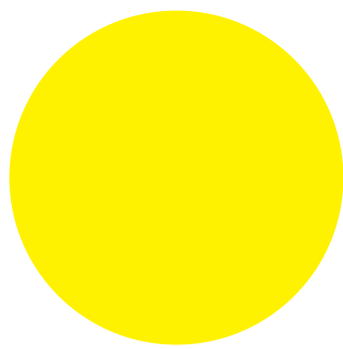


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**Public support
remains central to
Iran's deterrence
against foreign
threats**

By Shahin Sadeghi-Nasab
Political analyst

O P I N I O N

Public backing and social capital remain the most critical elements of Iran's deterrence strategy against foreign threats—often compensating for shortcomings in economic or military strength. Deterrence is a multi-layered concept and should not be reduced solely to military capability. While Iran's military deterrence—especially its ability to deliver punishing retaliatory strikes—is a key pillar of national defense, it is not the whole story.

A vital but often overlooked component of deterrence lies in the economic sphere. Economic deterrence refers to a nation's deep integration into the global economy, where the vested interests of multiple international stakeholders act as a buffer against military aggression. Countries with diverse trade ties are less likely to be targeted, as their stability directly impacts the interests of other nations.

In this regard, Iran faces serious challenges. Economic isolation and limited trade have kept the country from achieving an effective level of economic deterrence. This isolation remains one of Iran's most significant vulnerabilities in the face of external threats. As President Masoud Pezeshkian has emphasized, until the Islamic Republic resolves key issues with the United States and certain Western nations, breaking free from economic siege will remain out of reach and the continuation of this status quo poses a major threat to national security. Another pillar of deterrence is social capital—the strength of the relationship between the people and the state. The greater the public trust and cohesion, the stronger the nation's deterrent posture becomes. Social capital is reflected in widespread support for the governing system. During the Iran-Iraq War of the 1980s, despite having limited military and economic resources, the Iranian people—believing in a government rooted in their own will—stood firm against a global coalition and did not allow a single inch of their territory to fall. The same principle holds true today. Even amid potential weaknesses in other areas, robust public backing remains a formidable barrier to any foreign aggressor. Public presence in rallies, national ceremonies, religious events, and elections signals a unified and resolute nation—sending a clear message to adversaries that the Iranian people stand unwavering in defense of their homeland.

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Araghchi reaffirms Israel's aggression torpedoed diplomacy



Abbas Araghchi

International Desk

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said the Israeli regime sabotaged progress made in negotiations between Iran and the United States on Tehran's peaceful nuclear program, stressing that "Israel prefers conflict over resolution."

The top Iranian diplomat made the remarks in an article published by the Financial Times.

"In only five meetings over nine weeks, US special envoy Steve Witkoff and I achieved more than I did in four years of nuclear negotiations with the failed Biden administration. We were on the cusp of a historic breakthrough. To address US concerns that Iran may one day divert its peaceful nuclear program, we held detailed, frank discussions — including on the future of Iranian uranium enrichment. There were several ideas for a win-win solu-

tion, put forward by both sides, and by Oman," he said.

"Equally important, we also focused on the termination of sanctions and US involvement in wider economic co-operation that constituted a trillion-dollar opportunity. Iran was open to mutually beneficial collaboration that would electrify the Iranian economy and address US President Donald Trump's priority to revive dying American industries, such as the nuclear energy sector." But only 48 hours before a pivotal sixth meeting, which was canceled after Israel's aggression on Iran on June 13, Israel launched an unprovoked assault on Iran, Araghchi said.

"As Iran-US dialogue was finally gaining momentum, the reckless bombardment sent an unambiguous message: Israel prefers conflict over resolution," Iran's top diplomat said.

Araghchi said Iran has in recent

days received messages indicating that the US may be ready to return to negotiations.

"Iran signed a comprehensive nuclear deal with six countries in 2015, including the US, which Washington unilaterally abrogated three years later. And after agreeing to new negotiations in good faith, we have seen our good will reciprocated with an attack by two nuclear-armed militaries." The Iranian foreign minister said that Iran is interested in diplomacy but, "We have good reason to have doubts about further dialogue."

"The path towards peace requires a recognition in the US that respectful dialogue, and not reckless coercion, is the only sustainable way forward. The choice is America's. Will the US finally choose diplomacy? Or will it remain ensnared in someone else's war?" the Iranian foreign minister said.

Iranian Armed Forces stood up to Israel-US bullying with 'full might': *Top general*



Abdolrahim Mousavi

Iran's top military commander said that the country's Armed Forces confronted the Israeli and American aggression with the full range of their capabilities and military prowess during last month's aggression. Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi, chief of staff of the Armed Forces, made the remarks during a telephone conversation with Qatar's Defense Minister Khalid bin Mohammad Al Attiyah on Tuesday, Press TV reported.

"Iran's Armed Forces stood up to bullying using all of their capabilities, and responded to the aggressors with the entirety of their might," the commander noted.

On June 13, the Israeli regime began a series of airstrikes against the Islamic Republic with unprecedented

American military and intelligence support.

Iran's Armed Forces began responding initially with comprehensive defensive maneuvers.

Shortly afterwards, however, they launched rapid, forceful, and unyielding counteroffensives, unleashing precision strikes against critical nuclear, military, and industrial targets deep within the occupied Palestinian territories.

The relentless reprisal, codenamed Operation True Promise III, deployed hundreds of ballistic missiles — many of which were multi-warhead and supersonic ones — as well as numerous armed drones.

The strikes pummeled the heart of Tel Aviv, the regime's economic stronghold; Haifa, its key deep-water

port; and Be'er Sheva, the hub of the entity's modern development and technology.

Feeling the heat from the retaliation, the regime was forced to seek a cease-fire after 12 days, despite having some of the US's most advanced missile systems primed to intercept the incoming Iranian fire.

The commander's remarks also concerned a ballistic missile strike that was carried out by the Iranian forces against Al-Udeid — the US's most important regional airbase that is located in Qatar — in response to American attacks against Iranian nuclear sites that took place towards the end of the Israeli war.

Mousavi noted how the United States did not begrudge the regime any assistance throughout the warfare, providing it with no-holds-barred support, including logistical backing. He, however, highlighted that the world's Muslim nations and governments as well as free-thinking people, nevertheless, voiced decisive support for the Islamic Republic in the course of the aggression.

