hearing indicates that we've never had a higher rate of conscientious objectors. I know you're aware of the fires on the ships and the sewage getting blocked. This is an active attempt to subvert this war, to get out of this war. A lot of them also know that they're being sent to die. Not only are they being sent to die as cannon fodder, but they're doing it for the Jewish state of Israel. This has nothing to do with protecting America.

In my view, this is purely by the design of Milikowski—who everybody knows as Netanyahu. This Polish Jew, who has no Semitic blood, owns our president, who is a pedophile, and you're being told to die for Israel. That's a hard sell.

If you can trick people into believing there's something noble in it, that's one thing. But every other war brought America together. This one has not. Even during the Iraq War, you saw yellow ribbons around trees and “support your troops” everywhere. You're not really getting any of that now. Only the worst of the worst—prostitutes who sold their soul—are saying this, like Fox News or Mark Levin, these idiots who are, in my view, among the most anti-American people on the planet because they really serve Israel. They don't serve America.

For the first time, this has spread. The truth has become widely known. I would argue that's because of the real-time genocide in Gaza, first and foremost. But also, people can see that this is a war of choice—that we didn't need to do this. It's also, in my view, a way to help cover for the Epstein files that were promised to be released and yet aren't, even though Congress passed a law saying they have to be released.

Too many Americans, both in the military and outside it, know this is an absolute disaster. That has never been the reality before.

And beyond that, historically, for the first time in American history, Palestine is more favored by the public in America than Israel. That was never the case before. For decades, the propaganda said Palestinians are terrorists, that Israelis don't have a partner in peace, and so Palestine's standing was way up. That has now reversed.

For decades we were told that Palestinians and Hamas were all terrorists—literally, that was the message—so Israel was the good guy. They even infected us with things like “Judeo-Christian.” You'd have to be a special kind of stupid, in my view, to call your religion Judeo-Christian when, as Christians believe, it

was the Jews who crucified our Savior, and when, according to these beliefs, they say our Savior is boiling in hot excrement in hell, and that Mother Mary—who, as you and I know, is the only woman referred to by name in the entire Quran—is a whore according to them. And you're going to go die for them?

I wish everybody had known this a long time ago, because it was all there. But they didn't. I'd argue cheap gas and Walmart were enough to stupefy our people into submissive idiocy, and so we went off and fought these wars for Israel. Look at them: Iraq, Syria, Libya, Lebanon—all of it, in my view, was for Greater Israel. None of these wars should have been fought. Americans didn't know that before, but growing numbers know it now. The equation has totally changed, and that has also changed the military at the higher ranks.

What do you think about the man now in charge of the U.S. military, Pete Hegseth?

He's like the guy on the high school football team who's an idiot. Literally, that's our Secretary of War: a macho dude saying, “Wow, I wish I could be like you.” It's an embarrassing situation.

Surely everyone can see it. I watched this—I don't know if you've seen it—but Pete Hegseth, the Secretary of War, summoned top military brass from around the world to the Pentagon, where he gave a lecture alongside Trump. If you watch it, you'll see these are guys who've been in the military for decades. They've been in war. They know what war is. And here comes this punk, this teenage-football-player type, getting up and talking about how we're going to throw the rules of war out the window, and how they're all fat and need to get like him. They had to sit there and listen to this idiot say those things. If you look in their eyes, I swear it shows the discipline of the military that nobody just got up and slapped him.

And he's not a real soldier. He's a National Guard guy. We call them weekend warriors. He hasn't served in a real war in any real war position. The guy is a joke, but he's our Secretary of War.

It's like a bad B-movie. I'd recommend to your audience a movie called Idiocracy. It shows America hundreds of years in the future after the dumbing down and dumbing down and dumbing down of society. If you amplify the idiocy and stupidity of my birth nation tenfold or a hundredfold, that movie is a predictor.

And now we literally have people like this. That's the best we've got. Then we've got stinky Donald Trump—pedophile Donald Trump—as our commander. You've got to be in a truly sorry state if these are the people you're putting forward as your leaders.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Trump, Netanyahu hoisted by their own petard

US media say a potential Tehran-Washington deal would mark a “resounding strategic failure” for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, exposing the collapse of his long-standing Iran doctrine, as Donald Trump seeks an off-ramp to exit the quagmire of war with Iran

TEHRAN – The strategic miscalculations and mounting setbacks of the United States and Israel in their war against Iran are coming into sharper focus, just as Tehran and Washington move closer than ever to finalizing a memorandum of understanding (MoU).

Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said in a post on X on Saturday that the finalization of the US–Iran MoU is likely expected within the next 24 hours, with “the electronic signing of the peace deal immediately after, followed by technical-level talks next week.” However, Iran’s Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei said the signing of the MoU will not take place on Sunday but could occur in the coming days.

Iran’s Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi confirmed on Friday night that the signing process might take place in a digital format.

According to Araghchi, the MoU contains 14 provisions. He said the MoU will be followed by a second phase expected to last around 60 days, if the US complies with its commitments.

Under the MoU, the US is obliged to release Iran’s frozen assets, lift its naval blockade of Iranian ports, and pressure Israel to halt its strikes in Lebanon. Iran’s highly enriched materials will remain in the country but may be diluted, while Iran’s missile program—long considered a red line—will remain non-negotiable.

A war rooted in miscalculation

The US and Israel launched a war on Iran on February 28. On the first day of the conflict, Iran’s Leader, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, and several senior military commanders were assassinated. President Donald



Trump and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had calculated that their air campaign would shift Iran’s leadership balance in their favor and destroy the country’s military capabilities.

However, Iran’s resilience and its strong retaliatory strikes during 39 days of war exposed the failure of Washington and Tel Aviv’s plans. Around 100 waves of Iranian missile and drone attacks, along with growing national unity, eventually forced Trump to agree to a ceasefire on April 8 through Pakistan’s mediation. The MoU is expected to bring a more permanent end to the conflict.

The developments have also fueled debate in Western and Israeli media regarding the effectiveness of the US–Israel war effort and Iran’s resilience.

Netanyahu stands accused of having emboldened Trump to go to war with Iran. These media outlets are now attempting to create the perception that relations between Trump and Netanyahu are strained. This is a separate issue, as some experts believe they are indeed at odds, while others argue that such differences do not exist and that reports of divisions are largely theatrical narratives driven by behind-the-scenes po-

litical motives.

What matters most is the growing acknowledgment of the failure of the US and Israeli war strategy.

Axios said in a report that “For Netanyahu, co-signing a deal to end the war without achieving his stated objectives would be a major strategic and political blow.”

Citing Israeli officials, CNN further highlighted misjudgments by Trump and Netanyahu. An Israeli official told the US news outlet that lifting the naval blockade, imposed on Iran days after the April 8 ceasefire, would strengthen Iran. Another Israeli official said this amounts to “Trump throwing us (Israelis) under the bus.”

Referring to a post by Danny Citrinowicz, a senior researcher at INSS, CNN wrote that after a “resounding strategic failure,” Netanyahu may be forced to accept an agreement that legitimizes Iran and “exposes the collapse of his long-standing Iran doctrine.” For over three decades, Netanyahu has defined himself as an Israeli leader determined to bring Iran to its knees through military force.

The war launched on February 28, along with the wider US–Israeli military campaign against

Iran in June last year, has once again demonstrated that reliance on force not only fails to weaken or contain Iran, but instead strengthens national cohesion—bridging internal differences and rallying the country around a unified stance in the face of external pressure.

Israel, alongside the US, has not only killed Iranian civilians but has also assassinated Iranian nuclear scientists and carried out sabotage operations inside Iran. Against this backdrop, Araghchi said in his Friday remarks that Israel remains the main obstacle to a US–Iran agreement.

Although Washington and Tel Aviv remain closely aligned in their hostility toward Iran, Axios noted that Netanyahu may still play a spoiler role even if a deal is eventually reached.

What was once framed through pressure and escalation is increasingly giving way to a diplomatic shift shaped by Iran’s resilience and the limits of Western leverage.

Trump is seeking a deal with Iran as he needs an off-ramp to manage the consequences of the war on Iran. These include the loss of advanced aircraft in Iranian attacks, as well as rising inflation and fuel prices in the US linked to tensions around the Strait of Hormuz.

For Netanyahu, however, an end to hostilities could mark the beginning of political decline. He is not only under fire over corruption charges but has also been accused by rivals of turning Israel into a “vassal state” by accepting Trump’s terms for peace.

Regardless of whether tensions between him and Trump are real or exaggerated, Netanyahu is widely seen as needing a prolonged state of conflict to distract from domestic failures and the fallout of the war on Iran.

Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei to be laid to rest in Mashhad on July 9

From Page 1 ▶ The statement said farewell ceremonies for the martyred Leader’s body will be held at Tehran’s Imam Khomeini Molla on July 4 and 5, corresponding to the 19th and 20th days of Muharram. It added that a funeral procession in Tehran will be held on July 6, while another procession will take place in the holy city of Qom the next day.

The organizers invited “all noble and dear people, the free people of the world, follow-

ers of the school of Islam, and those interested in Iran” to participate in the ceremonies and bid farewell to the martyred Leader.

Ayatollah Khamenei was martyred on the first day of the joint US–Israeli aggression on February 28 in his office in Tehran.

Many of his family members, including his daughter, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, and grandchild, were also martyred. Several se-

nior military commanders were also assassinated in the same strike.

Iran’s Assembly of Experts elected Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei, the martyred Leader’s son, as the third Leader of the Islamic Revolution on March 8. Since his election, the new Leader has called for pursuing the path of his father and has emphasized preserving national unity and solidarity.

LATEST NEWS

Iran says any understanding with US would be framework for further talks

Iran’s Foreign Minister Spokesperson, Esmail Baqaei, said any potential understanding between Iran and the United States would serve only as a framework for continued dialogue rather than a final agreement. He stressed that Tehran is pursuing negotiations with caution and skepticism based on experience. Baqaei said current discussions are primarily focused on ending regional tensions and hostilities, while issues such as the nuclear file would be addressed in subsequent talks. He also emphasized that the unfreezing of Iranian assets would be an essential component of any future understanding.

Qalibaf urges full compliance with commitments amid Iran-US talks

Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf called for the full implementation of commitments made in ongoing Iran-US negotiations, saying there should be “no ifs, no buts, no excuses.” In a post on X, he stressed that agreements must be honored.

