

# TEHRAN TIMES

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## Israel Renews Strikes on Beirut With US Green Light

*Iran's top negotiator has warned Donald Trump that the "good cop, bad cop" approach is outdated, as Axios said Israeli military notified CENTCOM shortly before striking the Dahiyeh district*

### Iranian officials say national unity and resistance defeated aggressors

TEHRAN – Senior Iranian officials on Saturday marked the first anniversary of the 12-day war launched by Israel against Iran in June 2025, saying the country's national unity, resilience, and military preparedness thwarted the objectives of the aggressors and forced them to accept a ceasefire.

In a message commemorating the anniversary, President Masoud Pezeshkian paid tribute to those martyred during the conflict and said the Israeli regime had miscalculated by assuming that attacks on senior military commanders, nuclear scientists, strategic facilities, and civilian infrastructure would weaken Iran and destabilize the Islamic Republic. ▶ Page 2

### Iran to replace air defense assets damaged during conflict, senior commander says

TEHRAN – Iran will rapidly replace air defense assets damaged during the recent conflict, according to Brigadier General Alireza Elhami, commander of the Khatam al-Anbiya Air Defense Joint Headquarters and the Iranian Army Air Defense Force.

Speaking about post-ceasefire readiness measures, Elhami said Iran's integrated air defense architecture is based entirely on indigenous capabilities, encompassing weapon systems, command-and-control (C2) networks, communications infrastructure, intelligence assets, and operational concepts developed domestically. ▶ Page 2

Lebanese army soldiers stand guard as people clear the rubble at the site of an Israeli air strike that targeted a building in Beirut's southern suburbs on 14 June 2026.

### Iran among architects of new regional order

TEHRAN – The United States and the Zionist regime launched the recent war on Iran with the objectives of changing the regime, fragmenting Iran, and seizing its oil resources. By combining military pressure, economic sanctions, psychological operations, and efforts to destabilize the country internally, they believed they could break the will of the Iranian nation.

However, the steadfastness of the vigilant and resilient Iranian people, the courage of the armed forces, and the effective leadership of the Supreme Leader, together with the efforts of all state institutions, reversed the situation. Not only did the aggressors fail to achieve their goals, but many of the region's strategic equations were fundamentally altered.

What Iran's foes failed to understand in their calculations was the revolutionary leadership's spirit of sacrifice, the determination of senior military commanders, national cohesion, the deterrent capabilities of the armed forces, and the Islamic Republic's strategic capacities. A project that was intended to shift the balance of power against Iran ultimately became a catalyst for redefining the regional balance of power itself.

### Hezbollah lures and ambushes Israeli forces

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – Hezbollah continues to wage heroic urban resistance against the Israeli occupation regime's forces in southern Lebanon, as the regime resorts to desperate acts of aggression in Beirut.

Hezbollah announced it had confronted attempts by Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) to advance and infiltrate areas along the southern border. Having failed to achieve any of its officially declared war objectives in southern Lebanon, the Zionist regime struck the southern suburbs of the capital, Beirut, on Sunday.

Timing speaks volumes. The IOF leveled a building with total disregard for civilians in another act of desperation to derail a reportedly imminent Iran-U.S. MoU that would require the occupation regime to withdraw from Lebanon.

In its latest statements, Hezbollah's military media wing revealed that resistance fighters monitored the IOF advancing into the town of Majdal Zoun.

### The 'roaring lion' proved to be a whimpering mouse

By Garsha Vazirian

TEHRAN – The dust has partly settled on the highly touted campaign of aggression against Iran, leaving the Israeli establishment to grapple with an undeniable reality.

Across political divides and media outlets, a profound consensus has emerged within Israel. The multi-front war designed to dismantle Iranian regional integration has failed.

It has led to a resounding strategic defeat for Israel that shattered decades of "security" doctrine. This failure is an established fact openly conceded by Israel's own leadership.

#### The political echelon concedes defeat

Former Prime Minister Yair Lapid has utilized X to dismantle the government's manufactured narrative of success.

Lapid bluntly stated that the emerging diplomatic arrangements achieve none of the stated war objectives.

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### War on Iran fuels inflation shock, slows European growth as ECB raises rates

TEHRAN- The economic consequences of the ongoing U.S.-Israel conflict with Iran are spreading far beyond the West Asia, triggering inflationary pressures, weakening growth prospects, and forcing central banks to take defensive measures.

According to data and reporting published by CNBC, the European Central Bank (ECB) has raised its key interest rate by 0.25 percentage points to 2.25% in response to mounting inflation risks linked to the war.

The ECB said the conflict has significantly altered the economic outlook for the euro area, primarily through soaring energy costs caused by disruptions to global oil and gas supplies. The war, which has passed the 100-day mark, has contributed to a severe energy shock following damage to regional energy infrastructure and disruptions to shipping routes, including the strategically important Strait of Hormuz. ▶ Page 4

### Alborz artisans share their craft, passion and concerns

By Afshin Majlesi

TEHRAN – World Handicrafts Day, observed annually on June 10, is an occasion to celebrate the creativity, skills and cultural heritage of artisans around the globe. The day also marks the establishment of the World Crafts Council, an organization founded with the support of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to promote traditional crafts and preserve cultural heritage worldwide.

To mark the occasion, the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts organized a media tour for a group of journalists and cultural reporters from Tehran province. I joined fellow media professionals on a visit to several handicraft workshops across the nearby Alborz province. ▶ Page 6



### All political groups must adhere to Leader's decisions, president says

TEHRAN – Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian stressed the importance of national unity and cohesion, saying all political groups and currents must abide by decisions made within the country's legal framework and in accordance with the guidance of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution.

Speaking at a meeting with senior media executives, Pezeshkian described preserving national unity as Iran's foremost priority under current circumstances and warned that efforts to create internal divisions pose the greatest threat to the country. ▶ Page 2

### Experts call for international memorial for Minab tragedy

TEHRAN- The Library of the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art (TMOCA) recently convened the second seminar in the series "In Search of Artistic Expression for the Minab Tragedy," where experts emphasized that a memorial for the event must serve as an international indictment of war crimes.

Opening the discussion, architect and researcher Shahabuddin Arfaei highlighted the region's diverse cultural fabric, noting that "Minab's true identity is forged through a mosaic of Baluch, Fars, and Swahili influences."

Focusing on the architectural power of memory, Pirouz Hanachi drew comparisons to global landmarks like the 9/11 Memorial. "The use of 'visible voids' can transform a site of loss into a global attraction," ▶ Page 8

## TEHRAN PAPERS

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

### Five achievements and the foundation of Iran's new power

Jam-e-Jam evaluated Iran's achievements and the need to preserve them. Despite crushing economic pressure, Iran has managed to turn threats into strategic opportunities and build five strong pillars of active deterrence: Demonstrating and consolidating military power, full-spectrum retaliatory capability, creating the groundwork for regional uprisings, and establishing Iran's position as a globally influential power. The shift in the balance of power shows that Iran is no longer a local actor but a decisive player in international affairs, without whose presence no security order in West Asia can be stable. The paper argues that Iran must act proactively in legal, diplomatic, media, and military arenas. Imposing costs on US interests in the region should become a continuous principle of deterrence. To secure these gains, the Islamic Republic must rewrite its diplomatic and defense doctrine, because pure defense against a state whose logic is that of a "madman" amounts to gradual retreat.

#### Sobh-e-No: The war-ending agreement is based on a step-by-step logic

Sobh-e-No analyzed the step-by-step agreement between Iran and the United States. The paper argues that the arrangement is essentially a phased negotiation with conditional steps. In the first stage, Iran receives certain initial gains; only after the other side demonstrates a genuine commitment to diplomacy and fulfills its obligations will Iran move to the next stage and engage in nuclear talks. In practice, unless specific clauses of the agreement are implemented, negotiations will not enter the second phase. The logic governing the current talks is "step-by-step, action for action." This structure allows Iran to respond immediately if the other side violates its commitments. However, America's long record of non-compliance and its hostile policies toward Iran have created a deep wall of distrust, making any final agreement difficult. Today, Iran's strategic advantage lies in the unified triangle of the battlefield, diplomacy, and the people, which significantly raises the cost of any potential breach by the adversary.

#### Khorasan: Breathing space through an understanding?!

Khorasan examined the core function of the Iran-US understanding. According to the paper, the most important aspect is limiting the agenda of future negotiations to three issues: Iran's peaceful nuclear program, lifting sanctions, and a mechanism

for compensation. The experience of major powers shows that many agreements are not meant to end rivalry but to manage it. If the published text is taken as the basis, the primary function of this understanding is to create a strategic breathing space for both sides. During this period, Iran will have the opportunity to repair war damage, rebuild damaged infrastructure, strengthen its offensive and defensive capabilities, and address weaknesses exposed during the conflict. Naturally, the Americans will also use this pause to repair their regional setbacks. Therefore, this understanding should not be viewed merely as a ceasefire or de-escalation. What is emerging is less the end of a conflict and more a temporary halt to redefine the next phase of the war.

#### Hamshahri: Trump's anger after repeated failures

Hamshahri highlighted Donald Trump's increasingly aggressive and irritable reactions to mainstream US media reports about the realities of the war against Iran. These reactions expose the widening gap between the White House's narrative and the situation on the ground. Trump has repeatedly tried to discredit media reports about Washington's failures in the recent conflict with Tehran. However, published reports indicate that the United States has failed to achieve its stated objectives regarding Iran, and public opposition in America to continuing the war is growing. Trump's angry responses show that the exposure of these facts has become one of his most serious political challenges—one that intensifies as Washington's claimed achievements come under greater scrutiny.

#### Sazandegi: Preserving Iran's oil market share in China

Sazandegi discusses the pressure on Iran's position in China's oil market. One major factor is increased competition with Russian oil. After Western sanctions on Russia, large volumes of discounted Russian crude entered Asian markets, often undercutting Iranian prices. This has likely diverted part of China's traditional demand for Iranian oil toward Russian supplies. Recent data shows that Iran's oil exports to China have come under short-term pressure due to reduced activity in Chinese refineries, rising fuel inventories, and competition from Russian oil. What is clear is that Iran's main oil market is undergoing significant changes, and maintaining market share in China is now more dependent than ever on competitive conditions and geopolitical developments.

### Judiciary chief: Zionists' plot to break Iran's unity will fail

TEHRAN - Judiciary Chief Gholam Hossein Mohseni-Ejei says Israel's attempts to undermine Iran's national unity will ultimately fail.

"The Zionist enemy is trying to undermine the unity of the Iranian nation, but they (Zionists) will take this dream to their grave," he wrote in a post on X.

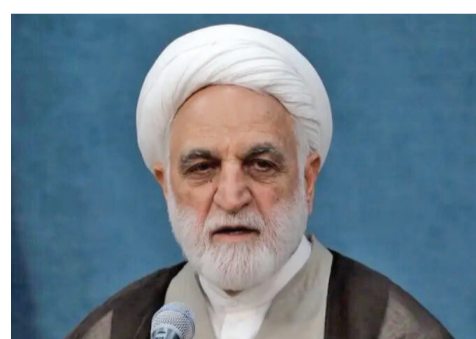
Mohseni-Ejei said Iran's military response during the US-Israeli war, diplomatic engagement with Washington, media coverage, and nationwide public gatherings in support of the Islamic Republic all reflect a strengthening of national cohesion.

Since the conflict began on February 28, people across the country have held nightly rallies to condemn the aggression and express support for the Islamic Republic.

The judiciary chief said the "enemy" is attempting to discourage continued public gatherings, insisting that such efforts will not succeed. He added that "the malicious Zionists" hope to see the streets emptied of the "awakened Iranian nation," but said this objective will never be realized.

Mohseni-Ejei said officials may differ on how best to bring the war to a lasting end, but stressed that such differences do not amount to division.

"All officials in the country are unanimous that we must not back down in the face of



the enemy. There is no disagreement on this principle. Everyone agrees that we must not yield to enemy threats and pressure in the military, economic, and media spheres. Of course, there may be differences over methods, but there is no doubt about the principle of resistance."

Iran and the United States are moving closer to signing a memorandum of understanding aimed at paving the way toward a permanent end to the war, which was paused by a ceasefire on April 8.

President Donald Trump has repeatedly claimed that Iranian political and military officials are divided over how to handle the conflict—an assertion Tehran has rejected.

Israel is also accused of using media narratives to sow division among the public and mask the failure of its military strategy during the 39-day war.