He, meanwhile, hailed Qatar as a "friendly state" and lauded its decisive condemnation of the Israeli aggression, expressing gratitude over the "valuable" position adopted by Doha throughout the military assault.

Iran's death toll from Israeli war rises to 1,100



National Desk

Death toll from Israel's unprovoked aggression against Iran last month rose to 1,100, according to the head of Iran's Foundation of Martyrs and Veterans Affairs.

Saeed Ohadi said in an interview with the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) on Monday that, "Regarding the martyrs, as of tonight, we have buried 1,060 loved ones across the country."

Ohadi said that the 12-day Israeli strikes across the country have claimed the lives of 1,100 people. The country's Health Ministry had earlier announced the death of 935 people in the regime's attacks which began on June 13.

He said that the death toll from the Israeli aggression includes 126 women and 41 children, which claimed the lives of civilians, nuclear scientists and the country's top military commanders.

The US also joined the aggression by targeting the three Iranian nuclear facilities of Fordow, Natanz and Isfahan.

A cease-fire proposed by the US put an end to the conflict on June 24 after Iran launched barrages of missiles at Israel's targets in the occupied territories and at the largest US military base in the Middle East in Qatar.

According to a survey conducted by Iran's Parliament, 80 percent of Iranians believe that Iran's missile attacks have dealt a very significant blow to the Israel regime.

Head of the Islamic Parliament Research Center Babak Negahdari said that the survey shows that 61% of people consider Iran's military strength superior, while 20% view Iran and Israel's military capabilities as roughly equal.

He added that around 60% of people also believe Iran has gained a stronger position in the Middle East following the conflict.



Anti-Iran television network targeted by cyberattack

International Desk

A hacker group named Hanzala said on Tuesday that it had carried out a cyberattack against Iran International, a Persian-language seditionary television operating outside Iran, releasing some materials including its employees' personal information. The group said that Iran International's Telegram account has been "completely hacked and taken over." However, the US-based TV network said in a statement the attacks were carried out by a group known as Banished Kitten (also referred to as Storm-0842 and Dune).

It said that the materials published by

the hacking group were taken from the Telegram accounts of its employees in two separate cyberattacks in the summer of 2024 and January 2025.

According to a report by IRIB News Agency, all systems, servers, and communication infrastructure of Iran International have been disabled and its internal data has been extracted following the cyberattack.

"Confidential correspondence, employees' personal information, financial records, and communications with foreign entities" have been "fully hacked," the report said.

Hanzala also leaked personal audio files and images of one of the Iran In-



ternational journalists, accusing him of "working with" Israel's Mossad spy agency.

The hacking group said that it has also acquired information of over 71,000 individuals who had previously sent content or information to Iran International.



Veep: Victory in societal front occasioned success on other fronts in 12-day war

Utilizing private sector's capacities regarded as Khatam Headquarters' merit

Economy Desk

First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref hailed on Tuesday sacrifices made by Iran's Armed Forces and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) during the 12-day US-backed war imposed by the Israeli regime last month, stressing that victory on the societal front resulted in success on other fronts in the recent anti-Iran aggression.

Aref made the statement in a visit to Khatam al-Anbiya Construction Headquarters, an Iranian engineering firm run by the IRGC and one of Iran's largest contractors in industrial and development projects.

"During the 12-day war, not a single day of construction was halted. The same was true in the production sector, where factories voluntarily operated day and night shifts, and victory on the societal front was the reason for success on other fronts," Aref said.

"The enemies waged the war believing that after the martyrdom of the commanders and victory on the battlefield, the case would be closed with popular demonstrations in the forthcoming days, and that the Islamic Republic of

Iran would accept all their demands in negotiations with the United States. However, the people unbelievably joined the foray, and even critics and protestors raised the unified voice of Iran, which helped victory on the social front extend to other fronts."

Congratulating the Islamic Republic for triumphing in a treacherous and violent aggression spearheaded by the Zionist regime, the Iranian first vice president emphasized, "We believe we have won on the battlefield, and the country's capacity is such that within 12 hours of the martyrdom of the country's commanders, replacements are chosen for the most sensitive and important defense and military positions, and everyone welcomes this, which is nothing short of a miracle."

Aref also emphasized the necessity for all military and security bodies to be prepared to counter the "enemy's mischief," and to avoid focusing on unnecessary and non-priority issues.

Tapping private sector's capacities

Elsewhere in his remarks, the first vice president said Khatam al-Anbiya Con-

struction Headquarters should enter the important and priority sectors of the country, and there must be a "unified and cohesive" command for construction across the country.

Underscoring the necessity for the IRGC-controlled engineering firm to enter software sectors and areas related to information technology, Aref said, "With the presence of young and high-potential forces within the Headquarters, as well as in the country's academic sector, it is essential to achieve a secure environment in the country regarding new technologies."

Pointing to the fact that utilizing the capacities of the private sector is one of the important advantages of Khatam al-Anbiya Construction Headquarters, Aref said, "The private sector has come to the conclusion that it can better enter construction and infrastructure projects through the Headquarters, and this Headquarters, with full oversight of the private sector, has been able to effectively pursue the Establishment's strategy of utilizing the non-governmental sector."

Praising the good cooperation of the engineering firm with various govern-



ments, the first vice president said, "We never heard a negative answer from the Headquarters, and despite all the problems and lack of allocations, it has always shined in the country's construction and infrastructure projects."

Aref also visited the exhibition of achievements, activities of Khatam

al-Anbiya Construction Headquarters in the fields of social responsibility and deprivation alleviation, information and communication technology, agriculture and aquaculture, maritime, oil, gas and petrochemicals, water and power, knowledge and research, industry and mining, urban planning, and railway and metro.

Minister launches Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari rail link to national network



Iranian Minister of Roads and Urban Development Farzaneh Sadeq Malvajerd addresses the inauguration ceremony of the rail-laying operation in Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari on July 8, 2025.

next [Iranian] year (to begin on March 20, 2026)."

The minister stated that Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari was a province whose employment and agricultural sectors were highly effective. She added that if the railway were completed as soon as possible, it would impact passenger transportation and support the agricultural industry. She also expressed appreciation for the efforts of all individuals active in the project over the past 15 years.

