

World Will Face a Serious Energy Crisis If US Launches Another War Against Iran

IRGC spokesman says Tehran has not yet fully closed the Strait of Hormuz, and could extend that closure to Bab el-Mandeb and Suez Canal

By Mona Hojat Ansari

TEHRAN – More than seven months have passed since the United States, together with Israel, launched war against Iran. What was meant to be a swift campaign to topple the Islamic Republic has instead left American bases across the region in ruins, the Strait of Hormuz still closed, and Washington without an answer to the energy crisis it helped create. With the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding in tatters and American midterm elections approaching, the question now is whether the U.S. will risk another escalation — or accept defeat.

In an exclusive interview with the Tehran Times, IRGC spokesman General Hossein Mohebbi discussed the course of military operations over the past months and what may lie ahead. He also assessed the current state of Iran's armed forces, and spoke personally about succeeding his assassinated predecessor, Martyr General Ali-Mohammad Naeini — and about duty and loss within the faith that sustains Iran's forces on the front lines.

Below is the full text of the interview:

A question that's on a lot of people's minds these days — both in Iran and around the world — is whether the United States and Israel are once again heading toward an escalation of war and conflict, or not. How would you respond to this?

As military forces, we consider every scenario in this regard possible, and from where we stand, no possibility is off the table. That said, based on our assessments, America is definitely not in a position to want to start a new conflict in order to gain some fresh achievement from it. In the past, America came in with everything it had — it had well-equipped bases and vast amounts of equipment at its disposal, it brought fresh, ready-to-fight forces into the field, it pulled out all the stops and drew on every capacity it had — and yet it still couldn't achieve a single one of its declared or undeclared objectives. Not only did it fail, it suffered numerous strategic defeats, the least of which was the closure of the Strait of Hormuz. Despite everything America has done so far, it still hasn't been able to reopen that strait, and on top of that, it's suffered enormously significant strategic defeats. ▶ Page 3



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IRGC spokesman General Hossein Mohebbi

We are counting down the moments to your foolish decisions, Iran warns US and Israel

TEHRAN – Major General Ali Abdollahi, chief of staff of Iran's Armed Forces, has warned the United States and Israel against any further military miscalculation, saying Iran is prepared to deliver a more devastating response to future acts of aggression.

In remarks addressed to American and Israeli leaders on Sunday, Abdollahi said they had repeatedly tested the resolve of Iran's leadership, people, officials and armed forces, warning that repeating such a course would be a mistake. ▶ Page 2

Araghchi warns Netanyahu against another war, says Iran has 'Unfinished Business'

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has warned Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu against launching another war against Iran, saying the country emerged stronger from the previous confrontation and has "unfinished business" with Israel.

"Last time you wanted to 'finish the job', Iran emerged even stronger. Want to try your luck again? Be our guest. But be careful; we have unfinished jobs too," Araghchi wrote on X on Sunday in response to Netanyahu's anti-Iran rhetoric.

The Iranian foreign minister also accused Netanyahu of pushing Washington toward another war to avoid facing legal consequences, regardless of the potential costs to Israel and the United States. ▶ Page 2

Iran, Russia and China stress cooperation at SCO meeting

TEHRAN – Iran, Russia and China have emphasized stronger economic ties and regional cooperation during meetings with Iranian First Vice President Mohammad-Reza Aref on the sidelines of a Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) gathering in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin said expanding trade and economic cooperation with Iran was a priority for Moscow, highlighting the International North-South Transport Corridor's potential to develop production and logistics networks across Eurasia.

Chinese Premier Li Qiang condemned the US-Israeli war against Iran, describing the attacks as "blatant aggression" during negotiations and without UN Security Council authorization. He also reaffirmed Beijing's opposition to unilateral US sanctions and support for Iran's legitimate rights.

Aref arrived in Dushanbe on Monday for the SCO heads of government meeting. Iran's priorities include trade, transport, logistics, artificial intelligence, advanced technologies and regional cooperation.

Israel's invisible hand in the war on Yemen

By Ali Minabi

TEHRAN – The Israeli strategy in Yemen centers on exploiting the war between Saudi Arabia and the Sanaa government to establish a new reality.

This strategy has taken on added significance following U.S. President Donald Trump's remarks that Israel had been very helpful to Saudi Arabia against Ansarallah. Separately, reports cited officials as saying Saudi Arabia held CENTCOM-mediated talks with Israelis to receive the regime's intelligence against Ansarallah. Trump also indicated that the possibility of a Saudi-Israeli normalization agreement was once again under discussion.

Taken together, these developments have raised a broader issue: Is Israeli-Saudi security cooperation being used to revive the stalled normalization process and lay the groundwork for new regional arrangements that primarily serve Israeli interests? ▶ Page 5

Iranian girl Jami takes gold in taekwondo



▶ Page 6

Pezeshkian calls for stronger Iran-Russia cooperation to advance peace and multilateralism

TEHRAN – Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian has called for faster implementation of agreements between Tehran and Moscow, citing energy, transport, trade and power generation as priority areas for expanding bilateral cooperation.

Pezeshkian made the remarks on Monday during a meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in Tehran, where the two sides discussed the strategic partnership between the countries, the implementation of existing agreements and developments in the region and beyond. ▶ Page 2



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TEHRAN PAPERS

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

Saudi Arabia trapped by miscalculations regarding Iran

The Iran newspaper argued that Saudi Arabia misjudged Iran's broader strategy and the Axis of Resistance regarding Yemen. Riyadh imagined that military action against Yemen would weaken Iran. Instead, the conflict evolved into a strategic advantage for Tehran. Through careful management and without assuming direct control, Iran benefited from developments in Yemen. The Ansarallah's ability to threaten the Bab al-Mandab Strait enabled Iran to exercise influence over two major global energy chokepoints: the Strait of Hormuz and Bab al-Mandab. Iran also positioned itself as a responsible actor by offering mediation and linking the Yemen issue to wider diplomatic negotiations. According to the article, Saudi Arabia failed to recognize this strategic chain of events and found itself in a situation where Ansarallah's actions ultimately benefited Iran. One of Riyadh's key mistakes, it argues, was misunderstanding the nature of the relationship between Iran and the Ansarallah.

Ham-Mihan: Trump has already made his final decision

In an interview with international affairs analyst Hassan Hanizadeh, Ham-Mihan examined Donald Trump's approach toward relations between Tehran and Washington. Hanizadeh said the possibility of conflict remains serious and that Trump could resort to military action in an attempt to reshape regional dynamics in favor of the United States and Israel. Such a course, he warned, could have far-reaching consequences if accompanied by miscalculations. Developments in the Strait of Hormuz and incidents involving large vessels have added further complexity to the situation. According to Hanizadeh, the US president appears to have already decided on Iran, and the possibility of military action has not disappeared. At the same time, Iran is prepared to defend its borders. Given the current sensitive environment, any military move or miscalculation by either side could widen the crisis and produce consequences extending beyond the two countries.

Sobh-e-No: Will a new war break out?

Sobh-e-No analyzed possible US scenarios regarding a renewed war with Iran. The paper outlined three possibilities. The first is a large-scale, comprehensive attack. The second is a limited, symbolic strike intended as a signal. The third is postponement until after the midterm congressional elections. It argues that Trump is currently managing tensions in order to get through the election period. However, this delay does not mean the danger of conflict has disappeared; it merely postpones a decision. As a result, the

likelihood of a major war in the short term is considered low, though a limited attack or uncontrolled escalation remains possible. According to the article, Trump is reluctant to accept the economic costs, political risks, internal divisions, and strategic uncertainties associated with a new war. He views the conflict as a potential political vulnerability and would prefer to contain it before the election. Nevertheless, mounting pressures could still push him toward either a controlled or unintended escalation.

Javan: Control over Hormuz has significant psychological effects on foes

In an analysis of Iran's approach toward the Strait of Hormuz, Javan argued that understanding the deeper historical and geo-economic context is essential. The paper argued that Iran's decision to impose new management rules over the strait and abandon passivity should not be interpreted as a temporary defensive measure. Rather, it described the move as part of a broader and proactive strategy aimed at signaling the end of American hegemony in West Asia. According to the article, Iran's determination to maintain sovereign control over the strait has significant psychological and strategic effects on enemies. It argues that this persistence creates frustration within Washington's decision-making process and could eventually lead US leaders to conclude that efforts to force Iran's submission through military pressure and war are futile.

Kayhan: US concerned about Iran's impact on mid-term elections

In an explanation, Kayhan said that the United States is increasingly concerned about Iran's influence on the American political climate. The paper noted that Donald Trump has repeatedly expressed concern in recent weeks about Iran's impact on the US Congressional mid-term elections. According to the article, Trump views election results as a measure of success in the war that began against Iran on February 28. It argues that over the past seven months he has repeatedly made claims suggesting that Iran's military, economic, and political capacities have been severely weakened. However, the paper says that opinion polls in the United States indicate these claims have failed to convince the public. Kayhan contends that Trump's repeated statements are an attempt to conceal the difficulties that the confrontation with Iran has created for Washington. The article further argues that recent surveys show growing public pessimism regarding success against Iran and increasing concern over the economic pressures associated with the conflict.

Mohajerani: Iran's history of resistance reflects nation's resolve to defend its sovereignty

TEHRAN – Iranian Government Spokesperson Fatemeh Mohajerani has praised the Iranian nation's determination and ability to withstand external aggression, saying past wars demonstrate the country's resolve to safeguard its independence, territorial integrity and national sovereignty.

Speaking at an event in Tehran on Monday, Mohajerani described the Sacred Defense—the term Iran uses for its 1980–1988 war with Iraq—as a lasting reminder of the nation's resilience and ability to overcome formidable challenges despite limited resources.

Referring to Iran's history of conflicts over the past two centuries, she said the Iranian people had achieved significant feats by relying on their determination and collective strength.

Mohajerani stressed that defending the country's national interests and territorial integrity remained a fundamental principle, adding that Iran had not surrendered an inch of its territory in the wars following the victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979. She described the preservation of the country's territorial integrity as one of the Iranian nation's greatest sources of pride.



The government spokesperson recalled that Iraq's war against Iran began at a time when the country was grappling with internal challenges in the aftermath of the Islamic Revolution.

Despite those difficulties, she said, the Iranian people demonstrated their determination to defend the country and protect its sovereignty, refusing to compromise on their national rights.

The spokesperson also emphasized the importance of supporting the families of those killed in the war, saying the entire nation stood alongside them.

Mohajerani stressed that the capacity to withstand hardship was not limited by gender, pointing to the experiences of women who have endured profound personal losses while continuing to demonstrate strength and perseverance.

Pezeshkian calls for stronger Iran–Russia cooperation to advance peace and multilateralism

TEHRAN – Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian has called for faster implementation of agreements between Tehran and Moscow, citing energy, transport, trade and power generation as priority areas for expanding bilateral cooperation.

Pezeshkian made the remarks on Monday during a meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in Tehran, where the two sides discussed the strategic partnership between the countries, the implementation of existing agreements and developments in the region and beyond.

The president said the two countries could play an effective role in strengthening peace, sustainable security and a multilateral international order by drawing on their shared capabilities and regional and international mechanisms.

The Iranian president welcomed the continued expansion of relations between Tehran and Moscow, stressing the need to deepen bilateral cooperation, strengthen political and diplomatic coordination, and ensure that previously reached agreements translate into practical results.