## Iranian officials say national unity and resistance defeated aggressors

From page 1 ▶ According to the president, the unity of the Iranian people, combined with the leadership of the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution and the readiness of the Armed Forces, prevented the aggressors from achieving their goals and compelled them to halt their military campaign.

Pezeshkian described the war as a defining demonstration of national solidarity, noting that Iranians from diverse political, social, and cultural backgrounds stood together in defense of the country's sovereignty and national interests. He also praised the public's patience amid economic pressures over the past year and reaffirmed the government's commitment to addressing public concerns and improving living conditions.

The anniversary was also marked by a message from Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baqaei, who said the Israeli regime and its US backers launched the war under the illusion of securing a decisive



victory. Writing on the social media platform X, Baqaei said the military aggression began with attacks on Iran's nuclear facilities and the assassination of military commanders and scientists.

He argued that the aggressors ultimately failed to accomplish their objectives, stating that the Iranian nation's resistance, sacrifice, and determination transformed the enemy's ambitions into defeat. Baqaei added

that the outcome of the conflict had become a lasting symbol of Iran's resilience, dignity, and capacity to withstand external pressure.

Meanwhile, Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs Kazem Gharibabadi said Iran emerged from the confrontation stronger and more determined than before. In a statement marking the anniversary, he said the country neither retreated nor suffered

a weakening of national resolve despite the pressures of war.

"One year has passed. Iran was neither defeated nor did it retreat," Gharibabadi said, arguing that the sacrifices of military commanders, scientists, and other victims of the conflict had reinforced national cohesion and strengthened the country's determination.

The senior diplomat maintained that the developments of the past year demonstrated Iran's growing resilience and strategic resolve, describing the aftermath of the conflict as a period in which the country became more united, more aware, and better prepared to confront future challenges.

The remarks by the three officials reflected a common message on the anniversary of the conflict: that national unity, public resistance, and military preparedness played a decisive role in confronting the aggression and shaping its outcome.

### Iran to replace air defense assets damaged during conflict, senior commander says

From page 1 ▶ He stated that the country's air defense capabilities have been built through indigenous research and development efforts and sustained cooperation between the armed forces, defense industries, and national scientific institutions. While acknowledging the existence of operational challenges, Elhami said ongoing modernization programs are aimed at addressing capability requirements and enhancing force readiness.

The commander noted that current efforts are focused on both upgrading air defense systems to counter evolving threat environments and reconstituting capabilities affected during the "Third Imposed

War." He added that damaged equipment and systems would be replaced in the shortest possible timeframe.

According to Elhami, reliance on domestically designed and manufactured systems provides the Air Defense Force with the ability to independently modernize, upgrade, and scale production in response to operational requirements. He said indigenous production has reduced dependence on external suppliers and increased the force's flexibility in adapting to emerging threats.

Elhami also highlighted the role of Iran's knowledge-based enterprises and research institutions in supporting defense inno-



novation, stating that cooperation with the country's scientific sector remains a key component of efforts to enhance air defense capabilities and expand production capacity.

### Iran's strategic leverage forced a shift in US approach: analyst

TEHRAN - Prominent Palestinian analyst and editor-in-chief of Rai Al-Youm, Abdel Bari Atwan, has argued that Iran's strategic leverage and military deterrence played a decisive role in shaping recent developments surrounding a potential agreement between Tehran and Washington.

In an editorial, Atwan revealed that US President Donald Trump ultimately concluded that victory against Iran was unattainable after more than 100 days of conflict triggered by 'Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's efforts to draw the United States into war.' According to Atwan, the growing risk of failure outweighed any prospect of success, prompting Washington to seek a political settlement.

He asserted that the proposed framework under discussion would pave the way for a ceasefire, prevent the expansion of a broader regional war of attrition, and recognize Iran's and Oman's authority over the Strait of Hormuz. Atwan argued that such developments reflect strategic realities that Washington can no longer ignore.

The veteran commentator further contended that Trump had been misled by Netanyahu regarding the prospects of the conflict and is now compelled to negotiate with the Islamic Republic—an outcome that contrasts with the original objectives of the war. He also suggested that any ceasefire arrangement would need to encompass multiple regional

fronts, including Lebanon, in line with Tehran's position.

According to Atwan, postponing decisions on contentious issues, particularly Iran's nuclear program, and referring them to future negotiations, alongside the gradual easing of sanctions and the release of frozen Iranian assets, would represent significant gains for Tehran. He attributed these developments to 'Iran's calculated diplomacy,' coupled with its ability to establish credible military deterrence against potential US or Israeli action in and around the Strait of Hormuz.

Atwan noted that Iran had spent a few years negotiating with the United States and European countries over its nu-

clear program without making concessions on key issues, including uranium enrichment. He argued that Tehran entered the confrontation with several strategic advantages, including its nuclear capabilities, indigenous missile and drone programs, and the unity of regional resistance fronts.

Concluding his analysis, Atwan maintained that regardless of the ultimate fate of any agreement, the conflict had exposed strategic miscalculations by Washington and Tel Aviv. He argued that future political developments, including upcoming US elections, would provide a clearer assessment of the consequences of those decisions.

### Obama says US can't bully or bomb its way to a deal with Iran

TEHRAN - Former US President Barack Obama says the troubled progress of negotiations with Iran is a reminder that Washington cannot "just bully our way or bomb our way to solutions," arguing that diplomacy remains the only viable path toward resolving disputes with Tehran.

In excerpts from an interview released on ABC News' This Week, Obama said the slow pace of efforts to reach a new agreement with Iran underscores the limits of coercion and military force.

"The troubled progress of these negotiations is a reminder that we can't just bully our way or bomb our way to solutions," Obama said. "You'd think we would have learned that lesson by now."



His remarks amount to a rare acknowledgment by a former US president that decades of pressure, sanctions, and military threats against Iran have failed to produce the results sought by Washington.

Obama also said it is unrealistic to expect that any future agreement with Iran would be significantly better than the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the landmark 2015 nuclear deal reached during his administration.

"It is doubtful that any agreement that arises is going to be significantly different or a significant improvement from the deal that we had in the first place," he said.

The former president defended the JCPOA, noting that it functioned effectively until the United States abandoned it. "Our deal worked for a long stretch of time before the United States pulled out of it," Obama said.

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

### All political groups must adhere to Leader's decisions, president says

From page 1 ▶ The president said successfully navigating current challenges requires cooperation among all branches of governance, strengthening social capital, and avoiding political polarization. He identified improving living standards, supporting domestic produc-

tion and industry, combating corruption, expanding ties with neighboring countries, enhancing national resilience, and supporting the Armed Forces as key government priorities.

Addressing foreign policy and ongoing negotiations, Pezeshkian emphasized the

government's full commitment to decisions of the Supreme National Security Council and the guidance of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution. He said strategic national decisions must be made through established legal mechanisms and that all political factions should consider

themselves bound by those decisions.

The president added that the administration remains committed to safeguarding national interests and sovereignty while pursuing economic relief, regional engagement, and sustainable development.

# Israel renews strikes on Beirut with US green light

Iran's top negotiator has warned Donald Trump that the "good cop, bad cop" approach is outdated, as Axios said Israeli military notified CENTCOM shortly before striking the Dahiyeh district

TEHRAN - Israel renewed deadly airstrikes in the southern suburbs of Lebanon's capital, Beirut, on Sunday, as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government attempts to gloss over its "strategic" defeat and "isolation" in the war on Iran.

Several people were killed in the attacks that targeted the Dahiyeh district. The Israeli military claimed it struck a Hezbollah base after the resistance group fired drones toward Israel.

The strikes are a clear violation of the ceasefire between Tehran and Washington on April 8, which paused the joint US-Israeli war on Iran. As confirmed by Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the truce that followed 39 days of war entailed halting Israeli attacks on Lebanon.

On June 7, Israel also bombed the Dahiyeh district, which was met with Iranian retaliation. Iranian armed forces struck strategic and military sites in Israel in response to the attacks in southern Beirut, warning of "much more intense and crushing measures than before" if the Netanyahu government continues its acts of aggression.

The announcement of a yet-to-be-finalized memorandum of understanding between Iran and the United States was expected to halt Israeli strikes in Lebanon. Based on the 14-point MoU that is set to pave the way for permanently ending the February 28 US-Israeli aggression against Iran, Tel Aviv must stop attacking Lebanon.

However, fresh attacks suggest that Israel is seeking to sabotage that agreement.

Iranian officials have renewed warnings over Israel's latest escalation.



"The Zionist aggression against Dahiyeh once again showed that the United States either lacks the will to fulfill its commitments or is incapable of doing so," Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, Iran's parliament speaker and top negotiator in talks with Washington, said in a post on X.

"By giving the green light to the regime, you cannot extract concessions. The game of bad cop and good cop is outdated. If you lack the will and ability to fulfill your commitments, speaking of continuing the path is not possible," Qalibaf added.

President Donald Trump has adopted a contradictory stance regarding a peace deal with Iran as well as Israel's strikes in Lebanon.

Trump has often tried to distance himself from Israeli military operations in Lebanon. However, Iranian officials say Israel does not attack Lebanon without approval from Washington.

Following Sunday's Israeli strikes, Trump wrote on Truth Social that the attacks "should not have happened."

Axios, however, reported that Israel notified CENTCOM about

its strike in the Dahiyeh district shortly before the attack, which corroborates Iran's narrative.

The US president needs a deal with Iran to exit what many experts describe as a quagmire, which has contributed to rising energy prices and inflation in the United States, in addition to pushing his popularity to near-record lows.

Nonetheless, Israel's continued adventurism in Lebanon will further hamper Trump's efforts to extricate himself from the conflict with Iran.

A recent report by Israel Hayom has described the war with Iran as a "strategic loss" for Israel. It said the war has weakened Israel, while Iran has emerged stronger from the conflict.

"This is the direct result of flawed management, mixed with wishful thinking, at the strategic level," the Israeli outlet wrote.

Israel Hayom said Israel has failed to carry out regime change in Iran, remove hundreds of highly enriched uranium stockpiles, dismantle Iran's missile program, or bring an end to Iran's support for Hezbollah.

Amid Israel's failed military

strategy against Iran, its latest escalation against Lebanon has raised serious questions. First and foremost, it is evident that Netanyahu leaves no stone unturned in attempting to derail talks between Tehran and Washington.

A possible scenario is that Netanyahu ordered his army to attack Lebanon and, in response to a possible Iranian military retaliation, escalate the situation further. A fresh round of conflict could dissuade Iran from signing the MoU with the US. In this way, he could also embolden Trump once again to renew confrontation with Iran.

But based on acknowledgments in Israeli media and comments from American officials speaking to US media, continued conflict would work to the detriment of Washington, although it could benefit Netanyahu despite Israel's strategic setbacks against Iran.

This is because a permanent state of conflict could help sustain Netanyahu's political survival as he faces corruption charges and criticism from rivals who accuse him of turning Israel into Washington's "vassal state."

The Israeli strikes on Beirut highlight the gap between diplomacy and events on the ground. From Tehran's perspective, as reflected in Qalibaf's remarks, the attacks reinforce doubts about the United States' ability—or willingness—to restrain Israel during sensitive negotiations, raising questions about the credibility of Washington's commitments. This suggests that even if talks with Iran move forward, Israeli military actions can still undermine the process and cast doubt on the reliability of the diplomatic track.

## Surrender or war: The only options Washington contemplates

By Xavier Villar

MADRID - There is a reading that circulates comfortably in certain political circles, re-appearing punctually each time Washington changes occupant: the conviction that American hostility toward Iran is, at bottom, a matter of persons. That with the right interlocutor, the correct economic offer, the timely diplomatic gesture, the conflict could be resolved.

This reading found its ideal candidate in Trump, the businessman who would close deals where politicians had failed, and has proved not merely incorrect but structurally incapable of grasping what is actually occurring. The problem does not reside in any president's psychology, nor in the negotiating skills of any delegation. It resides in the place Iran occupies within the logic of a contracting imperial power, and in the kind of order that power has spent decades attempting to impose: an order that does not simply regulate relations between states, but organizes the very conditions under which certain actors may or may not present themselves as legitimate political subjects.

To understand why 47 years of negotiations have produced no durable agreement, and why the offensive of January 2026 is not an anomaly but a continuation, one must move from the register of conjuncture to that of historical structure.