Sadeq Malvajerd, referring to the implementation of unfinished projects in Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari, stated that the existence of many unfinished projects, particularly within the roads and urban development sector, was among the issues she had encountered during that trip.

"Efforts are being made to inject resources to complete and utilize projects of which five to ten kilometers is left," the minister said.

Economy Desk

The rail-laying operation in the southwestern province of Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari commenced on Tuesday, as announced by Iranian Minister of Roads and Urban Development Farzaneh Sadeq Malvajerd.

At the inauguration ceremony, Sadeq Malvajerd stated that railways are an effective factor in the country's infrastructural development and noted, Shahrekord, the provincial capital and Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari are being connected to the country's railway network," IRNA reported.

The minister of roads stated that with the commencement of this rail-laying, another city will be connected to the railway network, and "the whistle of the Shahrekord train will probably sound by the

IAC: 500 flights handled in single day amid operational recovery

Economy Desk

The head of Iran Airports Company (IAC) said that approximately 500 international and domestic flights received services from the company on Monday.

Referring to the increasing number of flights, IAC head Mohammad Amirani said, "Yesterday, approximately 500 flights, including transit, domestic, and international flights, received services from the Iran Airports and Air

Navigation Company," IRNA reported.

Airlines began avoiding Iranian airspace on June 13 when the Israeli regime launched unprovoked aggression against the country. The eastern half of Iran's airspace reopened to domestic and international flights on June 25, a day after the United States claimed it had brokered a unilateral ceasefire between Iran and Israel.

The Civil Aviation Organization in a statement on Friday announced the first international flight landed at

Imam Khomeini International Airport.

Amirani added that the company's committed specialists "quickly operationalized the damaged areas in the country's airports in the shortest possible time."

According to Amirani, "The country's radar, navigation, and surveillance systems are in an operational status and ready for the safe guidance of flights."

IFO reports 17% growth in national caviar output last year

Economy Desk

A senior official at the Iran Fisheries Organization (IFO) reported a 17% growth in Iran's caviar production last year (1403, began on March 20, 2024).

"The country's caviar production increased from 21 tons and 600 kilograms in the year 1402 to 25 tons and 100 kilograms in 1403," said Nasser Karami-Rad, the head of the renovation office at IFO.

Karami-Rad announced the extensive development of sturgeon farming in 22 provinces across the country, adding, "Given the suitable climatic capacities for expanding the industry

in the second development phase, targets have been set for producing over 140 tons of caviar and 20,000 tons of sturgeon meat," IRNA reported.

He stated that investment in the sector is highly profitable, noting that investment dashboards for industry development in various provinces have been prepared.

"Last year, sturgeon meat production reached over 6,050 tons, representing approximately 26% growth compared to the year 1402. Additionally, the country's caviar production increased from 21 tons and 600 kilograms (21.6 tons) to over 25 tons and 100 kilograms (25.1 tons), indicating a

17% growth," Karami-Rad noted.

In the export sector, he said, "Over 7.5 tons of caviar were directly exported through customs."

According to the official, it is estimated that a significant portion of Iran's caviar has also been transported abroad by passengers as personal luggage.

He pointed out that Iran's caviar remains unrivaled in the global market and has its own specific clientele.

Karami-Rad added that the country's capacity for sturgeon production and exports is increasing, and new opportunities for investment in the sector have emerged.

Public support remains ...

Iran's missile capabilities remain among the country's strongest defense assets, demonstrating its ability to strike deep into enemy territory.

However, decades of cruel sanctions have prevented access to modern fighter jets and advanced aerial technologies—shortcomings that were laid bare in recent events. While Iran boasts strong offensive missile power, there is a pressing need to upgrade its air defense systems with modern equipment.

Neither the Iranian government nor its people seek war. The bitter legacy of the previous conflict and its economic and human toll is well understood. Even in the most recent confrontation, despite delivering major blows to the enemy and damaging the security image of the Israeli regime, Iran's econo-

my also suffered collateral damage. Any new conflict could impose enormous costs on the country's economy and the livelihoods of its citizens.

To avoid such outcomes, the government must leverage diplomatic channels to resolve tensions with the West and dispel the specter of war. At the same time, the Iranian people must continue to support prudent and strategic policymaking—maintaining unity so that adversaries think twice before contemplating any aggression.

Iran has already proven its ability to stand firm against powerful adversaries. But for its deterrence to be truly comprehensive and enduring, equal investment must be made not only in military might, but also in economic resilience and social cohesion.



Iranian offshore
Engineering & Construction

First Announcement

Call for Tender 1st Announcement for Purchase of Piping Material for POGC Spare Parts Project, Tender No. 987418

Iranian Offshore Engineering and Construction Company intends to purchase the Tender of Piping Material POGC Spare Parts Project through a public tender. Therefore, the applicants are allowed to have 14 days after the date of 1st publication of the tender notice in the newspaper to participate in this tender. To download the tender documents, please visit the tender's section of the IOEC's website: WWW.IOEC.COM/EN/TENDERS, and Please do not hesitate to contact with Transaction Committee office with Tel: +9821-82842740 under sign for any inquiries and more information.

Iran's space goals drive development, security

A strategic force for peace, progress



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (2nd-L) visits a defense and space achievements exhibition in Tehran on February 2, 2025.
 president.ir

By Mahdi Jalilian
 Guest contributor

OPINION EXCLUSIVE

Over the past decades, the space sector has grown far beyond satellite launch and astronomy exploration. It has evolved as a strategic tool for sustainable development, job creation, food security, resource management, and technology infrastructure development at the national and regional levels. Such importance is heightened in nations that face geopolitical tensions and security threats. The recent weeks saw armed clashes between Iran and the Israeli regime, once more exposing weaknesses in Iran's civilian infrastructure and modest capacity for speedy and focused crisis response. The lack of early warning systems, border patrol chains, and satellite data analysis facilities

highlights significant gaps in national crisis management. Due to the sensitive geopolitical location of Iran, its wide human and intellectual resources, and the urgent necessity for technological advancement in civilian as well as defense ends, the nation is in immediate need of significant investment in the space industry. The sector can be more than just an economic growth stimulator; It can also be a means to significantly promote national security and resilience under the growing threat. Space technology includes a broad spectrum of activity: building and sending satellites into orbit, building navigation systems, remote sensing, telecommunications networks, and environmental data analysis. Developed nations have used space technologies for a long time to coordinate crisis response, enhance efficiency, and even advance diplomat-

