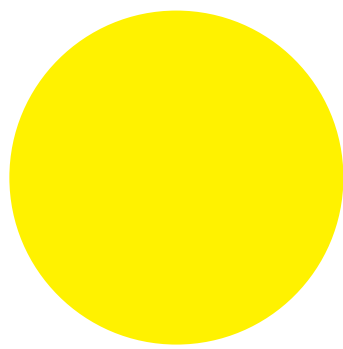


Iran-US talks
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Araghchi

2 >



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Gates of hell on Israel

Armed Forces to render 'despicable' Zionist regime helpless: *Leader*

An explosion is seen during Iran's retaliatory attack on Tel Aviv, Israel, late on June 13, 2025.
● AP



Envoy lauds
'remarkable'
68% growth in
Tehran-Doha trade

3 >



Transformation in
Iran's agriculture via
nuclear technology

OPINION

4 >



Climate change sounds
alarm for Iran's food
security

PERSPECTIVE

5 >

Iran's cultural community rebukes Israeli strikes, urges national unity

8 >



Volleyball Nations League:
Iran edged out by Slovenia,
remains winless in Week 1



6 >

Nomadic heritage of Iran



7 >

Armed Forces to render 'despicable' Zionist regime helpless: *Leader*

International Desk

Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said the Iranian Armed Forces will act strongly and render the despicable Israeli regime helpless.

The Leader made the assertion in a message to the Iranian nation on Friday following Israel's several acts of aggression against the country that killed civilians, scientists, and military commanders. Ayatollah Khamenei added that the Israeli regime will not escape unscathed from this crime and assured the Iranian nation that there will be no negligence in this regard.

The Leader stated that the Iranian people will not let the blood of their martyrs and the aggression against the skies of the country go in vain.

Ayatollah Khamenei noted that all Iranian officials, various political factions, and people from all walks of life have a common view regarding the necessity of carrying out a powerful measure in the face of the evil and terrorist Zionist regime. There will be no compromise in the face of the Israeli regime, the Leader added. Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian also called the Zionist regime's attack on Iran a brutal action that reveals the regime's criminal nature, promising a strong response that will make the enemy regret its move.

He said Friday that Iran will respond to the Israeli aggression in a wise, strong, and resolute manner, and called on the Iranian people to maintain unity in the face of psychological warfare by the enemy.

"This barbaric act, which is in complete violation of all international commitments, reveals the criminal nature of the Zionist regime whose existence is founded on occupation, aggression, and killing children," President Pezeshkian added.

Israel's unprovoked, illegal assault

In the early hours of Friday, Israel launched deadly aggression on various civilian areas and residential neighborhoods in the capital Tehran, and some other major cities.

The barbaric onslaught claimed dozens of innocent lives, including a number of the Islamic Republic's top military officials and commanders.

Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Hossein Baqeri, Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Major General Hossein Salami, Commander of Iran's Khatam al-Anbia Central Headquarters Major General Gholam Ali Rashid, Commander of the IRGC Aerospace Force Major General Amir Ali Hajizadeh, and at least six Iranian nuclear scientists were martyred in the regime's onslaught in the early hours of Friday.



Smoke arises from a fire erupted after an Israeli attack on Phase 14 of Iran's South Pars Gas Field in southern Iran on June 14, 2025.
● SHARGH

Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution quickly appointed successors to the military commanders assassinated in Israel's terrorist strikes early Friday.

Ayatollah Khamenei appointed Seyyed Abdolrahim Mousavi as the Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces, Mohammad Pakpour as commander of the IRGC, Ali Shademani as the commander of Iran's Khatam al-Anbia Central Headquarters, and Majid Mousavi as the new chief of the elite Iranian force.

Iran's crushing response

A senior Iranian military official said at least 150 targets were struck during the retaliatory operation against the Israeli regime, including several critically strategic military bases.

Brigadier General Ahmad Vahidi, a senior advisor to the chief commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), said early on Saturday the Operation True Promise III was successfully implemented by the IRGC aerospace division.

The operation involved the aerospace division firing a wave of missiles and deploying armed drones against "strategic" Israeli targets.

The official enumerated some of the targets as the Nevatim Airbase and the Ovda Airbase, located respectively in the north-central and extreme southern areas of the occupied territories.

"These bases housed command and control as well as electronic warfare centers,

and were among the places from which the aggression against Iran had been launched," he noted.

Israeli media, citing regime officials, also reported "unprecedented destruction" in Tel Aviv following Iran's successful retaliatory military operation.

Dozens of illegal settlers were injured after a barrage of Iranian missiles pounded the largest and most densely populated urban area in the occupied Palestinian territories.

Keeping the exact number of casualties in the dark, Israeli media have so far confirmed at least four people dead and 70 others injured.

Officials were quoted as saying that they had "never seen anything" like that before.

The IRGC rejected the Zionist regime's claims of intercepting the incoming fire, asserting that, "The enemy failed to counter the waves of missile strikes launched by the Islamic Republic."

Meanwhile, on the defense front, Iran has earned the distinction of being the first country in the world to successfully shoot down fifth-generation fighter jets by targeting at least two stealth F-35 fighters belonging to the Zionist regime by late Saturday.

Israel acquired these jets primarily from the United States, with the F-35 Lightning II being produced by Lockheed Martin, an American aerospace manufacturer. Israel is one of the few entities authorized by the US to operate

this cutting-edge fifth-generation stealth fighter, which is designed to evade radar detection.

World dividing into two fronts

Rapidly after the illegal, barbaric attacks of Israel on Iran began, so did a wave of responses from various countries, international organizations, and figures worldwide. Some expressed support for the Iranian nation, while others shamelessly took the side of the aggressor and asked Iran for restraint.

China's UN ambassador Fu Cong condemned the Israeli regime's violation of Iran's sovereignty, security, and territorial integrity, urging Tel Aviv to put an immediate halt to its illegal aggression against Iran.

Russian spokesperson Dmitry Peskov told state news agencies that the Israeli strikes were "unprovoked". "Russia is concerned and condemns the sharp escalation of tensions," he said.

Also, during a UN Security Council meeting on the situation in West Asia on Friday, Fu said, "China... is deeply concerned about the consequences that may be brought about by Israel's actions."

Pakistani Defense Minister Khwaja Asif has pledged full support for Iran at international forums and called on the Muslim world to unite against Israel amid its aggression against the Islamic Republic. The Palestinian resistance movement Hamas said the Zionist project "poses an existential threat to the entire region

— not just Palestine — targeting all who refuse submission".

The secretary-general of Lebanon's Hezbollah resistance movement asserted that Iran would "emerge stronger, and Israel will come to regret its brutality and recklessness".

In solidarity with the Iranian people, protestors took over Times Square in New York City, as well as outside the Israeli embassy in London, to condemn the atrocious US-Israeli aggression on the Islamic Republic.

UN Chief Antonio Guterres also called for "maximum restraint" from both sides to avoid "descent into deeper conflict, a situation that the region can hardly afford", his spokesperson said.