Referring to his recent meetings and telephone conversations with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Pezeshkian said the two leaders had been following up on bilateral understandings, implementation plans and joint projects through ongoing consultations. He expressed hope that his upcoming visit to Moscow would help advance the agreements and produce tangible outcomes in areas of mutual interest.

He also thanked the Russian president, government and people for their support and solidarity during the recent war against Iran, emphasizing the importance of continued mutual support and closer political and diplomatic cooperation in pursuit of the two countries' shared interests.

Turning agreements into practical projects

Pezeshkian also highlighted understandings reached on the Caspian Sea and trade as a foundation for expanding economic and regional engagement. He said agreements in energy, transport and power generation should move towards implementation through clearly defined operational arrangements, practical mechanisms and specific timelines.

The president's remarks underscored Tehran's emphasis on translating the strategic partnership into concrete projects

Araghchi warns Netanyahu against another war, says Iran has 'Unfinished Business'

From page 1 ▶ “Netanyahu is driving America into another war to stay out of jail, whatever the consequences for Israel—let alone POTUS,” Araghchi wrote.

Araghchi rebukes Macron over unrest in France

In a separate post on Monday, Araghchi sharply criticized French President Emmanuel Macron for linking the unrest sweeping France to the US-led war against Iran. He argued that Macron could not shift responsibility for France's domestic crisis onto a conflict his government had supported.

“Too late to blame the war his ilk helped



rather than allowing bilateral understandings to remain at the level of political commitments. He said the upcoming visit to Russia would provide an opportunity to pursue this objective.

Energy cooperation, transport links, trade and power generation were identified as key priorities, alongside broader coordination through regional and international organizations. Pezeshkian argued that stronger economic ties between Iran and Russia could serve the interests of both countries while creating wider opportunities for regional cooperation.

Iran calls for a regional approach to peace and security

Pezeshkian also condemned the recent US-Israeli military aggression against Iran, saying the killing of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, military commanders, scientists and schoolchildren, as well as attacks on the country's infrastructure, had no justification under legal or international standards. He stressed that the attacks took place while Iran was pursuing dialogue and diplomatic engagement.

The president said Iran would not accept a situation in which a country used its military power and instruments of pressure to impose its will on other nations. Tehran, he said, sought an international order founded on mutual respect, the rights of nations, constructive cooperation and multilateralism. He added that Iran and Russia shared common ground on these principles.

Pezeshkian also stressed that Iran had no fundamental disagreements with countries in the region, pointing to the historical, cultural and religious ties linking Iran with its neighbors and other Muslim nations. He said Tehran remained committed to developing relations through dialogue, fraternity and mutual cooperation, and was ready to address existing challenges through understanding and regional mechanisms.

‘Unfinished Business’

“Mr. Macron made his bed when he assured POTUS that he welcomes atrocities against Iranians,” he added, urging the French president to “listen to the future of France.”

Araghchi also shared an earlier video of Macron expressing support for US President Donald Trump's war against Iran, which Tehran has condemned as illegal and illegitimate.

France witnessed some of its worst vio-

He said US intervention and divisive policies have contributed to tensions in the region. The president also criticized the presence of US military bases in regional countries, arguing that they had brought greater tension, division and insecurity rather than lasting stability.

Pezeshkian said sustainable regional security should be based on mutual trust, the participation of regional countries and respect for the legitimate interests of all parties. Iran, he added, welcomed joint initiatives with neighboring states in peace and security, economic development, cultural and scientific cooperation, and people-to-people exchanges.

His remarks placed regional diplomacy and cooperation among neighboring countries at the center of Tehran's approach to security, rather than reliance on external military deployments.

Multilateral institutions as platforms for cooperation

Elsewhere in his remarks, Pezeshkian said developments in the international system had made it increasingly necessary to move beyond unilateral approaches and strengthen inclusive mechanisms for cooperation. Iran, he stressed, was determined to play an active role in building a fairer multilateral order based on mutual respect.

He pointed to Russia, China and other members of the BRICS group, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) as having considerable potential to expand economic, political and security cooperation and strengthen the role of multilateral institutions in international affairs.

The president called for making fuller use of these platforms to expand economic engagement, facilitate trade, develop transport and transit infrastructure, and deepen regional cooperation. He said closer Iran-Russia relations, combined with the effective implementation of bilateral agree-

ments and the use of regional and international mechanisms, could advance shared interests and strengthen cooperation at both regional and global levels.

Lavrov reaffirms Moscow's commitment to the partnership

Lavrov, for his part, briefed Pezeshkian on his meetings with senior Iranian officials and said the discussions had covered political, economic, commercial and cultural ties. He reaffirmed Moscow's intention to expand cooperation in oil and gas, energy, transport, communications, media, culture, science and higher education.

The Russian foreign minister also emphasized the alignment of Iranian and Russian views on international issues and the importance of continued diplomatic consultations to promote peace and security. Referring to agreements concerning the Caspian Sea, he called for closer coordination to protect the two countries' interests and strengthen regional cooperation.

Araghchi calls talks with Lavrov 'intensive' and 'productive'

Earlier on Monday, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi held talks with Lavrov, describing the discussions as “intensive” and “productive”. The two diplomats reviewed bilateral relations under the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership Treaty, as well as developments in the Persian Gulf, the Caucasus, Ukraine and West Asia.

Araghchi said Tehran and Moscow agreed that regional disputes required political solutions rather than military action. They also discussed Palestine, Lebanon, Yemen, security in the Strait of Hormuz and recent incidents involving commercial vessels and port infrastructure in the Caspian Sea.

Both sides reaffirmed their opposition to unilateralism and their commitment to multilateral cooperation through international institutions, including BRICS and the SCO. Lavrov reiterated Russia's commitment to its agreements with Iran, citing humanitarian assistance and the gradual return of Russian specialists to the Bushehr nuclear power plant. He also said Moscow intended to continue implementing its economic and investment commitments to Tehran.

Lavrov expressed hope that Pezeshkian would visit Russia in the coming days to attend a summit of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum in Moscow, providing another opportunity to advance bilateral cooperation.

lence in years on Saturday, as protests that began over education and schooling conditions expanded to encompass the rising cost of living and other domestic grievances.

Macron condemned the rioting and looting, describing the violent protesters as people seeking to “bring down the republic” and warning that they would “pay for their crimes.”

Araghchi's response challenged Macron's attempt to link the unrest to the war, arguing that the French public was demanding fundamental change, including the right to freedom of assembly.

We are counting down the moments to your foolish decisions, Iran warns US and Israel

From page 1 ▶ “You have tested the resolve and will of the leadership, the nation, the officials, and the powerful armed forces of Islamic Iran many times, and testing what has already been tested is a mistake,” he said.

“We are counting down the moments to your foolish decisions,” added Abdollahi, who also commands the Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters, Iran's central military command

structure.

“In each of the previous wars, you entered battle with the slogan of overthrowing the Islamic Republic, dismembering and destroying Iran; yet today you are the ones being destroyed and overthrown, while a powerful Iran still stands firm,” Abdollahi said.

He argued that Washington and Tel Aviv had significant vulnerabilities, adding that both

the American public and Israeli settlers were aware of their “serious and fundamental weaknesses.”

Abdollahi warned that any new miscalculation against Iran would provoke a response more severe than those delivered in previous confrontations.

“The next roar will be much closer, more destructive, and untraceable,” he said.



World will face a serious energy crisis if US launches another war against Iran

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From Page 1 ▶ So at this point, America no longer has those capabilities, and it can't use those bases the way it once did. Most of those bases have been shut down, their equipment has been destroyed, and the countries that were most cooperative with America back then no longer offer that same cooperation. American forces today are tired, worn-out forces, and they've pulled back hundreds of kilometers from us. Before the war started, there were at least thirty to forty warships inside the Persian Gulf; but today, not only do they have no ships inside the Persian Gulf, they've also withdrawn roughly seven hundred kilometers away from the Strait of Hormuz. The forces that were stationed at those regional bases have now been moved to distant bases, and even at those distant bases — like Al-Azraq and Al-Tanf in Jordan and Syria — they're no longer safe, because those locations too are within our crosshairs.

So from a military capability standpoint and from a technical perspective, America doesn't have what it takes to carry out a new operation or conflict. But there is a possibility that, with the American elections coming up, it might want to manufacture some kind of achievement — for example, carrying out a limited action so it can exploit the results for the elections. That possibility exists, and since we don't dismiss any possibility, we're ready to respond to any action. Our response this time will be far more severe and will land America in far bigger trouble, and will confront the world with even bigger challenges too. In any case, if America takes a new action — even a limited one — the world will face a serious energy crisis. What's happened so far, in our view, hasn't yet reached the stage of a crisis, and we haven't yet brought all our capacity to bear on fully closing the strait. If America wants to make a new move, it will definitely be facing a massive crisis, and it will also confront the world with a new energy crisis.

With the cold season coming up in Europe, and with America itself and many countries needing energy for heating and daily life, the world will face a new crisis, and a global consensus will form against America — a country that creates problems for the whole world by starting fires. Global public opinion is already against America, and if there's any new move, that opposition will only grow, and America will pay a very heavy price. In our view, rationality dictates that they shouldn't do such a thing; but if one day, based on some illusion or delusion of gaining a new achievement, they want to take action, they'll pay a very heavy price. We haven't yet linked up the Strait of Hormuz, the Bab al-Mandab Strait, and the Suez Canal, and we haven't yet used all the capacities of our region — our material and spiritual potential, our popular strength, the capacity of the resistance front, and the other tools that could create a major challenge for America.

So if we look at the story from America's point of view, this scenario seems unlikely, but it's still possible, and it's precisely on the basis of that possibility that we've prepared our scenarios.

That said, when it comes to the Zionist regime, the matter is different. The Zionist regime is, in any case, looking to take advantage of America's companionship and to act even more aggressively. This possibility is worth thinking about from that angle, and this is where the American people need to think. The letter we wrote to the American people has, in part, this very dimension: Are the American people willing, for the sake of following Zionist policies and helping them reach their vile ambitions, to create massive troubles and enormous challenges — like an energy crisis and even a food crisis — for



their own country and for the world? I doubt the American people would be willing to accept such a thing, and we pointed to this in that letter as well.

So if I wanted to sum up my words in one sentence, the answer to your question is that the possibility of any operation — even a limited one — is not entirely ruled out, but our assessments show that they simply don't have the capability needed to carry out an effective operation and achieve their goals. Their capability has become so weakened and scattered that they certainly won't get the results they want, and they'll only box themselves into bigger constraints. They might one day take action for the sake of a limited, tactical gain on the eve of the elections, but they'll certainly run into bigger defeats and constraints, global public opinion will mobilize against them, and there are plenty of options available to deter America. The best path and the best proposal for America is to accept Iran's conditions and declare its defeat by accepting those conditions; that would be the best path for the United States.

The enemy is trying to make it seem as though it was Iran that, by attacking several oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz, caused the Islamabad MoU to fall apart. They even claimed that a few rogue forces acted without coordination on July 7. Can you tell us what exactly happened that day?

America is doing a forward escape and resorting to sophistry, when in fact the main violator of this agreement was the United States itself. This breach of promise first happened when, right after the meeting where the memorandum of understanding was concluded and sessions were held to implement its provisions, the US Secretary of State took a trip to the region and issued a statement with the leaders of regional countries that was clearly at odds with the provisions of the memorandum. On the other hand, under Article Five of the memorandum, it had been stipulated that the passage of ships would be conducted according to Iranian arrangements, but America, by threatening certain regional countries, opened a new illegal route through the southern part of the strait and along the coast of Oman in order to effectively nullify that article. Not only did they open a new passage, they also forced ships to pass through it and ignored the Iranian arrangements.