Iranian officials united in defending country: spokesperson

Iranian government spokesperson Fatemeh Mohajerani said on Saturday that the Armed Forces and the Foreign Ministry remain united in defending Iran, with one safeguarding national security and the other protecting the nation’s rights.

In a post marking the anniversary of June 13, 2025, war, Mohajerani cited remarks by the

late Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, stating that while adversaries initiated the war, Iran would determine its outcome. She added that diplomacy and military strength are complementary pillars of national defense, emphasizing that negotiations conducted from a position of strength represent a continuation of Iran’s defense strategy.

Martyrs’ sacrifice strengthened Iran’s unity: Expediency Council chief

Expediency Council chief Ayatollah Sadegh Amoli-Larijani said the sacrifice of those martyred during the 12-day war in June 2025 strengthened Iran’s national unity and reinforced the spirit of resistance. Marking the first anniversary of the martyrdom of senior commanders and nuclear scientists, he said the United States and Israel failed to achieve their objectives, while the martyrs’ legacy deepened solidarity and resilience among the Iranian people.

Iran envoy blames regional instability on foreign presence, European inaction

Iran’s ambassador to Italy, Mohammad Reza Sabouri said the presence of extra-regional forces and European inaction toward Israel are the main causes of instability in West Asia, the Red Sea, and the Persian Gulf. Speaking to Italian media, he said Iran accepted a ceasefire conditioned on a complete halt to hostilities but responded defensively to continued violations and attacks. Sabouri also stressed Iran’s role in securing the Strait of Hormuz and called for an end to military aggression and naval blockades to restore regional stability.

Iran, Russia and China discuss latest developments in proposed Iran-US memorandum

Kazem Gharibabadi said he held talks with the Russian and Chinese ambassadors in Tehran on the latest developments surrounding the Islamabad-mediated draft memorandum of understanding between Iran and the United States. In a post on X, Gharibabadi reaffirmed the strength of strategic cooperation among Iran, China, and Russia.

Pakistan and Egypt welcome progress in Iran-US talks

Pakistani Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar and his Egyptian counterpart, Badr Abdelatty welcomed progress in Iran-US negotiations and expressed hope for an early agreement to ease regional tensions. During a phone call, the two ministers discussed developments in the Middle East and voiced support for continued diplomatic engagement.

Iran rights council condemns US attacks on water infrastructure

Iran’s High Council for Human Rights condemned US attacks on drinking water infrastructure in southern Iran, describing them as a serious violation of international humanitarian law and the fundamental human right to water. The council said damage to water facilities in areas including Sirik County threatens public health and civilian welfare, particularly vulnerable groups. It called for international attention, accountability, and reparations, while reaffirming Iran’s right to pursue legal action through international channels.

Iran says understanding with US possible within days, final deal still uncertain

From Page 1 ▶ According to the foreign minister, ongoing diplomatic efforts are centered on a 14-point framework that has undergone extensive review by Iran’s key decision-making bodies, including the Supreme National Security Council. While details of the document remain subject to revision, Araghchi said the provisions form an integrated package and would be disclosed after finalization.

He explained that the diplomatic process would unfold in two phases. The first would involve the conclusion of a memorandum of understanding between Iran and the United States, potentially within days, while the second stage would focus on negotiations to reach a comprehensive agreement.

Araghchi stated that the release of Iranian assets frozen abroad would accompany the signing of the memorandum, adding that the signing could take place digitally. The subsequent negotiating phase is expected to last approximately 60 days.

Sensitive issues, including uranium enrichment and Iran’s stockpile of highly enriched uranium, would be addressed during the second phase, he said. Tehran maintains that any dilution of highly enriched uranium must occur exclusively inside Iran.

The foreign minister also said future negotiations would address the lifting of US sanctions and other outstanding disputes between the two countries.

Addressing regional issues, Iran’s top diplomat stressed that Lebanon remains an integral component of Iran’s strategic calculations and said any lasting resolution to regional tensions must include an Israeli withdrawal from territories occupied in Lebanon.

Under the proposed framework, hostilities would cease across all fronts, including Lebanon, while both sides would commit to refraining from the use of force. Araghchi said the arrangement would be based on mutual respect for sovereignty, describing it as the first instance in which the United States would formally acknowledge and document respect for Iran’s sovereignty.

The foreign minister added that the agreement’s first provision calls for the removal of ‘an illegal US naval blockade,’ while another component would establish an economic reconstruction program designed to compensate for war-related damages and support Iran’s economy



through significant financial investment.

Araghchi cautioned, however, that the second phase of negotiations would proceed only if meaningful progress is achieved. Failure to advance toward a final agreement, he said, would result in a return to pre-memorandum conditions.

“We are not dealing with parties that have always honored their commitments,” Araghchi said. “We must ensure that there are no opportunities for violations and rely on our own capabilities to safeguard any agreement.”

The foreign minister also acknowledged opposition to a potential US–Iran agreement, identifying Israel as the principal opponent of such a deal.

On maritime security, Araghchi revealed that Iran and Oman are finalizing a joint legal and operational framework for managing transit through the Strait of Hormuz, with an announcement expected within 60 days. He said Iranian armed forces would continue to guarantee security in the strategic waterway.

Referring to recent US actions in the region, Araghchi argued that threats and military pressure only complicate diplomatic efforts, reiterating that Iran would not yield under coercion and remains prepared to respond to any aggression.

He concluded by emphasizing the close coordination between Iran’s foreign minister and armed forces, describing them as complementary instruments pursuing the same national objectives. Araghchi also credited public mobilization and media efforts during the conflict as key pillars of Iran’s broader defense strategy.

Iran’s victory will echo worldwide, senior military commander says



TEHRAN— The commander of Iran’s Khatam al-Anbia Central Headquarters, Major General Ali Abdollahi, said on Saturday that the world would soon witness the victory of Iran and the triumph of the resistance front over ‘aggressor forces.’

In a message marking the first anniversary of the martyrdom of Major General Gholam Ali Rashid, the former commander of the headquarters, Abdollahi paid tribute to the late military leader’s legacy and contributions to Iran’s defense strategy.

Rashid was martyred in a terrorist attack carried out by Israel at the outset of the 12-day conflict imposed on Iran in June 2025.

Commemorating his predecessor, Abdollahi described Rashid as one of the principal architects of Iran’s modern defense doctrine, emphasizing that his vision and strategic ap-

proach continue to guide the country’s military establishment.

While acknowledging the loss of the senior commander as a significant blow, Abdollahi said the incident ultimately demonstrated the resilience, deterrent capability, and national strength of the Islamic Republic.

He credited Rashid with possessing a comprehensive understanding of evolving hybrid threats and with playing a pivotal role in safeguarding Iran’s long-term security through a combination of strategic patience, military preparedness, and the enhancement of offensive and deterrent capabilities.

According to Abdollahi, the assassination itself underscored Rashid’s importance in advancing Iran’s defense objectives. He accused Israel of attacking with the support of the United States, describing it as evidence of the late commander’s influential position within Iran’s military structure.

The commander further stated that the Iranian people would continue to follow the path of the country’s martyrs and stand firmly alongside the Armed Forces under the leadership of Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei in confronting external threats.

Concluding his message, Abdollahi expressed confidence that Iran’s achievements would soon become evident on the global stage.

“By God’s grace, the world will soon hear the echo of Iran’s victory and witness the triumph of resistance over aggressor and terrorist enemies,” he said.

Iran-India agricultural cooperation should expand to a strategic level: Iranian minister

TEHRAN- Iran's Minister of Agriculture, referring to India's achievements in meeting the food needs of its population of over one billion people, praised India's successful experiences in agriculture and rural development, and called for expanding joint cooperation between the two countries in agricultural research, water resource management, modern technologies, mechanization, seed production, food industries, and agricultural trade.

According to IRNA from the Ministry of Agriculture, Gholamreza Nouri Ghezleji and India's Minister of Agriculture, in a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the BRICS Agriculture Ministers' Meeting, while reviewing global challenges of food security, emphasized the development of strategic cooperation between the two countries in agriculture, food security, technology, and sustainable development.

Nouri, in his meeting with Shivraj Singh Chouhan, India's Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, while appreciating the proper hospitality of the Indian government and people at the BRICS Agriculture Ministers' Meeting, emphasized the importance of this meeting in strengthening cooperation among developing countries.

In this meeting, the Minister of Agriculture referred to the sensitive situation in the region and the consequences of recent aggressions and tensions, stating: Food security is one of the most important pillars of stability for countries and societies, and the Islamic Republic of Iran, despite existing pressures and challenges, has been able to maintain the country's food security at a desirable level through careful planning and the efforts of operators, producers, and those active in the agricultural sector.

Nouri, emphasizing the historical, cultural, and civilizational commonalities between the two countries, stated: The Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to begin a new chapter of agricultural cooperation with India, and holding a joint agricultural committee in Tehran can be a turning point in the development of bilateral relations.

Necessity of expanding Iran-India agricultural cooperation

Shivraj Singh Chouhan, India's Minister of Agriculture, in this meeting also expressed satisfaction with the presence of the Islamic Republic of Iran's delegation at the BRICS meeting, described the relations between the two countries as deep-rooted and strategic, and said: India attaches special importance to expanding cooperation with Iran in agriculture, modern technologies, scientific research, and sustainable development.

Referring to the abundant capacities of the two countries in agriculture and food security, he emphasized the necessity of using existing opportunities to enhance the level of cooperation and announced his country's readiness to pursue joint agreements and develop operational cooperation.

In this meeting, the two sides emphasized continuing dialogues, accelerating the implementation of past agreements, and utilizing BRICS capacities to expand South-South cooperation in agriculture and food security.

Meanwhile on June 7, Iran's Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade Atabek, in a meeting with the Minister of Heavy Industries of India, emphasized the expansion of economic, trade, and investment cooperation between the two countries.

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

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

He also stressed the need to facilitate the issuance of business visas for economic activists of the two countries and said that facilitating the movement of traders and investors can play an important role in developing eco-



nomical relations and increasing private sector interactions.