Widespread grassroots protests against Israel have also erupted in Pakistan, Yemen, and Iran, among others.

Meanwhile, the US President Donald Trump confirmed in remarks to Reuters that he and his team knew the attacks were coming. "We knew everything," Donald Trump said. On Saturday, he took to X (formerly, Twitter) to openly threaten Iran and the Iranian nation.

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz expressed strong support for Israel's "right to protect its existence and the security of its citizens," a sentiment echoed by French President Emmanuel Macron, which has drawn criticism from some analysts who argue that Europe's support for Israel may undermine its credibility as a neutral mediator.

Iran-US talks 'unjustifiable' amid Israel's savagery: *Araghchi*

International Desk

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said the continuation of indirect talks between Iran and the United States amid Israel's savagery is "unjustifiable".

Araghchi made the remarks in a phone conversation with the European Union foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas on Saturday, a day after the Israeli regime launched deadly aggression on various civilian and military areas and residential neighborhoods in the capital, Tehran, and other major cities.

Omani Foreign Minister Badr al-Busaidi late Saturday announced on X (formerly, Twitter) that Sunday's indirect talks between Tehran and Washington has officially been canceled. Since April, Tehran and Washington



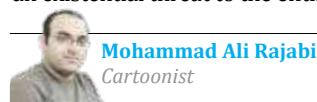
Abbas Araghchi

have held five rounds of indirect negotiations, mediated by Oman, over Iran's nuclear program amid repeated shifts in US stances.

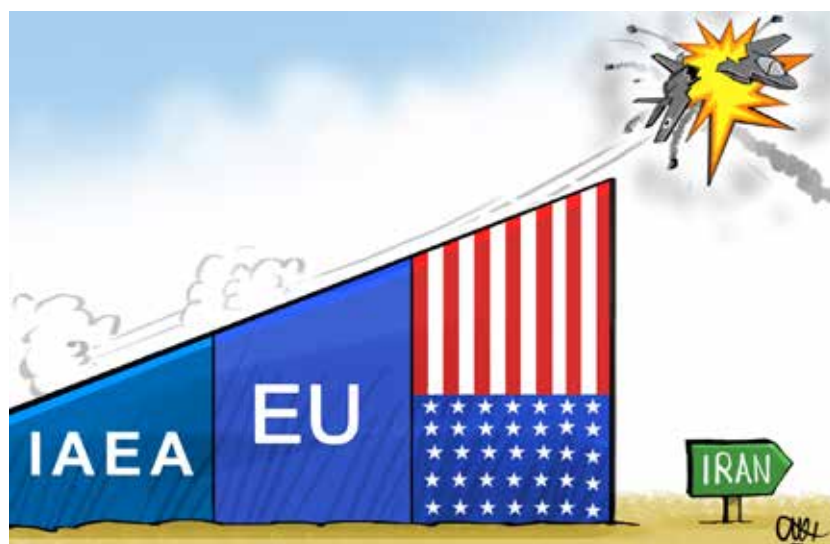
Araghchi said on Saturday that messages and statements by the US president proved that Israel's hostile measures against Iran were the result of Washington's direct support for the regime. He said the international community should show a decisive reaction in condemnation of Israel's aggression.

The Iranian foreign minister also criticized a resolution adopted by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Board of Governors, drafted by the US and the European troika, against the Islamic Republic's peaceful nuclear energy program, describing it as an excuse that prepared the ground for the Israeli regime's hostile action.

Kallas, for her part, expressed the EU's readiness to support diplomatic efforts in the Security Council and other international bodies to help ease tensions and restore peace and security to the region — a sentiment that had already been contradicted by individual statements of several of its member states. Iran's Foreign Ministry's spokesman Esmail Baqaei said Saturday that the focus of Tehran is currently on confronting the Israeli enemy's assault.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Envoy lauds ‘remarkable’ 68% growth in Tehran-Doha trade

Economy Desk

Iran's commercial attaché in Qatar, citing the latest customs statistics, announced a 68% growth in the volume of trade exchanges between the two countries during the first two months of the Iranian calendar year 1404 (began on March 20, 2025), compared to the same period last year. Referring to the volume of Iran-Qatar trade exchanges in the first two months of the year, Abbas Abdolkhani said, "The trade between the two countries has reached the threshold of \$64 million; this figure has been recorded while the value of trade exchanges between the two countries was \$38 million in the same period last year," as reported by IRNA.

He stopped short of explicitly referring to the volume of the trade exchanges, however, he described the 68% growth as a "significant

development, which is a positive indicator of the expanding potential of Iran-Qatar economic relations." "If purposeful interactions continue and existing structural obstacles are removed, this trend can continue in the coming months," he added. Abdolkhani underlined that, "This remarkable growth reflects the dynamism and upward trajectory of trade interactions between Iran and Qatar." The commercial attaché of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Qatar, elaborating on the details of Iran's exports to Qatar, stated, "During this period, Iran's export items included foodstuffs, agricultural products, construction materials, and minerals. Additionally, industrial powdered milk has been added to Iran's export basket to Qatar for the first time, which, considering the market needs of that country and the high quality

of domestic production, can play a significant role for our country." Abdolkhani emphasized the importance of diversifying the composition of export goods, stating, "The effort to offer a wider variety of products is considered a strength of Iran's export performance during this period." Regarding imports, the commercial attaché said, "Iran's imports from Qatar during this period have mainly included goods re-imported from other countries, which entered Iran as intermediate goods. This trend indicates that Qatar is gradually playing a more important role in the supply chain of goods needed by our country." He concluded by emphasizing, "Technical and legal consultations with relevant Qatari institutions aimed at developing and strengthening trade and logistical infrastructure remain on the agenda of officials. On the other hand, positive developments are emerging in



the interactions between the private sectors of the two countries and in facilitating trade processes, which provide new opportunities for Iranian economic actors. Sustaining this trend will require the targeted encouragement and support of the private sectors of both Iran and Qatar."

INSO voices readiness for drafting AI guidelines

Economy Desk

The head of the Iran National Standards Organization (INSO) announced the organization's readiness to commence the drafting of standards in the field of Artificial Intelligence and to strengthen knowledge-based companies. Farzaneh Ansari, in a meeting with the head and presiding board of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture emphasized strengthening collaboration and creating synergy between the INSO and the chamber, stating, "The ultimate and primary goal at the INSO is that goods reaching the people possess the best and highest quality." The meeting aimed at expanding cooperation and assisting the prosperity of production and the country's economy. Referring to memoranda of understanding the organization has signed with other executive bodies concerning facilitation and the removal of redundant work, she added, "Moving towards alignment with the standards of other countries and international institutions is among the most important ongoing programs." The secretary of the supreme standards council, towards strengthening mutual cooperation, announced this organization's readiness to engage in drafting standards in the field of artificial intelligence and strengthening knowledge-based companies. "Utilization of the private sector's capacity is conducted within the framework of the law so that the country can benefit from the private sector's capacity in this field."