The hegemonic powers of history, at their moments of greatest solidity, have rarely needed to resort systematically to direct occupation. Their power operates through less visible and considerably more effective mechanisms: currency, credit, trade treaties, dependent local elites, and international institutions that process particular interests as if they were universal ones. Violence exists, but is preferably covert, delegated, plausibly deniable. What distinguishes this mode of domination is not the absence of coercion but its naturalization: hierarchy reproduces itself because it appears as spontaneous order rather than imposition. This order has, however, a precise architecture. It rests not only on economics or military force, but on the production of a knowledge that legitimizes it and a classification of the world that determines which actors are capable of governing themselves, which political forms merit recognition, and which populations belong by their very nature to the sphere of tutored subjects rather than sovereign interlocutors. This classificatory operation is the condition of possibility of imperial domination in its hegemonic phase: there is no need to occupy a territory if its elites have internalized the center's criteria of legitimacy and aspire to be recognized by it.

Victorian Britain illustrates this logic with a clarity that has not been sufficiently acknowledged. Between 1815 and the 1870s, London did not need to plant its flag in every territory to control it. Control of ports, trade routes, debt and maritime security was sufficient. What made that informal empire possible was not only naval power or industrial superiority, but the efficacy with which British liberal thought had managed to present its particular interests, free trade, private property, sovereign debt, parliamentarism, as the general interests of humanity as a whole. Whoever resisted that order did not resist Britain; they resisted progress. The coloniality of knowledge, the determination of which knowledges, political forms and modes of being are legitimate and which are not, was the true engine of empire at its moment of fullness.

What changed after 1870 was not the will to dominate but the capacity to do so from the shadows. When economic superiority ceased to be self-evident, the ideological scaffolding sustaining it began to crack. The occupation of Egypt in 1882, the partition of Africa, the Boer War: each episode marks the moment when an order that had previously reproduced itself silently demanded to be imposed by visible means. The transition from hegemony to coercive domination is not merely a change of instruments; it is a change in the nature of violence itself. In the hegemonic phase, imperial violence acts primarily on the being of dominated societies, reorganizing their ways of knowing themselves, their criteria of value, and their political aspirations. It does not announce itself as violence because it presents itself as education, as opening, as incorporation into civilized order. When that diffuse violence ceases to produce the required effects, when dominated societies begin to articulate

demands the existing order cannot process without questioning itself, the imperial power resorts to violence of another register: one that acts directly on bodies, territories and institutions. The occupation of Cairo in 1882 was not a demonstration of strength; it was the admission that the order Britain had presented as universal could only be maintained by military presence.

The American trajectory reproduces this sequence. After 1945, Washington constructed its hegemony on instruments that avoided formal colonization while reproducing its internal logic precisely. The dollar as world reserve currency, Bretton Woods, the IMF, the World Bank, the network of military bases, and covert action when necessary: each mechanism operated simultaneously as an instrument of power and a device of classification, determining which economies were viable, which governments legitimate, which development models rational.

The coups of 1953 in Iran, 1954 in Guatemala, 1973 in Chile were not simply interventions in the internal politics of other states; they were the violent reaffirmation of the limits within which sovereignty could be exercised without consequences. The universality proclaimed always contained an undeclared exception, and that exception was precisely the order doing the proclaiming. When Bretton Woods collapsed, when the oil shocks and stagflation eroded American economic dominance, what was being consumed was not only a set of financial arrangements but the capacity of the American order to present itself as the natural horizon of modernity. When the knowledge legitimizing hegemony loses credibility, hegemony itself begins to depend on other resources. The Carter Doctrine of 1980, the televised war of 1991, the occupation of Iraq in 2003: the arc from the CIA operation that deposed Mosaddegh to the deployment of hundreds of thousands of soldiers on Baghdad is the arc of an order that has progressively lost its capacity to reproduce itself through knowledge, economic mechanisms and elite consent, and is compelled, consequently, to sustain itself through increasingly ostentatious direct violence.

Iran is not a peripheral problem Washington has managed badly through tactical insufficiency. It is the point where several of the declining imperial power's central anxieties converge: the Strait of Hormuz, the Persian Gulf security architecture, the credibility of guarantees to Saudi Arabia and Israel, and the containment of China and Russia. But Iran's centrality is not exclusively geopolitical. Since 1979, the Islamic Republic has represented something the imperial order finds genuinely disturbing: a political formation sustained by its own genealogy, which does not seek to legitimate itself in the terms of Western universalism, and which has survived nearly five decades outside the perimeter of conformity Washington considers the world's natural horizon. In the logic of imperial order, an actor that exists and persists in that position does not represent merely a strategic challenge; it represents an anomaly that questions the universality of the order itself, demonstrating that exit from that order is possible. That demonstration is what proves intolerable, beyond any specific dossier.

This is the structural reason why the nuclear question, the missiles, regional policy, and Persian Gulf security have functioned for decades as successive pretexts without any of them exhausting the underlying problem. The agreement Washington can offer is precisely the one Iran cannot accept without renouncing its condition as a political subject with interests of its own. A declining power does not grow more moderate as it loses ground; it frequently grows more erratic and more exhibitionistic in the use of force, because force is what remains when the mechanisms of soft hegemony cease to produce their effects. The attack on Iran in January 2026 does not express the confidence of a power in control of its environment; it expresses the anxiety of one that has ceased to be able to govern invisibly. Ostentatious brutality is, in the history of empires, one of the most reliable symptoms of fragility. The promise and the result do not contradict each other: they are two moments of the same system, the first addressed to domestic politics, the second to the management of world order. That both can coexist without the contradiction proving insupportable is precisely a measure of how far the naturalization of war as an ordinary instrument of government has advanced.

## LATEST NEWS

### Commander says Israeli strikes on Beirut's Dahieh will not go unanswered

A senior Iranian military official said recent Israeli attacks on Beirut's southern suburb of Dahieh will not go unanswered.

Brigadier General Mohammad Jafar Asadi, Deputy of Iran's Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters, condemned the latest strikes, which reportedly caused extensive material damage in the area.

Referring to the attacks, Asadi stated that those responsible would face consequences, stressing that "these crimes will certainly be answered."

### Qalibaf says diplomatic progress depends on US ability to curb Israeli actions

Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf warned that the future of the current diplomatic process depends on Washington's willingness and ability to restrain Israel and honor its commitments. In a post on X following Israel's latest strike on Beirut's southern suburb, Qalibaf said the attack demonstrated that the United States either lacks the will or the capability to enforce its obligations. He argued that concessions cannot be secured while giving Israel a "green light" and cautioned that diplomatic progress would be impossible without credible commitments.

### ELBaradei questions claim of superiority for potential new Iran deal

Former Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Mohamed ElBaradei, has criticized US President Donald Trump's efforts to portray a potential agreement with Iran as superior to the 2015 nuclear deal, arguing that it appears largely to restore the pre-crisis status quo.

In a post on X, ElBaradei said Trump was "desperately" trying to distinguish the prospective agreement from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), while overlooking the human, economic, and political costs incurred during the intervening period. He also warned that negotiating with Iran under the threat of military action or nuclear coercion would only deepen insecurity and

mistrust, potentially encouraging nuclear proliferation rather than preventing it.

### Iran border security at highest level ahead of Arbaeen: commander

Iran's Border Guard commander, Brigadier General Ali-Akbar Javidan, said security along the country's borders is at its highest level, with forces maintaining full operational readiness, particularly on the western frontier.

Speaking during an inspection visit to border areas in Kermanshah Province on Sunday, Javidan said border security has been ensured through close coordination with other branches of the Armed Forces. He also highlighted preparations for the upcoming Arbaeen pilgrimage and warned that any attempt by terrorist groups or security-threatening elements to disrupt stability would be met with a firm and decisive response.

### Araghchi: Regional security requires Iran's participation

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said lasting regional security cannot be achieved by excluding Iran, arguing that recent developments have underscored the need for cooperation among all regional states. Speaking at a meeting with social activists on Sunday, Araghchi said Iran's strength stems not only from its military capabilities but also from national unity and public resilience. He added that the recent conflict demonstrated that regional stability, security, and economic development require collective participation and recognition of the interests of all countries in the region.

### Iran says spy suspect, terror cell detained in operations

Iran's Intelligence Ministry announced the arrest of a suspected spy, the dismantling of a four-member terrorist cell, and the detention of 126 individuals accused of involvement in unrest-related activities during the recent conflict. In a statement on Sunday, the ministry said a suspect linked to an operative associated with Israel was arrested in western Iran while allegedly attempting

to access sensitive government data. Authorities also reported seizing weapons and ammunition during operations against a terrorist cell in southeastern Iran.

### Questions mount for Netanyahu as prospective US-Iran deal nears

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is facing growing scrutiny over developments related to Iran and Lebanon as a potential agreement between Tehran and Washington appears to be drawing closer, according to media reports.

Al Jazeera correspondent Nida Ibrahim in Ramallah, West Bank, said the Lebanon issue has become part of the broader discussions surrounding the US-Iran diplomatic track. She added that US President Donald Trump is also aware that Washington has failed to achieve its strategic objectives in Lebanon, a factor that could influence ongoing efforts to advance a negotiated understanding with Iran.

### Iran warning against 'miscalculations' with Israel

The spokesman for the Iranian parliament's National Security Commission has warned against pursuing a deal with the United States without first restraining Israel following its attack on Beirut.

"One must not fall into a miscalculation. Even if you seek agreement or understanding, its path is punishing the Zionist regime. If this rabid dog is not controlled, the ink of an agreement not yet dry will bite our own foot," Ebrahim Rezaei wrote on X.

### Iranian media says deal not imminent

Iran's Fars news agency, citing a source close to the negotiating team, is reporting that Iranian officials were discussing the ceasefire points with the Qatari mediators in Tehran.

The report added that the deal is yet to be finalized and "no agreement will definitely be signed at the time Trump announced".

The comments were made to the agency prior to Israel's deadly attacks on Lebanon's southern suburbs today.

## Iran, Russia to cooperate in implementing BRICS grain exchange

TEHRAN- Iranian Minister of Agriculture, referring to the necessity of developing cooperation in maritime transport and utilizing the port capacities of Iran and Russia, said: "Implementing the 'BRICS Grain Exchange' requires the support and backing of Russia as a BRICS member country, neighbor, and strategic partner."

According to IRNA from the Ministry of Agriculture, Gholamreza Nouri Ghezleleh on Saturday, on the sidelines of the BRICS agriculture ministers' meeting in Indore, India, met with Russia's Deputy Minister of Agriculture and emphasized the need to expand bilateral cooperation in agricultural trade and exchanges, as well as implementing joint projects within the BRICS framework.

In this meeting, the Minister of Agriculture expressed gratitude for the positions of the Russian government and high-ranking officials, especially their support and condolences regarding recent aggressions against Iran.

He also thanked Russia for supporting Iran's positions during the BRICS agricultural negotiations and the cooperation of the two countries in drafting the final statement of the meeting, saying: "I appreciate Russia's accompaniment and support in advancing the innovative 'BRICS Grain Exchange' project."

Nouri Ghezleleh, emphasizing the importance of continued Iran-Russia cooperation in the supply of basic commodities, said: "Cooperation between the two countries in supplying basic commodities must be strengthened, and potential financial and banking obstacles between the two countries must be removed."

### BRICS Grain Exchange and development of port cooperation

The Minister of Agriculture further emphasized the need to create effective financial and banking mechanisms to facilitate agricultural trade and supply of basic commodities, adding: "The central banks of the two countries should play a more active role in facilitating payments and commercial exchanges and supporting entrepreneurs. To this end, technical and financial cooperation between the relevant bodies of the two countries to facilitate trade in agricultural products and basic commodities must be pursued more seriously."

Referring to the necessity of developing cooperation in maritime transport and utilizing the port capacities of the two countries, he said: "Implementing the BRICS Grain Exchange requires the support and backing of Russia as a BRICS member country, neighbor, and strategic partner."

### Development of Russia-Iran agricultural cooperation within BRICS framework

In this meeting, Nouri Ghezleleh, welcoming Iran's active role in the BRICS Grain Exchange initiative, emphasized his country's readiness for closer cooperation in grain trade and development of joint mechanisms within the BRICS framework.

He emphasized the development of bilateral cooperation with Iran and the implementation of joint projects within the BRICS framework, saying: "We welcome Iran's active role in the BRICS Grain Exchange initiative and we are fully prepared for closer cooperation in grain trade and development of joint mechanisms within the BRICS framework."

The Russian Deputy Minister of Agriculture, stressing the importance of strategic relations between Tehran and Moscow, announced: "His country is ready to expand its agricultural cooperation with Iran both within the BRICS framework and bilaterally."