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

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

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

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

According to Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), the "Iran-India Trade Opportunities and Capacities Conference" brought together Hossein Bamiri, Iran's commercial attaché in India; Khalid Khan, a member of the Iran Trade Center in Mumbai; and several trade delegations from both nations.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Iran starts LPG exports from Khorramshahr Port to Afghanistan, Pakistan

TEHRAN- The Director General of Khorramshahr Port and Maritime Department announced the successful completion of the first liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) export operation via combined transport to destinations in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

According to Mehr News Agency, Ali Askari, Director General of Khorramshahr Port and Maritime Department, announced the successful completion of the first LPG export operation via combined transport to destinations in Afghanistan and Pakistan and said: This action is an important step in developing export routes and strengthening the position of Khorramshahr Port in the country's logistics network.

He added: The execution of this operation has revealed the capacities of Khorramshahr Port in supporting the supply chain and developing regional trade more than ever and has provided the ground for more effective utilization of multimodal transport capabilities.

Askari stated: The use of the combined transport model, while



increasing productivity and facilitating the movement of goods, helps develop export markets and strengthen trade relations with neighboring countries.

Referring to the role of this port in the country's trade corridors, he continued: Developing combined transport and increasing the share of rail freight are among the important goals of the country's development plans, and Khorramshahr Port has taken effective steps in this direction.

The Director General of Khorramshahr Port and Maritime Department concluded by noting:

Khorramshahr Port, relying on its existing capacities and developing cooperation with economic activists, seeks to increase its share of the regional export and transit market, and this success can pave the way for the implementation of similar projects in the future.

Khorramshahr port: Iran's strategic Arvand gateway

Located in southwestern Iran, Khorramshahr Port sits on the banks of the Arvand Rud (Shatt al-Arab) waterway, near the Iraqi border and the Persian Gulf. As one of Iran's most historically significant and strategically positioned ports, it

serves as a vital hub for trade with neighboring countries, particularly Iraq, Kuwait, and increasingly Afghanistan and Pakistan via combined transport corridors.

Today, Khorramshahr Port is equipped with advanced terminals for general cargo, dry bulk, and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG). Its unique advantage lies in its connectivity: it links sea, road, and rail networks, enabling efficient door-to-door freight movement. Recent developments emphasize combined transport (sea-rail-road) to boost regional transit and reduce costs.

Authorities have prioritized expanding the port's role in international corridors such as the North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) and East-West routes. With increasing exports of LPG, petrochemicals, and agricultural products, Khorramshahr is emerging as a competitive alternative to southern Iranian ports like Bandar Abbas. Ongoing investments aim to increase rail share in cargo handling, strengthen supply chains, and solidify the port's position as a gateway for trade with Iraq, Afghanistan, and beyond.

'Iran's presence in BRICS an opportunity to enhance urban diplomacy, develop urban regeneration'

TEHRAN- The Managing Director of Iran's Urban Regeneration Company, explaining the goals and dimensions of the Islamic Republic of Iran's presence at the BRICS summit, described this presence as a strategic opportunity to strengthen urban diplomacy, develop international cooperation in the field of urban regeneration, transfer experience, attract innovative ideas, and enhance Iran's position in emerging global equations.

According to IRNA from Iran's Urban Regeneration Company, Abdolreza Golpayegani, referring to structural changes in the international system and the increasing role of economic and political coalitions composed of developing countries and emerging economies, stated: Iran's membership in BRICS is not just a symbolic presence in an international body, but can become an effective platform for redefining Iran's role in areas such as urban economics, development policy, urban resilience, spatial justice, and financing infrastructure projects.

He added: Today, BRICS has become one of the most important channels for dialogue and cooperation among Global South countries and has provided extensive capacities for synergy in economic, social, technological, and developmental fields.

According to Golpayegani, in today's world, urban issues such as marginalization, dilapidated urban fabrics, spatial inequality, climate change, the housing access crisis, and weak service infrastructure have become common challenges

among many countries.

He emphasized: The Ministry of Transport and Urban Development has accumulated valuable experience in recent years in organizing inefficient settlements, improving and renovating dilapidated urban fabrics, enhancing the quality of life in target neighborhoods, and empowering local communities. Presenting these experiences in BRICS specialized forums, while showcasing the country's expert capacities, can pave the way for defining joint projects and forming a network of specialized cooperation between Iran and other members of this coalition.

The Deputy Minister of Transport and Urban Development stated that another goal of attending the BRICS summit is to utilize this body's capacity for exchanging knowledge, technology, and innovative models in the field of urban development, and said: Many BRICS member countries have employed various solutions in recent years to face urban challenges; from developing smart cities and using data-driven systems in urban management to designing new financing models, infrastructure retrofitting, and enhancing urban resilience.

Referring to the importance of financing urban regeneration projects, he stated: One of the fundamental challenges in implementing regeneration programs is providing sustainable and diverse financial resources, and BRICS can provide a suitable platform for dialogue on new financing tools, joint investment, and utilizing successful

experiences in mobilizing resources for implementing infrastructure and development projects.

Golpayegani also considered strengthening Iran's position in international dialogues about the future of cities as another goal of this presence, and said: The future of development in the world is largely shaped in cities, and the quality of urban governance, the distribution of services, the level of infrastructure resilience, and the capacity of local institutions to respond to citizens' needs play a decisive role in the development path of countries.

Emphasizing that participation in such events must be outcome-oriented and based on national interests, he continued: On the sidelines of the BRICS summit, joint meetings and dialogues were held with representatives from Russia, China, and India, in which the areas of experience exchange, technical cooperation, and the possibility of defining joint projects in the field of urban development and regeneration were examined.

Abdolreza Golpayegani, Deputy Minister of Transport and Urban Development, along with Gholamreza Kazemian, Deputy Minister for Urban Planning and Architecture, represented the Ministry of Transport and Urban Development at this summit and specialized meetings related to urban issues and sustainable development within the BRICS framework, and held talks with member countries on expanding specialized cooperation and experience exchange.

Development of land corridors a government priority

TEHRAN- Developments in recent months in the field of transportation and foreign trade, especially following disruptions in regional maritime routes, have turned policymakers' attention more than ever to the capacities of land borders and trade corridors.

According to IRNA, experts believe that excessive dependence of the country's foreign trade on certain limited entry points, especially southern routes, can increase economic vulnerability in critical situations and regional tensions. Therefore, developing and redesigning land corridors and diversifying entry and exit points for goods has become one of the government's priorities.

In this context, the government has assigned the responsibility of leading and centrally managing the country's borders to the Ministry of Economy and Iran Customs, with the aim of increasing coordination among executive bodies and eliminating management fragmentation. Based on this decision, the Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance chairs the working group for integrated border management; an action that experts believe can lead to increased accountability, trade facilitation, and reduced bureaucracy at border entry points.

Those active in the field of economy, believe that diversifying the country's trade borders, in addition

to reducing transportation and trade costs, provides the basis for utilizing the capacities of various border regions. According to them, the development of new corridors means that the economic benefits of foreign trade are not limited to just a few provinces or specific borders, and more regions can benefit from trade opportunities.

This issue has gained particular importance from the perspective of passive defense in current circumstances. Economic security experts believe that using diverse routes for imports and exports increases the country's resilience against external pressures and reduces the risk of disruption in the supply of essential goods.

In this regard, on May 28th (Iranian calendar: 8th Khordad), Masoud Pezeshkian, the President, emphasized at a coordination meeting for accelerating the supply of essential goods and medicine the maximum use of the capacity of northern ports, the development of alternative trade corridors, and utilizing the capacity of neighboring countries such as Pakistan, Russia, and the Republic of Azerbaijan. He also called for accelerating the implementation of agreements related to activating new routes for supplying and transporting goods.

According to a report presented at this meeting, negotiations with neighboring countries have led to

the activation and strengthening of a significant portion of land entry points and alternative transportation routes, and the process of importing essential goods through these routes is expanding.

Seyyed Ali Madanizadeh, the Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance, also stated, referring to the government's actions to facilitate foreign trade, that the necessary planning has been done to transfer a portion of the country's imports to northern corridors and land borders, and this policy is being implemented. According to him, some of the regulations and administrative obstacles that had troubled the trade and production process over the past years are being amended or removed so that the process of customs clearance and goods movement can be carried out more quickly.

Meanwhile, those active in private sector have supported this approach. Hamidreza Salehi, a member of the Tehran Chamber of Commerce's board of representatives and Secretary-General of the Energy Export Federation, told IRNA that the centralized management of borders by the Ministry of Economy is a sign of the government's attention to the economic dimensions of border governance, and said: The development of land corridors can simultaneously help increase foreign trade and

strengthen the country's economic resilience.

According to him, dependence on one or a few limited trade routes not only increases trade costs but also exposes the country's economy to harm in times of crisis. In contrast, utilizing the capacity of all customs offices, free zones, and border crossings can reduce costs for economic activists and pave the way for trade prosperity.

Salehi also emphasized the need to pay simultaneous attention to exports and imports, stating: The country's trade policies should not focus solely on facilitating imports.

According to him, developing entry and exit points for goods and strengthening export infrastructure can lead to increased foreign exchange earnings, reduced transaction costs, and an improved position for Iran in the network of regional corridors.

In Salehi's view, implementing plans such as the smartening of customs offices and the revitalization of free zones, which are being pursued by the Ministry of Economy, alongside the development of land corridors, can pave the way for increasing Iran's share of regional and international trade – an issue that is more important now than ever for strengthening the national economy and increasing the country's resilience.

Washington's monetary terrorism and the gangster diktat imposed on Iraq

From page 1 ▶

Monetary terrorism from Manhattan

The structural foundation of American leverage over Baghdad is a predatory system of financial geography.

Since the 2003 invasion, Iraq's sovereign oil export revenues have been deposited directly into the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, transforming the wealth of the nation into a colonial cudgel.

This arrangement ensures that every physical cash shipment and international wire transfer requires explicit approval from the United States Treasury.

In early 2026, the U.S.-Israeli war on Iran and the Resistance Front disrupted shipping routes and caused Iraqi oil output to plummet from four million barrels per day to roughly 1.5 million. Instead of offering stability to an ally, Washington maliciously pulled the financial lever to maximize strain on the state.

By blocking consecutive half-billion-dollar cash shipments and canceling critical energy import waivers, the United States Treasury manufactured an artificial liquidity crisis. This targeted the domestic market by choking the supply of physical dollars flowing into Baghdad.

The deliberate restriction of dollar access triggered immediate volatility in the parallel currency market, widening the spread between official rates and street value. This scarcity rapidly drove up the cost of imported goods, sparked severe domestic inflation for everyday essentials, and engineered an economic contraction.