ic peace initiatives. Iran needs to follow a visionary route and incorporate these technologies into the national development process. During a crisis, satellite imagery can be a lifesaver — identifying areas of increased danger, tracking suspicious border activity, charting areas of population density, and creating evacuation or aid delivery routes that are secure. Recent conflicts have also highlighted the necessity for regional space centers and Iran's domestic satellite development infrastructure. Among the greatest benefits of the space sector is that it can create sustainable and specialized jobs. It demands aerospace, electrical, and mechanical engineering skills, software development, data science, geography, precision agriculture, economics, and even space law. For a nation that is struggling with youth unemployment and brain drain,

the development of space infrastructure can keep and empower domestic talent. Establishment of space-based technology clusters, science parks, and research-education centers throughout the country will not only halt the brain drain of high-value talent but also generate scientific wealth creation, bring in domestic and even external investment, and lead to a knowledge economy. Space technology can also play a crucial role in improving the day-to-day lives of the population. In agriculture, satellite imaging enables farmers to monitor crop health, soil moisture, and pest infestation, making farming more precise and cost-effective. In natural resource management, remote sensing enables forest monitoring, prevents illegal logging, and helps prevent large-scale wildfires. During natural disasters like earthquakes and floods or security inci-

dents like missile launches or border skirmishes, the satellite systems serve as the eyes and ears of the nation — offering real-time mapping, detecting impacted areas, and leading emergency response units to help reduce casualties and damage. Space technology can find application in smart tourism for offering navigation applications that identify safe and optimal routes for local and foreign tourists, and assist in tourism infrastructure planning and development. In border security, satellite technology has the ability to track illegal travel, smuggling routes, and assist in directing operations to hard-to-reach places — towards sustainable, non-violent forms of security. To realize these objectives, a set of national-level strategic policies must be pursued. These comprise creating national space innovation centers for knowledge-based

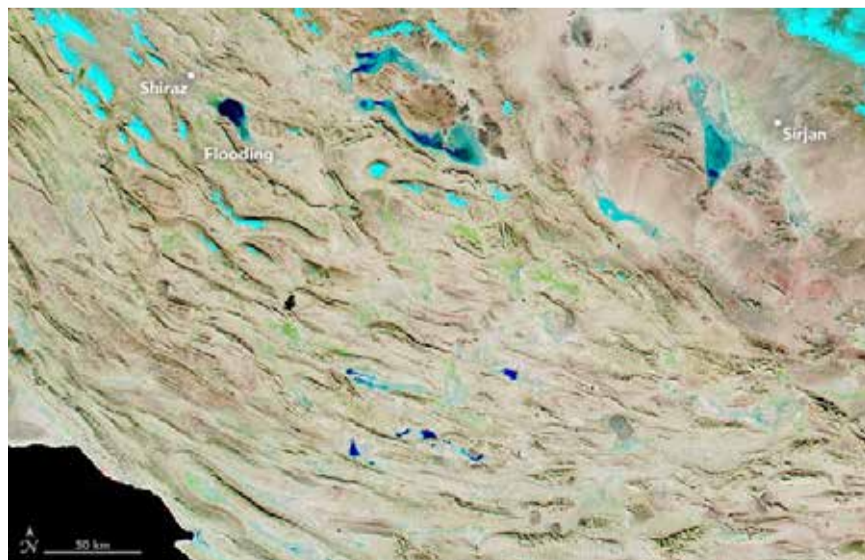
businesses and remote sensing services; initiating satellite-based early warning systems for natural or military/biological threats; promoting collaboration between universities, defense institutions, and Iranian Space Agency on initiating multi-purpose projects in civil defense, environmental monitoring, and robust economic planning; and broadening regional space diplomacy through cooperation agreements with neighboring states for joint resource management, crisis management, and regional peace promotion. Finally, Iran's space industry is not a luxury or intellectual exercise — It is a survival, security, and national development necessity. In a technologically based world of power, Iran must reassert and establish itself in space. Investment in this sector is primarily an investment in intergenerational security and national prestige.

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Due to the sensitive geopolitical location of Iran, its wide human and intellectual resources, and the urgent necessity for technological advancement in civilian as well as defense ends, the nation is in immediate need of significant investment in the space industry. The sector can be more than just an economic growth stimulator; It can also be a means to significantly promote national security and resilience under the growing threat.



This February 5, 2025, satellite image shows a missile on a launch pad and activity at the Imam Khomeini Space Center in Iran's Semnan province.
 DIGITALGLOBE



The Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) on NASA's Aqua satellite captures imagery of flooding in southern Iran on January 7, 2022. The image is false color, using a combination of visible and shortwave infrared light to make it easier to distinguish between land and water.
 NASA

Realistic look at 12-day war Iran engaged in asymmetrical intelligence warfare



A firefighter calls out to his colleagues at the scene of an explosion in a residential compound in northern Tehran, Iran, on June 13, 2025. ● VAHID SALEMI/AP

ANALYSIS

The recent 12-day Israeli war against Iran served as a no-nonsense test of both sides' strategic capacities — a test that, while carrying its own political messages, brought to light intelligence weaknesses that had previously flown under the radar. For those still stuck in the "pre-data" era, war means tanks and missiles. But hopefully, the recent 12-day conflict has driven home the fact that the real battle plays out in command centers, cyber networks, and intelligence circuits. When an adversary, who's been posing as your enemy for years, knows the exact impact points, routes of access, and obstacles, while you're still in the dark about the most likely avenues of its attack, even a military edge in hardware can count for little due to this disparity in technology and intelligence. What really matters in this and all recent wars is the objectives left on the table, the blind spots overlooked, and the intelligence missed. Iran's information gaps, technological shortcomings,

and cyber flaws in the recent military crisis can be broken down into tech, interception, and intelligence lag.

From battlefield to satellite

Reports indicate that Iran's cyber capabilities fell short against Israeli attacks in the early days of the war, to the point where Iran had to shut down the internet to ward off Israeli cyber offensives as there was no effective way to plug information leaks other than that. Iran's Organization for Passive Defense, the IRGC Cyber Command, and the Cyber Police (a.k.a. the FATA police) — are tasked with fending off internal and external cyber threats. Yet, Iran also benefited from hacker groups during the war. One such group, Handala Hack, claimed to have dealt a blow to Israel's cyber infrastructure. On the other hand, Israeli cyberattacks on banks and exchanges and even the GPS tracking of some top officials were reported, though some of these claims may have been hyped up for propaganda purposes.