This behavior showed that America had once again broken its word — an approach that had precedent. They once carried out the attack of June 13, 2025 during the negotiations, another time they carried out the attack of February 28 in the middle of the negotiation process, and for a third time — not during the talks but

after the Islamabad memorandum was concluded and at the stage of implementing it — they violated the agreement. What should the logical response to such a blatant breach of promise be? A logical, powerful, and fitting response. Any fair and reasonable person, if they look at this sequence, will acknowledge that in the face of America's repeated violations, we were compelled to show our decisiveness and strength — something that, praise God, was achieved.

As was seen, during the 17-day clashes, the greatest losses were inflicted on America. In an interview with the Tasnim News Agency, I announced the exact figures for human casualties, destroyed equipment, and demolished bases, because heavy blows were dealt to them as a result of their latest breach of promise. The claim that the actions taken by our forces were rogue is absolutely untrue. In military structures around the world, discipline and adherence to the organizational chain of command is the first principle, and no one can take unilateral action on a sensitive matter like war without coordinating with the higher levels. So our response was carried out with full coordination and as a decisive reaction to America's breach of promise.

The world needs to know that breach of promise is rooted in the very nature of the United States' statecraft, and that this country doesn't adhere to its signatures and commitments. The America that trampled the JCPOA despite the signature of its then-president and five other countries; the America that, during negotiations, assassinated senior commanders, national leaders, and scientists, and massacred thousands of innocent people — has once again proven that violating agreements is part of the fixed procedures of this country's governance. Breach of promise and disrupting agreements have, as it were, become part of the unwritten doctrine of America's ruling establishment.

On this basis, I declare with certainty that our response to the United States' breach of promise — whether in connection to the JCPOA or the recent agreements — was a strong, powerful, fully appropriate, and timely response. If time were to turn back to the 16th of Tir [July 7] we would do exactly the same thing again, and if such actions are repeated by the other side, our response will be even more crushing than before.

Let's talk a bit more about the events of July 7. Some domestic and foreign experts, attempting to corroborate the United States' claim that the attacks that day were rogue, argue that — given Iran's mosaic defense structure, in which commanders of each unit can act without coordinating with higher authorities if necessary —

the occurrence of such an incident is not far-fetched. How would you respond to this analysis?

These two matters are completely different from each other. When we talk about a rogue action, we mean an individual acting without orders and without coordinating with higher bodies, and in conflict with standing directives — something that has absolutely no place in the armed forces. But the matter of mosaic defense and delegating authority to commanders in conditions of severed communications or the martyrdom of a senior commander is a defined doctrine and system, not disorder. In this structure, the chain of succession is precisely specified; that is, if the first commander is martyred or organizational communications are cut off through radio, telephone, or communication networks, the next commanders make decisions based on the requirements of the battlefield and a precise assessment of the enemy's situation. This approach is a military measure, and it isn't called rogue action.

Such measures are even rooted in our epistemic and religious foundations; just as in historical military traditions, specific successors were appointed for conditions in which commanders' communications have to be made between the word "rogue action" and "wartime measure." The enemy raising such claims is part of psychological operations aimed at creating a rift between the body of the armed forces and the country's senior officials, or at suggesting a disagreement between the government and military institutions. They've repeatedly raised these rumors to suggest that the decision-making structure in Iran is unclear, but such atmospherics are merely media tricks whose nature is completely clear to experts, and others too have come to understand this reality well over recent months.

You probably meet with field commanders and also visit military headquarters. What's your assessment of the morale of Iranian forces after more than seven months of war?

Honestly, whatever I say about this might seem unbelievable to you, your colleagues, and your listeners, but the reality is that the morale of our combatants — from commanders to operating forces and equipment crews — is at the highest level; to the point that when we go to visit them, we feel weak and ashamed before their will and character. They're present in difficult conditions, despite certain shortages, in hot and humid weather above fifty degrees and in an insecure environment with minimal welfare facilities, with exemplary morale, and they don't utter a single word of complaint or grievance. We,

who have ourselves lived through the era of the Sacred Defense [Iran-Iraq war] and have been in this system for years, feel small before the greatness of their morale, and this situation is truly indescribable. We're ready to arrange the preliminaries for a trip so that you and your respected colleagues can go to those areas in person, talk with them, conduct interviews, and tell their stories to the people. Anyone who's gone to these areas has been astonished by their will, their morale, and their interesting and creative initiatives in the areas of defense and offense. Even foreign journalists who are sometimes sent to visit are deeply amazed by this level of sacrifice, patriotism, love for the people, and idealism.

What's your assessment of Iran's missile, drone, and air defense capabilities compared to the beginning of the war?

Our capability has undoubtedly increased greatly, both quantitatively and qualitatively. Just this morning I was in a meeting where they were reporting that our capability has increased at least one and a half times compared to the past; because we never halted our production — never. The enemy, in its foolish imagination, comes and targets some of our centers and facilities and claims, "I destroyed their air force, their navy, and their missile industries," but that's not the case, and the enemy's imagination is foolish. We never stopped producing missiles, drones, and whatever else we needed in this war and will need in the future; not only did we not stop, we expanded it. Today we've brought many other centers into our organization for producing more weapons, creating greater precision in targeting, increasing destructive power, extending the range of weapons, and producing entirely new armaments. We've brought all our capacity to bear, and praise God,

we've succeeded very well.

A very important point that I think many people have experienced is that in special conditions, talents emerge. What we've witnessed and experienced firsthand in this war is that in special conditions we achieve things that might be unbelievable even to ourselves, and are certainly unbelievable to others. This is divine grace, and it's due to the sincerity our forces have — those who have come to the field with all their being and selflessly, and have brought their strong will against the enemy. They fight with will, they fight with sincerity, and naturally divine grace helps too. God Almighty says that whoever strives in Our path, We will surely show him the way. God Almighty has shown and continues to show our combatants ways that are unbelievable — ways a person might not have even imagined before. In bottlenecks, in special conditions, in emergency conditions, and in conditions of connection to the infinite divine source, ways, paths, initiatives, and innovations are found that are wonder-making, and if the war continues or escalates again, these wonder-makers will certainly reveal themselves, God willing.

So, given all this, can we conclude that we possess weapons that we have not yet used?

Yes. Naturally, no country reveals all its weapons in the very first stages of battle. To this day, we have also long used weapons that were produced decades ago, and what has been employed during this period has mainly been older reserves and productions. We never use a weapon that should be reserved for more special conditions in less special conditions; naturally, that is how it will be. ▶ Page 6



Solar power plants with 400 MW capacity connected to national grid in industrial parks

TEHRAN- The Deputy Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade and Head of the Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization said: solar power plants with the capacity of 400 megawatts invested in the country's industrial estates and zones have been connected to the national electricity grid, and the development of renewable energies is being pursued with the aim of reducing electricity restrictions on production units.

According to IRNA, Tahmoorh Lahouti said during a visit to the Borujerd Special Economic Zone and in an interview with reporters: Completing the infrastructure of industrial estates and the Borujerd Special Economic Zone, accelerating the operation of semi-finished projects, and supporting active industrial units are among the main axes of this organization's programs.

He added: During the visit to the infrastructure of the Borujerd Industrial Estate and Special Economic Zone, as well as active industrial units and projects under construction, the issues and problems of producers were reviewed so that decisions could be made to remove obstacles and accelerate the implementation of projects.

Referring to the support programs of the Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization, the Deputy Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade stated: Financing industrial units and following up on their problems in interaction with other executive bodies are among the measures being pursued to support production and the continued activity of units.

Emphasizing the necessity of managing energy imbalance in the industrial sector, Lahouti added: About 8,000 hectares of land in the country's industrial estates and zones have been allocated for investment in renewable energy, and alongside that, industrial units are being encouraged to install solar panels

on the roofs of their halls and buildings.

He continued: Given the investments made in this sector, it is expected that the Ministry of Energy will pay attention to managing electricity restrictions in industrial estates and zones and provide the ground for reducing power cuts for units located in these areas, especially small and medium-sized enterprises.

The Head of the Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization, referring to the organization's plan to establish a smart management system in industrial estates, continued: This program has been placed on the agenda with the aim of increasing transparency in management, accelerating decision-making, and providing the possibility of timely action to address the issues and problems of industrial estates and units.

Lahouti added: The first part of this plan relates to the general management of industrial estates and shared spaces and infrastructure, and the second part pursues the management of processes inside industrial units, including the supply, production, and distribution chain.

Stating that the implementation of this program is in its early stages, he noted: Abbasabad Industrial Estate has been selected and planned as the pilot for implementing this plan in the country, and with the cooperation of the Presidential Deputy for Science, Technology and Knowledge-Based Economy, its operational implementation will begin by the end of the year.

The Deputy Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade added: Based on the planning carried out, next year the implementation of this plan will also be on the agenda in one industrial estate from each province, in order to provide the ground for the development of smart management, increased transparency, and improvement of management processes in the country's industrial estates.

Tehran hosting international textile, mode exhibitions

TEHRAN- The 32nd International Exhibition of Textile Machinery, Raw Materials, Home Textiles, Embroidery Machines, Textile Products of Iran (IRANTEX) along with the 14th Iran International Apparel Exhibition (IRANMODE), opened at the permanent Tehran International Exhibitions venue with the participation of leading companies and those active in the field.

According to IRNA, the exhibitions opened with 108 domestic and foreign companies across five halls and will run until October 21 at the permanent Tehran International Exhibitions venue.

The two exhibitions provide an opportunity to showcase the capabilities of domestic producers, present new achievements, and create connections among actors in the textile and apparel industry chain, hosting companies and specialists in the field.

At (IRANTEX), products and achievements from various sectors of the industry are on display, including textile machinery and equipment, raw materials, yarn and fibers, various fabrics, and home textiles. Visitors can learn about the latest technologies and solutions for production, design, and product quality improvement.

The IRANMODE is dedicated to introducing the latest products, designs, and capabilities of apparel producers. The event has created a platform to display domestic design and production capacities, learn about new market trends, and strengthen connections among producers, designers, suppliers, and apparel sector actors.

Holding the two events simultaneously allows for greater interaction among different parts of the production chain, from raw material supply and fabric production to design, sewing, and delivery of the final product. This interaction can play an effective role in improving production processes, increasing productivity, enhancing quality, and strengthening the competitiveness of Iranian products.

Developing exports, identifying new markets, transferring knowledge and technology, attracting investment, and expanding trade cooperation with foreign companies are among the other objectives of the exhibitions.

Specialized meetings, training workshops, and business meetings can also provide a suitable opportunity for exchanging experience, examining industry challenges, and creating grounds for joint cooperation.

The textile and apparel industry is one of the country's important manufacturing sectors, which, by creating employment and linking with upstream and downstream industries, has considerable capacity for value creation and export development. Therefore, specialized exhibitions in this field can play a role in introducing domestic capabilities, understanding market needs, and strengthening the connection between producers and consumers.

Regarding the holding of the two exhibitions, Seyed Shojaeddin Emami-Raouf, Secretary of the Iranian Textile Industries Association, described these specialized events as an important platform for introducing the latest products, technologies, and achievements of the country's textile and apparel industry, and said: Developing trade interactions and strengthening export markets are among the most important objectives of holding these exhibitions.