Meanwhile, Samad Hassanzadeh, head of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture described in the meeting the task of the INSO as critical and effective in assisting the economic prosperity of the country. Appreciating the efforts of the standards organization in helping to streamline and facilitate exports and the supply of essential goods needed by the country through imports, Samadzadeh declared the chamber of commerce's full readiness for cooperation with the INSO. Subsequently in the meeting, challenges and problems of the country's industry and commerce sector were raised by representatives of the Iran Chamber, including, the removal of redundant work between the standards organization and other supervisory and executive bodies; assistance to the private sector in the field of conformity assessment to reduce the costs of sending samples to other countries; the necessity of drafting guidelines and standards related to emerging technologies; and establishing a connection to the International Accreditation Forum (IAF). The deputies of the organization then provided solutions and responses according to the relevance to their respective areas of responsibility. At the conclusion, the INSO head approved the proposals by representatives of the Iran Chamber of Commerce for the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the INSO and the Chamber as well as the holding of workshops by standards experts for economic activists.

Chamber says economic stakeholders back proposed economy minister's reforms

Economy Desk

The head of the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture said economic stakeholders support the proposed economy minister's programs for structural reforms of the economy and exchange rate policies. Mahmoud Najafi Arab, in an interview with IRNA referring to a recent meeting of Tehran Chamber members with Ali Madanizadeh, the Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance-designate, stated, "Madanizadeh presented his proposed programs, which he has submitted to Parliament, and the Chamber members declared their agreement." Noting that the private sector had also presented its own proposals to Madanizadeh for improving the country's economic conditions, he added, "The government's proposed minister has significant educational and professional backgrounds and is a suitable candidate to lead the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance." "The Ministry of Economy requires an expert in the economic field so that we may witness improvement in the country's economy," Najafi Arab emphasized. The head of the Tehran Chamber of Commerce referred to Madanizadeh's programs regarding exchange rate policies, saying, "In recent

years, the private sector has emphasized unifying the exchange rate because this eliminates rents; moreover, a single exchange rate can revitalize businesses." Enumerating the structural problems of the Iranian economy he described the command economy as the country's main problem, adding, "The command economy must be eliminated, the market must follow supply and demand, and at the same time, vulnerable groups must be supported by the government." Najafi Arab, pointing out that the private sector seeks transparency in the economy, stated, "The private sector witnesses impromptu and overnight directives and a multiplicity of laws; if obstacles are removed from the base of production, structural economic reform will occur in the country." He expressed hope that if Madanizadeh gains the parliament's vote and can implement the presented programs, the country will witness improved economic conditions, adding, "However, sometimes numerous problems arise in implementing programs; therefore, Madanizadeh must remain committed to operationalizing the programs." Ali Madanizadeh was introduced to the Iranian Parliament by the government as the proposed Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance on June 1.



The letter of introduction was acknowledged as received during the open session on June 8, and his confidence vote session is scheduled for June 16. Born in 1982, Madanizadeh, is an economist and Associate Professor of Economics at Sharif University of Technology. He currently heads the Faculty of Management and Economics at the prestigious university. The winner of the global bronze medal in mathematics is among the young economists and experts in theoretical and academic fields. He is recognized as one of the country's scientific elites as in the year 2000, he won the bronze medal at the International Mathematical Olympiad, and in 2002, he achieved third place in the International Mathematics Competition for University Students. On March 2, 2025, former Economy minister Abdolnasser Hemmati was impeached in Parliament. Rahmatollah Akrami was subsequently appointed as acting minister.

Iran-Israel escalation drives up oil prices; US stocks tumble



Economy Desk

Oil prices leaped, and stocks slumped Friday on worries that escalating violence following Israel's attack on Iranian targets could damage the flow of crude around the world, along with the global

economy, AP reported. The S&P 500 sank 1.1% and wiped out what had been a modest gain for the week. The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 769 points, or 1.8%, and the Nasdaq composite lost 1.3%, AP reported. The strongest action was in the oil

market, where the price of a barrel of benchmark US crude jumped 7.3% to \$72.98. Oil prices continue to rise, with West Texas Intermediate (WTI) up 7.50% to \$73.18 per barrel and Brent crude at \$74.56 per barrel, fueled by escalating concerns over a potential Israel-Iran conflict. Analysts warn that Brent could surpass \$90 or even hit \$100 per barrel in extreme scenarios, Wall Street Pit reported. Iran, a member of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), currently produces around 3.3 million barrels per day (bpd), and exports over 2 million bpd of oil and fuel. Spare capacity among OPEC and its allies, including Russia, to pump more oil to offset any disruption is roughly equivalent to Iran's output, accord-

ing to analysts and OPEC watchers, Reuters wrote. Goldman Sachs (GS) estimates a potential 1.75 million barrels per day reduction in Iranian oil supply for six months, partially offset by OPEC+, while a Strait of Hormuz closure could spike prices by 35%, though such an outcome is considered unlikely. Sustained high prices risk demand destruction and inflation, with JP-Morgan (JPM) favoring a \$60 – \$65 range for stability, as consumer affordability could limit prolonged price surges, according to YF reporting. AP wrote that Iran is one of the world's major producers of oil, though such sanctions by Western countries have limited its sales. If a wider war erupts, it could slow the flow of Iran's oil to its custom-

ers and keep the price of crude and gasoline higher for everyone worldwide. Beyond the oil coming from Iran, analysts also pointed to the potential for disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz, a relatively narrow waterway off Iran's coast. Much of the world's oil that's been pulled from the ground moves through it on ships. "Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq and Iran are wholly locked into one tiny passage for exports," said Rabobank in a note, regarding the strait. About a fifth of the world's total oil consumption passes through the strait, or some 18 to 19 million barrels per day (bpd) of oil, condensate and fuel. Past attacks involving Iran and Israel have seen prices for oil spike initially, only to fall later "once it

became clear that the situation was not escalating and there was no impact on oil supply," according to Richard Joswick, head of near-term oil at S&P Global Commodity Insights. That has Wall Street waiting to see what will come next. US stock prices dropped to their lowest points for the day after Iran launched ballistic missiles toward Israel. For now, the price of oil has jumped, but it's still lower than it was earlier this year. "This is an economic shock that nobody really needs, but it is one that seems more like a shock to sentiment than to the fundamentals of the economy," said Brian Jacobsen, chief economist at Annex Wealth Management. That in turn sent US stocks to a loss that was notable in size but outside their top 15 for the year so far.