The Predatory Sparrow group, apparently tied to Israeli intelligence, carried out serious attacks on Bank Sepah and the Nobitex crypto exchange, with The Wall Street Journal reporting that about \$90 million in crypto was frozen during these attacks. ATM services also hit a snag in the first few days, but fortunately, the disruptions didn't drag on for more than two or three days. Iran also launched numerous cyber offensives against Israel, but these were scattered and reactive, rather than proactive. The war made it clear that there's a pressing need to set up a cyber-intelligence defense structure with offensive capabilities. Iran must also step up its game in real-time information management or C4ISR. C4ISR (which stands for Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance) relies on advanced technologies for each element. Commanders must be able to get up to speed instantly and accurately, make coordinated decisions, direct forc-

es and weapons purposefully, and, most importantly, keep tabs on the opponent's moves and information using existing tools. In countries like the US, warfare revolves around network-centric operations, pushing C4ISR to the next level. For instance, in data fusion — pulling together multiple information sources like radars, satellites, drones, and intercepts — the process should yield more precise and actionable results, thanks to cutting-edge tech. Israel has zeroed in on artificial intelligence, with systems like the ELS-8994 Starlight integrating disparate data on a single platform and delivering it to commanders in record time. Units like the Oz Brigade and Ghost Brigade combine ground, aerial, satellite, and drone data, enabling split-second decision-making.

Information is power

While Iran has recently gotten the ball rolling on electronic warfare and AI, it hasn't reached full throttle yet. The 12-day war

should serve as a wake-up call to pick up the pace in this area. Iran does have quality radars like Ghamar, which can gather imagery, but firstly, there's a need for a clear integration platform. Secondly, since drone and radar data are usually processed separately by the Army, IRGC, and Ministry of Defense, this slows down decision-making. Another example is SIGINT (signals intelligence) technology. Israel has poured resources into these centers for years, with Unit 8200 standing out as the region's largest intelligence, interception, and code-breaking organization. This unit eavesdrops on officials from target countries like Iran and Lebanon, analyzes intercepted data, tracks radio, satellite, and internet signals, and cracks encrypted communications. The Urim SIGINT Base, along with Hermes 900 and Heron TP drones equipped with powerful tracking gear, work around the clock as Mossad's auxiliary arms. During the recent 12-day war (June 13–25, 2024),

Israeli intelligence officials claimed that by listening in and tracking Iranian security and military figures, they had pinpointed their locations and defense weaknesses — much of this carried out by Unit 8200 through decrypting military command messages. Iran does have satellites, reconnaissance drones, and SIGINT trackers at sensitive borders but is still playing catch-up in developing these tools, with most data analysis still handled by humans rather than AI. There's much more to say in this field — a field that opened up an invisible front in the recent war, a battlefield of signals and data. In a world where "information is power," falling behind in technology is more than just a technical gap. Iran must rewrite the rules and hold its ground in this arena. The rules of today's world don't allow anyone to just sit on the sidelines and watch the relentless battle of information and AI.

The article first appeared in Persian on Asriran news website.



The picture provided on September 1, 2021, shows Iran's state-of-the-art 3D radar, Alborz, being paraded during a special ceremony. ● IRNA



An illustration of IAI-Elta's automated signal intelligence center of Israel ● IDF

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The war made it clear that there's a pressing need to set up a cyber-intelligence defense structure with offensive capabilities. Iran must also step up its game in real-time information management or C4ISR. C4ISR (which stands for Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance) relies on advanced technologies for each element.

Inter willing to cash in on Taremi

Sports Desk

Mahdi Taremi's time at Inter Milan could come to a premature end as the Serie A giant is reportedly willing to sell the Iranian striker during the summer transfer window to make room for further recruitment under new head coach Cristian Chivu.

Taremi, 32, joined the Nerazzurri as a free agent from Porto last summer on a two-year contract – with the option of a 12-month extension – in what was widely regarded as bargain for Inter.

However, having scored 91 goals in 182 appearances for Porto, Taremi was hardly a success in his first season at Inter as his contribution was limited to three goals – two of which came from the spot – and nine assists in 43 outings in all competitions.

With Argentine skipper Lautaro Martínez and Frenchman Marcus Thuram being the first-choice strikers under former manager Simone Inzaghi, Taremi managed only seven starts in Serie A, finding the net once with a penalty in

a 4-0 win at Lecce in January. There was further blow for the Iranian when he was stranded in his home country during the 12-day war with Israel and ruled out of the on-going FIFA Club World Cup in the United States, missing the chance to impress the new Romanian head coach.

Inter signed 21-year-old French forward Ange-Yoan Bonny, who worked with Chivu at Parma last season, on Saturday, which means Taremi could struggle even more for game time, should he stay with the Nerazzurri for the upcoming campaign.

According to Italian journalist Simone Togna, Inter is open to a permanent move for Taremi, though his €10-million price tag could limit the suitors for the Iran international. Italian sports newspaper Corriere dello Sport reported on Monday that Premier League clubs Fulham and Nottingham Forest, as well as Turkish top-flight side Besiktas, are weighing up a move for the Iranian striker, who is to join up with his Inter teammates for the start of the pre-season on July 26.w



inter.it



varzesh3.com

Portuguese Sa Pinto to be unveiled as new Esteghlal coach

Sports Desk

Portuguese manager Ricardo Sa Pinto will be unveiled as the new head coach of Persian Gulf Pro League club Esteghlal today in Tehran.

Sa Pinto, 52, who reached agreement on a season-long deal with the Blues in late June, arrived in the Iranian capital on Tuesday ahead of signing the contract and the club's preseason. This will be a second a spell at Esteghlal for the

Portuguese following the 2022/23 season.

He led the club to 23 wins and eight draws in 36 matches as Esteghlal finished third in the Iranian league before suffering a 2-1 defeat against archival Persepolis in the domestic cup final.

Sa Pinto left Esteghlal for APOEL Nicosia and lifted the Cypriot First Division trophy before joining Raja Casablanca the following season.