This remains a textbook siege tactic designed to punish the Iraqi people. By manipulating market stability and inducing economic anxiety, Washington seeks to exploit domestic hardship to extract



sweeping political concessions from the Iraqi government.

The selective arithmetic of disarmament

This economic blackmail directly serves the political objective of disarming the factions that protect the nation.

Earlier this year, Washington dispatched the infamous former CENTCOM commander and CIA director, David Petraeus, to Baghdad under the guise of private advisory services.

Petraeus delivered a mafia-style ultimatum to Iraqi officials, declaring that frozen oil revenues would remain blocked unless any faction entering the government completely dissolved its military wing.

This coercion features a blatant sectarian double standard, applied exclusively to Shia factions while completely ignoring armed Kurdish and Sunni units.

It is a targeted campaign to strip Iraq of its primary defense shield against Western, Israeli and Takfiri aggression.

To enforce this agenda, the United States Embassy has engaged in brazen interference during the formation of the new cabinet under Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi.

By shamelessly vetoing ministerial nominees and threatening total financial isolation, Washing-

ton has left nine out of 23 ministries deadlocked under acting heads.

Out of five targeted political factions, only two have engaged in ceremonial weapons handovers to secure dollar relief.

Crucially, deeply rooted organizations like the historic Badr Organization have refused to capitulate, maintaining two confirmed cabinet portfolios while holding their ground.

This imperial trap, however, completely miscalculates the structural reality of the popular defense network.

The true backbone of the Iraqi resistance, including Kata'ib Hezbollah, Harakat al-Nujaba, and Kata'ib Sayyid al-Shuhada, has never sought bureaucratic crumbs or administrative ministries. They operate outside this political bazaar.

The weaver of encirclement

The reality on the ground underscores exactly why the resistance refuses to surrender its deterrent power.

Washington has prevented Iraq from achieving independent air-defense capabilities. Throughout the recent war, Iraqi airspace has been treated as an open corridor for Western and Israeli aggression.

Unconfirmed reports have even alleged the existence of clandestine

Israeli intelligence hubs or military launchpads embedded within Iraqi territory, including the western desert near al-Nukhaib.

Under these conditions, Washington's demand for the immediate disarmament of the Popular Mobilization Forces is stripped of any pretense of state-building.

American and Israeli forces have executed unprovoked strikes on Iraqi soil, killing scores of sovereign soldiers and fighters.

The transactional hypocrisy is absolute: Washington bombs the country, fails to respect its territorial integrity, and then demands that Iraqis hand over their defensive shield as the price for releasing their own oil revenue.

This military pressure is now being paired with a corporate offensive, spearheaded by Trump's Epstein-linked special envoy, Tom Barrack.

Arriving in Baghdad with a real estate background, Barrack represents the transactional arrogance of predatory capitalism.

One of his primary tools may be the proposed "Levant Prosperity Fund," an economic trap disguised as a development package, designed to bribe Baghdad into strategic submission.

Barrack's explicit mission is to stitch Iraq, Syria, and Turkey into a Washington-managed security architecture, effectively isolating Tehran and securing regional Israeli hegemony.

But this corporate design fundamentally miscalculates the nature of the movement within Iraq.

Financial blackmail and multi-billion-dollar illusions cannot buy sovereignty and security. Just as direct military occupations collapsed, this financial offensive will unravel against a deeply rooted resistance that refuses to trade its sacred weapons for American dollars.

Kallas' apartheid characterization of Israel is overdue but welcomed

From page 1 ▶ "The accusation that Israel's policies and military action, following the attacks by Hamas in October 2023, are rooted in an apartheid-type policy of racism towards Palestinians, or Arabs, is highly controversial," Euractiv claimed.

There are two important points to mention: First, what was the root cause of the October 7 attack in 2023? Second, was the Israeli response proportionate to the attack, or did it turn out into a genocidal campaign against the people of Gaza?

Euractiv also claimed that while there is some "sympathy" from the Irish and Spanish governments, other EU countries, including Germany and France, have steered well clear of such claims.

It should be noted that, with the exception of Germany, this argument is largely unconvincing. Germany's position is often explained by its historical responsibility for the persecution and genocide of Jews during World War II, and it remains one of Israel's strongest supporters after the United States. However, Germany's historical guilt does not justify silence in the face of the suffering of Palestinians, nor does it justify the continued supply of advanced weapons to Israel during the conflict. More fundamentally, Palestinians should not be made to bear the consequences of crimes committed by the Nazi regime against the Jewish people, nor should they be subjected to discrimination or unequal treatment because of that history.

Also, it is due to the silence and support of certain Western countries that Israel has not been held accountable for its crimes against the Palestinians.

In South Africa, blacks were separated from the whites, but the situation facing Palestinians is worse. They have been driven out of their homes, and millions of them are now living in refugee camps in certain Arab countries. The policy of displacing Palestinians from their homes is continuing. Just recently, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told a campaign rally that now 60 percent of the Gaza Strip, which is just about 365 square kilometers, has been captured, and a plan is underway to extend it to 70 percent.

An EU diplomat has also said, "The EU is critical of Israel and supports a two-state solution. The comparison with apartheid is unacceptable and not EU policy."

The European Union says it stands for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law, and human rights. If that is truly the case, what has happened to the dignity of Palestinians? If the EU is genuinely committed to the rule of law and the protection of human rights, why should Kallas face harsh criticism for stating that Israel is practicing apartheid against Palestinians when Palestinians are being displaced from their homes in the West Bank and their land is being taken over by Israeli settlers? Such criticism appears difficult to reconcile with the EU's professed commitment to human dignity, equality, and international law.

In view of the criticism against Kallas for remarks about Israel, either the EU has a dou-



ble-standard approach toward the rule of law, human rights, dignity, etc., or the EU is not standing for these principles, or Israel is "above the law".

From now on, one should wait for slanders, such as antisemitic, against Kallas for truly saying Israel is practicing apartheid against Palestinians.

For example, The Times of Israel ran a headline that read "EU's Kaja Kallas Joins Antisemitism Bandwagon with Apartheid Comment". The newspaper also said, "Kallas is not the only misinformed politician; they are rampant as they listen to mainstream news that adopts narratives and disinformation seeded by Iran into various networks."

If the killing of more than 72,500 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, the starvation of 2.3 million people, the deprivation of clean water, the destruction of hospitals, and the denial of other basic necessities do not constitute genocide—let alone apartheid—then what should such actions be called? This question lies at the heart of the growing debate over how international law and human rights principles should be applied to the situation in Gaza.

As the EU chief diplomat, Kallas has the responsibility to express grievances about the behavior of Israel toward Palestinians.

The critics of Kallas must honor the public opinion about Israel. A survey conducted by the Pew Research Center between Feb. 8-May 13, 2026, showed a median of 67% of adults in 36 countries have an unfavorable view of Israel, while 25% have a favorable view.

The critics should also look at an open letter to the EU officials, particularly Kallas, on July 14, 2025, in which the European Trade Justice Coalition, which represents a network of more than 50 organizations from across Europe campaigning for trade that works for people and planet, urgently called for the suspension of the EU-Israel Association Agreement and cooperation with Israel.

Part of the letter addressed to Kallas, states, "We, the undersigned members of the European Trade Justice Coalition, write to you with great urgency and deep concern regarding the European Union's ongoing trade and political cooperation with the State of Israel, in light of the continuing genocide in Gaza and Israel's long-standing violations of international law."

Given Israel's actions in Gaza and the West Bank, especially since October 2023, it should be noted that the remarks by the EU foreign policy chief are overdue but welcomed.

Israeli soldiers suffer heavy casualties in Lebanon

From page 1 ▶ These numbers continue to rise daily as Hezbollah maintains its operations against the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) in southern Lebanon and northern Israeli settlements, in response to the regime's aggression on Lebanon and killing of civilians, including the mayor of Ar-Rihan municipality on Saturday.

A few days ago, Israel's Channel 12 described the military and operational situation of the IOF forces in southern Lebanon and along the Lebanese border as deeply concerning. The channel stated that the IOF is already suffering significant losses and that last week was among the deadliest since the ceasefire began.

Earlier, Hebrew media reported that three soldiers were wounded in two separate incidents in southern Lebanon. According to the reports, an IOF military unit struck an explosive device, injuring two soldiers, while a third soldier was wounded in a separate incident and evacuated under what was described as exceptional circumstances.

Regional council head of the northern Metula settlement, David Azoulay, has complained that Israel is "losing the north and its residents" because of the lack of security and the ongoing war, describing the situation as "completely unreasonable." On Saturday, air raid sirens sounded once again in Metula in what the IOF said was "the infiltration of a hostile aircraft".

The regime continues to violate the ceasefire agreement with Lebanon, carrying out attacks on civilians, medical teams, and residential buildings in various parts of southern Lebanon, resulting in civilian deaths and injuries.

This comes as Hezbollah continues to confront the IOF along the Lebanese border, target troop and vehicle concentrations, drones, and carry out ambushes against infantry in defense of Lebanon and its people and in response to the occupying regime's violations.

In a series of statements issued by Hezbollah's operations room, the resistance movement said it had monitored an IOF infantry unit consisting of 12 armored vehicles that began moving from the town of Shamaa toward the Rajmine-Tayr Harfa junction, then into the Wadi Hassan area and toward the outskirts of Majdal Zoun under heavy artillery cover and phosphorus shelling.

After tracking the unit's movement, resis-

tance fighters launched repeated rocket barrages against it, forcing it to retreat. At the same time, concentrations of IOF troops and vehicles in Shamaa were targeted with rockets and artillery fire. Two Merkava tanks in the town were also struck with guided missiles and destroyed.

Hezbollah stated that the IOF attempted another advance toward the outskirts of Majdal Zoun. Resistance fighters ambushed the force and engaged it with light and medium weapons as well as rocket-propelled munitions, destroying two additional Merkava tanks.

The Lebanese resistance movement's artillery unit then fired successive rocket salvos at the force, compelling it to withdraw toward Tayr Harfa.

During the retreat from Wadi Hassan to Tayr Harfa, resistance fighters detonated an explosive device against a military vehicle, scoring a direct hit and destroying it.

In another statement, Hezbollah announced that it targeted concentrations of IOF soldiers and military vehicles in Shamaa with multiple waves of rockets and artillery fire.

It also said that an IOF military vehicle in Tayr Harfa was struck by an Ababil attack drone. Another Ababil drone targeted an IOF force positioned inside a building in Shamaa, achieving a confirmed hit.