He continued: The exhibitions are hosting visitors in halls 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11.

This industry official stated: In addition to domestic capacities, in the international section of IRANTEX, companies and representatives from five countries—China, Turkey, South Korea, the Netherlands, and Germany—are present, which indicates international actors' interest in Iran's textile market.

He noted: The exhibition displays a wide range of the textile and apparel industry value chain, including machinery, yarn, fibers and textile raw materials, fabric and home textiles, bedding, as well as men's, women's, and children's apparel.

The Secretary of the Iranian Textile Industries Association invited all active in this industry, producers, specialists, and interested parties to attend this specialized event, to view the latest achievements and to provide a suitable ground for exchanging information, concluding contracts, and developing trade cooperation.

‘Safeguarding exports under sanctions requires operational measures, regulatory reform, private-sector participation’

TEHRAN- Samad Hassanzadeh, President of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA), said on Monday at the National Export Associations Conference, held at the Iran Chamber under the slogan “Capable Exporter, Strong Association, Sustainable Exports”: Foreign trade cannot be examined merely within the framework of export and import statistics, trade balance, or foreign-exchange earnings; rather, foreign trade is directly linked to national production, employment, investment, economic security, access to technology, and the country's position in regional and global division of labor. From this perspective, any disruption in trade relations affects the country's production and economic capacities.

Emphasizing diversification of transportation routes, he said: The first necessity for safeguarding trade flows is reducing foreign trade's dependence on limited transportation routes. Therefore, by assessing the capacity of northern ports, railways, land borders, and regional corridors, alternative routes should be designed appropriate to the type of goods so that disruption on one route does not halt exports and the supply of raw materials.

Iran chamber proposal for a foreign trade continuity task force

The President of the Iran Chamber, presenting the Iran Chamber's proposal to form a Foreign Trade Continuity Task Force, stated: We propose that an operational task force be formed at the earliest opportunity with the participation of the government, the Iran Chamber, Customs, the Central Bank, the Ports Organization, and export associations to develop export programs so that no stoppage occurs in existing minimums.

He emphasized facilitating customs and border formalities and said: When transport time and costs increase, prolonged customs formalities and unnecessary stops at borders impose double damage on trade. Therefore, we recommend that expansion of electronic document exchange, coordination of border working hours, pre-arrival processing of goods, and reduction of repeated inspections be placed at the top of executive reforms.

The President of the Iran Chamber considered securing working capital for exporters essential for the sustainability of the country's export programs and added: Designing working-capital facilities, accelerating repayment of claims, and financing appropriate to the real export cycle are necessary so that external disruptions do



not lead to production stoppage, reduced employment, and loss of markets. The Central Bank and operating banks must devise measures to provide working capital for exporters.

He emphasized the need for flexibility in fulfilling foreign-exchange obligations and said: One cannot insist on the repatriation of export earnings while ignoring operational considerations, differences in market conditions, and real restrictions on financial transfers in designing executive mechanisms. An efficient trade policy is one that links macro-economic objectives with the operational realities of firms and, instead of continuously transferring uncertainty to economic actors, provides the possibility of risk management and informed decision-making.

Samad Hassanzadeh considered codified insurance support for exports and trade risk management necessary and noted: Increased risk on transportation routes can raise insurance costs and make implementation of export contracts difficult. Therefore, we propose that, with the participation of insurance companies, financial institutions, and economic associations, the possibility of developing insurance coverage, credit guarantees, and risk-management instruments suited to new trade conditions be examined.

He cited diversification of export markets as another necessity for safeguarding foreign trade flows and said: In past years, Iraq was Iran's largest trading partner, but today, following policies Western countries have applied in Iraq's economic programs, it is predicted that Iran's exports to that country will reach a minimum next year, because due to increased export costs, Iranian rates and prices are no longer acceptable for the Iraqi market. India, China, and Turkey send goods to Iraq with zero tariffs and six-month and one-year LCs in a way that neither Iraqi merchants are prepared to buy Iranian goods nor

will any volume of Iranian goods exports to Iraq be justified.

The President of the Iran Chamber considered development of economic diplomacy programs key and added: Continuity of foreign trade, in addition to domestic capacities, depends on cooperation with neighboring countries and trading partners. Therefore, economic diplomacy must focus on facilitating transit, customs coordination, developing transportation agreements, and maintaining legal access to international markets, and reducing trade restrictions should also be pursued through diplomatic channels.

Hassanzadeh, stating that the Iran Chamber and the Iran Chamber's Export Development Commission can be a continuous link between exporters and decision-making bodies, said: Chambers of commerce have made many efforts at all times when problems have arisen for the country, and we believe that in the Iran Chamber, provincial chambers, commissions, and economic associations must present every necessary measure and proposal that helps improve the country's economic situation to officials with a scientific and expert approach.

The President of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture emphasized: Systematic collection of problems, presentation of expert solutions, publication of periodic reports, and follow-up of demands through to implementation will help transform firms' experience into effective decisions and increase the resilience of foreign trade.

He considered revision of the approach toward the private sector one of the prerequisites for improving the performance of Iran's economy and stated: The private sector is neither a substitute for sovereign responsibilities nor can it alone bear the burden of all the country's economic problems. The government, without the effective participation of pro-

ducers, exporters, investors, and specialized associations, will not have sufficient capacity to design and implement efficient economic policies, and officials must take measures to remove ambiguities.

The President of the Iran Chamber, enumerating the responsibilities of the state and the private sector, said: The main issue is creating a clear and constructive relationship between the state and the responsibility of economic actors. The state must focus on macro policymaking, transparent regulation, provision of public infrastructure, legal stability, and guaranteeing fair competition, and the private sector must, within the framework of the law, assume responsibility for investment, productivity improvement, market development, innovation, job creation, and increasing the competitiveness of its firms.

Hassanzadeh, referring to the country's difficult economic conditions, said: Although managing economic firms has become very difficult, we believe that when the name of Iran and the nation is mentioned, we all have a great responsibility and duty. Today all our country's officials are making their utmost efforts to solve problems, and good planning is always carried out, but the hostile enemy also always takes actions to neutralize the country's plans.

The President of the Iran Chamber, stating that today is the time for all of us to stand with all our strength alongside the Iranian nation and cooperate with the government's policies, noted: The Iran Chamber's greatest conscientious recommendation under the country's current conditions is that we must certainly strive to keep economic firms operating, preserve employment for Iranian households' workforce, and help people's livelihoods as much as possible so that problems are soon resolved with the dignity and magnanimity of the Iranian nation and the authority of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Transformation in trade regulations requires participation of responsible institutions and associations

The Head of the Iran Trade Promotion Organization, emphasizing the need to increase the volume and value added of the country's non-oil exports, said: To achieve the real capacities of Iran's economy in the export sector, while supporting private-sector initiatives, a fundamental transformation in the environment of trade laws and regulations must be created with the participation of responsible institutions and the private sector.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Iran, Vietnam emphasize development of communications, technology cooperation



TEHRAN- The Deputy Minister of Communications and Information Technology for Technology, Innovation and International Affairs, in a meeting with Vietnamese Ambassador to Iran Nguyen Luong Ngoc, emphasized the development of bilateral cooperation in the field of communications and information technology, and finalizing the cooperation memorandum with Vietnam.

In this meeting, Mohammad Hafez Hakami, referring to the diplomatic relations between the two countries, emphasized the importance of strengthening relations with friendly countries and utilizing shared capacities to expand cooperation in the field of communications and information technology.

Emphasizing the necessity of

finalizing and signing the cooperation memorandum between the two countries, Hakami announced Iran's readiness to expand interactions with Vietnam in various fields of this area.

He also emphasized identifying new areas of cooperation and utilizing existing capacities to develop technological interactions between the two countries.

The development of communications and technological cooperation with Vietnam, within the framework of Iran's technology diplomacy, is among the axes for pursuing bilateral relations in the field of communications and information technology.

Finalizing pending agreements and strengthening coordination for the implementation of joint programs are among the upcoming areas of these cooperations.

Israel’s invisible hand in the war on Yemen

From page 1 ► Analysts have pointed to four key factors that underline the Israeli regime’s position:

The security dimension

The regime views the war as a testing ground for its security assessments. Rather than treating Iran and Yemen as separate fronts, it sees them as parts of a single, interconnected theater of confrontation. From this perspective, the conflict provides a real-world test of Ansarallah’s military capabilities, particularly their latest missile arsenals, drone systems, and other military assets.

The strategic dimension

Israeli strategic calculations are based on the premise that the Yemeni and Iranian fronts cannot be treated separately. It views the ongoing war as an integral part of its broader effort to dismantle the Axis of Resistance.

From this perspective, the regime has a strong interest in weakening Ansarallah politically and militarily. Israelis regard Ansarallah as a significant component of the Axis of Resistance because of its military capabilities and its ability to threaten security in the Red Sea against Yemen’s foes. The Sanaa government has also demonstrated its capacity to strike targets deep inside Israel while supporting Gaza during the U.S.-backed genocide in the Strip.

Conversely, if Ansarallah emerges with strategic gains, the outcome would directly undermine Israeli efforts to weaken the Axis of Resistance. It could also reinforce the perception that the Israeli military can be challenged and that new strategic realities can be imposed across the region.

Israel’s regional positioning

The Zionist regime sees the war between Ansarallah and Saudi Arabia as an opportunity to strengthen its geopolitical position in the region.

Israeli public statements about Saudi security, reports that Prime Minister Netanyahu proposed providing the kingdom



with military and security assistance, and Trump’s subsequent remarks on the matter are particularly significant. Together, they point to the regime’s efforts to establish itself as a security partner capable of providing intelligence and helping Saudi Arabia counter shared regional threats.

The regime also views these developments as a potential opening to revive its stalled normalization process with Saudi Arabia and create the political and security conditions for a broader regional coalition against Iran.

The significance of Yemen in Israel’s strategic calculations extends well beyond the immediate military confrontation. Tel Aviv may also seek to capitalize on the conflict to reshape regional relationships and alliances, establishing a new political reality in which it plays a more prominent role in regional security arrangements aimed at containing Iran.

Role of the United States

The U.S. dimension highlights Washington’s influence over the course of the war on Yemen. It also raises questions about whether the U.S. will intervene directly or limit its involvement to providing political, military, and intelligence support.

Any reduction in direct U.S. involvement could push the Israelis to strengthen their military, security, strategic, and political autonomy, expanding their ability to influence regional conflicts without relying entirely on the American security umbrella.

This would allow the regime to test its capacity to operate more independently, develop direct security relationships with regional actors, and increase its influence over developments involving Yemen and Saudi Arabia.

Such a shift would not signal a weakening of the Zionist-American alliance. Rather, it could reflect a redistribution of responsibilities, with the U.S. retaining its central role in providing political and military support to the regime while it assumes greater responsibility for managing regional wars and threats.

Another possible outcome, given Saudi Arabia’s publicly stated position on Palestine, is that intelligence cooperation could continue and even expand without developing into a comprehensive political and military alliance or leading to full normalization.

Under this scenario, the prospects for normalization would depend on what Riyadh is willing to concede in exchange for the intelligence assistance it receives in confronting Ansarallah, particularly if the war escalates.

The limits of Israeli strategy

The Zionist regime’s approach to Yemen goes beyond confronting Ansarallah’s military capabilities. Its broader objective is to weaken staunch regional Iranian allies. This goal is hardly concealed: Tel Aviv ultimately seeks to reshape regional alliances in ways that serve its own interests.