Sa Pinto, who had been without a job since parting

ways with the Moroccan club last December, takes over from interim coach Mojtaba Jabbari.

The former Esteghlal midfielder steered the Blues to the Hazfi Cup title, thanks to a 1-0 extra time victory over Malavan in May.

The cup glory came as a relief after a dreadful campaign for the Blues, who had six managers on the bench throughout last season and settled for a nine-place finish in the 16-team league table.

Esteghlal, which will be

part of the AFC Champions League Two next season, has made four summer signings in Tractor center-back Aref Aqasi, Shams Azar midfielder Esmaeil Qolizadeh, Malavan defender Saman Fallah, and teenage midfielder Amir-Mohammad Razzaqinia from Golgozar Sirjan.

The Blues are also in advanced talks with Uzbekistan international defender Rustamjon Aahurmatov, who is set to join from Rubin Kazan, and Kayserispor midfielder Ali Karimi.

Newcastle agree £55m fee for Forest winger Elanga

BBC-Newcastle United have agreed a £55m fee with Nottingham Forest for Sweden winger Anthony Elanga.

Sources have told BBC Sport the deal could be completed this week.

Newcastle are seeking to strengthen their attacking options as they

prepare for their return to the Champions League following a fifth-placed Premier League finish last season.

The 23-year-old scored six goals and produced 11 assists for Nuno Espirito Santo's side during their successful 2024-25 Premier League season.

Newcastle have yet to pay a fee for a player this summer, with 18-year-old Spanish winger Antonio Cordero the only new arrival on a free transfer from Malaga.

Forest are believed to have paid £15m to sign Elanga from Manchester United on a five-year-deal in 2023.

He had arrived at Old Trafford at the age of 12 and made 55 appearances before moving to the City Ground.

Newcastle's pursuit of Elanga underlines just how far his stock has risen after a stellar campaign with Forest.

His statistical profile paints the picture of a player not just improving, but excelling in some of the most important attacking metrics.

The radar chart below, provided by Opta via FBref, shows Elanga ranking in the top percentiles among Premier League attacking midfielders and wingers across multiple categories.

Being in the 80th percentile for goal-creating actions means he outperforms 80% of similar players in that key attacking measure.



GETTY IMAGES

Djokovic breaks Federer 'curse' in battling win at Wimbledon

BBC-Novak Djokovic was relieved to "break the curse" of playing in front of former rival Roger Federer as he battled back to overcome an inspired Alex de Minaur and reach the Wimbledon quarter-finals.

With men's record eight-time winner Federer watching on from the Royal Box, Serbia's Djokovic lost an error-strewn opener and had to fight back from 4-1 down in the fourth set to win 1-6 6-4 6-4 6-4.

But, after enduring an un-

comfortable three hours and 18 minutes on Centre Court against Australian 11th seed De Minaur, the 38-year-old is now within three wins of another piece of history.

Seven-time champion Djokovic said of playing in front of Federer: "This is probably the first time he is watching me and I have won the match!"

"The last couple of times I lost, so it's good to break the curse. "Roger is a huge champion and someone I admired and

respected a lot.

"We shared the stage for many years and it is great to have him back at his most successful and favourite tournament."

In addition to chasing Federer's Wimbledon record, Djokovic is attempting to win a standalone record 25th Grand Slam title.

He will face Italian 22nd seed Flavio Cobolli for a semi-final place, with world number one Jannik Sinner potentially waiting in the last four.



Novak Djokovic is seen in action against Alex de Minaur at Wimbledon in London, Britain, on July 7, 2025.

REUTERS

Iran’s underground cities as shelters, cultural treasures

Iranica Desk

Ancient underground hand-carved structures in Iran — alongside similar examples in countries like Turkey — served as settlements that were sometimes excavated to several stories deep within mountains or beneath the ground by ancient inhabitants. These subterranean spaces functioned both as refuges during climate-related floods and as safe havens during critical times such as wars and attacks by neighboring tribes, helping to safeguard the lives of early residents.

Distinctive examples

Iranian underground structures, such as those in the city of Samen and Arzan Fud village in Hamedan, as well as Meymand in Kerman Province and Kandovan in East Azarbaijan Province, stand out as unique examples of architecture that harmonizes with nature while providing secure settlements from ancient times. Today, the question arises: given the current conditions in the country, where the topic of shelters to protect against potential future conflicts has gained renewed importance, is it feasible to utilize these ancient underground cities in Iran in the modern era to ensure safety from emerging risks?

Samen Underground City

Ali Khaksar, an archaeologist and the director of the Samen and Arzan Fud cultural heritage sites in Hamedan Province, told ILNA that the Samen Underground City extends over a large area beneath the city’s houses, streets, and administrative buildings. Over the years, it has experienced disturbances caused by urban development and human interventions — such as activities by water, electricity, and gas departments — that have resulted in some damage. Nevertheless, the main foundation of the site remains well-preserved; despite its long history, the structure is still solid and intact. Natural erosion and deterioration have not been observed, and most of the damage has resulted from human activities.

Historical uses

He stated that this ancient hand-carved complex has been used across different periods and served various functions. He added, “Considering the artifacts and cultural materials discovered in the Samen Underground City, we hypothesize that it was constructed before the Parthian period, and its primary function at that time was likely religious and ritualistic.” He continued, “When the Samen Underground City was abandoned during the Parthian period, it was repurposed as a tomb for burial purposes. This function persisted for a significant period of time.” Khaksar further explained that studies of the skeletons discovered during archaeological excavations suggest that this space was used as a burial site from the Parthian period through the early Islamic centuries, spanning roughly 700 years. However, from the medi-



Samen Underground City
● chtn.ir



Arzan Fud Underground City
● hamedanpayam.com

eval Islamic era onward, the underground city was used for about 800 years solely as a shelter, providing emergency housing during times of insecurity and danger. Stating that during the Islamic period, the inhabitants of the Samen Underground City only used the ground floor temporarily for residences during times of threat, Khaksar said, “Artifacts from the Ilkhanid, Timurid, Safavid, and Qajar periods have been uncovered during excavations at the site.”

Conservation and documentation

He further added, “Extensive restoration and conservation work have been undertaken in this complex, and its 3D documentation has been completed. All objects and cultural materials recovered from the excavations have been thoroughly cataloged, and the findings have been published.”