Additional rocket attacks struck the newly established Blat military position, a concentration of IOF troops and vehicles in Qawzah, and another gathering in Rashaf.

On the air-defense front, the Lebanese resistance movement stated that its fighters engaged an IOF Hermes 450 Zik drone over the Iqlim al-Tuffah region using a surface-to-air missile, forcing it to withdraw.

Hezbollah's military media wing published footage showing an Ababil drone strike against an IOF D9 armored bulldozer on the southern outskirts of Zoutar al-Sharqiya in southern Lebanon. It also published footage of an operation targeting a newly established IOF artillery position in the town of Adaisseh using a specialized missile and attack drones.

Earlier, Hezbollah announced that it had shot down an IOF Heron 1 drone over the Bekaa Valley using a specialized missile and confronted

a Hermes 450 Zik drone with a surface-to-air missile in southern Lebanon, while continuing operations against occupation troop concentrations.

Meanwhile, the Loyalty to the Resistance parliamentary bloc reaffirmed its commitment to confronting the occupation, rejected direct negotiations with the Zionist regime, and described such talks as "political suicide" that would yield no meaningful results.

In a statement issued after a meeting of its members, the bloc said that the Lebanese resistance front remains vigilant against the enemy and continues to defend the land and people. It stated that it has inflicted significant losses on IOF personnel, officers, and military equipment, placing the occupation army in a genuine predicament.

The bloc added that the Lebanese resistance front, through its resilience and steadfastness, has proven itself as a "realistic and promising option," whose cost remains far lower than surrender.

It praised the Islamic Republic of Iran's missile response to the Israeli strike on Beirut's southern suburbs as a victory for Lebanon's right to defend its territory and sovereignty. The bloc called on Lebanon's political leadership to restore and strengthen relations with Iran, benefit from its regional influence, and use it in support of Lebanon's national principles and efforts to expel the IOF from Lebanese territory.

It argued that the direct negotiations pursued by the Lebanese authorities with the Zionist regime have only deepened internal divisions, stressing that such talks violate the constitution, the National Accord Document, and laws prohibiting relations or communication with the Israeli regime.

The bloc emphasized that insisting on this path amounts to "foolish stubbornness," warning that the negotiations have become "gratuitous political suicide" that will achieve nothing. It called on the Lebanese authorities to reverse these futile policies and move away from rhetoric that promotes hostility and division.

The Loyalty to the Resistance bloc also rejected the conditions and demands put forward by the Zionists and accepted by the Lebanese negotiating delegation.



On June 13, 2026, a passionate young orator delivers a fiery speech at the massive "Martyr of the Ummah" rally in Lahore's Minar-e-Pakistan, Pakistan. Thousands of supporters gathered in strong solidarity with Iran to honor the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, reaffirming their commitment to the ideals of Ashura and the path of resistance.

Iran move up in FIFA rankings

TEHRAN – Iran national football team have moved up in the FIFA World Ranking following the latest released on Thursday.

Team Melli moved up one spot into the top 20 as Asia's nine representatives get set to kick-off their challenge on the global stage. Japan remained unchanged at 18th. Korea Republic, meanwhile, are Asia's third highest ranked side at 25.

Australia (27th), Uzbekistan (50th), Qatar (56th), Iraq (57th), Saudi Arabia (61st) and Jordan (63rd) are the other Asian sides at the FIFA World Cup 2026.

Rounding up the top 10 for the continent were the United Arab Emirates at 68th while China PR moved up three spots to 91st. Outside the top 100, Lebanon (115th, down 7) and Bhutan (192nd, down 6) suffered the biggest drops.

Argentina (1st, up 2), the reigning world champions, will begin their title defense as the world's top-ranked team, with the June FIFA Men's World Ranking published just hours before the biggest-ever FIFA World Cup gets under way.

Following a series of pre-FIFA World Cup friendlies that marked the second period in which the FIFA Men's World Ranking was updated in real time during international matches, Argentina surged back to the summit after victories in both their warm-up fixtures, against Iceland and Honduras. They replace France (3rd, down 2), who slipped behind after losing to Côte d'Ivoire before beating Northern Ireland, and Spain (2nd, unchanged), who were held to a draw by Iraq and then beat Peru.

The FIFA World Ranking will also serve as the tiebreaker, according to the Competition Regulations, to confirm the ranking within the group of two or more teams at the end of group stage of the FIFA World Cup 2026 and to determine which eight teams are the best third-placed sides to advance to the Round of 32 if multiple third-ranked teams are still tied after applying the criteria in steps 1 and 2.

Iran learn fate at 2026 IWBF World Championships

TEHRAN – Wheelchair Basketball Canada hosted the Official Draw for the Ottawa 2026 IWBF Wheelchair Basketball World Championships Friday afternoon, revealing the competition groups and opening matchups that will shape the path to the podium this September.

The championships will welcome 336 athletes representing 28 teams from around the globe to Ottawa from Sept. 9–19, 2026.

Team Melli are drawn in Group D along with Morocco, Germany, and Canada.

Group A consists of United States, Italy, Brazil, Netherlands, Australia, Great Britain, Turkey, and Argentina are in Group B. And Spain, Japan, Poland, and Colombia are pitted in Group C.

The Official Draw determined the competition groups for both the men's and women's teams, marking a key milestone in the lead-up to 11 days of elite international competition.

The championships will be hosted at The Arena at TD Place and Carleton University, providing Canadians with a rare opportunity to experience the sport's highest level of competition.

Gabriel Zangenfeind, Secretary General of the International Wheelchair Basketball Federation (IWBF) said:

"This is the starting point for the championships; teams now know their competitive journey. The Draw has created some very competitive matchups across both the men's and women's groups, which will make for an exciting group stage. Wheelchair Basketball Canada's hosting of the draw ceremony offered a first glimpse of the high-calibre championship experience to come in Ottawa this September."

Iran sweep Argentina to earn first win in 2026 VNL

TEHRAN – Iran secured their first victory in the 2026 Volleyball Nations League (VNL) with a com-

manding straight-sets win over Argentina (25-19, 25-23, 25-19) early Saturday.

After suffering back-to-back defeats against Brazil and Bulgaria, Team Melli entered the match under pressure and delivered an impressive performance to keep their campaign on track.

Ali Hajipour led Iran's scoring effort with 22 points, while outside hitter Porya Hossein Khanzadeh added 19 points to help the team cruise to victory.

Fausto Diaz scored 19 points for Argentina.

Iran will next face Belgium in their fourth Pool 2 match as they look to build momentum in the competition.

The 2026 Men's Volleyball Nations League got underway on June 10, marking the start of the international national-team season. During the preliminary phase, each team will play 12 matches across three competition weeks.

At the end of the league phase, the top seven teams in the standings, along with hosts the People's Republic of China, will advance to the Finals, which will be held in Ningbo.

Iran to withdraw from 2026 Novi Sad WSPS Grand Prix

TEHRAN – Iran's national para shooting team has been forced to withdraw from the upcoming 2026 Novi Sad WSPS Grand Prix after failing to obtain entry visas in time for the competition.

Head coach Fatollah Delfani confirmed that the event, scheduled to begin on June 16 in Serbia, serves as a qualification tournament for both the Nagoya 2026 Asian Para Games and the World Championships in South Korea. The competition features the 10m air rifle, 10m air pistol, and 50m rifle events.

"We were scheduled to travel on June 15 with a squad of eight athletes," Delfani said. "Unfortunately, as of today, the visas have not been issued. With the Serbian Embassy closed over the weekend, it is now practically impossible for the team to make the trip."

The cancellation is a significant setback for Iran's para shooters, who were targeting valuable qualification opportunities ahead of two major international events.

Delfani, however, remains hopeful about the team's next chance to secure qualification spots.

"The final opportunity to earn qualification for para shooting will come at the Serbia World Cup later in July," he explained. "In addition to qualification events, athlete classification will also take place there. The federation and the National Paralympic Committee are making every effort to ensure the team can participate, and we hope there will be no issues this time."

The coach also revealed that three athletes, including Paralympic champion and world-renowned shooter Sareh Javanmardi, had been expected to pursue qualification quotas in the 10m air rifle, 10m air pistol, and 50m rifle disciplines at the Serbia Grand Prix.

"Unfortunately, the visas were not issued, and the athletes have lost this important opportunity," Delfani added.

Key test for Iran and New Zealand

TEHRAN – The match between Iran and New Zealand is expected to be a key test for both sides as they seek to open their World Cup journey with a positive result.

Both Iran and New Zealand will be acutely aware that an opening Group G victory could prove decisive when qualification is resolved on Matchday 3.

Iran, making their sixth World Cup appearance, have never progressed beyond the group stage and will see this fixture as the most winnable of their three games.

New Zealand return to the tournament for the first time since 2010 and know that a positive result here gives them a platform to chase a historic knockout qualification, having gone unbeaten at South Africa 2010 without winning a single match.

Iran, UN Tourism chief discuss rural tourism development

TEHRAN – Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri, and UN Tourism Secretary-General Shaikha Al Nowais have discussed cooperation on rural tourism, tourism resilience and peace-oriented tourism during a meeting on the sidelines of the 128th session of the UN Tourism Executive Council.

The meeting focused on Iran's tourism development strategies, including rural tourism, maritime tourism and the role of tourism in promoting dialogue and international cooperation, Miras-e Aria news agency reported on Friday.

Salehi-Amiri congratulated Al Nowais on her appointment as secretary-general of UN Tourism and praised what he described as her professional approach to addressing challenges facing the global tourism sector.

He also expressed appreciation for the organization's efforts to support countries affected by international crises and disruptions impacting tourism.

During the meeting, Salehi-Amiri outlined Iran's rural tourism strategy and highlighted the country's "One Village, One Eco-Lodge" initiative, which aims to distribute tourism benefits across rural areas, strengthen local communi-



ties, preserve cultural heritage and support rural economies.

He said the initiative had the potential to serve as an international model for balanced tourism development and added that Iran was prepared to share its experience with other countries.

Al Nowais welcomed the proposal and the two sides agreed that Iran's experience in rural tourism development could be presented at a future UN Tourism meeting.

Salehi-Amiri also emphasized tourism resilience as a strategic priority for Iran, saying the country sought to ensure that its tourism sector could withstand external shocks and continue operating

during periods of uncertainty.