He stated: "Russia is ready to develop the utilization of port capacities and maritime transport lines and facilitate the export and import of agricultural products."

The Russian Deputy Minister of Agriculture, emphasizing the need to develop cooperation between Iranian and Russian companies, said: "We will try to remove logistical cooperation obstacles in transport corridors and increase the volume of agricultural trade between the two countries."

In this meeting, the two sides emphasized the continuation of consultations and strengthening of economic and agricultural cooperation between the two countries and agreed that technical and financial cooperation between the relevant bodies of the two countries to facilitate trade in agricultural products and basic commodities should be pursued more seriously.

The BRICS member countries' agriculture ministers' meeting was held for two days (June 12-13) in Indore city, Madhya Pradesh state, India.

In February, Customs delegations from Iran and Russia met in Tehran to expand training cooperation and facilitate customs clearance and



supervision procedures, officials said.

The meeting was held within the framework of the mutual administrative assistance agreement in customs matters between the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) and the Federal Customs Service of Russia.

Hassan Alidousti, acting deputy for planning and international affairs at IRICA, along with senior managers and representatives from specialized offices, attended the talks.

Discussions focused on strengthening existing interactions, advancing educational cooperation and simplifying customs formalities and oversight mechanisms to support bilateral trade.

The two sides also held technical consultations on enhancing operational coordination and drafting a practical roadmap to further develop customs cooperation, following periodic meetings of the heads of customs administrations and prior expert-level negotiations.

In an exclusive interview with the Tehran Times on February 17, Russian Energy Minister Sergey Tsivilov underscored Moscow's dedication to expanding trade and energy cooperation with Iran. The remarks came before the conclusion of the 19th meeting of the Iran-Russia Joint Economic Committee, which was hosted by Terran.

Meanwhile, on June 11, Iran and Russia signed a tourism cooperation action plan covering the period from 2026 to 2028 during the sixth International Tourism Forum that was held from June 10 to 12 in Moscow.

The agreement was signed by Hojatollah Ayyoubi, senior adviser to Iran's minister of cultural heritage, tourism and handicrafts and head of the ministry's center for international affairs and diplomacy, and Dmitry Vakhrukov, Russia's deputy minister of economic development, following bilateral talks between the two sides, Tasnim news agency reported on Friday.

According to the officials, the three-year roadmap is aimed at addressing obstacles to tourism cooperation, implementing previous agreements and reviving the joint tourism committee between the two countries.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Ayyoubi said discussions with Russia's deputy ministers of economic development and culture had created favorable conditions for expanding cooperation in tourism and cultural fields.

"Iran and Russia, through the signing of this cooperation roadmap, seek to remove obstacles to the implementation of previous agreements and open a new chapter in bilateral tourism cooperation," Ayyoubi said.

He added that both countries possess significant tourism resources and that Russian officials had demonstrated a strong willingness to expand tourism ties despite what he described as a historical delay in the development of travel exchanges between the two nations.

Vakhrukov, for his part, said the memorandum constituted the latest operational plan guiding tourism cooperation between Iran and Russia over the next three years and addressed key issues related to bilateral tourism exchanges.

He said the agreement focuses on measures to facilitate travel by Russian tourists to Iran and Iranian tourists to Russia, including improvements in payment systems, visa procedures and flight connectivity.

"With the signing of this memorandum, we now know exactly what steps need to be taken to develop tourism relations with Iran," Vakhrukov said. He added that Russia was prepared for tourism flows between the two countries to increase once regional conditions stabilize.

The agreement was signed at the conclusion of bilateral negotiations between the Iranian and Russian delegations.

During the meeting, both sides stressed the importance of facilitating financial transactions for travelers and called for the full implementation of existing monetary agreements between the two countries. They also emphasized enabling tourists to make payments using bank cards connected to Iran's Shetab network and Russia's Mir payment system.

# War on Iran fuels inflation shock, slows European growth as ECB raises rates

TEHRAN- The economic consequences of the ongoing U.S.-Israel conflict with Iran are spreading far beyond the West Asia, triggering inflationary pressures, weakening growth prospects, and forcing central banks to take defensive measures.

According to data and reporting published by CNBC, the European Central Bank (ECB) has raised its key interest rate by 0.25 percentage points to 2.25% in response to mounting inflation risks linked to the war.

The ECB said the conflict has significantly altered the economic outlook for the euro area, primarily through soaring energy costs caused by disruptions to global oil and gas supplies. The war, which has passed the 100-day mark, has contributed to a severe energy shock following damage to regional energy infrastructure and disruptions to shipping routes, including the strategically important



Strait of Hormuz.

As a result, the ECB revised its inflation forecasts upward. The central bank now expects eurozone inflation to average 3% in 2026, well above its long-term target of 2%, before gradually easing in subsequent years. Higher energy prices are expected to ripple through the broader economy, increasing the cost of food, consumer goods, transportation, and services.

At the same time, the ECB lowered its economic growth projections, reflecting concerns that the conflict will continue to undermine consumer confidence, reduce real incomes, and disrupt commodity markets. Growth in the euro area is now forecast to reach only 0.8% in 2026, highlighting the growing economic strain facing European households and businesses.

ECB President Christine Lagarde

warned that the outlook remains highly uncertain, with risks tilted toward higher inflation and weaker growth. She noted that the ultimate impact of the conflict will depend on the duration and severity of the energy price shock and its secondary effects across the economy.

According to CNBC, eurozone inflation rose to 3.2% in May, driven largely by rising energy costs, while economic growth in the first quarter was just 0.1%. Analysts view the ECB's decision as a sign that policymakers are increasingly concerned about the inflationary consequences of the conflict. Economists at major financial institutions have suggested that further rate increases may follow if price pressures persist.

The developments underscore how the war is creating economic challenges far beyond the battlefield, threatening growth, raising living costs, and increasing financial uncertainty across Europe and the global economy.

## New well of South Pars phase 11 enters production cycle

TEHRAN- The CEO of Pars Oil and Gas Company announced the entry of the eleventh well of platform B of phase 11 of South Pars gas field (SPD11B) into the production cycle.

According to Mehr News Agency, quoting Pars Oil and Gas Company, Touraj Dehghani, CEO of Pars Oil and Gas Company, referring to the continuation of the development plan of South Pars phase 11, stated: The eleventh well of platform B of phase 11 of South Pars gas field (SPD11B), after successful completion, flow testing, acidizing, and connection to the relevant platform, has entered the production cycle and is now producing gas steadily.

He added: This well adds about 2.5 million cubic meters per day to the gas production capacity of phase 11 and plays an important role in increasing extraction from the border section of the joint South Pars field.

The CEO of Pars Oil and Gas Company, stating that the daily production of phase 11 has now surpassed 26 million cubic meters of rich gas,

said: The development of this phase in recent years has been pursued with a focus on completing production capacity and accelerating drilling and well completion activities, and its results can be seen today in increased production and sustainable extraction from this strategic section of the South Pars field.

Dehghani continued: Increasing production from phase 11, in addition to helping ensure a stable supply of feed for the South Pars refineries, is also of special importance for protecting joint resources and increasing the Islamic Republic of Iran's share of extraction from this giant gas field. It is worth noting that South Pars phase 11 is the last development project of the joint South Pars field, the development of which has been assigned to Petropars Company under the new model of oil contracts. The daily production of this phase has now reached more than 26 million cubic meters, indicating a production growth of about 117 percent in less than the past two years.

Back in January, the project manager of South

Pars phase 11 at Pars Oil and Gas Company (POGC) said daily gas extraction from the block has increased by more than two million cubic meters with the completion and commissioning of the 10th development well.

Referring to the fact that daily gas extraction from phase 11 of South Pars was over 12 million cubic meters in late August 2025, Keyvan Tarighati stated: "Development of this phase has been pursued more seriously in the 14th government, and now, the tenth well of the SPD11B platform has also entered production circuit, increasing rich gas extraction from this phase to 24.3 cubic meters per day (equivalent to 858 million cubic feet per day), which indicates a production increase of 100 percent."

Regarding the progress of construction stages of the second jacket of Phase 11 of South Pars, the official said the SPD11A platform jacket, the last jacket of the 24-unit South Pars, was installed in its position in the Persian Gulf last week, and operations for its stabilization and installation are underway.

## About 38% of petrochemical capacity returned to production cycle

TEHRAN- The Deputy Oil Minister and Managing Director of the National Petrochemical Company, announcing that through efforts made, about 38 percent of the petrochemical industry capacity that had been lost or affected has returned to production, said: Today, the market for polymer and plastic products has reached relative stability, and even for some products, in the current situation, production exceeds domestic demand.

According to IRNA's report from the Oil Ministry, Hassan Abbaszadeh, referring to the damage inflicted on the petrochemical industry in the attacks by the American-Zionist enemy during the third imposed war, stated: First, we must honor the memory of six of our dear colleagues who were martyred during this war.

Referring to the fact that part of the war damage related to gas refineries, which affected part of the petrochemical industry's feedstock including natural gas and gas condensates, he added: Some ancillary facilities of the petrochemical industry were directly attacked, and power plants responsible for supplying electricity and steam to petrochemical complexes were targeted, and part of the electricity and steam production capacity was affected.

The Deputy Oil Minister clarified: Also, some production units of the petrochemical industry were directly hit and taken out of the production cycle.

### Priority: supplying needs of people and downstream industries

Abbaszadeh, stating that immediately after these incidents, recovery and reconstruction committees began their activities, said: The goal of these committees was maximum use of available facilities, utilization of scattered steam supply resources, as well as supplying electricity from existing capacities of the oil

industry, power plants connected to the grid, and the energy exchange, so that petrochemical companies could return to the production circuit as quickly as possible, with priority given to meeting the needs of the people and downstream industries.

Announcing that through efforts made, about 38 percent of the capacities that had been lost or affected have returned to production, he said: A short-term two-month program has been defined for the first stage of recovery, the first phase of which will be pursued until the end of Khordad (mid-June). We hope that in subsequent stages, more companies will gradually return to the production circuit.

### Increasing trend of petrochemical product supply in market

The Managing Director of the National Petrochemical Company emphasized: All efforts are based on supplying the needs of domestic industries. To this end, a report for controlling and managing the petrochemical products market was presented at this week's meeting of the Market Regulation Headquarters chaired by the First Vice President.

Abbaszadeh, noting that the supply of petrochemical products has increased in recent weeks, emphasized: With increased supply, the level of competition on the commodity exchange has decreased, and it is expected that with the re-operation of some companies in recent weeks and the supply of their products, more calm will prevail in the market for these products.

Emphasizing that double control and monitoring of warehouses and the supply of petrochemical products to the market is underway, he said: The level of competition on the exchange has decreased, and we hope that final products will be available to consumers at more appropriate prices.

### Experience of 12-day war and preparedness for critical conditions

The Deputy Oil Minister, referring to the experiences gained from the 12-day war last year, stated: Valuable strategies were extracted from that period and placed on the agenda. One of the most important actions was determining the list of priority products and companies in cooperation with the Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade, so that under any circumstances, it would be possible to supply their required raw materials through the commodity exchange.

Abbaszadeh continued: In addition, backup companies had been identified for emergency situations; meaning that if an incident occurs in the main production areas such as Assaluyeh or Mahshahr, other complexes could take over the production of substitute products.

Stating that before the war began, storage warehouses for many strategic and priority products had been anticipated inside and outside operational areas, he clarified: Part of these reserves were kept in petrochemical warehouses and part in consumption cities, and sufficient reserves for several months had been considered for each product.

### Polymer and plastic market has reached relative stability

The Deputy Oil Minister, referring to the situation of polymer products during the war, said: The polyethylene production chain was not damaged during the war. However, in the early days after the attacks, concerns arose in society and among downstream industry activists about the future of petrochemical industry production, and a kind of turbulence was created in the market.

Abbaszadeh, announcing that through continuous meetings with associations and downstream producers and explaining the recon-

struction plans, these concerns have been largely resolved, emphasized: Some complexes that were not damaged immediately began production, and products stored in warehouses were offered on the commodity exchange.

He clarified: Today, the market for polymer and plastic products has reached relative stability. Even for some products, in the current situation, production exceeds domestic demand.

### Export of products surplus to domestic market needs

The Managing Director of the National Petrochemical Company, stating that after the ceasefire, temporary restrictions were imposed on the export of some products to fully meet domestic demand, said: But now, for some products that have surplus production and warehouses are full of them, export permits have been reissued. Of course, for products that still face supply limitations, the export ban remains in place.