Transformation in Iran's agriculture via nuclear technology



By Ebrahim Moghiseh
Head of Nuclear Agriculture
Research Institute

OPINION

Nuclear technology can be seen as an effective solution for addressing the challenges facing Iran's agriculture. The sector is facing a perfect storm. Drought, dwindling water supplies, poor irrigation efficiency, soil degradation, salinity, and contamination are all threatening the nation's ability to feed itself. Pests and diseases ravage orchards and fields. Livestock, poultry, and fish farms battle persistent outbreaks and low productivity. Farmers across the country are working hard, but their efforts often fall short. And behind all of this looms the larger concern: the safety and security of the nation's food supply, a key marker of any country's stability and development. Given the increasing global and domestic demand for food, along with the mounting effects of climate change and recent droughts, there is no alternative but to move toward modern research-based and applied methods. Nuclear technology is one of the emerging tools that can offer practical support in this field. Since the 1960s, shared experience and consensus between the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) have led to the establishment of a division within the IAEA dedicated to nuclear agriculture. Activities related to nuclear technology in agriculture generally fall into four main categories: plant breeding and the development of new crop varieties; pest and disease control and food preservation; soil, water, plant nutrition, and the environment; and finally, animal, poultry, and aquaculture health. In the area of plant breeding, the work is based on the use of radiation — such as gamma rays, electrons, or

plasma — to generate new plant traits or enhance crop productivity. This approach is widely used internationally and is considered an alternative to genetically modified crops. The institute has achieved significant results in this field.

Among these outcomes is the development of four cotton varieties, in collaboration with Iranian cotton researchers. Two of these varieties, "Fakhr" and "Jahesh," were developed through radiation. These varieties were released last year and have been added to the national cotton seed portfolio. "Fakhr" and "Jahesh" have shown twice the yield compared to previous varieties, are tolerant to heat and drought, and mature earlier. Four rice varieties have also been developed, including "Kian" and "Hasti," which have been named and introduced in collaboration with the Iranian Rice Research Institute. These varieties are now part of the institute's seed portfolio and are under cultivation in various regions of Mazandaran and Gilan provinces. "Kian" and "Hasti" have demonstrated triple the yield, require 1,000 cubic meters less water per hectare, and are early-maturing — features especially beneficial under drought conditions. Both varieties have been registered on the IAEA website. Additional varieties have been developed for crops such as tangerines, millet, canola, and soybeans. Research is also ongoing in wheat, quinoa, and sesame. In the area of pest and disease control, two radiation methods are used: direct and indirect. Direct irradiation is carried out at irradiation facilities in several regions of the country, including Tehran, Bonab, Yazd, and Shahr-e Kord. This technique is used to reduce storage pests in crops such as grains and legumes and to extend shelf

life, with the goal of reducing post-harvest and consumer-level losses by 30% to 40%.

Indirect irradiation, through sterile insect techniques, is used to control pests such as the Mediterranean fruit fly, pomegranate stem borer, and olive fly. This method is widely accepted around the world and helps reduce the use of chemical pesticides.

In the area of plant disease management — especially soil-borne diseases, which are usually controlled with imported chemical fungicides — the research institute has succeeded in producing biocontrol agents.

In soil, water, and plant nutrition, nuclear technology contributes to improving the efficiency of chemical fertilizer use. For example, using isotopic tracers such as Nitrogen-15, it is possible to determine and recommend the precise

amount of nitrogen required on the farm. This results in increased crop yield and reduced greenhouse gas emissions. The production of biofertilizers and organic fertilizers is also part of this area of research.

The scientific methods used in nuclear agriculture meet international standards. Irradiation of products is carried out according to set guidelines, and if the energy level exceeds the recommended limit, product quality will be compromised. Therefore, precise energy levels are applied to eliminate storage pests or to prevent sprouting in crops like potatoes, onions, and garlic. The Nuclear Agriculture Research Institute works closely with reputable research centers, including the Agricultural Research Education and Extension Organization, the Seed and Plant Certification and Registration Institute, specialized centers for cotton, rice, and pistachios, the Plant Protection Organization, plant pathology institutes, and

the Razi Institute. These collaborations have led to the development and registration of new crop varieties, which are now available to farmers.

Nuclear technologies offer innovative solutions to the key challenges in Iranian agriculture. As farmers witness the positive performance of radiation-bred crops, they will naturally become promoters of the technology.

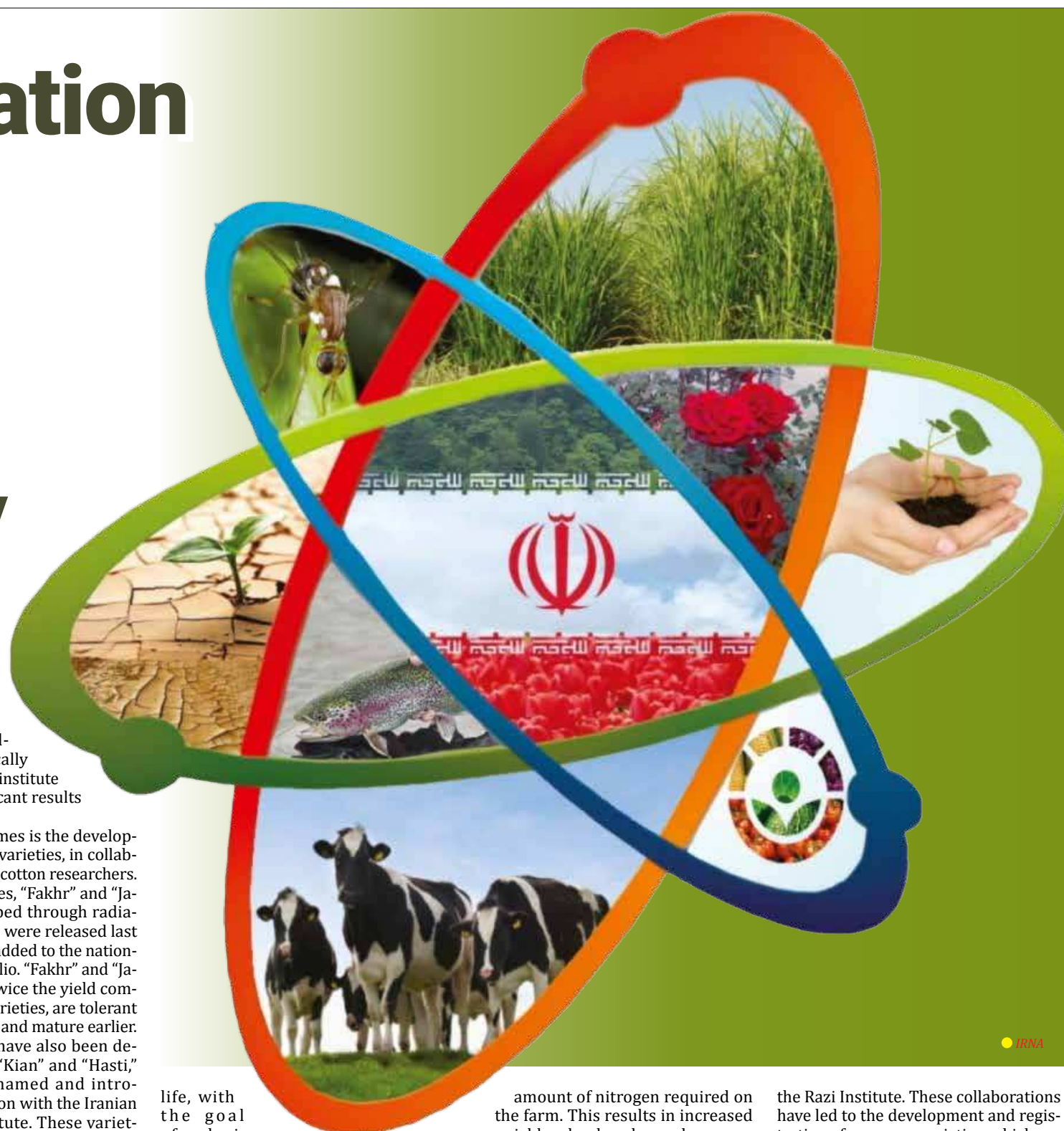
One of the institute's main goals is to reduce dependency on imported pesticides and hybrid seeds. Methods based on nuclear technology, alongside other integrated approaches, can be presented to farmers as viable, long-term solutions.