He said Iran viewed tourism as a platform for dialogue among civilizations, mutual understanding between nations and the promotion of peace and coexistence.

"We believe that the expansion of cultural and human relations among nations can strengthen cooperation among governments," Salehi-Amiri said. "From this perspective, tourism can become one of the most effective tools of peace diplomacy in the contemporary world."

The minister also highlighted the Iranian government's focus on developing the maritime economy and said marine tourism and the use of the country's coastal resources were among the priorities

of the Iranian government.

He said the ministry was implementing programs aimed at expanding tourism activities along Iran's coastlines.

Salehi-Amiri concluded the meeting by inviting Al Nowais to visit Iran and expressed hope that cooperation with UN Tourism would contribute to the promotion of peace-oriented tourism at regional and international levels.

Al Nowais, for her part, welcomed Iran's rural tourism initiative and described the "One Village, One Eco-Lodge" program as an idea with the potential to provide a model for other countries.

She said UN Tourism was ready to expand cooperation with Iran and support efforts to share the country's experience in rural tourism development.

Al Nowais also referred to Iran's cultural, historical and natural tourism assets and said the country held an important position in global tourism due to its cultural heritage, geographical diversity and tourism resources.

She described tourism as a tool for strengthening peace and understanding among nations and said it could help build lasting relationships, reduce misunderstandings and encourage international cooperation.

'Iran, the Origin of All Stories' initiative unveiled at Russian tourism forum



Hojatollah Ayyoubi in an undated photo

TEHRAN – Iran has unveiled a new international tourism initiative titled "Iran, the Origin of All Stories" at the sixth International Tourism Forum of Russia, where representatives from 32 countries gathered in Moscow.

Hojatollah Ayyoubi, acting head of the center for diplomacy and international affairs at Iran's Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, presented the initiative on Thursday during the forum and outlined Iran's plans

to expand cultural and spiritual tourism.

In his address, Ayyoubi said attempts to destroy a nation's historical heritage could not erase its history and civilization. His comments referred to the recent war that the US and Israeli regime jointly imposed on Iran on Feb. 28.

"History and civilization cannot be destroyed by bombs and fire," Ayoubi said. "At a time when some threatened to destroy Iran's history, culture and civilization,

the Iranian people demonstrated that fire and bombs are powerless against history and civilization."

Ayyoubi also described tourism as a tool for countering what he called "mediocracy," referring to the influence of media narratives on public perceptions.

"No media can replace direct experience," he said. "No image can substitute for visiting a country, speaking with its people and experiencing the living culture of a nation. Only through travel and direct interaction can nations truly understand one another."

He added that tourism could increase mutual understanding among peoples, reduce misunderstandings and contribute to more durable peace.

During the forum, Ayyoubi officially introduced the "Iran, the Origin of All Stories" project, a national and international tourism program designed to showcase different layers of Iran's civilization and attract cultural and spiritual travelers.

According to Iranian officials, the initiative includes several the-

matic routes, including the "path of the sun," the "path of guardianship," the "path of prayer," the "path of literature, mysticism and wisdom," the "path of voices and melodies," and the "path of script and writing."

Ayyoubi said the project was based on the idea that people around the world could find part of humanity's civilizational story in Iran because of the country's historical contributions in literature, science, art and spirituality.

On the sidelines of the forum, Iran and Russia signed an action plan for tourism cooperation covering the period from 2026 to 2028.

The document was signed by Ayyoubi and Dmitry Vakhrukov, Russia's deputy minister of economic development.

The two sides emphasized the need to fully implement existing monetary agreements between the countries and facilitate tourist payments through banking cards linked to Iran's Shetab network and Russia's Mir payment system to reduce financial barriers to travel.

Iran, Namibia seek to expand tourism cooperation

TEHRAN – Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri, has called for a new phase of tourism cooperation with Namibia during a meeting with its tourism minister Indileni Daniel on the sidelines of the 128th session of the UN Tourism Executive Council.

The two ministers discussed ways to expand bilateral tourism relations, strengthen cooperation between private-sector tourism operators and develop a framework for long-term collaboration between the two countries, Miras-e Aria news agency reported on Friday.

Salehi-Amiri said Namibia possessed significant tourism potential and could play an important role in developing tourism ties with Iran.

He described Namibia as a valuable tourism destination in Africa and said the country had substantial natural and cultural attractions that could support greater cooperation between the two nations.

The Iranian minister also ex-



tended an official invitation to Daniel to visit Iran, expressing hope that such a visit would contribute to closer bilateral relations and increased awareness of tourism opportunities in both countries.

Salehi-Amiri said Namibia remained largely unfamiliar to many potential Iranian travelers despite Africa's growing appeal as a tourism destination.

"It is necessary to jointly introduce Namibia's tourism attractions to the Iranian people and present Iran's historical, cultural and natural capacities to the people of Namibia," he said.

He emphasized the importance of cooperation between travel agencies and private-sector tourism stakeholders in both countries to facilitate tourist exchanges and develop joint tourism initiatives.

Salehi-Amiri also proposed the preparation and signing of a memorandum of understanding on tourism cooperation, describing it as a step toward institutionalizing relations and defining joint projects.

He said formal cooperation frameworks could help expand tourism relations, promote the exchange of experience and increase professional interaction between the two countries.

Daniel welcomed Iran's proposals and stressed the need to strengthen tourism ties between Namibia and Iran.

She said the number of Iranian visitors to Namibia remained limited and called for joint efforts to increase tourist flows between the two countries.

"The reality is that we do not yet see many Iranian tourists in our country, and we need to work together to improve these numbers," Daniel said.

The Namibian minister highlighted her country's cultural, ethnic and natural diversity and said Namibia was ready to expand tourism cooperation with Iran.

Daniel also expressed interest in benefiting from Iran's experience in desert tourism development, citing Namibia's extensive desert and arid regions.

At the conclusion of the meeting, both sides agreed to continue consultations, strengthen technical and operational cooperation, and pursue further tourism exchanges between Iran and Namibia, the report said.

IRCS, ICRC hold workshop to strengthen readiness for chemical incidents

TEHRAN – The Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent (ICRC) have held a workshop on safety equipment and personal protection in chemical incidents for 50 selected members of rapid response and primary medical care teams of the IRCS.

The five-day training course was held in Tehran from June 7 to 21, targeting basic health care unit (BHCU) team leaders from five high-risk provinces, namely Tehran, Qom, Markazi, Isfahan, and Bushehr, as well as passive defense trainers, IRNA reported.

At the opening ceremony, Mor-teza Moradipour, Director General for Passive Defense of the Red Crescent Society, referring to the last two periods of escalation of conflicts in Iran, said "This course provides the participants with the opportunity to learn how to use safety equipment related to chemical incidents prepared in cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross and chemical defense training in cooperation with Baqiyatallah University of Medical Sciences." He also said that the course will continue to be held for other IRCS employees, the ICRC website reported.

The course was held in two theoretical and practical modules. The participants learned about different types of chemicals, how to use safety equipment, how to provide assistance to the affected population, how to decontaminate people affected by chemicals, and how to provide relief and rescue to the population affected by chemical agents during war.

The ICRC helps people around the world affected by armed conflict and other violence, doing everything to protect their lives and dignity and to relieve their suffering, often with its Red Cross and Red Crescent partners.

ICRC also seeks to prevent hardship by promoting and



strengthening humanitarian law and championing universal humanitarian principles. People know they can count on us to carry out a range of life-saving activities in conflict zones and to work closely with the communities there to understand and meet their needs. Our experience and expertise enable us to respond quickly and effectively, without taking sides.

ICRC hails IRCS efforts, bravery during war

In April, the president of the ICRC, Mirjana Spoljaric Egger, commended the efforts, bravery, and accomplishments of the IRCS during the recent imposed war by the United States and the Zionist regime of Israel on Iran.

"I admire the courage and commitment of the Iranian Red Crescent Society aid workers to provide humanitarian relief to people affected by the recent war. Your efforts were both important and outstanding," Mehr news agency quoted Spoljaric Egger as saying.

The official made the remarks on April 3 in a meeting with the head of the IRCS, Pirhossein Kollivand.

Highlighting the importance

of respecting international humanitarian law (IHL), the official noted that the IHL is frequently violated in the region; the war impacts on civilians, particularly children, are unacceptable. There is no justified reason for depriving children of their rights.

The measures that lead to the breach of IHL, and the attacks that target civilians and humanitarian workers, have to be stopped and reversed, she added.

The official described the current situation as dangerous, saying that "We, and the Iranian Red Crescent Society's staff, should use our capacity to reduce tensions, which is essential for the protection of civilians and children.

That is why we are here, staying here; we fulfil our responsibility inside and outside the country to change the situation, and offer assistance in any way that is possible."

The ICRC is a leading, strong national society, equipped with good facilities. The ICRC representative in Iran will help meet the country's medical needs to set up hospitals and facilitate the import of supplies that are not allowed under sanctions, she

further noted.

The official went on to thank the head of the IRCS for his continuous follow-up on the issues and for providing the ICRC with information and reports.

Vincent Cassard, the representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), has highlighted the need to expand collaborations with the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) in 2026.

In December 2025, Cassard met with Raziieh Alishvandi, the director of the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) for international affairs, lauding the IRCS for its efforts and enumerated joint activities, such as holding a conference on rehabilitation, establishing a rehabilitation secretariat by the IRCS, and co-hosting a webinar on 'Early Rehabilitation in Conflicts and Disasters', with the IRCS playing a key role in organizing the event.

Cassard went on to say that the ICRC office in Tehran has secured the budget to implement plans, such as rehabilitation services to vulnerable groups, particularly refugees. He added that the second conference on rehabilitation is planned to be held in the second quarter of 2026.

World Blood Donor Day: One Drop of Humanity. Give Blood. Save Lives.

TEHRAN – Observed on June 14 every year, World Blood Donor Day is a celebration to honor donors, an effort to raise awareness of the ongoing need for safe blood and blood products, and a call to action to inspire consistent and new voluntary blood donations to ensure the availability of safe, adequate blood supplies.

The day appreciates the millions of voluntary, unpaid blood donors whose generosity saves lives every day. Their contributions are essential to health systems everywhere, supporting patients during emergencies, childbirth, surgeries, cancer treatment, and the lifelong care of many serious conditions.