Yet this strategy confronts two fundamental realities. Yemen is

not a peripheral component of the Axis of Resistance but an important front within it. And Iran is not a country that can easily be brought to its knees simply by increasing pressure on Yemen.

Ansarallah’s strategic geographical position and military capabilities allow it to pose significant challenges to the Zionist regime’s calculations. Iran, meanwhile, remains a major regional power with substantial strategic influence and multiple options at its disposal, as demonstrated by its ability to withstand war and sustained pressure, including sanctions and other forms of coercion.

Consequently, even if the regime succeeds in weakening one of the fronts within the Axis of Resistance, that alone will not guarantee that it achieves its broader strategic objectives.

Israel’s attempts to neutralize or weaken the Yemeni front as a prelude to containing Iran could instead become a strategic liability. Military power can destroy infrastructure and inflict significant damage, but it cannot guarantee the achievement of political objectives. Nor does attacking resistance movements necessarily mean they will be dismantled. These groups can reorganize and rebuild their capabilities, which is part of their broader strategic doctrine.

Ultimately, it has been demonstrated that Ansarallah’s ability to withstand pressure, combined with Iran’s capacity to manage the confrontation and endure despite the scale of the challenges it faces, is crucial to preventing the imposition of a regional order that serves Zionists at the expense of the region’s peoples and their causes.

The situation in Yemen illustrates that the real test is not the extent of intelligence cooperation between Tel Aviv and Riyadh, nor the scale of the airstrikes against Yemen. It is whether the pressure exerted on the ground can be translated into tangible political gains. This is where the Zionist regime has failed on every front it has launched direct military aggression.

Trump endorses war criminal Netanyahu ahead of Israeli election

By staff writer

TEHRAN – President Donald Trump on Sunday endorsed his Benjamin Netanyahu, who is wanted a war criminal by the International Criminal Court (ICC), as the prime minister is struggling s for an edge in next week’s parliamentary election.

The support for Netanyahu comes as Netanyahu is being accused of war crimes and crimes against humanity in Gaza.

Trump praised Netanyahu as a “great warrior prime minister” and peace partner, crediting him with joining the United States in launching strikes on Iran in February. The conflict, in its seventh month, has disrupted energy markets globally and wreaked havoc across the Middle East.

Contrary to what Trump claims, it is Netanyahu who urged him to launch war against Iran with the participation of Israel.

Joe Kent, former U.S. counterterrorism chief, resigned on March 17, 2026, in protest against the war. In his resignation letter, he stated that the United States had started the war “due to pressure from Israel and its powerful American lobby.” He also accused senior Israeli officials and influential media figures of promoting misinformation to encourage military action.

Also, Badr Albusaidi, Oman’s foreign minister, explicitly said that Israel’s leadership persuaded Trump to enter the war by presenting the prospect of a swift Iranian surrender. In a March 19, 2026 article in the Guardian, he said Washington’s greatest miscalculation was allowing itself to be drawn into the conflict.

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio also said on March 2, just three days after Iran came under unprovoked and illegal joint aggression, that Israel was going to attack Iran and that Washington had to be prepared to act in response.

“Bibi Netanyahu has been Strong, Brave, and Brilliant ?in the face of tremendous opposition, including that ?coming ?from even Israel, itself,” Trump wrote in a post on Truth Social.

“Despite all of that, he has endured and, in fact, he ?has thrived! I have watched Bibi under the most trying of times. Normal men ?or ?women in such situations would ?have wilted under the

pressure — But Bibi did not wilt, he actually got stronger, and maintains that same Strength today.”

In his message, addressed to “the Great People of ?Israel,” Trump added, “Please let this Letter serve to ?represent my Complete and Total Endorsement of Bibi Netanyahu in his upcoming Race for Re-Election as Prime Minister of Israel.”

Trump’s endorsement is not certain to give Netanyahu and his right-wing Likud party a ?boost in the Oct. 27 national election, as Israeli public support for Trump has diminished amid Israeli-U.S. disagreements over Iran, NBC News reported.

Polls have suggested no candidate has a clear path to power. Israel’s prime minister is chosen through coalition-building in parliament rather than by direct popular vote.

Daniel Goldman, a House representative, wrote on X that Trump should not express his opinion about elections in another country. He described Netanyahu as an “anti-democratic, pro-authoritarian candidate”.

US senator calls Netanyahu speech ‘wildly disrespectful’

Meanwhile, US Senator Brian Schatz has slammed Netanyahu for justifying the war on Iran.

“Netanyahu speaking to Americans, direct to camera, to justify this war and scold us about being upset about gas prices is a wildly disrespectful and super aggravating closing message,” the Democratic senator from Hawaii said in a post on X Sunday.

In his video message posted on social media, Netanyahu thanked Trump for the endorsement and said, “Israel has never had a greater friend in the White House”.

The remarks come as the US-Israeli war against Iran has contributed to declining public approval of both leaders, with their popularity falling to its lowest levels among the Israeli and American public.

The latest figures from the Pew Research Center, published on October 8, show that only 33% of Americans approve of Trump’s handling of the U.S. military action against Iran, while 65% disapprove.

ASEAN haze crisis: Can Prabowo restore Indonesia’s environmental credibility?

By Bobby Ciputra

JAKARTA – The haze crisis resulting from forest and peatland fires in Indonesia has turned the skies over Kuala Lumpur and Singapore a deep, murky gray.

The haze has polluted the air breathed by millions across neighboring countries, escalating what began as a domestic fire disaster into a diplomatic crisis.

President Prabowo Subianto’s environmental policies are facing intense scrutiny, both domestically and internationally.

The domino effect of the haze crisis

The haze crisis resulting from forest and peatland fires in Indonesia has triggered transboundary air pollution, severely affecting neighboring ASEAN countries.

According to Malaysia’s Department of Environment, air quality readings in 37 areas fell within the “unhealthy” range of the Air Pollutant Index (API). In Selangor (specifically in Klang and Johan Setia), the API reached as high as 192. Furthermore, there has been a sharp increase in cases of acute respiratory infections (ARI) and asthma across Malaysia.

Consequently, on October 9, Malaysia’s Minister of Education, Fadhlina Sidek, announced the closure of schools or the transition from in-person classes to remote learning for over 2 million affected students in the federal territories of Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya.

Subsequently, on October 14, Singapore recorded its highest air pollution levels of the year; in the western part of the country, the one-hour PM2.5 concentration reached 284 micrograms per cubic metre (µg/m³) due to the transboundary haze.

This prompted Singapore’s National Environment Agency (NEA) to report elevated pollution levels.

Meanwhile, the government of Timor-Les-



te suspended in-person classes in all schools for three days, starting on October 15, due to deteriorating air quality.

Indonesia is currently facing its most severe forest and peatland fire crisis in recent years, a situation exacerbated by the Super El Niño phenomenon and a positive phase of the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD). This combination triggers extreme weather, causes a drastic drop in rainfall, and leaves forest and peatland areas in Indonesia extremely dry and highly susceptible to fire.

However, data from the Indonesian Forum for the Environment (WALHI), released on October 14, reveals a startling fact: WALHI identified 93 companies linked to fire-affected concessions and affiliated with business groups based in Singapore and Malaysia.

International scrutiny and the accountability of regional leaders

The current haze crisis has drawn significant international attention and criticism. Among those speaking out is Malaysian parliamentarian Syed Saddiq Syed Abdul Rahman, who has called for ASEAN nations to lodge formal diplomatic protests with Indonesia.

Malaysian Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan has confirmed that he will raise the issue of transboundary haze at the ASEAN foreign ministers meeting in Manila, the Philippines.

Meanwhile, Singaporean Prime Minister

Lawrence Wong and Minister for Sustainability and the Environment Grace Fu have announced plans to take firm legal action, issuing formal warnings to seven Indonesian companies strongly suspected of being responsible for the fire hotspots.

Swedish environmental activist Greta Thunberg has also directly called for an emergency declaration regarding the forest and peatland fires in Kalimantan. On Instagram, she shared footage showing the landscape blanketed in thick, orange-hued haze, emphasizing that the reality on the ground is far worse than what is portrayed in the media.

Spanish Formula 1 driver Carlos Sainz has likewise voiced his concern over the poor air quality in Singapore caused by forest and peatland fires in Indonesia ahead of the 2026 Singapore Grand Prix.

Furthermore, Academy Award-winning actor and environmental activist Leonardo DiCaprio has once again sounded a global ecological alarm regarding the massive destruction occurring in Indonesia. In an official social media post, DiCaprio expressed his concern over the burning of more than 800,000 hectares of forest across Borneo and Sumatra, which has resulted in the release of massive emissions into the atmosphere.

Amidst this international scrutiny, the disaster also raises serious questions regarding the quality of leadership and accountability among Kalimantan’s governors. The Governor of Central Kalimantan, Agustiar Sabran, drew attention for his quip: “United we stand, divided, we just get married again.” The Governor of South Kalimantan, Muhidin, also faced backlash after claiming that he suggested that the fires were not severe because he had not seen firefighting helicopters overhead.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Lebanese president says Israel violating framework agreement



President Aoun talking with Arab League Secretary-General Nabil Fahmy (L) at the presidential palace

Lebanese President Joseph Aoun said on Monday that Israel has failed to comply with a U.S.-mediated framework agreement signed in June and continues daily violations in southern Lebanon, according to aa.com.tr.

Aoun made the remarks during a meeting with Arab League Secretary-General Nabil Fahmy at the presidential palace in Baabda, east of Beirut, according to a statement from the Lebanese presidency.

“The Israelis have not adhered to the framework agreement, and the south continues to face daily violations,” Aoun said.

He stressed that continued Israeli violations would not achieve their objectives but would instead strengthen the Lebanese people’s determination to defend their land and rights.

Aoun said the violations were obstructing the Lebanese state’s efforts to implement its stated objectives.

He reaffirmed Lebanon’s commitment to a diplomatic solution despite its difficulties, saying it was “far less costly than the devastating war” for which the Lebanese people, particularly residents of the south, continue to pay the price.

“It is time for Lebanon to have some peace,” he added.

The president also welcomed any efforts by the Arab League to help Lebanon overcome the difficult circumstances it faces.

For his part, Fahmy reaffirmed the Arab League’s support for the Lebanese state and its institutions, rejecting any infringement on the country’s sovereignty.

He expressed readiness to engage with Arab and Western countries to mobilize support for Lebanon and its people.

Fahmy stressed that the Arab position toward Lebanon remained united and that the organization was working to translate that support into practical measures and financial assistance.

Israel has carried out attacks on Lebanon since March 2, killing and injuring thousands of people and displacing over 1.5 million residents.

On June 26, Lebanon and Israel signed a US-sponsored framework agreement providing for a gradual Israeli withdrawal from Lebanese territory.

Despite the agreement, Israel has continued its attacks on southern Lebanon.

Israeli forces also continue to occupy Lebanese territory, including areas held for decades and others seized during more recent wars and military operations.

Iranian girl Jami takes gold in taekwondo

TEHRAN – Ailar Jami from Iran claimed a gold medal at the Nagoya Para Asian Games on Monday.

Jami defeated Khwansuda Phuangkitcha from Thailand 2-0 in the final match of the women's K44 -47kg.

Taha Hassanpour also had defeated his South Korean rival Pyeonggang Lee 2-1 in bronze medal match of the Men K44 -58 kg.