Abbaszadeh, referring to the process of petrochemical complexes returning to the production circuit, stated: In just this past week, two major petrochemical complexes have returned to the production circuit. This process will continue, and other companies will gradually resume their activities, which will result in greater calm in the market.

In conclusion, emphasizing that we have made a pledge with our colleagues to stand by the people and for this land, he said: Many petrochemical industry employees remained at their workplaces despite enemy attacks to protect production units and national assets of the country.

The Deputy Oil Minister recalled: I kiss the hands of every single colleague who stood firm in these difficult circumstances, and I hope we can continue to serve the people and the country with all our might.

# The 'roaring lion' proved to be a whimpering mouse

A deep dive into the admissions of failure echoing across Israeli media and political echelons

By Garsha Vazirian

TEHRAN — The dust has partly settled on the highly touted campaign of aggression against Iran, leaving the Israeli establishment to grapple with an undeniable reality.

Across political divides and media outlets, a profound consensus has emerged within Israel. The multi-front war designed to dismantle Iranian regional integration has failed.

It has led to a resounding strategic defeat for Israel that shattered decades of "security" doctrine. This failure is an established fact openly conceded by Israel's own leadership.

**The political echelon concedes defeat**

Former Prime Minister Yair Lapid has utilized X to dismantle the government's manufactured narrative of success.

Lapid bluntly stated that the emerging diplomatic arrangements achieve none of the stated war objectives.

He stressed that the Iranian government has survived, its strategic missile program remains firmly in place, and its nuclear infrastructure is entirely intact.

In a stark admission of geopolitical isolation, Lapid posted that Israel "was not even at the table" when decisions concerning its core security were finalized.

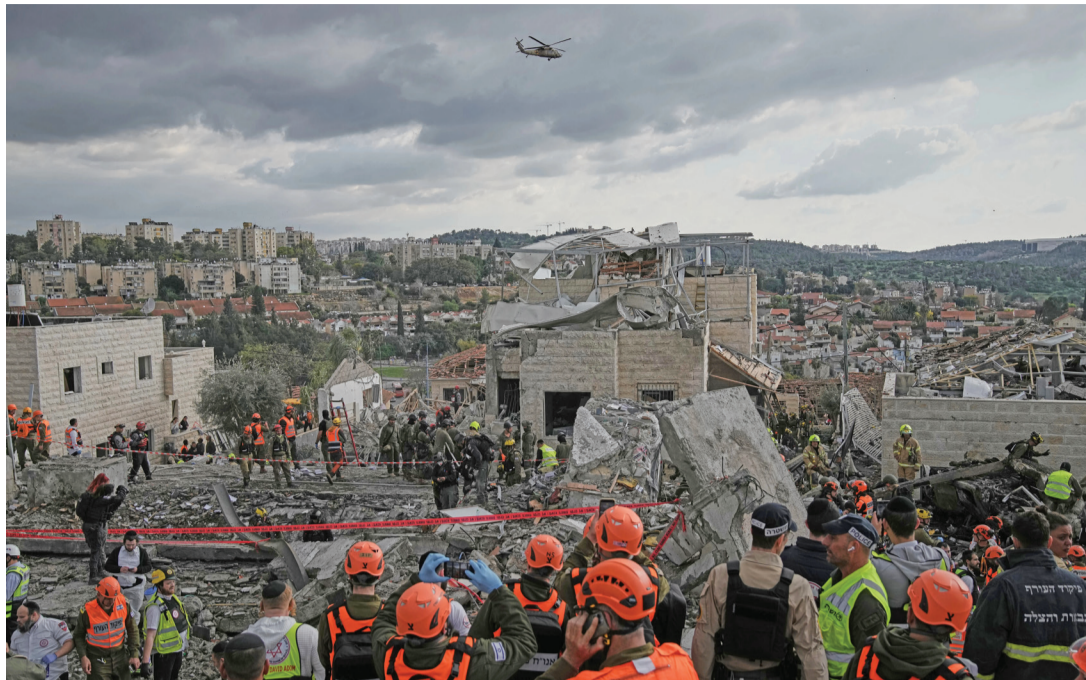
He noted that Netanyahu failed politically and strategically to achieve even a single self-imposed goal.

This sentiment permeates the mainstream Israeli media spectrum.

The Adelson family's conservative daily Israel Hayom published a comprehensive concession acknowledging that the campaign ended in a resounding strategic failure.

The publication admitted that Tel Aviv has emerged from the campaign weaker and more constrained.

According to Channel 13, the memorandum of understanding



between Iran and the U.S. excludes measures Tel Aviv sought for years, including the dismantlement of nuclear infrastructure and restrictions on ballistic missiles.

**'Begida' characterizations**

A central pillar of this defeat is the alleged collapse of Israeli influence over its primary benefactor.

The mood in Tel Aviv is defined by shock and a deep sense of alleged abandonment by the United States.

Analysts and officials have repeatedly used variations of the Hebrew root for betrayal, "begida," to characterize the understandings.

Speaking anonymously to Yedioth Ahronoth, a senior official supposedly stated that the political echelon felt "completely blindsided."

The official lamented that Trump "deceived" them, leaving Israel to bear the consequences without any ability to influence the unfolding events.

The source also said that Iran would emerge stronger. "Tehran got everything it wanted while Israel will be forced to invest enormous sums in interceptor

missiles," the official supposedly noted.

Mark Dubowitz, a prominent anti-Iran Zionist operative, also expressed outrage on social media over the supposed "massive financial windfall awaiting Tehran."

He noted on X that despite political rhetoric claiming no direct cash will be handed over, the reality includes "massive oil waivers and the unfreezing of billions in frozen assets."

**'Geopolitical judo' and the resistance**

Meanwhile, the Axis of Resistance, which the Israelis have dubbed "the ring of fire," remains unbroken.

Israeli experts concede that while tactical blows were traded, the structural integrity of the Axis of Resistance survived.

Israeli combat engineering units have reportedly alleged massive subterranean military networks constructed across Gaza and southern Lebanon.

Intelligence briefs reportedly concede that the incoming financial influx will directly fund the reconstruction of these underground fortresses, making them deeper and heavily fortified.

The overarching strategic disas-

ter for Israel is the erasure of its ultimate deterrent. For decades, the bedrock of Israeli strategy was the threat of an American military strike on Iran.

That theoretical threshold was crossed, yet the Iranian government survived without systemic destabilization.

Israeli military analysts have bitterly noted that the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) has applied a "geopolitical form of judo." They "weaponized the superior economic weight of the Western alliance against itself, forcing Washington to sue for terms."

Writing for Haaretz, columnist Gideon Levy framed the landscape in bitterly ironic terms.

He noted that Netanyahu spent decades orienting foreign policy toward leveraging American military power against Iran. When he finally secured an administration willing to engage, the outcome was a "complete catastrophe."

The project against Iran "has completely failed," he concluded. Netanyahu sold his public the promise of a "roaring lion," but the reality of this war has left Israel with nothing more than a political boomerang and a profound, devastating defeat.

## Hezbollah lures and ambushes Israeli forces

From page 1 ▶ The fighters set up an ambush and engaged the force - using light and medium weapons as well as rocket-propelled munitions - in a fierce battle that lasted for two hours. The clash resulted in the destruction of several accompanying Israeli military vehicles, which caught fire.

At the same time, IOF troop concentrations on the southern and southeastern outskirts of Majdal Zoun were targeted with three successive rocket barrages.

In the southern town of Kfartebnit, Hezbollah detected an IOF infantry unit attempting to infiltrate after midnight under artillery and smoke cover via the Arnoun-Zaffata road. The unit was lured into a pre-prepared kill zone, where explosive devices were detonated and fighters engaged the troops, forcing the unit to withdraw.

The Lebanese resistance movement's operations also included targeting the occupying regime's military command center near the town of Yahmar al-Shaqif with an Ababil attack drone, as well as striking an advanced Nemera military vehicle and a group of IOF soldiers inside a building in the town of Khiam.

Since March 2, the IOF has struggled to occupy Khiam in the face of fierce resistance.

Hezbollah FPV attack drones also struck a newly established IOF artillery position in the border town of Adaiseh, while a concentration of Israeli military vehicles

in Jdeidet Marjayoun was shelled with a rocket barrage.

Furthermore, Hezbollah's air force also engaged another IOF Hermes 450 Zik drone over the Iqlim al-Tuffah region using a surface-to-air missile, forcing it to retreat.

Earlier, the formidable resistance movement announced that it had targeted a newly established IOF position in the town of Maroun al-Ras with a rocket barrage.

In another major development, Hezbollah released a footage documenting the targeting of an IOF Heron 1 drone flying at an altitude of seven kilometers over Lebanese airspace in the Bekaa Valley.

This follows Hezbollah's announcement two days earlier that it had shot down the regime's Heron 1 drone over the skies of the Nahleh area in the Bekaa Valley using a "specialized" missile. The operation comes within the framework of confronting ongoing IOF violations and incursions into Lebanese airspace.

On Saturday, Hezbollah also announced a series of operations targeting IOF military positions, vehicles, and troop concentrations in southern Lebanon.

The Lebanese resistance struck a newly established IOF site in the town of Maroun al-Ras with a rocket barrage. It also stated that

a concentration of IOF vehicles and soldiers west of the newly established Blat position was hit by a swarm of attack drones.

Another rocket barrage at-



tacked a gathering of IOF vehicles and soldiers on the southwestern outskirts of Majdal Zoun.

The resistance movement underlined that these retaliatory operations are part of the ongoing defense of Lebanon and its people based on the legitimate right to resist occupation, liberate territory, and respond to violations of the declared ceasefire agreement.

Hezbollah continues to confront the IOF ground invasions and airstrikes against Lebanese villages, particularly in the south, which have resulted in casualties among the civilians and the Lebanese Army.

These operations come ahead of the resumption of U.S.-mediated direct negotiations between the Lebanese government and the Zionist regime, scheduled to take place on June 22.

On Friday, Hassan Fadlallah, a member of the Loyalty to the Resistance parliamentary bloc, stated that any Iranian-American agreement would have direct implications for Lebanon. He

stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran would insist on including Lebanese sovereignty in any future agreement, which would strengthen Lebanon's position in confronting Israeli aggression.

Lebanese President Joseph Aoun has insisted on continuing direct negotiations with the occupying regime despite opposition from a significant segment of the Lebanese population. He stated, "We will continue this path until we achieve an outcome that serves our nation's interests."

Critics say the Lebanese government is falling into a trap by rushing into direct talks with Israel via the U.S., two parties that have historically trampled on Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The Israeli violations of the ceasefire have intensified since April 17. Lebanon's Ministry of Health reported that more than 3,500 people, mostly civilians, have been killed since the expansion of the aggression in Lebanon on March 2, 2026.

## Iran among architects of new regional order



From page 1 ▶ Today, developments in West Asia represent far more than a series of military confrontations or diplomatic exchanges. They signal the region's entry into a new phase of redefining power balances and the security architecture. In this context, events in Lebanon, the indirect negotiations between Iran and the U.S., the growing role of regional actors, and developments surrounding the Strait of Hormuz and Bab el-Mandeb all constitute pieces of a larger puzzle. The central issue is not merely war or peace, but the determination of the future political and security rules governing the region.

Numerous indications suggest that Washington's primary objective has been to prevent the conflict from escalating into a full-scale regional war—one that could seriously threaten energy security, the global economy, and American interests throughout the region. At the same time, public opinion pressures, the economic costs of war, and domestic political considerations have compelled the White House to pursue crisis management and de-escalation.

In such an environment, the fragile ceasefire that has emerged cannot be interpreted as the end of the conflict or the establishment of lasting peace. Recent weeks and months have demonstrated that while the U.S. and the Zionist regime speak of negotiations and de-escalation on the one hand, they simultaneously seek to alter realities on the ground through violations of agreements, increased pressure, and the continuation of hostile actions.

Repeated Israeli attacks on Lebanon, allegedly carried out with American approval, violations of Iranian territory, the continuation of economic blockades, and political pressure through international institutions all indicate that the enemy remains committed to weakening the Axis of Resistance and extracting concessions through pressure as part of a strategy of "negotiation under fire."

Such an approach is neither compatible with the principles of the Islamic Republic nor consistent with the logic of diplomacy, and it is unlikely to succeed.