Themed 'One Drop of Humanity. Give Blood. Save Lives.', This year's campaign places humanity at the heart of every blood donation. It reminds everyone that each donation is more than a medical act: it is a powerful expression of solidarity, compassion, and collective responsibility. Inspired by the idea that the whole of humanity can be reflected in a single drop, the campaign highlights how every donor helps form a lifeline that connects and protects us all.

While advances in science, testing, and blood safety systems have made transfusion safer than ever, safe blood remains dependent on people willing to donate regularly and voluntarily. Yet many countries continue to face shortages and unequal access to safe blood and blood products, particularly in low- and middle-income settings. 'Dad gave water, and Dad gave

The objectives of this year's campaign are to drive sustained growth in regular, voluntary, unpaid blood donation worldwide; raise awareness of the life-saving impact of blood and plasma donation; highlight the vital contribution of blood donors and promote the values of solidarity and humanity; and encourage governments and partners to strengthen and invest in national blood programs to achieve universal access to safe blood transfusion.

Together, we can help ensure that safe blood is available for everyone, everywhere, whenever it is needed.

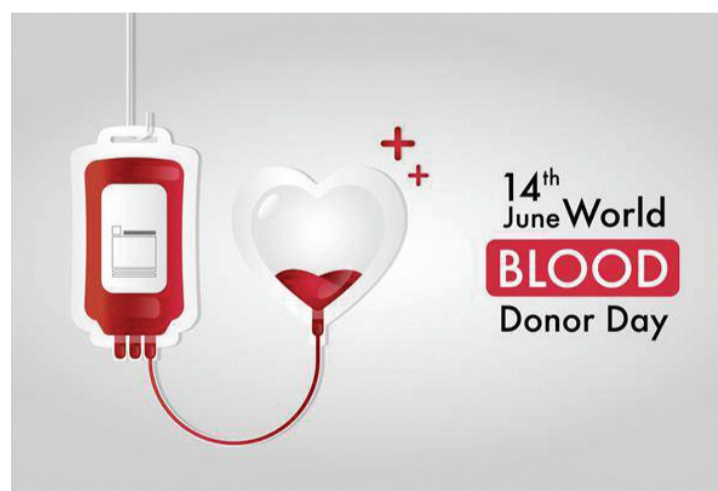
Iran fostering blood donation culture

Around 1.7 percent of the country's population donates blood regularly, and the blood donation index is 28 per 1,000 population.

To foster a culture of blood donation among the new generation, the Iran Blood Transfusion Organization (IBTO) launched a campaign in May to help children become familiar with the altruistic act of donating blood and to promote the culture of blood donation.

The campaign titled 'Dad gave blood' started concurrently with Teacher's Day on Saturday, May 2, IBTO website quoted Mohammad Shahzade-Safavi, an official with the organization, as saying.

Inspired by beautiful shared childhood memories, the campaign aims to create a bond between past and new generations. 'Dad gave water, and Dad gave



bread' are memorable sentences in textbooks in elementary school a few decades ago, which evoke great nostalgia, he noted.

The main objective of the campaign is to change the attitude of the future generation towards blood donation. 'Dad gave blood' reminds people of their social and human responsibilities, the IBTO intends to convey an important message to the new generation, said the official.

Highlighting the role of early childhood education in children's social development, he said: "We aim to institutionalize the culture of blood donation in children."

The campaign is planned to serve as a platform for interactions among families, teachers, and students, making blood donation a social responsibility and part of the culture.

According to Shahram Shekarchi, an official with the IBTO, the upper age limit for blood donation in the country has been lifted; therefore, there is no longer a

limit for people over 65 years of age to donate blood.

The organization's new guidelines have been developed based on the latest reliable scientific sources, and this decision has been made according to the criterion that blood donation is related to the donor's health, not the donor's age, IRNA quoted Shahram Shekarchi as saying on Monday.

Now, all people over 18 years of age can donate blood without any restrictions or age limits, Shekarchi clarified.

Emphasizing the importance of maintaining the quality of donated blood, he said: "There will be no change in the quality and health of blood of people over 65 years old because all donors are examined before donating blood."

"Donors over 65 years of age are examined by doctors. Only if their health is confirmed will they be allowed to enter the blood donation process."

Iran to attend IOAA 2026

TEHRAN – Five Iranian students will participate in the 19th International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics (IOAA) 2026, which is scheduled to take place in Hanoi, Vietnam, from September 25 to October 5.

The team comprises Mohammad-Hossein Hosseini, Sarina Elmpour, Hirbod Foazi, Hossein Masoumi, and Arshia Mirshamsi-Kakhaki, who will represent Iran in IOAA 2026, ISNA reported.

IOAA is an annual competition in astronomy and astrophysics for high school students worldwide to strengthen ties between different nations and promote the exchange of knowledge.

The main goal of the IOAA is to promote the growing interest in astronomy and related STEM subjects, especially through the general education of young people, and to enhance the development of international contacts among different countries in promoting astronomy and astrophysics in schools.

It is expected that, through events like the IOAA, brighter high-school students will be eager to study astronomy at the university level to become the next generation of astronomy and astrophysics professionals.

The IOAA is one of the twelve International Science Olympiads. Established in 2006 by five nations—Iran, Thailand, Indonesia, China, and Poland—the IOAA was created with a shared vision: to inspire the next generation of astronomers, astrophysicists, and space enthusiasts, while fostering international friendship through scientific collaboration.

The inaugural IOAA took place in Chiang Mai, Thailand, in 2007, marking the beginning of what has become a deeply valued annual tradition. That first edition brought together students from 21 countries and culminated in the formal adoption of the IOAA Statutes by the International Board, who also elected the first leadership of the organization.

Over nearly two decades, IOAA has grown steadily in size, diversity, and prestige. This year, IOAA is expected to host hundreds of participants representing more than 70 countries. The competition continues to strengthen international cooperation in science education and remains a catalyst for inspiring young minds to reach for the stars—both literally and figuratively.

The IOAA competition consists of three components: theory, data analysis, and observation.

The theory problems assess the students' ability to solve complex problems in astrophysics and cosmology.

The data analysis section focuses on processing and interpreting real astronomical data.

The observation section tests the skill of identifying celestial objects using observational instruments.

The remarkable achievements of Iranian students in IOAA are the result of their dedication, the support of their families, the tireless efforts of their coaches, and the solidarity of the country's scientific community.

The Iranian students grabbed five gold medals at the 18th IOAA, marking the country's second consecutive world championship.

The event was held from August 11 to 21, 2025, in Mumbai, India, attracting over 300 high school students from 64 countries.

The 17th IOAA was held from August 17 to 27, 2024, in Vassouras, state of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Over 250 students from 57 countries participated in the event; Iranian students won five gold medals, ranked first globally.

In 2023, Iranian students grabbed three gold medals and two silver medals, ranking third in the 16th IOAA.

The Islamic Republic dispatched a five-member student team to the event, which was held in Silesia, Poland, over a 10-day period starting on August 10.

Iran ranked first in the world in the 15th IOAA 2022 held at Kutaisi in Georgia from August 14 to 22.

The Iranian team won first place in the tournament by winning 9 gold medals and 1 silver medal. 250 students from 45 countries participated in this competition.

In IOAA 2021, the Iranian delegation won 2 gold medals, 5 silver medals, 2 bronze medals, and an honorary diploma at the competition, held in Colombia on November 14-21.

Participants in scientific Olympiads up 40% year/year

The number of students participating in Olympiad competitions has increased from 87,000 in the past Iranian year 1403 (March 2024- March 2025) to 121,000 this year, indicating an increase of 40 percent, the head of Young Scholars Club has said.

This year, the number of students has been the highest over the past ten years, ISNA quoted Reza Hosseini as saying.

The provinces of Tehran, Khorasan Razavi, and Mazandaran had the largest number of participants. The highest number of students in relation to student population belonged to the provinces of North Khorasan (with 24 percent), Mazandaran, South Khorasan, and Kordestan, respectively.

The number of participants in Markazi, Kerman, and Ardabil provinces experienced an increase of 232, 119, and 109 percent, respectively, Hosseini noted.

Boys accounted for 52 percent of participants, and girls accounted for 48 percent, the official added.

According to Hosseini, Iran ranks eighth worldwide in international Olympiads as the country stood respectively third, seventh, and eighth in mathematics, computer, and physics Olympiads last year.

Many countries, such as China and the U.S., as well as the world's big technological companies, are directly in touch with the club to attract Iranian Olympiad winners, he added.

He went on to say that the country allocates specific facilities to these gifted students. The gold winners can major in their specialized fields in Iranian universities without participating in the university entrance exam.

Students who have grabbed gold at the International Biology Olympiad can study medical sciences, and those who won gold medals at the International Mathematical Olympiad or International Physics Olympiad can major in technical and engineering fields.

The club aims to improve the country's ranking in international Olympiads, Hosseini stressed.



Minab, the hub of mango production in Iran

Workers at a mango processing plant in the southern city of Minab, Hormozgan Province, are processing mangoes, which are widely cultivated across the province.

Hormozgan is considered the largest mango producer in the country. With about 1,800 hectares of mango orchards, Minab is the hub for mango production and processing, so that around 20,000 tons of mangoes are harvested from its orchards annually.



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JUNE 14, 2026

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

The price for Paradise is righteous deeds.
Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:05 Evening: 19:43 Dawn: 3:01 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 4:48 (tomorrow)

Jean-Baptiste Andrea's "Devils and Saints" published in Persian

TEHRAN – The Persian translation of the book "Devils and Saints" by Jean-Baptiste Andrea has been released in the bookstores across Iran.

Asghar Nouri has translated the book, which was originally published in 2021, and Raybod Publications has published it inside the country.

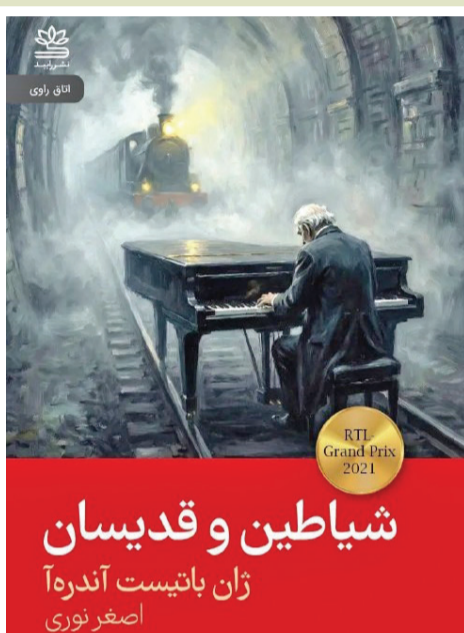
The story is about an elderly man who gives virtuoso piano performances in airports and train stations. To the incredulity of the passers-by, he refuses their offers to play in concert halls, or at prestigious gatherings. He is waiting for someone, he tells them.