Potential and challenges

Khaksar said that the Samen Underground City has the potential to be used as a shelter because of its strategic location within the city. Currently, two sections are open to tourists; therefore, these parts are not



Qaleh Juq Cave
● visitiran.ir

suitable for use as shelters at this moment. However, other sections of the site could serve as shelters, as they are structurally very robust. Constructed entirely of granite, these sections are resistant to collapse or destruction and are completely impermeable. Despite this, access is limited due to narrow corridors. Nonetheless, in emergency situations, nearby residents might potentially use these areas as refuges.

Arzan Fud Underground City

He added, “Regarding the Arzan Fud Underground City, which is the second national cultural heritage site

in Hamedan Province and was discovered in 2000, four phases of archaeological excavations have been conducted there. This hand-carved complex extends over a vast area carved into black slate rocks. Located outside the city, in Arzan Fud village on the eastern slopes of Alvand Mountain, it is suitable for tourism and nature excursions. Initially, the primary purpose of the Arzan Fud Underground City was religious and ritualistic; however, in later periods, it was entirely used as a shelter.”

He said that despite its potential as a shelter, I do not recommend using it as a refuge for the public due to



Samen Underground City
● chtn.ir



Arzan Fud Underground City
● hamedanpayam.com

its remote location far from urban populated centers.

Architectural features

The archaeologist explained that the underground carved area spans approximately seven hectares and contains over 35 interconnected rooms within a single section. On the walls of these spaces, there are stone hooks, which initial studies hypothesized were used for tying animals. However, no remains of animal feces or other evidence of animal keeping have been found during excavations. Another hypothesis suggested that prisoners might have been restrained

there, but again, no such evidence was discovered. Interestingly, all the rooms contain numerous hooks — one room, in particular, features about 15 carved into the walls. The mystery surrounding these stone hooks remains unsolved and warrants further, detailed investigation.

Function and historical timeline

Khaksar also discussed the function of the Arzan Fud Underground City, stating, “We found artifacts dating from the late Parthian and early Sassanid periods, and even more artifacts from the intermediate and later Islamic periods. We also recovered numerous cultural objects and pottery from the Ilkhanid era. The site is nearly ready to be opened to tourists within the next year and a half, with high security measures in place. Khaksar noted the neglect of Iran’s underground cities’ historical and architectural value, adding, “Many of the country’s hand-carved structures are now abandoned and have suffered significant damage as a result of urban development and the expansion of towns and villages.”

Archaeological research

He referenced the archae-

ological activities carried out in the Samen and Arzan Fud Underground Cities, which have been ongoing since 2005. He mentioned that there have been six phases of excavation in Samen and four in Arzan Fud. Khaksar explained, “These hand-carved structures are primarily carved into rock and are located underground. Rock-cut tombs, most of which belonged to ancient kings, are quite common, along with tombs from the Sassanid era that have been found in Hamedan.” Since 2016, the Samen and Arzan Fud cultural heritage sites have been established. Over the past two years, both locations have been prepared to welcome tourists.

Other rock-cut structures

Khaksar continued, “Other rock-cut structures, such as Kandovan and Meymand, also exist. Despite being thousands of years old, these structures are still inhabited and used today.” He also mentioned the hand-carved Qaleh Juq Cave located in Famenin of Hamedan Province, stating, “This site served both as a tomb and as a residential space, and most of it remains untouched and well-preserved to this day.” Explaining the variety and architectural features, Khaksar said, “Some of these structures were used solely as tombs, functioning as rock-cut burial chambers. Others served as underground tombs or burial chambers.” He also categorized qanats — underground aqueducts — as part of the underground hand-carved structures, adding however, underground cities have their own specific characteristics. Examples include the Verjuy Underground City in Maragheh, Noushabad Underground City in Kashan, and several other sites in Khomein and Golpayegan. In Hamedan Province, he noted, there is a rich diversity of these underground, hand-carved structures. A notable group of these was discovered in the 1990s, including one in Kamari village in Jowkar District of Malayer, which has been thoroughly documented. He continued, “Another village in Malayer also hosts an underground city. In Salehbad, an archaeological excavation was conducted and documented. Additionally, in Deh Boneh village in Tuyserkan, there is another underground hand-carved site. While it has been studied, no archaeological excavation has yet been carried out there.”



Iran calls for oriental culture revival, tourism alliance at SCO summit

Arts & Culture Desk

Tourism should be used to rebuild global trust and bridge civilizations, not just boost economies, Hojatollah Ayoubi, senior advisor to Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts told a gathering of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) tourism ministers in China. Speaking on behalf of Minister Reza Salehi-Amiri, Ayoubi described the East as "the cradle of meaning" and tourism as a tool to rebuild "global trust" and challenge dominant narratives, IRNA reported.

He framed tourism not just as an economic driver, but a civilizational "bridge" that can reconnect nations fractured by modern isolation and mistrust.

"Tourism has the power to break media monopolies," Ayoubi said, emphasizing its role in correcting distorted narratives and re-establishing people-to-people ties.

He added that countries like Iran offer "living culture and enduring traditions," which he sees as vital for global spiritual and cultural restoration.

Criticizing the spiritual void in Western modernity, he said the West is "trapped in racial supremacy and meaninglessness," while the East has successfully merged tradition and modernity.

Renewal in the East, he argued, means not imitation but "reinterpretation" of its historic wisdom.

"Humanity is yearning for the warmth of mysticism and the open arms of meaning-driven cultures," Ayoubi told delegates, urging SCO members to loosen visa barriers and boost intra-regional tourism to fuel both reconciliation and strategic cooperation.

He tied this vision to larger geopolitical initiatives such as China's Belt and Road project and the revival of the Silk Road, calling for "real unity among nations with a shared fate."

Ayoubi also invited SCO members to attend a high-level summit on cultural, artistic, and health tourism to be hosted in Iran next year.

Ayoubi condemned Israel's recent strikes on Iranian territory and called on SCO states to take a firm stance in defense of Iran's sovereign rights. "Justice," he said, "is not just a legal demand. It is a civilizational necessity aligned with the goals of the World Tourism Organization and the human ideals of the SCO."

On the sidelines of the SCO culture ministers' summit, Iran and Tajikistan called for a formal union to promote Persian language and heritage across the region. Ayoubi met with Tajikistan's Minister of Culture, Matluba Khan Sattoriyon, to stress the deep-rooted cultural ties between the two nations. Both sides agreed that Iran and Tajikistan, as "the two wings of Persian culture," must lead efforts to unify the Persian-speaking world.