From Iran's strategic perspective, Lebanon constitutes an integral component of the region's deterrence architecture and a pillar of stability against the expansionist policies of the Zionist regime. Supporting Lebanon as a strategic ally—one that also assisted Iran during the Ramadan War—is a red line from which Iran will not retreat. For this reason, the Islamic Republic has consistently maintained that any ceasefire or agreement must encompass all fronts, particularly Lebanon. Iran considers the cessation of hostilities in Lebanon to be one of the essential conditions for any potential understanding with the U.S.

Nevertheless, a key question remains: why did Iran decide to assume a more active role at this particular juncture?

The answer lies in the efforts of the U.S. and Israel to advance a model in which military, security, and economic pressures are continuously applied without ever being formally defined as a full-fledged war. Under this model, the opposing side is simultaneously sanctioned, threatened, subjected to attacks, and expected to remain at the negotiating table. Yet recent experience has demonstrated that this calculation is fundamentally flawed when it comes to Iran. The Islamic Republic will neither accept an imposed war nor submit to imposed negotiations.

Accepting such a situation would inevitably

have resulted in a gradual shift in the balance of power to the detriment of the Iranian nation and the resistance front. Consequently, within the framework of its inherent right to self-defense under Article 51 of the United Nations Charter, the Islamic Republic decided to prevent the consolidation of this equation.

Iran's response was not merely a military action; it carried a strategic message. That message was clear: Lebanon is not separate from the region's security calculations, Beirut's southern suburbs are not outside the battlefield, and the enemy cannot assume that limited but continuous actions will allow it to impose new rules upon the region. For this reason, the significance of recent developments extends far beyond their military dimension and conveys an important strategic message. The concept of the "unity of fronts" is no longer merely a political slogan; it has become an operational reality.

Over the past years, some believed it would be possible to divide the resistance front—separating Lebanon from Iran, Yemen from Lebanon, Bab el-Mandeb from Hormuz, and portraying regional resistance movements as isolated actors. However, realities on the ground have disproved this assumption. Today, from the Strait of Hormuz to Bab el-Mandeb, and from the Persian Gulf to the Red Sea, a new regional order is taking shape. This order is founded upon the principle that regional security is indivisible, and that any adventurism against one component of this system can generate consequences far beyond its immediate geography.

Within this framework, a network of geopolitical factors stretching from Hormuz to Bab el-Mandeb has emerged, capable of influencing global trade, energy security, and the strategic calculations of major powers. This reality constitutes an important element of Iran's strategic capacity within the region's evolving equations.

Meanwhile, alongside military pressures, the political campaign against Iran has continued. The recent resolution adopted by the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), coinciding with heightened military pressure, forms part of the broader pattern described above. There is little doubt that certain international institutions have drifted away from their professional mandates and have become instruments of political pressure against Iran.

When a country's peaceful nuclear facilities are attacked and, instead of condemning the aggressor, pressure is directed against the victim, claims of neutrality on the part of international institutions begin to resemble a bitter irony. Nevertheless, Iran has consistently demonstrated its commitment to reason, dialogue, and political solutions. What Iran rejects is not negotiation itself, but the exploitation of diplomacy and international institutions as tools of coercion.

Accordingly, the strategy of the Islamic Republic rests upon a clear principle: we will abandon neither the battlefield nor diplomacy. Experience has shown that these are not separate paths but complementary components of national power. Defensive strength enables negotiations from a position of authority, while diplomacy transforms achievements on the ground into lasting political outcomes. We employ diplomacy when appropriate and rely upon deterrent power when necessary.

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

## Iran's Amini keeps his name in 2026 NBA Draft

TEHRAN - Nancy's Mohammad Amini kept his name in the 2026 NBA Draft at the international withdrawal deadline, agent Xavier Severin tells DraftExpress.

The 6'7 Iranian forward, 21, averaged 7.6 points and 4.1 rebounds in France's first division this season.

Amini is an intriguing physical prospect with legitimate positional size and length. At 6-foot-7 with a near-6-foot-10 wingspan, he has the frame of a modern forward who can guard multiple positions. He is an efficient scorer inside the arc, converting at a high clip around the basket and showing touch in the mid-range.

His three-point shot is a major question mark, and his free-throw percentage in the mid-50s raises further red flags about his shooting development. His professional minutes have been limited, and the gap between his youth dominance and his modest senior role suggests he is still developing the consistency needed to earn a larger workload at the top level.

## Iran win four staff visa appeals but 11 banned

TEHRAN - Four members of Iran's World Cup delegation have won appeals against having their visa applications for entry to the United States rejected.

But 11 members of the party will not be allowed to travel to the U.S. when their team play matches there.

Iran last week accused the U.S. of denying visas to "integral" members of its national football team's backroom staff.

That was after officials in Washington said Iranian players had been given permission to travel to the country for the tournament.

Iran have already moved their World Cup base to Mexico over concerns stemming from the country being at war with the United States.

Of the 15 Iranian delegation members initially denied U.S. visas, 10 submitted fresh applications after arriving in Mexico.

Four of those appeals were successful, it has been revealed. Those granted visas include a member of the team's technical staff working as an analyst and two officials from the federation's international department.

The remaining six applicants were rejected again. They include Iran Football Federation (FFIRI) president Mehdi Taj, one of the federation's vice-presidents, two team administrators responsible for day-to-day operations, a media officer and a security officer.

A second media officer chose not to reapply for a visa after the initial rejection.

Iran play New Zealand on 15 June in Los Angeles in their first game of the tournament, which is being co-hosted by Canada, Mexico and the United States.

They will return to the city to face Belgium on 21 June, before meeting Egypt in Seattle on 26 June.

The country's World Cup group-stage ticket allocation for supporters was revoked by U.S. officials earlier this week, though FIFA has insisted it is working to "maximize opportunities for Iranian supporters to attend matches".

The FFIRI had previously presented FIFA with a list of 10 conditions for their participation in the World Cup, including allowing players, coaches and officials who have completed military service with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC).

## Iran come seventh at AVC Women's Volleyball Cup 2026

TEHRAN - Iran defeated the Philippines in straight sets (25-21, 25-12, 25-21) to come seventh at the AVC Women's Volleyball Cup 2026.

South Korea, won the title after defeating Chinese Taipei 3-0 (25-19, 25-19, 25-22), while Vietnam secured the bronze medal after beating Kazakhstan in straight sets (25-17, 25-12, 25-19).

Iran women's national volleyball team head coach Lee Do-hee emphasized that the Iranian players are making steady progress and said she is very optimistic about their future.

"Regardless of the final ranking we achieved, today's match against the Philippines was a very good opportunity to assess the players' progress," she said.

Emphasizing that the Iranian players are improving, Lee added: "I am very hopeful about their future. They are young players and have great potential for further development."

The head coach continued: "We finished seventh in the tournament, but we will soon compete in the Asian Women's Volleyball Championship and will work even harder to achieve a better result. Thank you for your support of Iran's women's national team."

The AVC Women's Volleyball Cup 2026 brought together 12 teams from across the continent for nine days of competition at the Candon City Arena in Ilocos Sur, Philippines, with Asia's leading national teams competing for continental honors and valuable international experience.

## Iran vs New Zealand: a must-win match for both

TEHRAN - Iran and New Zealand will take on each other on Tuesday at the SoFi Stadium in Group G of the 2026 FIFA World Cup, as both sides will look to start the prestigious campaign on a positive note.

Iran coach Amir Ghalenoei believes that his team are capable of advancing to the knockout stage, having experience of playing against the top teams.

Team Melli are unbeaten against New Zealand so far. The last meeting between the two teams ended with Iran winning 3-0.

On the other hand, for the first time since 2010, New Zealand are competing in the FIFA World Cup. The All Whites, who secured their ticket to North America via a historic first direct slot available to Oceania, are the lowest-ranked team (85th) in the 48-team football competition.

Iran mark their 7th participation in the competition, whilst New Zealand go into their 3rd.

After exiting in the group stage in their previous two outings, New Zealand will be searching for a first win and a place in the knockouts at this year's tournament. This encounter promises to be one of the standout fixtures of the opening round.

In their last game, Iran won 2-0 against Mali in a friendly match, while New Zealand lost 1-0 against England.

## Iran suffer third loss in 2026 VNL

TEHRAN - Iran lost to Belgium 3-2 (25-23, 25-22, 23-25, 17-25, 15-12) in Pool 2 of the men's Volleyball Nations League (VNL) in Brasilia, Brazil on Sunday.

Ferre Reggers led Belgium with 22 points and Ali Haghparsad earned 22 points for Iran.

The opening round of the new national team season in international volleyball gets underway across the world from 10 June in the Men's Volleyball Nations League (VNL) 2026.

It marks the first of three competition weeks, in which each team will play a total of 12 games during a league phase, culminating in the top seven teams - plus knockout round hosts People's Republic of China - progressing to the knockout stages in Ningbo.

Among the hopefuls are defending VNL champions and world number one side, Poland, previous VNL runners-up and world champions Italy, and Rio 2016 Olympic champions Brazil.

Paris 2024 bronze medalists, the United States, will host a series of matches in Chicago. They will be visited by Tokyo 2020 and Paris 2024 Olympic champions France.

# Alborz artisans share their craft, passion and concerns

From Page 1 ▶ where we met artists, instructors and entrepreneurs who continue to keep traditional Iranian crafts alive despite economic challenges and changing market conditions.

The tour provided an opportunity to see firsthand how handicrafts are produced, how knowledge is passed to younger generations, and how artisans are adapting to new realities while preserving traditions that have been part of Iranian culture for centuries.

### A woodturning master proud of his students

One of the first stops on our tour was the workshop of Yaser Yami, a woodturning artist and instructor whose name is well known among handicraft enthusiasts in Alborz province.

The sound of wood lathes filled the workshop as wooden pieces slowly took shape under skilled hands. Surrounded by tools and finished products, Yami spoke about his journey in the field. He has been active in woodturning since 1997 and has worked and taught in Karaj, the provincial capital, since 2006.

While many artisans proudly count the number of works they have produced, Yami measures success differently. For him, the greatest achievement is the number of students he has trained over the years.

Pointing to some of his former trainees, he explained that many have gone on to establish their own workshops and businesses. He spoke proudly about hundreds of students from different parts of Iran, from the north to the south of the country, who attended his courses and later became independent artisans.

"For me, education is more important than production," he said. "Teaching a skill means creating jobs and helping preserve a traditional craft."

Yet behind this success lies concern. According to Yami, handicrafts have increasingly become luxury products. As people's purchasing power declines, the domestic market for handmade products becomes smaller.

He also pointed to competition from industrial products manufactured by machines and sold at much lower prices. Such products, he said, make it difficult for handmade works to compete in the marketplace.

Despite these challenges, some of Yami's products have found buyers abroad. He explained that his works are sold in European countries including Austria and the Netherlands, where some of his former students now operate galleries and workshops and help introduce Iranian handicrafts to international audiences.

His story demonstrated how traditional craftsmanship can create employment opportunities while also building cultural bridges beyond national borders.

### A retired engineer dedicated to teaching

Our next visit took us to the workshop of Hassan Modarresirad, where wood shavings covered the floor and unfinished wooden projects rested on worktables.

Unlike many artisans, Modarresirad entered the handicraft sector after retirement.

Having spent many years working in construction engineering, he decided to dedicate his retirement to teaching wood-working arts. Since 2020, he has trained students in both practical skills and professional workshop techniques.

As he spoke about his students, his pride was evident. Several trainees who once learned in his workshop are now capable of managing independent busi-



nesses of their own.

Like other artisans we met, however, Modarresirad faces challenges. One of the biggest is the shortage of suitable space for training and production. He believes many more people could be trained if larger facilities were available.

Exporting products is another challenge. While foreign markets show interest in Iranian handicrafts, transportation costs reduce profitability for producers.

### A place where threads, colors and tradition come together

The next destination offered a completely different atmosphere. Here, colors replaced wood shavings and spinning fibers replaced the sound of machinery.

This was the workshop of Leila Salmani, a handicraft artist and researcher specializing in kilim weaving and natural dyeing.

Large dyeing pots stood in one corner while colorful yarns hung from overhead racks. Salmani explained that her workshop is the only registered natural dyeing workshop in Alborz province.

The journey to establish it was long and demanding. She recalled traveling to cities such as Isfahan, Shiraz, Mashhad, Ardabil and Yazd to obtain knowledge and materials needed for her work.