The 2026 Asian Para Games, also known as the 5th Asian Para Games and commonly known as Aichi-Nagoya 2026, is an ongoing multi-sport event for Asian athletes with disabilities that parallels the 2026 Asian Games, currently being held from Oct. 18 to 24 around Aichi Prefecture in Japan.

Iran freestyle win team title of U23 World Championships

TEHRAN – Iran freestyle team won the team title of the U23 World Wrestling Championships held in the Las Vegas.

Ahora Khateri in 65kg and Mahdi Yousefi in 79kg won two gold medals for Iran to seal the title for the Persians.

Khateri's final against Kaiji OGINO (JPN) was spectacular bout with the Japanese leading, 6-1 with 40 seconds left in the bout. But Khateri began the comeback as he used an arm drag to go-behind Ogino and then scored a takedown and turn. The second two points were only awarded after a challenge from Iran.

With 10 seconds left in the match and down 6-5, Khateri snapped Ogino down and tried to go-behind. Ogino managed to remove the grip but Khateri pulled him down on the mat and eventually scored the takedown with 7-6 left.

Khateri burst into instant celebrations as he captured his first world title since 2023, when he won the U17 world title at 45kg. The gold medal will come as a relief after he finished with a bronze medal at the U20 World Championships in August.

The two gold medals sealed the team title for Iran which also won the Greco-Roman team title. Iran won a total of nine medals, including four gold medals, in Las Vegas.

Yousefi's gold medal over Said Saidulov (RUS), 3-1, clinched the team title for Iran as any slip up there would have cost them the title.

Yousefi managed a takedown in the second period to lead 3-1. Saidulov got on Yousefi's leg in the final 20 seconds but the Iranian defended the position till time expired.

Iran finished with 180 points and Russia was second with 171 points. The United States, which had a underwhelming tournament, finished third with 104 points. Turkey finished a surprise fourth with 99 points and Japan was fifth with 74 points.

Iran blind football beat China: 2026 Nagoya

TEHRAN – Iran's national blind football team delivered a statement result at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Para Games, beating China 2-0 in their third match to settle the score from the Hangzhou Games and move onto six points.

Morteza Karami broke the deadlock in the 32nd minute, and Ahmad Shahhosseini followed minutes later with a second to seal the win.

Goalkeeper Mohammad Mirzaei was a hero between the posts, saving two China penalties to protect Iran's clean sheet.

The victory lifts Iran to six points from three games, putting them in a stronger position in the standings.

Iran lost to Thailand 1-0 in their opening match but defeated South Korea 3-1 in their following match.

Beyond the points, the win carried extra weight: it was sweet revenge for the loss to China in Hangzhou, a result Iran's blind football stars had been waiting to put right.

Women para-athletes win gold and silver: 2026 Nagoya

TEHRAN – Iranian javelin throwers Elham Salehi and Masoumeh Tourani won a gold and silver medals at the 2026 Asian Para Games on Monday.

Salehi finished in first place at the F52/53/54 class, throwing 16.44 meters. Her compatriot Tourani won a silver with 14.99 meters.

The bronze medal went to Vietnamese para-athlete Thi Ngoc Thuy Nguyen with 12.16 meters.

Also, Parastoo Habibi and Farzaneh Sohra-ni won a silver and bronze medal at the Women's Club Throw F32/F51.

Uzbekistan's Makhliyo Akramova seized the gold medal with a throw of 24.08.

The fifth edition of the Games are being held in Aichi Prefecture and Nagoya, Japan from Oct. 18 to 24.

Iran beach soccer win Belarus tournament

TEHRAN – Iran's national beach soccer team lifted the trophy at the Belarus tri-nation tournament, beating the hosts 5-1 in their final match to claim the title in commanding style.

Ali Naderi's men opened the tournament with an attacking display, dispatching Oman 8-2, before finishing the job against Belarus with a dominant 5-1 victory. Two wins from two put Iran on top of the standings and sent a clear message about their form.

The triumph comes at the perfect time for the reigning Asian champions, who are fine-tuning their preparations for the 2026 AFC Beach Soccer Asian Cup in Thailand, a huge confidence boost with the continental showdown on the horizon.

The tournament runs from Nov 18 to 28, with Iran drawn in the group stage alongside Afghanistan, Vietnam and Lebanon.

Para swimmer Zeighaminejad seizes Iran's third gold at Nagoya

TEHRAN – Iranian swimmer Sina Zeighaminejad took gold in the men's 100m freestyle final, delivering the third gold medal for Iran's delegation at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Para Games.

Continuing the para swimming program at the fifth edition of the Games, Zeighaminejad and teammate Shahin Izadyar lined up in the men's S10 100m freestyle final, and the pair came away with gold and silver respectively.

The Iranians faced six rivals from Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Thailand, India and Cambodia, among others.

Zeighaminejad touched first in 56.68, while Izadyar clocked 59.10, a time shared with an Uzbek swimmer, to take second place jointly.

The two medals were the seventh and eighth for the Iranian delegation at the Games. Earlier, Ailar Jami had struck gold in taekwondo, and Elham Salehi had done the same in athletics.

Iran, Greece reaffirm interest in expanding cultural heritage cooperation

TEHRAN – Iran and Greece have reaffirmed their interest in expanding bilateral cooperation in cultural heritage protection, with senior officials discussing joint projects, research initiatives and closer cultural ties between the two countries.

Ali Darabi, Iran's deputy minister for cultural heritage, met with Greek Culture Minister Lina Mendoni on the sidelines of the fourth Council Meeting of the Alliance for Cultural Heritage in Asia (ACHA) in Hangzhou, ILNA reported.

The two officials highlighted the longstanding civilizational and historical ties between Iran and Greece, emphasizing the importance of strengthening cultural exchanges, implementing joint projects and expanding research cooperation in the field of cultural heritage.

Darabi also invited Mendoni to visit Iran, with the aim of following up on discussions and agreements and further strengthening cooperation between the two countries.

The fourth ACHA Council Meeting brought together representatives of member countries to exchange experiences and discuss cooperation in the protection and preservation of cultural heritage. Hangzhou, in China's



Zhejiang Province, hosted the gathering as part of broader efforts to promote international dialogue on heritage conservation.

Iran and Greece are home to two of the world's most influential ancient civilizations, whose enduring legacies have profoundly shaped human history, culture, philosophy, art, archi-

tecture and intellectual development. Iran, heir to successive civilizations and empires, including the Achaemenid, Parthian and Sasanian dynasties, boasts a rich cultural heritage reflected in its historic cities, monumental architecture and longstanding traditions. Greece, widely recognized as the birthplace of Western philosophy and democracy, has made lasting contributions

to literature, science, political thought and the arts. Despite their distinct historical trajectories, the two countries share a deep-rooted civilizational heritage, providing a strong foundation for cultural dialogue, scholarly exchange and cooperation in preserving and promoting humanity's shared historical legacy.

From Page 3 ► **Why do some regional countries, even knowing that American bases on their soil will be targeted if used against Iran, still grant the US this permission?**

The first and most important point is that these countries have realized that the bases that were supposed to help their security have not helped at all — they have actually endangered their security. That is, what has the existence of a base, for example in Kuwait or Bahrain or any of them, done for that country so far? Nothing! That base has not even been able to defend itself. For example, what benefit has the so-called American naval headquarters and its Fifth Fleet stationed in Bahrain brought to Bahrain so far? No benefit at all — it has actually been to their detriment. They themselves have realized that these bases cannot provide their security, and beyond that, they have understood that America also cannot provide their security; even America cannot provide security for its own forces, and they have come to this truth.

But your question is: now that they have reached this conclusion, why do they not cut off their relations and abandon them? Naturally, they have contracts with them and have given commitments to America — perhaps as reciprocal commitments — and maybe in the back of their minds they still have some hopes regarding America that stop them from acting quickly; but they will do it, and they will do it gradually. What was the first step in this regard? The Mecca Pact. This pact was concluded among three countries — Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and Pakistan — without foreign interference; this itself shows that they have become disappointed with pacts with foreign countries like America and have seen that they are of no use to them, and so they have turned to a regional pact.

Such regional pacts, and the possible desire of other countries to join them or even to conclude new pacts, stem from the fact that they have concluded that a foreign country thousands of kilometers away cannot provide their security. So, to answer you specifically: they have concluded that they must gradually separate from America and have these bases removed from their countries; but because of their commitments, their not-so-great hopes regarding America, and the limitations they currently have, they cannot do this quickly — but they will gradually bring it about. If the current generation does not do it — which in my view it certainly will — the next generation will one hundred percent accomplish it.

This is a logical, rational, and experienced process. Based on this understanding, new decisions must certainly be made and we must turn to the regional countries themselves. We too, truly, based on

the guidelines of the martyred Imam and the esteemed Leader of the Islamic Revolution, have always wanted to be friends, allies, and to have exchanges with these countries. We have many commonalities in this region — generational, religious, cultural, historical commonalities, historical exchanges, and in some cases a shared destiny.

Now, for example, suppose this region becomes insecure for Iran — will security be created for those countries? Never! There will be absolutely no security in this region without Iran's security, and it will not come about. No security pact will take shape in this region without creating security for Iran; this is a logical matter, and empirical processes have proven it.

So we once again declare to the regional countries — we have fifteen neighbors, apart from those somewhat farther away — that these countries must themselves come together, resolve minor differences, and provide their own security. We too are ready to conclude joint pacts with every single country in which American bases are located, and to provide security regionally and locally, and we certainly have this capability.

Recently, the IRGC published a detailed letter addressed to the American people. What was the purpose behind publishing this letter?

In the first place, our goal was to enlighten and inform the American people. We feel that the American people are unaware of many realities; and the reason for this unawareness is that their leaders and ruling establishment lie to them and do not tell them the truth. Their media too are heavily controlled and subservient to the ruling establishment and cannot express other truths contrary to their views. We have numerous examples of this; even in the case of this very letter's publication, many [Western] media outlets boycotted and opposed it, and this shows that they do not allow the facts to reach the ears of the American people. So we wanted through this letter to clarify part of the realities and explain that the American people themselves are also oppressed by their ruling establishment.

That is, the actions America takes, the aggressions it commits against various countries, the massacres it carries out, the numerous bases it has around the world, and the enormous costs it spends to run these bases and forces and equipment — all of it is paid from the pockets of the American people; but the benefit does not reach the American people — rather, it goes into the pockets of the ruling establishment and the main capitalists of America. In other words, the American people today are in the service of American capitalists and Zionist thinking, and we are certain that a large portion of the Ameri-

can people are unaware of this reality.

By the way, what war or enmity do the American people have with the people of Iraq, that a million human beings should be killed over a lie? What enmity do the American people really have with the people of Iran — or conversely, what enmity could the people of Iran possibly have with the American people — that from thousands of kilometers away, they should martyr our leaders, commanders, and scientists, threaten our country with disintegration, plunder our underground resources, threaten to occupy our islands, and target our missile capability? We truly consider it unlikely that these are the wishes of the American people. What real enmity can our two nations have with each other? These actions are in fact carried out by the leaders and ruling establishment of America, and because of their many lies and their concealment of realities from their own people. Our primary goal was in fact to enlighten, inform, and raise awareness among the American people.

You became the successor to General Ali-Mohammad Naeini, who was assassinated by the US and Israel during the 40-day war. Did this cause any doubt for you, or any opposition from your family, regarding accepting this responsibility?