The article first appeared in Persian on IRIB news agency.



The domestically-produced X-ray machine IRAD-BR-XR-01, used for conducting research in the field of nuclear agriculture, is unveiled in Iran on June 7, 2023.

● ISNA



● SEYED MOSLEH PIRKHEZRANIAN/IRNA



Climate change sounds alarm for Iran's food security

PERSPECTIVE

The climate change crisis is threatening not only agriculture and natural resources but also the very heart of Iran's food security. If climate change and water resources continue to go unmanaged, the country could face a sharp drop-off in agricultural output in the not-so-distant future.

Over the past 50 years, climate change — or what many call the Earth's changing appetite — has brought a host of serious challenges including rising global temperatures driven by greenhouse gas emissions, dwindling rainfall, back-to-back droughts, sudden floods, disruptions to plant and animal ecosystems, shrinking water resources, increased evaporation, soil erosion by wind and water, the emergence of crisis zones, widespread dust storms, land subsidence, growing pest and disease outbreaks, and the steady conversion of farmlands to other uses. All of these have sped up the desertification process across the country.

While some aspects of climate change stem from natural causes, human activity has increasingly tipped the scales in recent decades. Today, climate change is a global phenomenon — one that brings noticeable shifts in weather patterns over long periods — and has hit hard in most countries, especially in the Middle East, where the fallout is particularly severe. Interestingly, in some parts of the world, such as northern Canada and Russia, melting ice has worked in their favor, opening vast areas for agriculture. But in countries like Iran, where desertification is gathering speed, concerns are mounting over the future of groundwater reserves and declining agricultural output. Tackling these worries and finding ways to get a grip on climate change are among the biggest challenges facing both Iran and the world today.

Despite Iran's climatic diversity, its location in the arid and semi-arid belt of the world means it is far from immune. The impact of these changes is particularly evident in agriculture, which remains a key pillar of the national economy.

A c - cording to the latest report

by Iran's Statistics Center in 2025, the total area of agricultural land has dropped to 15.43 million hectares — with 47% rain-fed and 33% irrigated — down from 18 million hectares in previous years. Over 4.5 million people make a living off farming, with 89% working in rural areas and 11% in urban zones. Agriculture accounts for about 8.3% of Iran's GDP and 27% of the workforce.

Yet, despite being one of the world's top producers of several agricultural and food products, Iran has faced a 1.5°C rise in average temperatures and a 45% drop in rainfall over the past year, especially across central and southern provinces. These trends have pushed Iran into the ranks of the world's most climate-vulnerable countries.

Desert lands are spreading out, dust storms are on the rise, droughts have dug in their heels for decades, water evaporation and soil erosion rates are triple the global average, and farmland is being repurposed at an alarming rate. The existence of 450,000 illegal wells and 14 million hectares of critical land across 22 provinces adds to the woes threatening Iran's water and soil health.

Forecasts show that by 2031, some regions in Iran may see water resources cut in half. Tackling this will require smarter water management, widespread installation of modern irrigation systems, real-time soil moisture monitoring, and drone-based farming to reduce water usage — measures that could help slash agricultural water use by up to 35%.

A senior official from the Natural Resources and Watershed Management Organization recently warned that due to climate change, one million hectares of desert are added to Iran's landscape every year. Iran urgently needs watershed management projects in 90 million hectares of natural terrain, but tight budgets have held these efforts back.

Unhealed wound

The direct fallout from shifting rainfall patterns, prolonged droughts, and poor water management has led to the erosion of 16 tons of soil per hectare annually in plains, and up to 30 tons in sloped regions. Moreover, 1.2 million hectares of Iran's wetlands have dried up, while forest cover and agricultural land have shrunk by 14% — a stag-

gering figure with serious implications. Yet, amidst these headwinds, there have been pockets of progress in recent years. Greenhouse cultivation has driven up orchard yields by 16.8%, fish farming has grown by 22% thanks to expanded aquaculture, and crop yields have seen a 6.5% boost due to the use of drought-resistant seeds. On the environmental front, native and medicinal plant species are being planted more widely to restore degraded ecosystems.

Iran also holds vast potential to turn agriculture into a driving force of its non-oil economy. Comprehensive initiatives — such as a national climate change science hub, smart water management, adoption of advanced irrigation and agricultural technologies, and expansion of climate-resilient crops — along with international cooperation with organizations like the FAO, could all help build long-term resilience in this critical sector.

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Agricultural lands in Iran are categorized by productivity potential, with Class I and II lands holding the highest capacity. According to officials, Class I farmland — mostly located in the northern provinces and the Qazvin Plain — covers around 1.2 million hectares, while Class II land spans about 2.3 million hectares. Under Article 9, Clause 2 of the Housing Leap Act, changing the designated use of these lands is strictly prohibited.

But growing land degradation and the unchecked conversion of high-quality farmland — particularly in northern Iran — are steadily chipping away at the country's agricultural base. This trend poses a serious threat to the future of food security.

Reza Aflatouni, the head of Iran's Land Affairs Organization, has already warned against illegal land development and construction. Aflatouni says Class I and II farmlands — which play a vital role in securing the nation's food supply — are most concentrated in the provinces of Gilan, Mazandaran, and Golestan, and



● IRNA

must be protected by all relevant authorities.

New climate committee guidelines

To this end, Abolfazl Raoufi, the director general of Environment, Sustainable Development, and Technology Affairs at the Agriculture Ministry, has announced that the ministry's Climate Change Committee has issued a 13-article regulation — along with several annexes — aimed at enhancing food security resilience and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The regulation has been shared with the private sector in two phases.

Climate-smart agriculture

Mehran Zand, the head of the Drought and Climate Change Department at Soil Conservation and Watershed Management Research Institute, notes that climate change is not the only reason for Iran's water shortages. Zand points to poor planning decisions — such as setting up water-intensive industries in arid provinces like Yazd, Kerman, and Isfahan; the drying of Lake Urmia following the construction of 23 dams (with 33 more underway); a fourfold overexpansion of regional cultivation capacity (around

600,000 hectares beyond sustainable levels); and the over-extraction of groundwater.