According to Salmani, many of her international customers, particularly from Europe, requested unique color shades that were difficult to obtain. Rather than relying on outside suppliers, she decided to learn natural dyeing herself and gradually built the facilities needed for production.

Her beginnings were humble. "Everything started with a single pot," she recalled.

What started on a very small scale has grown into a workshop that now supplies part of the dyeing needs of carpet and kilim producers in the province.

Salmani believes Alborz has significant potential in the field of carpets and handicrafts. However, she says specialized infrastructure remains limited. She noted that many carpet workshops operate in the province and that a larger dyeing and support center could help meet the needs of local producers.

Her academic studies have also contributed to her success.

She has studied carpet design, raw materials and dyeing methods, enabling her to oversee every stage of production, from design and spinning to dyeing and weaving.

Traditional spinning wheels and old tools throughout the workshop reflected the close connection between handicrafts and Iran's cultural heritage.

Interestingly, Salmani expressed confidence about the future of handicrafts in an age increasingly shaped by technology and artificial intelligence.

Unlike many who fear technological change, she believes handicraft professions enjoy a high level of security because their value lies in uniqueness.

Every color, pattern and texture, she said, is the result of human experience and creativity. These qualities cannot be fully replicated by machines or robots.

Her confidence highlighted one of the enduring strengths of handicrafts: authenticity.

### When handicrafts become luxury products

The media delegation then visited a pottery and ceramics workshop where shelves were lined with ceramic objects, sculptures and decorative pieces, each reflecting a blend of artistic imagination and technical skill.

Talking to reports, the workshop's owner Farzad Faraji explained that handicrafts have undergone significant changes in recent decades. "In the past, handicraft workshops served the role that factories serve today," he said. "They produced everyday items that people needed."

Some of his products are sold domestically while others reach international markets. He also produces works commissioned by organizations, institutions and private clients.

Today, however, industrial production dominates many sectors. As a result, handicrafts have moved toward more specialized and luxury markets, he explained.

Faraji attributes this transformation partly to changing lifestyles and partly to the influence of a younger generation of artists, designers and graduates of art schools. Their work often emphasizes creativity, aesthetics and decoration.

While this evolution has elevated the artistic value of handicrafts, it has also created new vulnerabilities.

According to Faraji, luxury products are often the first items consumers stop buying during economic difficulties and the last items they purchase again when conditions improve.

He also noted that handicraft producers face significant disadvantages when competing with mass-produced industrial goods. Rising costs of raw materials, energy and labor make price competition extremely difficult.

Despite these obstacles, Faraji remains optimistic. He believes cultural products represent one of the most important economic resources available to countries after natural resources.

"The future exists," he said. "But producers must understand society's needs and respond to them."

### Handicrafts as representatives of Iranian identity

Another memorable stop introduced us to Nafiseh Khalaj and Mohammad Ta'ebi, a husband-and-wife team who have spent more than twenty years working in ceramics and pottery. Rows of ceramic vessels and artistic sculptures filled their workshop. Every piece seemed to carry its own personality through color, form and design.

The couple explained that they never wanted to be merely producers. Their goal has always been to create products that are useful in modern life while also

reflecting Iranian culture and identity.

Their workshop produces around 2,000 pieces annually. Some remain in Iran, while others are exported abroad. Over the years, their products have reached more than fifteen countries, with France becoming their most important export destination.

Yet exporting handicrafts is not easy. The couple pointed to high transportation and customs costs as major obstacles. Economic instability also makes long-term planning difficult. However, their greatest concern is not the market itself.

Ta'ebi highly underlined the importance of design, creativity and continuous learning. In his view, handicrafts cannot rely solely on technical skills. Successful products require knowledge of form, proportions, function and artistic development.

Where creativity declines, imitation takes its place, he warned.

For Khalaj and Ta'ebi, cultural identity is the most valuable asset of Iranian handicrafts and the key factor that distinguishes them from similar products around the world.

### A vision for Alborz's future

At the conclusion of the tour, Zhila Khodadadi, Deputy Director of Handicrafts at the Alborz Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department, provided a broader picture of the province's achievements. She said 122 artists in Alborz hold national quality seals, while nine have received international quality seals.

According to Khodadadi, more than 2,000 people participated in handicraft training programs in the province during the past year. Many of these programs were conducted in public centers, welfare institutions and prisons.

She also highlighted Golestanak Village, which received the title of National Pottery and Ceramics Village in 2024 and is now home to dozens of active workshops.

The next goal, she said, is to establish pottery and ceramics as a recognized souvenir of Alborz province.

If achieved, this vision could place Alborz among provinces identified by a signature artistic product that carries both cultural and economic value.

### More than products

As the media tour came to an end, what remained most memorable was not the number of workshops visited or the production statistics presented. It was the people.

Each workshop revealed individuals who continue to believe in the value of making things by hand. Despite economic pressures, rising costs and export challenges, they continue creating, teaching and innovating.

Through wood, clay, yarn and color, they create objects that are more than products. They are expressions of memory, identity and culture, helping preserve the cultural heritage of Iran for future generations.

# DOE highlights need for smart monitoring of wildlife

TEHRAN – The Department of Environment (DOE) has underlined the need to benefit from advanced technologies, like camera traps for smart monitoring of wildlife, to effectively preserve valuable wildlife species.

According to Hamid Zohrabi, an official with the DOE, habitat loss is the main challenge facing the country's biodiversity. "Habitat fragmentation, climate change, drought, overexploitation of natural resources, illegal hunting, and introduction of invasive species have posed serious threats to the life and breeding of wildlife species," the official highlighted.

Preserving and enhancing the quality of key habitats, ensuring the security of protected areas, and managing water resources are the primary goals of the DOE conservation programs, Zohrabi added.

Moreover, the participation of local communities and non-governmental organizations plays a fundamental role in achieving conservation goals. Sustainable conservation of biodiversity is impossible without local community participation, he noted.

The development of environmentally sustainable livelihoods and the use of indigenous knowledge are among the most important strategies to reduce conflicts and increase the effectiveness of conservation plans.

Elaborating on species restoration, Zohrabi said numerous measures have been taken to lower conflicts between humans and wildlife, and increase the population of endangered species like the Asiatic cheetah, the black bear, great bustards, and other prominent species.

## Preserving biodiversity: actions and necessities

Biodiversity is not only the natural asset of a nation, but also the foundation of its biological, economic, and cultural security.

Iran, as one of the world's important biodiversity hotspots, makes a valuable contribution to humanity's natural heritage.

Therefore, the country's approach is to move towards smart



governance in the field of biodiversity; governance based on science, continuous monitoring, and inter-sectoral partnership, Shina Ansari, the head of the DOE, said in May.

More than 19 million hectares of the Iranian territory are dedicated to national parks, national monuments, protected areas, and wildlife refuges. Strengthening the management of these regions is one of the main priorities of the Department of Environment.

Developing management plans, utilizing modern monitoring technologies, strengthening protection infrastructure, and training environmentalists are some of the measures being pursued to increase the effectiveness of protection.

This year's International Day for Biological Diversity slogan, "Local Action for Global Impact," has a clear and strategic message: the future of the Earth begins here; from our decisions in cities and villages, in forests and wetlands, and in the way we interact with nature. Every responsible local action can be an effective link in the global sustainability chain.

In this regard, the national authority for the Convention on Biological Diversity, given the compatibility of the goals and obligations of this convention with the inherent duties of the DOE, was transferred to the department after effective follow-up and approval by the government. This ac-

tion is an important step for policy coherence and strengthening the DOE's governance role in the field of biodiversity.

Also, the "Comprehensive Program for the Protection of Biodiversity of the Country" was developed by order of President Masoud Pezeshkian and presented as one of the most important agendas of the Supreme Council for the Environment.

This program, in line with the global biodiversity framework and the commitments of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Convention on Biological Diversity, includes 97 specific measures to confront threats, and its implementation will be pursued in cooperation with all executive agencies, because the protection of biodiversity is a national, cross-sectoral, and inter-generational responsibility.

Some 40 percent of the world's plant and animal biodiversity is located in wetlands, and given the importance of obtaining deeds for wetlands in the name of the Department of Environment on behalf of the government, a deed for 1.3 million hectares of wetlands has been issued.

Regarding species restoration, numerous measures have been taken, increasing the population of Iranian yellow deer and maral, and continuing protection programs for the Asiatic cheetah, the eland, the brown bear, and other prominent species, showing that wher-

ever science, will, and participation come together, nature regains its ability to regenerate.

However, the challenges in this area are still very serious. Unfortunately, our habitats continue to face increasing pressures. The fires in the Zagros and Hyrcanian forests in recent years, partly caused by unprecedented drought, rising temperatures, and decreasing forest soil moisture, are a serious warning sign for the resilience of ecosystems.

In addition, the process of tree dieback due to climate change and human pressures, including encroachment on forest privacy and unsustainable development, is a double threat to this valuable heritage.

As a result of complex regional conditions and threats from war and aggression, some natural habitats have also been damaged and destroyed. In response to this situation, continuous monitoring of air, water, and soil pollution in at-risk areas, using specialized teams and available equipment, has been put on the agenda to accurately assess the extent of the destruction and its restoration requirements.

Biodiversity conservation is not just a government task. Experience has shown that no program will achieve its desired results without the participation of people, local communities, academics, and non-governmental organizations.

## Birth of great bustard chicks brings hope for species survival

TEHRAN – The birth of six chicks in captivity in two years has revived hope for the survival of the endangered great bustard (*Otis tarda*) species in the country, an official with the Department of Environment has said.

The great bustard is a critically endangered species classified in the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List. In the current decade, the bird remains in Bukan, north-western West Azarbaijan province.

Thanks to the conservation programs to protect and strengthen the population of this bird, which is known to be close to extinction, two chicks were born in the current Iranian year, and the four others were born last year, IRIB quoted Hamid Zohrabi as saying.

The ongoing conservation efforts focus on habitat protection, local community participation, and captive breeding. The local community engagement is considered an effective measure in protecting the rare bird species. The DOE is developing training programs to promote culture and raise public awareness about the conservation of the species, Zohrabi added.

At the same time, a comprehensive plan for the reintroduction of great bustard and capacity-building measures is being developed in West Azarbaijan and Kordestan provinces to return captive-bred birds to their native habitats.

## From accelerated extinction to successful revival of species

Despite worrisome facts about the speed at which species are disappearing, there has been good news of endangered species making a comeback, highlighting the role of conservation efforts in preventing extinction and helping vulnerable wildlife recover.

Iran is a rich country in terms of biodiversity, with about 37,500 animal species and more than 8,000 plant species. The country is home to 579 bird species, 214 mammal species, 284 reptile species, 23 amphibian species, 309 freshwater fish species, and 763 marine fish species in the Persian Gulf, the Sea of Oman, and the Caspian Sea.

According to the latest report by the IUCN Red List, about 154 vertebrate animal species, and around 25 percent of plant species in the country are at risk of extinction, with 117 species being classified as critically endangered in the national list. Persian zebra, Asiatic cheetah, black bear, great bustard, and yellow deer are among animals that are in danger of extinction.

Among extinct animals, the Hyrcanian tiger and Persian lion are the two feline species that have disappeared forever in the country. Fortunately, Persian zebra and Persian yellow deer are examples of successful conservation efforts where scientific measures and local community participation have resulted in the



species recovery, doe.ir quoted Zohrabi as saying.

The official made the remarks on the occasion of World Endangered Species Day, observed on the third Friday of May.

In the past, the rate of species lost was measured per million years. Now, every 20 minutes, a species is estimated to become extinct. While extinction is a natural part of the life cycle on the earth, the current unprecedented rate of species loss has turned into a serious biological crisis.

Referring to successful recovery stories of species in Iran, Zohrabi noted that for years, it was thought that the yellow deer species was extinct in the world. However, about 65 years ago, some yellow deer were observed in Dez and Karkheh forests, the primary habitats of the Persian yellow deer.

Their conservation program commenced immediately by breeding them in captivity and transferring them to natural habitats for better reproduction,

Zohrabi noted.

The birth of the first Persian yellow deer in the current Iranian year, which started on March 21, in Karkheh National Park, south-western Khuzestan province, has raised hopes for the revival of this unique animal species.

The Persian zebra is a subspecies of onager, which is critically in danger of extinction. Onagers used to have a large population in West Asia, Central Asia, and China, but now it has become extinct in most areas.

With the birth of a foal in Yazd province, the current population of Persian zebra is estimated to be more than 50, indicating the improved habitat condition and effective conservation management of the endangered animal.