For me personally, such doubt has never existed and doesn't exist; because we've concluded in our school, religion, Quranic teachings, and religious knowledge that we must carry out whatever duty is created for us. When this matter was proposed to me and I felt it was my duty, I didn't hesitate at all and I said to myself: right now this is my duty and I must carry it out. If, on the path of carrying out this duty, God Almighty grants us martyrdom, that's a great triumph; meaning I've lost nothing — rather, I've attained eternal felicity.

So, based on that well-known teaching in our religious knowledge — “one of the two best outcomes” (one of two good things, both of which are good) — if I can carry out my duty well at this juncture, I've attained one of those good things, and blessed be I; and if I'm martyred on this path, I've attained the second good thing, and again blessed be I. That is, in both cases I've lost nothing and in both cases I've gained something; carrying out one's duty well is one felicity, and martyrdom on its path is another felicity, and whichever befalls me is one of those two good things.

Truly, for my family too there was no doubt whatsoever; because my family is far more revolutionary, stronger, and more spirited than I am myself, and in fact, in many of these arenas, they've been our encouragers from the very beginning until now. So martyrdom for me is felicity, and if it befalls me I'll be very happy; and I advise the survivors too to be happy and to take pride.

Iran joins two-week biodiversity negotiations at COP17 in Armenia

TEHRAN – Iran is participating in the 17th Conference of the Parties (COP17) to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Armenia with a delegation of experts and academics led by Hamid Zohrabi, deputy head of the Department of Environment.

The two-week negotiations, which began on Sunday, will be held in two stages: technical-level discussions followed by the ministerial segment.

The leaders' summit took place last Friday, featuring an address by President Masoud Pezeshkian. It marked the first time a president of the Islamic Republic of Iran had attended a Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Addressing the summit, Pezeshkian called for "peace diplomacy" to protect biodiversity, condemning the devastating environmental impact of wars of aggression as ecocide and urging the international community to establish effective, transparent and enforceable mechanisms to safeguard natural heritage during wartime.

Pezeshkian described environmental cooperation as a bridge between nations, stressing that biodiversity conservation could serve as an important pillar of "peace diplomacy."

"In a region facing security crises stemming from the illegal and expansionist presence of powers, as well as climate change, water scarcity and ecosystem degradation, environmental cooperation can build bridges between nations," he said.

Such cooperation, he added, can pave the way for peace and security for all, peace with nature, and a future in which human life is aligned and in harmony with the



natural world.

"Today, we stand at a pivotal moment in history when biodiversity is no longer merely a scientific or environmental concern. It is also an issue of peace and security, human health, food and water security, and intergenerational justice for all the inhabitants of our planet," Pezeshkian stressed.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran was among the first countries to recognize the legal and international significance of this issue and become a party to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). However, Iran's relationship with biodiversity goes far beyond its membership in an international convention.

With an ancient tradition of living in harmony with nature and an extraordinary diversity of ecosystems, species and genetic resources, Iran is the custodian of an invaluable and irreplaceable natural wealth. This heritage is the result of millions of years of evolution, natural dynamism and adaptation, and is reflected in the culture, customs, livelihoods, indigenous knowledge and historical identity of the people of this land.

Owing to its exceptional geo-

graphical location, Iran lies at the intersection of several biogeographical regions. From the Hyrcanian and Arasbaran forests to the Zagros Mountains, and from arid and desert landscapes to the coasts of the Persian Gulf, the Sea of Oman and the Caspian Sea, Iran is home to thousands of plant and animal species, as well as valuable genetic resources. These natural assets underpin the country's ecological stability and sustainability, provide a vital foundation for water and food security and human health, strengthen resilience to natural hazards, and serve as a cornerstone of sustainable development.

Shina Ansari, the head of the Department of Environment, also addressed the meeting, saying that environmental diplomacy can become an instrument of peace diplomacy, while the relationship between biodiversity, peace, and security should be viewed as a two-way relationship.

Ansari added the link between biodiversity and peace was not merely an ethical or political issue, but a fundamental concern in environmental governance, international law, and human security.

Under the Convention on Bio-

logical Diversity, she said, the main drivers of biodiversity loss are generally understood to include land-use change, habitat destruction, pollution, unsustainable exploitation of natural resources, and climate change.

COP17 is being held From 19 to 30 October under the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity, alongside the Twelfth meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CP-MOP-12) and the Sixth meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization (NP-MOP-6).

At the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Earth Summit) in Rio de Janeiro, world leaders agreed on a comprehensive strategy for sustainable development aimed at ensuring a healthy and productive planet for future generations. One of the Summit's landmark achievements was the adoption of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

Signed by the vast majority of the world's countries, the Convention establishes commitments to conserve the foundations of the Earth's ecosystems while pursuing economic development. Its objectives are the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources. These objectives are pursued through appropriate access to genetic resources, the transfer of relevant technologies—taking into account all rights over those resources and technologies—and the provision of adequate financial resources, in accordance with the Convention's provisions.

vironments, the ICRC website announced in a press release on August 26.

Approximately 20 IRCS psychologists from across the country participated in the training. The workshop combined theoretical learning, practical exercises and facilitated discussions, covering responder wellbeing and resilience, peer support, identification of psychological distress, referral pathways, supportive interventions and self-care.

"The initiative follows four earlier workshops conducted last year, which trained approximately 160 IRCS first responder personnel", Roman Paramanov, the deputy head of the ICRC delegation in Iran, said in the opening ceremony of the workshop.

The workshop used a two-phase cascade training model to extend psychosocial support across the IRCS Relief and Rescue Organization. In the first phase, participants from provinces received this three-day Training of Trainers (ToT), strengthening their skills in responder wellbeing, self-care, peer support, psychological distress identification and referral.

In the second phase, the trained psychologists work in 10 co-facilitation pairs, delivering mental self-care and psychosocial support workshops to Heads of Relief and Rescue Bases and operational personnel.

Through this cascade approach, the program aims to reach approximately 600 IRCS staff, while ongoing supervision, online follow-up and technical support help ensure consistent application and sustainability.

than 4, and 15 had a magnitude greater than 5 on the Richter scale.

The Iranian plateau is located in a very seismically active region of the world and is known not only for its major catastrophic earthquakes but also for the disasters relating to natural hazards, especially earthquakes.

About 2 percent of the earthquakes in the world occur in Iran, but more than 6 percent of the victims of the world's earthquakes during the 20th century are reported from Iranian earthquakes.

SOCIETY

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Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

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WFP releases September report on Iran

TEHRAN – The World Food Program (WFP) has released a report, expounding on activities in Iran over the month of September.

In September, WFP food assistance reached 35,739 beneficiaries, including Afghan and Iraqi refugees, through a hybrid combination of in-kind food and cash-based transfers (CBT).

Refugees are assisted with a staple food basket, which includes fortified wheat flour (a ration of 9 kg per person, reduced from 12 Kg since the month of November 2025 due to funding shortfalls).

Under CBT modality, WFP continued to provide cash assistance to support the essential living costs of vulnerable refugees. The transfer is IRR 8 million (USD 4.99) for households headed by men and IRR 9 million (USD 5.6) for households headed by women.

By September, WFP Iran helped ease the financial burden associated with the gluten-free dietary needs of 60 refugee celiac patients from WFP's beneficiaries by providing them with an extra cash amount of IRR 9.7 million (USD 6) per person as a replacement for their usual food entitlement.

WFP supported 411 refugees with disabilities across eleven settlements, each receiving an additional monthly cash support of IRR 3 million (USD 1.8), on top of their regular aid. Initially launched in two provinces, the initiative was gradually expanded to cover 11 settlements in Saveh, Semnan, Bani Najar, Sarvestan, Bezileh, Abazar, Rafsanjan, Bard-sir, Jahrom, Meybod, and Torbat-e-jam.

The school feeding program and education incentives remained suspended due to summer holidays, to be resumed with the start of the new academic year.

In September, WFP supported 27 income-generating projects in 18 settlements to improve economic resilience and self-sufficiency for 299 refugees, 38 percent of whom were women, and the remainder were youth. These activities included welding, tailoring, baking, farming, and other trades, providing opportunities for women and youth to develop practical skills, strengthen social connections, and actively engage with their communities.

As part of the response to the recent escalation, WFP started to provide cash transfers affected Iranian households, with the first round completed reaching 340 households, of which 327 were male-headed households.

During September, fourteen rounds of cash transfers were completed for members of the host community affected by the conflict across five provinces: Tehran, Alborz, Sis-

tan-Baluchestan, Bushehr, and Hormozgan.

In total, 24,175 individuals (6,166 households) received WFP assistance during the month.

Verified and eligible households received cash assistance based on household size.

Households with one to three members received IRR 210,000,000; households with four to five members received IRR 350,000,000; and households with six or more members received the maximum transfer amount of IRR 420,000,000.

Operational needs in Iran remain fluid and require regular adjustment and reassessment of funding requirements.

Despite the uncertain response scale – driven both by continued refugee movements and the evolving needs of the host community – available resources remain insufficient to meet the needs of impacted populations under any currently foreseeable scenario.

In 2025, WFP sustained food assistance to some 33,300 vulnerable refugees living in 20 settlements across 13 provinces, including 404 refugees with disabilities (40 percent women) who received monthly cash top-ups. About 183 women and 190 men received WFP livelihood support.

WFP doubled cash transfer values since January 2025, safeguarding access to food amid price volatility and protecting the most vulnerable households.

Assistance remained uninterrupted, with targeted adjustments: wheat flour entitlements reduced from 12 kg to 9 kg (Nov-Dec) and school snacks paused (Oct-Dec) to stretch limited resources.

To promote girls' education and reduce barriers to attendance, approximately 2,629 girl students received cash incentives as part of WFP's commitment to empowering young women. Some 9,261 boys and girls and their teachers benefitted from WFP school snacks.

For more than four decades, the Islamic Republic of Iran has hosted Afghans fleeing conflict and hardship. In 2025, WFP remained essential to protecting the food security of vulnerable refugees residing in 20 settlements, where households rely on shelter, education and primary health care by the Government and other humanitarian actors, complemented by WFP's monthly food assistance (through cash and in-kind modalities).

The program's focus is on maintaining a dignified minimum basic needs while prioritizing those with the highest vulnerability, including households headed by women and persons with disabilities.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Workshop on 'Trauma for First Responders' held in Tehran

TEHRAN – The Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS), in cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), has held the first three-day training workshop on 'Trauma for First Responders' for selected IRCS personnel, with a focus on trauma and pre-hospital care.

The training aims to enhance the emergency response and pre-hospital care capacities of the IRCS personnel, particularly in mass-casualty incidents, to provide timely and effective lifesaving services and ensure the safe evacuation and transfer of injured and sick people, the ICRC website announced in a press release on September 26.

The recent escalation of hostilities has created significant operational challenges for the IRCS Relief and Rescue Organization, one of the key actors at the forefront of emergency response. Its teams are often among the first responders at the scene of mass-casualty incidents and, in high-risk environments, are responsible for evacuating casualties, stabilizing patients and carrying out emergency transfers. This has further highlighted the importance of strengthening technical preparedness through specialized training in mass-casualty management.

The training brought together eight IRCS personnel from the Training, Relief and Rescue, and Emergency Health departments from Tehran and Alborz provinces.

In the opening ceremony, IRCS Under-Secretary-General for Education, Research and

Technology, Dr. Rajaei, said the course aims to improve staff knowledge and skill levels, bring education closer to global standards, and eventually form a specialized team for pre-hospital trauma.