Joseph was just sixteen when he was sent to a religious boarding school in the Pyrenees: les Confins, a dumping ground for waifs, strays, and other abandoned souls. His days were filled with routine and drudgery, and he thought longingly of the solace he found through music in his former life.

Joe dreams constantly of escape, but it seems impossible. That is, until a chance encounter with the orphanage's benefactor leads him to Rose, and a plan begins to form.

Despite the undoubted suffering of Joe and his comrades, this is not a novel of unrelieved misery. On the contrary, it is tender, funny, and moving, celebrating companionship, and hope, and love.

Being the third novel by Andrea, the novel has deservedly won many awards, including the pres-



tigious Grand Prix RTL Lire in 2022.

Jean-Baptiste Andrea, 55, is a French novelist, film director, and screenwriter. His debut novel, "My Queen," was published in 2017 and won a dozen awards, including Best French Debut Novel and the Students Femina. His latest book "Watching Over Her" obtained the prestigious Prix Goncourt in 2023.

Cartoon of Day



Trump inside the shoe

Cartoonist: Aziz Bouzekri from Morocco

Iranian animated feature "Dreamland" released across Turkish cinemas

TEHRAN – The Iranian animated feature film "Dreamland," directed by Mohsen Enayati, began its theatrical run in Turkey on June 12.

The wide release of the animation commenced on Friday across cinemas in 28 cities throughout Turkey, ILNA reported.

The cities where the film is currently screening in Turkey include Adiyaman, Amasya, Ankara, Antalya, Bartın, Batman, Bolu, Bursa, Çorum, Düzce, Edirne, Erzurum, Eskişehir, Gaziantep, Isparta, İstanbul, Kayseri, Cyprus, Kocaeli, Konya, Kütahya, Manisa, Mardin, Nevşehir, Tokat, Van, Yalova, and Yozgat.

A 2025 production of Soureh Cinema Organization, the animation tells the story of a boy named Arat who decides to save his city from destruction. Pasha, his funny and cute friend, and Tamara, the smart girl of the story, are his companions on this path.

The 90-minute animated movie has also been selected for the main competition section of the 11th International Film Festival for Children and Youth KINOLUB in Poland.

The 11th edition of the festival will begin on June 14 and continue until June 27 in Katowice, the capital city of the Silesian Voivodeship in southern Poland.

The presence of "Dreamland" in this competitive section is considered a valuable opportunity to showcase the new technical and narrative capabilities of Iranian animation to European audiences and to expand cultural exchange on the international stage.



The Iranian animation will compete with seven other feature films from the Netherlands, China, Latvia, Venezuela, Denmark and Sweden.

KINOLUB is an international film festival organized since 2015 by the IKS Foundation in the cities of Southern Poland – including small villages, where the screenings are

held in local cultural institutions.

The focus is also set on film education and that is the event's unique and important feature, which is developed as well in other endeavors run by the Foundation.

Most of all, KINOLUB is a celebration of films produced for children

and youth. Each year in June different cities offer festival screenings to audiences between 4 and 18 years of age. The program includes motion pictures from all over the world, rich in artistic quality and conveying important messages. The aim is to create an environment for young people to actively and keenly participate in the cultural life and to develop new mindful audiovisual audiences.

KINOLUB Film Festival is a non-commercial event, visited each year by approximately 11,000 viewers.

Film sections are designed to accommodate different age groups and are accompanied by numerous events: interactive film and educational workshops, exhibitions of new technologies, concerts as well as various meetings with the filmmakers and artists.

The program is built on the conviction that film is an excellent tool that conveys both emotions and knowledge – about unexpected situations, relationships and the world. Recognizing that due to the current cinema and TV programming, children have limited access to diverse, beautiful and challenging motion pictures – the festival Competition has an important international focus.

The Main Competition includes 40-60 productions, both feature and short films, presented and awarded during the festivals. The winners are chosen by a Professional Adult Jury as well as a Children's Jury that award financial rewards and the KINOLUB statuette.

"Harry Potter" on stage at Tehran's Mehregan Theater

TEHRAN – The play "Harry Potter," directed by Shayan Bahmani, is currently being staged at Mehregan Theater in Tehran.

This production tells the story of Harry Potter's life, based on the first four novels of "Harry Potter" by J. K. Rowling, Mehr reported.

The cast includes Sina Saligehdar, Mania Moghadam, Ali Eftekhari, Mehrzad Jafari, Sepehr Farzad, Afshin Davoudi, Negin Parva, Pedram Sadeghi, Milad Mortazavi, Sina Bagheri, Alireza Hafezi, Farhan Haghghighian, Omid Azadkhan, Iman Rahimdel, Mehrab Rezaei, Ali Yavar, Shida Bakhtiari, Mahsa Safari, Ilya Shokrgozar, Mehdi Kabiri, Hossein Kabiri, Ilya Jafari, and Asal Hemmati, among others.

"Harry Potter" is a series of seven children's fantasy novels written by British author J. K. Rowling. The novels chronicle the lives of a young wizard, Harry Potter, and his friends, Ron Weasley and Hermione Granger, among others, all of whom are students at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. The main story arc concerns Harry's conflict with Lord Voldemort, a dark wizard who intends to become immortal, overthrow

the wizard governing body known as the Ministry of Magic, and subjugate all wizards and non-magical people, known in-universe as Muggles.

The series was originally published in English by Bloomsbury in the United Kingdom and Scholastic Press in the United States. A series of many genres, including fantasy, drama, coming-of-age fiction, and the British school story (which includes elements of mystery, thriller, adventure, horror, and romance), the world of "Harry Potter" explores numerous themes and includes many cultural meanings and references. Major themes in the series include prejudice, corruption, madness, love, and death.

Since the release of the first novel, "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone," in 1997, the books have found immense popularity and commercial success worldwide. They have attracted a wide adult audience as well as younger readers and are widely considered cornerstones of modern literature.

As of February 2023, the books have sold more than 600 million copies worldwide, making them the best-selling book series in history, available in

dozens of languages.

Warner Bros. Pictures adapted the original seven books into an eight-part namesake film series. In 2016, the total value of the Harry Potter franchise was estimated at \$25 billion, making it one of the highest-grossing media franchises of all time.

The success of the books and films has allowed the "Harry Potter" franchise to expand with numerous derivative works, a travelling exhibition that premiered in Chicago in 2009, a studio tour in London that opened in 2012, a digital platform on which J. K. Rowling updates the series with new information and insight, and a trilogy of spin-off films premiering in November 2016 with "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them," among many other developments. Themed attractions, collectively known as The Wizarding World of Harry Potter, have been built at several Universal Destinations & Experiences amusement parks around the world.

"Harry Potter" will remain on stage until June 27 at Mehregan Theater located at No. 3, Farhangi (Behnam) Alley, Vesal Shirazi St., Enqelab St.

10-foot-tall exhibit honoring children killed in Gaza displayed in metro Detroit

Thousands of names wrapped around Peace Park East in Dearborn, Michigan, on Thursday evening, each representing a child killed in Gaza.

Visitors moved slowly through the park, stopping to read names printed across long banners that stretched through the public space. For many, the exhibit was a unique experience that transformed their notion of an idea that is usually only a statistic. For others, the names and sentiments were all too familiar as many families in Dearborn still maintain strong ties with relatives back home on the Gaza Strip.

The installation, known as the "Wall of Tears," drew dozens to the Peace Park East off Michigan Avenue in Dearborn. Residents and elected officials, including US Rep. Rashida Tlaib and Dearborn Mayor Abdullah Hammoud, gathered to see the artwork created by Brooklyn artist Phil Buehler, Spectrum News reported.

Versions of the artwork previously appeared in other cities across the country, but Buehler said that Dearborn's display is

the largest to date. He said he wanted to bring the project to Dearborn because of the city's large Arab American population and its close ties to families affected by the war.

"I really wanted to come to Dearborn because it's kind of the center of Arab American life in the United States," Buehler said. "I think it's really important to show the Arab Palestinian community that there is support for them and support for the people of Gaza from people who aren't Palestinian or Arab."

Dearborn is home to one of the nation's largest Arab American communities and can be a space where residents with families that live throughout the Middle East are often found responding to developments in Gaza. Hammoud is a Lebanese American who has previously spoken publicly about the impact the war has had on Dearborn residents. For him, the exhibit is an opportunity to confront the actual human cost of the war.

"This is a city that is a few degrees closer to the catastrophe and the genocide that is unfold-

ing," Hammoud said. "When you have to come and reckon with 18,000 names of children, it's my hope that the humanity in all of us comes forward, and the recognition that no child should have to suffer, no child should be murdered."

Joining the mayor in support of the installation was Tlaib, who represents Michigan's 12th Congressional District, including Dearborn. Another vocal advocate for the cause, Tlaib is known for consistently calling for an end to the war in Gaza. She said the exhibit offered a way to recognize children whose stories are often reduced to statistics.

"Any way that we can name the names instead of just mentioning the numbers matters," Tlaib said. "We wanted to be able to honor those."

She said the importance of exhibits like the "Wall of Tears" is to create space for grief and remembrance at a time when many Palestinian Americans feel their pain has been overlooked.

"Palestinian children deserve to grow old," Tlaib said. "They deserve to live."

As visitors made their way through rows of names Thursday evening, some wiped away tears while others stood quietly in front of the installation, appearing to read each name individually. Soft prayers could be heard throughout Peace Park East as attendees paused to reflect.

Buehler said he hopes the exhibit also creates space for conversations, the kind many people have struggled to have since the war began.

"I think people have kind of closed their minds to discussing Gaza," he said. "People are so afraid that if you talk about the crisis and the tragedy there that you'll be branded antisemitic."

The Gaza Health Ministry's casualty figures have been cited by international humanitarian organizations and news outlets throughout the conflict, though Israeli officials have disputed aspects of the ministry's reporting.

The "Wall of Tears" will remain on display in Dearborn through the end of July, according to the City of Dearborn, and can be seen at Peace Park East, 13621 Michigan Ave.