The conservation efforts include a field program that encompasses strengthening natural infrastructures and promoting environmental sustainability, such as monitoring water resources.

## 'Iran sole country in Eastern Mediterranean to supply voluntary, unpaid blood donation'

TEHRAN – Iran is the first and sole country in the Eastern Mediterranean region that has been able to meet the country's need for blood and blood products relying entirely on voluntary and unpaid blood donations, the CEO of Iran Blood Transfusion Organization (IBTO) has said.

One hundred percent of donated blood is non-remunerated; in Asia, some other countries like Japan, Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong, and Thailand have managed to collect voluntary blood, as well, IRIB quoted Ahmad Qarah-Baghian as saying.

The official made the remarks on the occasion of World Blood Donor Day, which is observed on June 14 every year.

There are some 1.7 million regular blood donors across the country, donating around 2.4 million blood units to meet the needs of patients yearly, he added.

Lauding public participation in blood donation, Qarah-Baghian said that over the past few months, blood storage duration has increased from five to 10 and even for the first time to 12 days, despite crises.

In the last month of the past Iranian year, which ended on March 2026, women's contribution showed an increase of 79 percent compared to the same period, a year earlier. Also, the number of young individuals' (aged below 25) referrals increased by a percent, he noted.

The IBTO's main mission is to provide safe and adequate blood and blood products for patients so that no treatment is postponed due to blood shortage. Patients with thalassemia, cancers, and other chronic diseases need uninterrupted blood supplies, Qarah-Baghian further noted.

The official went on to say that Iran is the first country in the region that has established rare blood type bank; the bank aims to identify people with very rare blood types and expand the supply of rare blood. Currently, the bank has around 100,000 voluntary donors, and the number is planned to increase to 500,000 in three years.

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 con-



sistent 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.

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.

## Top five Iranian universities of technology to foster scientific ties



TEHRAN – The top five universities of technology in Iran, namely the University of Tehran, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Amirkabir University of Technology, Sharif University of Technology, and Iran University of Medical Sciences (called UT5), have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to promote scientific synergy and strengthen research infrastructures in the country.

Signed by the chancellors of the five universities, called UT5, the MOU focuses on developing collaborations in laboratory and library sectors, IRIB reported.

The participants agreed to expand joint laboratory services by providing mutual access to each university's laboratory equipment and facilities for professors, researchers, and faculty members. Accordingly, member universities will benefit from a 20 percent discount on the utilization of laboratory services for the implementation of research plans and national projects; the effort aims to increase the efficiency of scientific infrastructures, reduce research costs, and expedite the implementation of large-scale projects.

The MOU will also enhance physical and digital access to scientific resources, specialized articles, databases, and other capacities of the libraries in the five universities for fac-

ulty members, researchers, and students.

The chancellors of UT5 also signed an updated version of the consortium's statute, which highlights the need for the expansion of joint scientific, research, and technological cooperation, optimal use of the capacities of the country's universities and research institutions, and the development of the role of member universities in addressing the country's strategic issues.

Moreover, they discussed and assessed the country's industrial needs in the post-war period and the existing capacities of UT5 in supporting national programs for the reconstruction, modernization, and regeneration of damaged industries.

## Attacks on science infrastructures

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

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

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

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



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JUNE 15, 2026

## GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

*Do not offer your friendship to someone who is not loyal.*

**Imam Ali (AS)**

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

## IAF screens American-Ethiopian documentary "Faya Dayi"

TEHRAN – The Iranian Artists Forum (IAF) in Tehran screened "Faya Dayi," a 2021 American-Ethiopian documentary film, directed, written, starring, and produced by Jessica Beshir, on Sunday.

The movie explores the rituals of khat-chewing in Harar, Ethiopia. Khat a psychoactive plant that plays an important role in Ethiopia's economy and culture.

Khat or qat, also known as Bushman's tea, especially in South Africa, is a species of flowering plant in the family Celastraceae, and the sole species in genus Catha. It is a shrub or tree native to eastern and southern Africa, ranging from Ethiopia and South Sudan to Angola and the Cape Provinces of South Africa.

It has a history of cultivation originating in the Harar region of Ethiopia, and it was subsequently introduced at different times to countries nearby in East Africa and South Arabia, notably Somalia and Yemen. Cultivated by farmers, its leaves are sold on the market to be chewed as a recreational stimulant. The world's largest consumers are East Africans, particularly Somalis, and nearby Yemen, with the largest producers/exporters being Ethiopia and Kenya.

Khat contains the alkaloid cathinone, a stimulant which causes greater sociability, excitement, mild loss of appetite and mild euphoria. Among communities from the areas where the plant is native, khat-chewing has historical relevance (as a social custom, especially among men) dating back thousands of years, analogous—but slightly different—to the use of coca leaves in South America's Andes Mountains or the betel nut preparations in South Asia.

Its production, sale, and consumption are all fully legal in the nations where its use is culturally significant, including Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, Uganda, and Yemen.

Although the practice of khat-chewing is



still primarily restricted to its original area of cultivation in the Red Sea area, the khat plant is native to the whole of the eastern side of Africa from Kenya southwards to Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, where it grows on rocky outcrops and around the fringes of woodlands.

In countries outside the core area of growth and consumption, khat is sometimes chewed at parties or social functions. It may also be used by farmers and laborer's for reducing physical fatigue or hunger, and by drivers and students for improving attention.

"Faya Dayi" is Jessica Beshir's debut feature film, for which she won several awards. She won an American Society of Cinematographers Documentary Award, the Independent Spirit Awards Truer Than Fiction Award, and two Visions du Réel awards for the film, which was also shortlisted for Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature Film.

The complexity of the human experience is explored and underrepresented perspectives are frequently highlighted in Jessica Beshir's work. She uses a lyrical visual language in her films to elicit strong emotional reactions from her viewers. Focusing on topics like migration, family, and cultural legacy, Beshir's documentaries offer a complex look at the lives of people who are frequently underrepresented in the media.

## Cartoon of Day



Victory

Cartoonist: Mohammad Sabaaneh from Palestine

# Greek expert Thanassis Sarantos to lead theater workshop in Tehran

TEHRAN— The International Theater Office of the Sooreh Performing Arts Center is set to host a specialized workshop titled "Theater, War, and Sacred Defense," featuring prominent Greek director and actor Thanassis Sarantos.

Based on the classic tragedy of Antigone, the workshop will explore modern approaches to documentary and innovative theater. The event is scheduled to take place on Sunday, June 21, at Sooreh Studio No. 2 in Tehran, according to a press release by the Art Bureau of the Islamic Ideology Dissemination Organization.

The initiative aims to discover and nurture young talent. Organizers have noted that exceptional ideas or innovative projects in the field of documentary theater emerged during the session may receive official support for future production.

Due to the specialized nature of the program, participation is limited to 20 individuals. Applicants are required to submit their resumes via the official website (www.artfest.ir) by Wednesday, June 17, for the selection process.



Upon completion of the course, International Theater Office, participants will be awarded official

certificates of attendance.

Thanassis Sarantos, a distinguished professor of dramatic arts from Greece, will lead the session, bridging the gap between classical Greek tragedy and the contemporary themes of the Sacred Defense.

Thanassis Sarantos is a prominent Greek actor, director, and educator. An alumnus of the Carolos Koun Drama Theater School and the New York Film Academy, Sarantos has earned international acclaim for his innovative stagings, including his award-winning production of "Oedipus Tyrannus," which received the prestigious Karolos Koun Award in 2024.

He is the founder of the Ithikon Akmeotat theater company and has collaborated with legendary figures like Robert Wilson. Sarantos is particularly noted for his "theatrical pact" with audiences, often utilizing documentary techniques and live musical improvisation to re-examine timeless works such as "Antigone" and the stories of Alexandros Papadiamantis, making them deeply relevant to modern social and political contexts.

## Experts call for international memorial for Minab tragedy

TEHRAN- The Library of the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art (TMOCA) recently convened the second seminar in the series "In Search of Artistic Expression for the Minab Tragedy," where experts emphasized that a memorial for the event must serve as an international indictment of war crimes.

Opening the discussion, architect and researcher Shahabuddin Arfaei highlighted the region's diverse cultural fabric, noting that "Minab's true identity is forged through a mosaic of Baluch, Fars, and Swahili influences."

Focusing on the architectural power of memory, Pirouz Hanachi drew comparisons to global landmarks like the 9/11 Memorial. "The use of 'visible voids' can transform a site of loss into a global attraction," Hanachi remarked. He argued that for Minab, "we must launch an international call for entries, utilizing art as a vital mediator for seeking justice on the world stage."

Addressing the specific nature of the event, Mohsen Rafei, Secretary of the Association of Iranian Sculptors, argued that a conventional memorial is insufficient. "In Minab, we are confronting a war crime perpetrated by a formal military force," Rafei stated. He asserted that such a monument must "expose the perpetrator and transform the viewer from a passive mourner

into an active claimant of justice," serving as a permanent historical document to prevent the "beautification" of tragedy.

Closing the session, Hossein Mohseni, Secretary of the Art Galleries Association, described the city as an "icon of the oppression faced by Iran." He urged for a collective national empathy, stating, "Iranian culture has a unique tradition of distilling suffering into art. We must now turn this tragedy into a living, demanding memory."

The panel concluded that by leveraging modern documentation and international design, the Minab monument could transcend borders to become a global deterrent against future war crimes.

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

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



opening day.

Despite attempts by US and Israeli authorities to distance themselves from the carnage as images of the tragedy spread across social media, detailed forensic and digital investigations have painted a starkly different picture.

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

the nature of the attack.

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

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

## Worldwide artists stitch grief for Gaza

A traveling exhibition of more than 20 quilts — with contributions from artists in 20 countries — touched down in Sechelt, Canada, last weekend, memorializing children and youth killed during military action in Gaza.

According to Coast Reporter, the project is the result of two years of effort from a Germany-based doula named Ina, who requested that her surname not be published.

"People usually hear about it through Instagram," Ina said. "People see it and write to me and say: I would like to stitch a square." She responds with biographical details about a young life cut short, information elicited from agencies that compile lists of victims in Gaza and the West Bank.

The contributor creates and mails a square, which Ina stitches into a quilt at her home in Berlin. It's also where she coordinates the exhibition's itinerary: it traveled previously to the U.K. and France, before appearing in Vancouver and Victoria earlier this month. Its final appearance in B.C. will be at the Squamish Adventure Centre on June 17.

On the Sunshine Coast, the quilts and their accompanying biographies were displayed at St. Hilda's Anglican Church and the Sechelt Seniors Activity Centre.

"We were approached through a tight circle of activists here on the Coast," explained Morrie Sacks, a warden at St. Hilda's who spent six hours working with volunteers to hang the quilts. "October 7th [the date of 2023 attacks on Gaza by Israel] changed my view of the Middle East situation. I'd always considered it to be an intractable conflict, but since the decimation of Gaza and the displacement of its people, it's affected me very deeply."

The quilt squares include heartfelt contributions from both first-time textile crafters and experienced artisans. The image of a single candle commemorates the life of Rana Al Mogayed, a one-year-old who was killed when an airstrike hit her family home. She died alongside her mother, Shayma Saleha, who was nine months pregnant.

A circle of hearts and sports gear imagines the life of Mohammed Thabet, an infant from Deir al-Balah who was killed by occupation forces after the destruction of his family's home. One-year-old quadruplets Khalid, Abdel Khaliq, Mahmoud and Maha, born to a couple who had tried to conceive for 16 years, died during airstrikes along with 15 other family members. Their names are pains-

takingly stitched and encircled by flowering vines and singing birds.

"I feel it's great when people stitch their squares, but it's not enough," said Ina, who has been arrested while participating in peace demonstrations in Berlin. "We need to be out there. We need to talk to people in a way that they hear us. It can't be just inner peace or inner activism. We need to talk to people and write to our representatives."

The exhibition includes an opportunity to win a 1,114-piece quilt in the colors of the Palestinian flag, by contributing funds to benefit the Aldeeb family of Gaza. The Aldeeb, a single mother and four daughters, were sheltering in a tent when the quilt was created. One of the daughters died on the day the memory quilts were hung at St. Hilda's.

Ina observed the stricken reaction of a member of Coast Reporter's arts department who examined the quilts and pored over accompanying stories and photographs.

"I see you are a human too," she said matter-of-factly. "That's good. Some people here apologize when they cry, and I think that's an adequate answer. You can also feel very angry. But to show emotions in this is what we need."