"The planning for the course began last year after the first hostilities." Explained Navid Dadbin, Health Program Manager at the ICRC. "It will be implemented with three 3-day training courses followed by selection of a group of participants to be trained as trainers. A road map for continuation will be drawn up in the end," he added.

The courses include theoretical and practical sessions, group work, scenario-based exercises covering different types of incidents, and simulation exercises.

The workshop is part of a broader capacity-building cooperation between the ICRC and IRCS, aimed at strengthening the capacities of IRCS operational personnel.

TOT workshop on psychological support for specialist teams

In August, the IRCS and the ICRC organized a Training of Trainers (TOT) workshop on 'Delivering Psychosocial Support for the Specialist Teams of the Iranian Red Crescent Society.'

The three-day workshop, held from August 24 to 26 in Tehran, aimed at strengthening mental health and psychosocial support for IRCS emergency responders.

It responded to the psychological pressures faced by Relief and Rescue personnel working in conflict, crisis and other high-pressure en-

magnitude of 4.2 on the Richter scale which occurred on October 16 in Kerman province.

Among the provinces of the country, Kerman experienced the highest number of earthquakes with 15, followed by Yazd with 11, Khorasan Razavi and Semnan each with 9, and Qom with 8 earthquakes.

During the same period, one earthquake hit Tehran. No earthquakes were recorded in Ardabil, Alborz, Khuzestan, Zanjan, Sistan-Baluchestan, Qom, Qazvin,

Gilan, Markazi, and Hamedan provinces.

A total of 2,380 earthquakes with a magnitude of more than 2.5 on the Richter scale were recorded across the country over the past calendar year (March 2025–March 2026), according to the Seismological networks of the Institute of Geophysics of the University of Tehran, Mehr news agency reported.

Out of recorded earthquakes, 910 had a magnitude greater than 3, 130 had a magnitude greater



WHO representative honors dedicated female health worker

WHO Representative and Head of Mission to Iran Dr Jean Jabbour presented a memorial trophy on Sunday to an inspiring female health worker at Zahra Mardani Azari Children's Hospital in the city of Tabriz to honor her incredible dedication and hard work.

He also inaugurated a workshop at Tabriz University of Medical Sciences focused on integrating Essential Public Health Functions (EPHFs) into hospital care.



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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Generosity is that you contribute willingly from your own wealth, and restrain yourself from other people's wealth.
Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:11:49 Evening: 17:42 Dawn: 4:51 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:15 (tomorrow)

“Art Spectrums” Exhibition Opens at Mahmoud Darwish Museum in Ramallah



The “Art Spectrums” exhibition opened on Sunday at the Mahmoud Darwish Museum in Ramallah, under the patronage of Minister of Culture Imad Hamdan.

The exhibition is held in collaboration with the Mahmoud Darwish Foundation, the Spirit of Art Center in Ramallah, the Portrait Center in Kafr Qasim, and Hanan Milad Art in Nazareth. It features students and artists from the participating institutions, Yaffa News Network reported.

Hamdan said the collaboration embodies the unity of the Palestinian people despite the distances separating them. He expressed his pride in the participation of three art institutions from the 1948 territories and the

West Bank in a single exhibition.

He stressed the role of art in strengthening communication and cooperation among Palestinian art institutions and creating shared spaces for creativity, dialogue, and visual expression. He also thanked the Mahmoud Darwish Foundation for hosting and continuously supporting distinctive cultural activities, including art exhibitions.

The exhibition features artworks by participants from different age groups, including children and young people, reflecting the diversity of artistic experiences and talents while providing younger generations with an opportunity to express their perspectives and creativity through art.

Cartoon of Day



Students in France

Cartoonist: Osval from Cuba

Palestinian photographer's works to be displayed in Tehran

TEHRAN – The photography exhibition “What Was Unseen!” featuring works by Palestinian photographer Mahmoud Abu Hamda will be launched at the Palestine Museum of Contemporary Art in Tehran on Wednesday.

Organized by the Iranian Photographers' House, the exhibition will put on show a collection of photographs, which was exhibited in Baghdad last October, ILNA reported.

The works in this exhibition depict moments from the daily lives of children and women in the Palestinian territories; subjects whose lived experiences in the midst of war possess dimensions that go far beyond the conventional representations found in news and media.

In this collection, Abu Hamda employs a social approach to document the consequences and impacts of war, striving to capture the hidden human layers in Gaza from amidst the overwhelming imagery of bombings and destruction.

the exhibit showcases the artist's work created during the Gaza genocide, a time of great hardship and suffering for the people of Gaza, who have endured a brutal Israeli aggression.

This exhibition is one of the few dedicated showcases by a Gaza-based photographer that provides a vivid and authentic image of the heart of Gaza during the Al-Aqsa storm. Its unique and documentary nature makes it rare worldwide.

Abu Hamda's photos, with an artistic blend of technique, light, and emotion, offer an unmediated portrayal of the human impact of the crisis in Gaza. Regarding his work, he says: “My work in photography goes beyond cap-



turing images; it is a journey to discover the secret of the hidden soul in every corner, an effort to embrace the beauty that beats in this land.”

Through his powerful photographs, Abu Hamda sheds light on the human cost of conflict and the resilience of the Palestinian people. The exhibit is a testament to the enduring spirit of resistance and hope in the face of adversity.

Mahmoud Abu Hamda is a professional photographer, documentary filmmaker, and former university lecturer in photography from Gaza, Palestine. Since 2008, he has dedicated his work to capturing the spirit of Gaza from its natural beauty, vibrant streets, and daily life before the war, to the immense destruction and human struggles of recent

years.

His photography spans landscapes, cityscapes, food, and human stories, with a strong focus on resilience and memory.

His work has been featured in international exhibitions and publications, carrying Gaza's story to the world through powerful and emotional visuals.

Earlier this month, Abu Hamda won the photography category in the prestigious Bayeux award for war correspondents for his work from Gaza.

It has been three years since Israel launched its genocide in Gaza, beginning on October 7, 2023, in response to attacks by Palestinian fighters. Over this period, at least 74,000 Palestinians have been killed, including more than 20,000 children, with thousands still trapped under

ruhle.

Israeli strikes have targeted hospitals and aid workers, violating international laws that protect medical facilities.

The blockade and military restrictions have also caused a severe famine. The UN officially recognized Gaza's famine in August 2023, the first in the Middle East in recent history, with conditions expected to worsen.

Malnutrition among children has soared, with thousands suffering from severe acute malnutrition, and many infants born prematurely or underweight. The ongoing violence and blockade have created a humanitarian catastrophe for Gaza's population.

The “What Was Unseen!” exhibition will run until November 5 at the Palestine Museum of Contemporary Art in Tehran.

Amy Griffin's “The Tell” comes to Iranian bookstores

TEHRAN- A Persian translation of American writer Amy Griffin's memoir “The Tell” has been published by Milkan Publications in Tehran, with Naghmeh Hadadian translating the book into Persian.

The memoir explores the lasting effects of childhood trauma, the complexities of memory and the possibility of healing through confronting painful experiences and sharing long-hidden truths.

Originally published in 2025, “The Tell” became a New York Times bestseller and was selected for Oprah's Book Club. The book recounts Griffin's personal journey toward understanding a deeply buried part of her past and examines the emotional consequences of keeping traumatic experiences hidden, even from oneself.

Griffin's life appeared successful from the outside. She grew up in Amarillo, Texas, stud-

ied at the University of Virginia as a student athlete, and later built a career in New York. She also established a family and became a successful businesswoman. Yet beneath this seemingly settled life, she was struggling with an unresolved past that she had not fully acknowledged.

A turning point came when her daughter questioned her emotional absence, asking where she was despite being physically present. The encounter prompted Griffin to begin investigating the mystery surrounding her own memories, setting her on a journey that would challenge her understanding of herself and her personal history.

Her search takes her into the field of psychodetic-assisted therapy and the limitations of the judicial system before bringing her back to the Texas Panhandle, where her story began. Through these experiences, Griffin considers how people respond to

overwhelming events and how the desire to maintain control and an appearance of perfection can prevent them from confronting their vulnerabilities.

Beyond recounting her personal experiences, the memoir examines broader questions about women's lives, including the pursuit of external validation and the pressure to meet social expectations. Griffin reflects on how these pressures shape identity and asks what freedom might become possible when people accept their experiences rather than continue to conceal them.

The book also emphasizes the importance of speaking openly about trauma, suggesting that sharing personal stories can help survivors move beyond shame and develop deeper connections with others. Its central theme is the possibility of reclaiming one's life by acknowledging painful truths rather than allowing them to remain unspoken.

Tehran theater to host reading performance of “All My Sons”

TEHRAN- A reading performance of American writer Arthur Miller's 1946 popular play “All My Sons” will be staged at the Neauphle-le-Chateau Theater in Tehran on October 31.

Negar Hosseini will direct the reading performance based on a Persian translation of the play by Hassan Maleki.

David Hashemi, Roya Rezaei Mehdi Seyyedi, Nazanin Kouhestani, Sareh Asghari and Hadi Heshmati will perform the reading.

Miller wrote “All My Sons” after his first Broadway play, “The Man Who Had All the Luck”, closed after only four performances in 1944. Determined to prove himself as a successful playwright, Miller regarded his next work as a final attempt to establish his career, vowing to find another profession if it failed to attract an audience.

The play, which premiered at Broadway's Coronet Theater on January 29, 1947, was inspired by a real industrial scandal report-

ed in an Ohio newspaper. Miller's then mother-in-law drew his attention to an account of the Wright Aeronautical Corporation, which had knowingly supplied defective aircraft engines to the US military between 1941 and 1943. The incident provided the basis for Miller's exploration of corporate greed, moral responsibility and the human cost of prioritizing profit over lives.

Set in the aftermath of World War II, “All My Sons” centers on Joe Keller, a prosperous businessman who runs a machine shop with his family's future in mind. During the war, his company supplied defective aircraft parts, resulting in the deaths of 21 military pilots. Although his business partner, Steve Deever, was imprisoned for the crime, Keller was acquitted and subsequently rebuilt his business, accumulating considerable wealth.

Years later, Keller's carefully maintained life begins to unravel when his surviving son, Chris, announces his intention to mar-

ry Ann Deever, Steve's daughter. Ann was previously engaged to Chris's brother, Larry, who disappeared while serving in the war and is presumed dead. Chris and Ann's relationship brings the unresolved past back into the Keller household, particularly because Keller's wife, Kate, refuses to accept that Larry will never return.

The situation becomes more complicated when Ann's brother, George, returns from the war after visiting their imprisoned father. Discovering that Keller has remained free while Steve bears the consequences of their business dealings, George challenges the version of events that the Keller family has long accepted. His arrival threatens Chris and Ann's plans and forces the family to confront the truth about the defective parts.

As tensions rise, Chris struggles to reconcile his admiration for his father with the possibility that Keller knowingly sacrificed the lives of other men's sons to protect his business. The reve-

lation of Larry's final response to his father's actions brings the conflict to its devastating conclusion, exposing the consequences of Keller's moral failure for his own family.

The play received the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award for Best Play in 1947, establishing Miller as a major voice in American theater. It also won the Tony Award for Best Author.

“All My Sons” introduced themes that would remain central to Miller's work, including the conflict between personal loyalty and social responsibility, the relationship between fathers and sons, and the ethical consequences of pursuing wealth at the expense of others. Through Keller's downfall, Miller challenges the belief that success and family devotion can excuse wrongdoing, presenting a powerful tragedy about individual guilt and the wider obligations people have to society.