He stresses that agricultural activities must align with climate realities. Over the past decades, Iran has seen a steady drop in rainfall and a rise in temperatures — a trend that, according to forecasting models, is expected to continue. If not addressed, this could slash agricultural output by up to 40% in the coming years. Beyond mismanagement, Zand also highlights the lack of realistic pricing and efficient use of water as key issues. To adapt, he recommends a shift toward climate-smart agriculture across all stages — planting, maintaining, and harvesting. This includes setting up drought monitoring and early-warning systems, improving water productivity, expanding greenhouse farming, replacing crisis management with risk management, introducing modern technologies, overhauling outdated practices, and above all, serious national commitment and strategic planning.

Without these changes, he warns, the country will face the harsh consequences of climate change sooner rather than later.

The article first appeared in Persian on IRNA.



● HAMED GHOLAMI/IRNA

● RASOUL SHOJAEI/IRNA

Volleyball Nations League:

Iran edged out by Slovenia, remains winless in Week 1



Iranian outside-hitter Amirhossein Esfandiar (12) hits a spike during a 3-2 loss to Slovenia at the Volleyball Nations League in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on June 13, 2025.
● FIVB

Sports Desk

Iran fell to a 3-2 (17-25, 25-23, 25-18, 18-25, 15-12) loss to Slovenia at the Men's Volleyball Nations League in

in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on Friday night. This was a third successive defeat for the Asian powerhouse in the first week of action at the annual

event, though Iran again showed signs of improvement under new Italian head coach Roberto Piazza against last year's VNL semifinalist.

Iran was well-beaten in straight sets (25-19, 25-16, 25-18) by Brazil in their opening game on Tuesday, and then relinquished a two-set lead to suffer a 3-2 (19-25, 21-25, 25-21, 25-17, 15-17) setback against the United States in a five-set thriller at the Maracanãzinho arena the following night.

Slovenian opposite-spiker Nik Mujanović scored a game-high 30 points, with outside-hitter Rok Možič and middle-blocker Jan Kozamernik also finishing in double figures with 17 and 10 points, respectively.

Prolific opposite-spiker Bardia Sa'adat topped the scoring for Iran, chipping in 24 points, followed by outside-hitters Pouria Hosseinkhanzadeh (11 points) and Amirhossein Esfandiar (10 points).

"The situation in Iran clearly impacted our performance today as all the players and the coaching staff are extremely worried about their families," Sa'adat said after the match, referring to Israel's

airstrike on Iranian soil, where left dozens killed or injured on Friday.

Iranian players offered a military salute during their national anthem prior to the game – a symbolic gesture in response to the criminal military aggression. Piazza, meanwhile, was pleased with the way his players "gave it everything they had on the court", though the Italian believes they could have done better in a couple of crucial incidents.

"The players did OK today but there were moments we should have handled differently. We should have closed out the second set under better circumstances, but we lost that, and then couldn't find the same rhythm we had in the first set in the third. Then we bounced back in the fourth," the former Netherlands head coach.

"There were a couple of decisive rallies in the fifth set, and both went Slovenia's way. I clearly remember the first one early in the set, and the second

came after my timeout when we trailed by 12-10, which we should have dealt with differently."

Iran will finish Week 1 with a game against Ukraine today, before heading to Belgrade for the second week.

"We have one day to rest and recover our energy. A couple of key players like Amin [Esmailnejad] and Mohammad [Valizadeh] sat out today's game, but we'll have a full squad available against Ukraine.

"Ukraine is a strong team – they're also very experienced because they've played together for three straight seasons. They've only lost one player, [Oleh] Podnisky, while the rest of players has been together for a long time and know each other well. We need to focus on ourselves as we're in for another tough match."

Ukraine defeated USA 3-0 (25-22, 25-20, 25-23) on the opening day of the competition and came out victorious against Cuba in five sets (25-22, 20-25, 25-20, 17-25, 15-12).

Mirzazadeh, Farrokhi secure Iranian GR spots for Wrestling Worlds

Sports Desk

Greco-Roman wrestlers Amin Mirzazadeh and Gholamreza Farrokhi booked a place in September's World Championships in Zagreb, after coming out victorious against their respective opponents at the Iranian world trials in Shiraz on Friday.

A 130kg bronze medalist at last year's Paris Olympics, Mirzazadeh edged out Asian and world under-23 champion Fardin Hedayati 2-1 and will be on course to defend his superheavyweight title at the upcoming world showpiece.

Hedayati had beaten Ali-Akbar Yousefi – world gold medalist in 2021 – 3-0 in the morning session to set the showdown against Mirzazadeh.

A gold medalist in February's Zagreb Open, Farrokhi, meanwhile, stunned Mohammad-Ali Geraei twice to make sure he will return to the Croatian capital in September. Needing two victories against the reigning world champion to secure the 82kg spot, Farrokhi, who had beaten Asian champion Mohammad Naqousi 4-2 in the morning session, repeated the score-

line in the first bout against Geraei, before cruising to an emphatic 6-0 victory to punch his Zagreb ticket. Joined by Mirzazadeh and Farrokhi in the Iranian 10-man Greco-Roman squad are Olympic champions Saeid Esmaeili (67kg) and Mohammad-Hadi Saravi (97kg) plus Asian gold medalist Danial Sohrabi (72kg), two-time world under-20 champion Alireza Abdevali (77kg), and Alireza Mohamadi (87kg), who will be chasing a first world gold medal in Zagreb, having grabbed impressive silvers at the 2023 edition and Paris

Olympics. Iran head coach Hassan Rangraz is undecided on the 55kg, 60kg, and 63kg weight classes following a poor run of results for the Iranian contestants at the Ulaanbaatar Open and Benur Pashayan Tournament in Yerevan. Meanwhile, Iranian trio Mahdi Ahadi (55kg), Sajjad Abaspour (60kg), and former world champion Meysam Dalkhani (63kg) emerged as new contenders for a spot in Zagreb after grabbing the gold medal of their respective events at the International Takhti Cup in Shiraz.



Greco-Roman wrestler Amin Mirzazadeh celebrates his victory over Fardin Hedayati in the Iranian 130kg trials for September's World Championships in Shiraz, Iran, on June 13, 2025.
● IAWFIR

ParaVolley Asia Oceania Zonal Championships: Iranian women finish runner-up to China

Sports Desk

Iran settled for a runner-up finish at the ParaVolley Asia Oceania (PVAO) Zonal Championships in Hangzhou, China, after a straight-set (25-17, 25-17, 25-17) defeat against the host country in the women's final showpiece on Friday.