Hojatollah Ayoubi, senior advisor to Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, speaks during the 22nd meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) culture ministers and a tourism leaders' conference in Qingdao, Shandong Province, China, July 7, 2025.

● IRNA

Ayoubi proposed building a "permanent framework" for cultural and academic cooperation, drawing parallels to pan-Turkic initiatives already in motion.

"With our shared treasures in language, history, and philosophy," he said, "we must step up and shape a cohesive cultural space."

'Black Scarf' wins jury prize at Spanish festival



Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian filmmaker Alireza Shahhosseini was awarded the Special Jury Prize for his short film 'Black Scarf' at the DiversidArte Social Inclusion Short Film Festival in Spain, according to a statement by the film's media advisor.

The decision was made by a jury of leading Spanish film figures, Kike Otero, Alberto

Tome, and Álvaro Pita, after viewing the six finalists in the main fiction category, IRNA reported.

The jury praised 'Black Scarf' as "deeply moving" and "remarkably striking," selecting it as the best short film of 2025.

The award places the film among the most talked-about independent works on the European circuit this year,

highlighting the growing global footprint of Iranian cinema despite ongoing geopolitical friction.

Shahhosseini donated his €500 cash prize to the families of those killed or injured during the 12-day war between Iran and Israel earlier this year. The gesture was described as a tribute to "martyrs and war veterans," aligning the film's narrative

themes with current political undertones.

Produced by Shahhosseini Film, an international production house, 'Black Scarf' weaves a haunting tale inspired by a chilling metaphor: "Do you know anything about spiders?... They eat their mates." The line appears in the film's official synopsis and mirrors its psychological tone.

The cast includes Pasha Rostami, Tara Majidzadeh, Lotfolah Seifi, Mahna Seyyedi, the late Hatem Mashmouli, Javad Falahatkar, Hasti Gharib, Iraj Abedi, Naser Marefat, Ebrahim Naji, and Arshia Cheraghi. The festival has gained a reputation for spotlighting bold, socially reflective storytelling from across the globe. This year's edition took place in Galicia, northwestern Spain.

Date: 1404/4/18 - No.:0455/7789

INVITATION TO ONE STEP INTERNATIONAL TENDER

First Announcement

AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT SERVICES COMPANY

The Agricultural Support Services Company, hereinafter will be referred as ASSC, a subsidiary of the Ministry of Jihad-Agriculture of I.R. of Iran, is considering the purchase of **3×50000±5% MTS of Granular Triple Super Phosphate** through one step international tender. All of the qualified and interested companies are invited to receive tender documents from **Wednesday** dated **9/7/2025** until **Tuesday** dated **15/7/2025** (5 working days) from our purchasing committee (located at the 9th floor, no. 1, fourth alley, Gandhi St., Tehran, Iran).

The bidders are requested to submit their letters of introduction, along with remittance bill of IRI. Rials 1,200,000 to ASSC's account no. 4001039704005791 with SHEBA no. IR250100004001039704005791 at the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran through payment order of SATNA or PAYA with the 30-character identification code of 3390397822635006500000000000008

The bidders are required to submit their sealed and stamped envelopes containing offers latest on **Saturday** dated **16/8/2025** (During official working hours) to our security office, located on the 8th floor. Meanwhile the meeting for the opening of the envelopes will be on **Sunday** dated **17/8/2025** at **14:00** with the presence of bidders' representatives in our purchasing committee (9th floor, no. 1, fourth alley, Gandhi St., Tehran, Iran).

1- The bid bond value should be at € **568004** or in equal value of that in any other foreign currencies, except US dollars, based on the Telegraphic Transfer rate of the basic and essential commodities on CBI's ETS website, www.fxmarketrate.cbi.ir, on **30/6/2025** for each lot of 50000 MTS ± 5% in bank guarantee.

2- The bidders are permitted to submit the bid bond in Iranian Rial. Therefore, the value of bid bond for each lot of 50000 MTS ± 5% will be **IRR 189,243,589,281** which must be only submitted by the bidders.

3- After approval of ASSC's Financial Manager, the bidders are permitted to use their previous and definite outstanding claims as the bid bond.

For more information, you may refer to our website www.assc.ir, and <http://iets.mporg.ir> or contact us by phone no. 00982188776325.

Public Relations and International Affairs of Agricultural Support Services Company

4,000 housing units damaged in Iran-Israel war

Tehran Municipality takes over rebuilding

Social Desk

Iran's government confirmed on Tuesday that more than 4,000 housing units were damaged during the recent 12-day war. Responsibility for rebuilding these homes has now been fully transferred to Tehran's municipality, officials said, according to IRNA. The move marks a major shift from earlier plans that involved direct compensation through public funds.

Majid Joudi, deputy head of the Housing Foundation's reconstruction division, said about 3,500 units require repair, while 500 need complete reconstruction. All evaluation files and damage assessments gathered by 140 experts have been handed over to city authorities.

The change comes after the cabinet initially approved a compensation plan but reversed course in a follow-up session, assigning the municipality full control over reconstruction efforts in Tehran. This includes not only repairs and rebuilding but also emergency and temporary housing for affected residents. The handover has created uncertainty among homeowners and officials. Mohammad Reza Rezaei-Kouchi, head of parliament's Urban Development Commission, noted that while a reconstruction package has been approved in principle, it has yet to be formally communicated to the responsible bodies. "We need clarity on which agency will lead the rebuilding," he said. Tehran Mayor Alireza Zakani stated the city



is prepared to handle the task and has begun planning for emergency shelters, including prefabricated concrete bunkers to be installed underground. He emphasized readiness to act swiftly if hostilities resume. Zakani also addressed concerns about "density sales," a practice of granting additional building permits to developers in exchange for fees, which some fear could reduce homeowners' land shares. He said the city is trying to balance reconstruction needs with protecting property owners' rights, warning that "people should not be sidelined" in the rebuilding process. The municipality plans a multi-tiered reconstruction approach: from city-led projects to owner-led repairs and complete rebuilds involving contractors. Zakani called on the government to finalize approvals and fund releases without delay. "The city is ready. Now we need the paperwork to catch up," he said.