The result was still enough for the Iranian girls to secure a place in October's World Championships in Mersin, Türkiye. Iran began its campaign in Hangzhou with a comfortable 3-0 (25-5, 25-7, 25-6) win against Australia, and then did not concede a single set against Japan (25-8, 25-17, 25-22) and Mongolia (25-4, 25-8, 25-



● WORLD PARAVOLLEY

13) to progress to the semifinals as the top team in the pool. Iran also came out on top in straight sets (25-17, 25-8, 25-11)

against Thailand to set a final date with China, which defeated Japan 3-0 (25-8, 25-10, 25-23) in the other semifinal.

Thunder rally to beat Pacers and level NBA Finals

BBC – Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 35 points as the Oklahoma City Thunder came from behind late on to beat the Indiana Pacers and level the NBA Finals.

The Thunder won 111-104 at Gainbridge Fieldhouse in Indianapolis to tie the best-of-seven series at 2-2. They trailed by seven points entering the fourth quarter but outscored Indiana 31-17 in the last period, closing with a 12-1 run in the last three minutes.

"I knew what it would have looked like if we lost tonight," said Gilgeous-Alexander. "I didn't want to go down not swinging."

Thunder coach Mark Daigneault gave Gilgeous-Alexander, this season's Most Valuable Player, a break late in the third quarter rather than his usual rest early in the fourth. The Pacers led 101-97 with less than four minutes remaining, but Gilgeous-Alexander scored 15 of the Thunder's final 16 points and ended the game with 10 free-throws from 10 attempts.

Jalen Williams scored 27 points and made seven rebounds for the Thunder, while Alex Caruso added



● MADDIE MEYER/IMAGN IMAGES

20 points off the bench.

Pascal Siakam led the Pacers with 20 points and Tyrese Haliburton 18.

"We just didn't execute at the end of the game," said Siakam. "We didn't get easy shots. The easy shots that we got, we missed them. And they made them." The Thunder host game five at Paycom Center in Oklahoma City at 19:30 local time on Monday (01:30 BST, Tuesday).

Migration is a way of life for nomads in which herding cattle is the basis of economic life. Changing of location and migrating of human groups are two outstanding characteristics of nomadic life. Nomads of Iran are no exceptions. They are the people who migrate from one place to another with their tribe, family and all their belongings. In such annual or seasonal migrations, nomads move from their winter resort locations to summer grazing lands with their animals and move back to their winter resort locations again when it gets cold. Migration started many centuries ago. It began with a very simple form, but moving from place to place is still the fixed feature of such a lifestyle. Researches on the migrating way of life indicate that this phenomenon exists mostly in semi-dried and marginal territories, i.e. in areas where there is not any suitable piece of land for farming like slopes or stony grounds, destination-iran.com wrote.

There are various theories concerning the causes of such a way of life. Reference can be made to some of them like the increase in population and expansion of agriculture, the economic structure of a given society, social and political situations, and ecological factors. Nomads of Iran follow two kinds of migration:

- Horizontal migration occurs in dry, flat, vast deserts where water and grass can scarcely be found, like in Saudi Arabia's deserts.
- Vertical migration occurs in regions with a large difference in altitude where people move from low altitudes to higher ones in search of more favorable weather for their families and their animals, like in Iran.

The 101 nomadic tribes in Iran migrate across 963,000,000 square kilometers of territory, covering nearly 60% of the country. The following are some of the major nomadic people in the country.

Bakhtiari

The Bakhtiari people are one of Iran's most prominent and well-known nomadic groups. They are considered part of the Lor ethnic group. They reside mainly in the southwestern provinces, where they are known for their resilience and strong sense of community. Their rich cultural identity is expressed through traditional festivals, music, and the iconic black tents they use during their migrations. The Bakhtiari people primarily live in the Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari, Khuzestan, and Lorestan provinces. During the winter, they migrate between their summer pastures in the Zagros Mountains and their winter pastures in the lowland plains of Khuzestan. The Bakhtiari population is one of the largest nomadic groups in Iran. They have a strong tribal structure, with various clans forming the larger Bakhtiari community. They speak the Bakhtiari dialect, a sub-dialect of the Lari language. The Bakhtiari have a rich oral tradition, including epic tales, poetry, and songs. They celebrate various traditional festivals, with ceremonies often involving music. Their tra-

Nomadic heritage of Iran



Festival of Iranian nomads



Bakhtiari men

ditional clothing is colorful and distinctive, and their black tents. The Bakhtiari social structure is based on a combination of tribal and family loyalties, with leaders known as khan. Their seasonal migrations are among Iran's most protracted and arduous, reflecting their resilience and adaptability. The Bakhtiari are also known for their historical significance in Iranian politics and their high degree of freedom for women.

Baloch

The Baloch people inhabit the arid southeastern region of Iran and are distinguished by their resilience and adaptability. Their distinct language, colorful embroidered clothing, and rich musical traditions highlight their unique cultural heritage. They are also found in Pakistan and Afghanistan. The Baloch people primarily live in southeastern Iran's Sistan and Baluchestan Province. This area is characterized by its arid desert environment, which has shaped their nomadic lifestyle.

The Baloch people are also found in neighboring countries such as Pakistan and Afghanistan, forming a significant trans-national ethnic group. Balochi is a northwestern Iranian language. They are known for their rich musical and folklore traditions, elaborate embroidery, and colorful clothing. Traditional dress includes ornate jewelry, an essential aspect of their cultural expression. The Baloch are skilled horsemen and are famous for their camel breeding. Despite modernization, many Balochs continue to uphold their nomadic traditions, which have been passed down through generations. Their resilience and adaptability in harsh desert environments are notable, and their strong tribal structure is crucial to their social organization.

Qashqai

The Qashqai people are a nomadic alliance of tribes with Turkic, Lari, Kurdish, and Arab populations. They are primarily



Baloch men

of Turkic descent. The Qashqai people were mainly located in the Fars Province. However, their territory expanded to nearby regions, including Isfahan, Khuzestan, Gachsaran, and Bushehr. The Qashqai nomads reside in tents uniquely crafted and known as Siah Chador, or black tents. These tents are woven from durable goat hair. The side walls are ingeniously constructed from a blend of reeds and goat hair. These tribal dwellings are rectangular, always black, and comprise several key parts. The Qashqai were self-sufficient in their clothing. They acquired fabrics and special adornments from the market and personally sewed all the clothing they required.

Basseri

The Basseri are one of the oldest nomadic tribes in the country. They are known for their seasonal migrations with livestock. Their skilled weaving and rich

oral traditions deeply connect to their nomadic way of life and cultural heritage. The Basseri are the descendants of the ancient Pasargadae tribe. The Basseri people live primarily in Fars Province in southern Iran. They migrate seasonally with their flocks of sheep and goats, moving between summer and winter pastures. Their main territories are Pasargad in the summer and Karian in the winter. They speak an untouched dialect of Persian, which includes many ancient words from Middle Persian. The Basseri people have a rich oral tradition, with stories and songs that preserve their history and cultural heritage. They are skilled weavers who produce carpets and textiles highly valued for their quality and intricate patterns. Their traditional way of life revolves around their livestock, which provides them with food, clothing, and economic stability. The Basseri's social structure is

organized around extended family units, and decisions are made collectively within the clan. They maintain a rich cultural heritage, and their daily lives are deeply connected to their migratory lifestyle. The Basseri also have a history of political influence within the region, often interacting with other nomadic tribes and settled communities.

Aimaq

The Aimaq are a Dari-speaking nomadic tribe primarily found in eastern Iran's central and western highlands, which include Afghanistan and Turkmenistan. In Iran, they are known as Chahar Aimaq (The Four Tribes), consisting of Jamshidi, Hazara Aimaq, Firuz Kuhi, and Taymani. This nomadic population formed in the 15th century through a combination of several tribes and did not share any specific ancestors beyond that point. The various Aimaq tribes are near Torbat-e Jaam, Taybad, and Khaf. Their nomadic lifestyle is well-suited to the mountainous terrains, which provide the necessary grazing lands for their livestock. Their numbers fluctuate due to their nomadic way of life, which involves seasonal migrations in search of better pastures. The Aimaq people speak the Aimaq dialect based on Modern Persian. They have a rich oral tradition, including story-telling and music. They celebrate various cultural festivals and have a strong tradition of hospitality. Traditional crafts, especially hand-woven rugs and kilims, are highly prized for their intricate designs and craftsmanship. The Aimaq are divided into several sub-tribes, each with its dialect and customs. Their economy is primarily based on animal husbandry, with sheep and goats being the primary livestock. Their nomadic and semi-nomadic lifestyles involve moving with the seasons to find the best grazing lands for their animals.

Kordshuli

The Kordshuli are an independent nomadic tribe in southwestern Iran that dates back to before the Parthian Empire. The Kordshuli primarily inhabit the southwestern region of Iran, mainly the Fars Province. They migrate with their livestock between summer and winter pastures using a well-established route. They are part of the larger Qashqai confederation, known for its strong tribal structure and cultural cohesion. Their Shuli dialect is derived from the Middle Persian language. They are majority Shia Muslims. The Kordshuli people have a vibrant culture that includes music, and storytelling. They are expert weavers who produce carpets and kilims renowned for their quality and intricate designs. Their traditional clothing is colorful and distinctive, and their festivals and ceremonies reflect their strong sense of community and cultural identity. The Kordshuli's social structure is based on family and clan relationships, with each clan led by a headman. They have a strong sense of community and cultural identity, reflected in their traditional clothing, festivals, and ceremonies. Their migratory lifestyle is central to their way of life, and they have adapted to various environmental challenges over the centuries. The Kordshuli also have a rich oral tradition, with stories and songs that preserve their history and cultural heritage.



Qashqai women



Basseri kids



Iran's cultural community rebukes Israeli strikes, urges national unity

Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian cultural and artistic figures denounced Israel's airstrike on Iran early Friday, June 13, which killed senior military commanders, nuclear scientists, and civilians. Many described the attack as an escalation intended to provoke instability, while urging unity and resilience.

The chorus of condemnation came swiftly after what Tehran says was a "deliberate and premeditated" attack on multiple locations. Artists, government officials, and major cultural institutions struck a tone of both mourning and defiance, vowing that the nation "will not fall."

Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Reza Salehi Amiri said the Israeli attack was "part of a larger scenario" orchestrated by former US President Donald Trump to "buy time" for Israel's military readiness.

He linked the strike to diplomatic pressure from Europe, particularly France, and a recent IAEA resolution, calling it a "coordinated move" to justify aggression.

"Our nation already hated the child-killing regime. Now it hates it more," he warned, predicting the assault will only "strengthen national identity" and unify the public.



Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Abbas Salehi emphasized the importance of national media in shaping public sentiment, citing remarks by Iran's Leader. "All factions spoke with one voice," he said, urging Iran's broadcasting system to reflect the country's political and cultural diversity in this critical moment.



In a symbolic post, a page associated with acclaimed poet Mohammadreza Shafiei Kadkani invoked national perseverance: "Iran will not fall. It beats on... like the phoenix rising from ash." The post echoed a powerful sentiment that "giants come and go, but Iran remains."



Filmmaker Ebrahim Hata-mikia, known for his wartime dramas, addressed top IRGC commanders killed in the strike. "Nothing but martyrdom suits men like you," he wrote. Describing Israel as a "cowardly" and "child-killing" force, he called for retaliation, "This is no time for hesitation... there's only one path left — to discipline this Zionist invader."



Director Davood Mirbagheri, currently producing the epic series 'Salman the Persian,' said the show now carries a heavier burden: to "honor the sacred striving" of Iran's fallen scientists and generals. "They journeyed to the di-

vine by way of their blood," he said, adding, "We hope our work pays tribute to these noble lives."

Cultural institutions also rallied. The Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance issued a statement urging artists to use their craft "to reflect the nation's resilience" and resist psychological warfare. "Let the voice of art be the voice of truth and unity," the ministry said.

Islamic Culture and Relations Organization head Mohammad Mehdi Imanipour described the attack as "a clear violation of international law and national sovereignty," naming slain generals and scientists. He vowed the "blood of our martyrs will not be spilled in vain," signaling a firm response.

Iran Book and Literature House decried the airstrike as another page in the "bloody history of Zionist crimes," calling on Iranian writers to stand firm. "The enemy will not leave unscathed," it said. "Writers must wield their pens for unity and strength."

The Iranian House of Music called on global organizations to respond. "We stand with the oppressed people of Iran," it said. "International bodies must act against such brutal violations of human rights."

The House of Cinema, representing Iranian filmmakers and actors, issued a plain but powerful statement: "Any



The photo shows the aftermath of Israeli strikes on Moallem Square in Tehran, June 13, 2025.
● FARS

attack on Iran is unacceptable to every true Iranian."



Individual artists, musicians, and actors flooded social media with messages of solidarity and grief. Classical vocalist Homayoun Shajarian prayed for Iran's safety. Composer Karen Homayounfar and singers Ali Zand Vakili, Reza Sadeghi, and Farzad Farzin condemned the violence and called for calm.



Actor Parviz Parastouei and dozens of others — including Shabnam Moghaddami, Maral Baniadam, and Mo-

hammadreza Golzar — mourned the loss of civilian lives and urged unity. Many emphasized the need for verified information, amid a wave of rumors and heightened tensions.

The outpouring of grief and defiance highlights a broader cultural response to one of the most significant escalations in recent years. While political consequences remain uncertain, one thing is clear: Iran's artistic and cultural sectors are standing firmly in step with the broader call for national unity — and for justice.

ZIONIST REGIME'S AGGRESSION



Fires burn and debris litters streets as buildings and vehicles lie damaged in Tehran, Shiraz, and other Iranian cities following Israeli airstrikes on June 13, 2025.



Tehran



Qazvin



Tabriz



Tabriz



Tehran



Tehran



Kermanshah



Shiraz



Hamedan



Lorestan