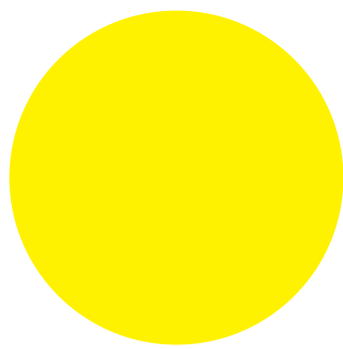


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Iranian Army Chief Commander Major General Amir Hatami (2nd R) is seen among senior military officials during a visit to an airbase in the capital Tehran on July 11, 2025.
● IRNA

Pezeshkian projected national strength through unity

By Ali Shakourirad
Former Iranian MP

OPINION

From the outset of the 2024 presidential campaign, Masoud Pezeshkian made it clear that he intended to align his administration with the overarching policies outlined by the Supreme Leader. Over the past year, this commitment has largely held true in practice. The 14th government of the Islamic Republic has, in its actions, moved in step with the Leader's directives. Even in areas of initial disagreement—such as over negotiations with the United States regarding the nuclear file—Pezeshkian clearly stated that, while he personally favored dialogue, once the Leader ruled out talks, the administration would fall in line. Following that public statement, the Leader subsequently created room for diplomatic engagement. Staying true to his campaign slogan “Let's not fight,” Pezeshkian emphasized national cohesion and made concerted efforts to coordinate closely with

the heads of the other branches of power. His cooperation with the Judiciary appears to have been especially constructive. However, similar synergy was not always seen with the Parliament speaker. One such case was Parliament's direct intervention in executive affairs—specifically, its approval of a law to suspend cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) following joint Israeli-American attacks on Iran's nuclear facilities last month. Although the president had the constitutional option to object to the legislation, he refrained from doing so and moved forward with its implementation. Pezeshkian has largely delivered on his campaign promises. The call to avoid conflict materialized into political reconciliation, even extending to the inclusion of former rivals in his cabinet. His push for institutional harmony at home went beyond what was expected. On the foreign policy front, he advocated for dialogue and diplomacy, and managed to kick-start nuclear

talks—until, regrettably, Iran came under military attack mid-negotiation. In a recent interview with US host Tucker Carlson, Pezeshkian reiterated his commitment to international engagement, cautioning that war often fills the vacuum left by diplomacy. His insistence on keeping the door open to negotiation was both a positive approach and a fulfillment of earlier promises. His rational and people-centered approach played a key role—alongside Iran's military prowess—in shaping the outcome of the recent war. Pezeshkian helped manifest national strength through the unity and solidarity of the people, which proved highly impactful. The alignment between the people and the state in the face of foreign aggression contributed greatly to preventing a prolonged conflict and minimized destruction. In the realm of foreign policy, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has turned in an acceptable performance.

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Pezeshkian: Tehran to resume cooperation if IAEA redresses double standards

International Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Thursday that Tehran will resume its cooperation with the UN nuclear agency if the agency abandons its "double standards" policies regarding Tehran's nuclear program.

"The resumption of cooperation [with the International Atomic Energy Agency] hinges on the rectification of the double standards regarding Iran's nuclear case," Pezeshkian said in a phone call with European Council President António Costa.

Pezeshkian emphasized that a parliamentary law on suspension of Iran's cooperation with the UN nuclear agency was a "reaction to the biased and unprofessional" performance of the agency's director general.

The Iranian president warned that the agency's lack of impartiality in its reports, its overlooking of attacks on Iran's nuclear facilities, and its silence in the face of violations of international law have undermined the IAEA's credibility. Late in June, Iran's Constitutional Council approved a parliamentary bill on sus-

pending cooperation with the IAEA after its report against Iran's nuclear program became a lightning rod for the Israeli aggression on Iran.

The suspension, the bill reads, will remain in effect until full assurances are provided regarding Iran's national sovereignty and territorial integrity, particularly the security of its nuclear sites and scientists, as well as the Islamic Republic's inherent rights under Article 4 of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), including its right to uranium enrichment.

The Israeli regime launched a wave of aggression on Iran's military and civilian infrastructure on June 13 that claimed hundreds of lives, including women and children, as well as a dozen top military brass.

In response, the Iranian Armed Forces launched a retaliatory campaign against the Israeli regime by targeting key military, intelligence, industrial, energy, and R&D facilities across the occupied territories.

The United States, which had been in talks with Tehran about its peaceful

nuclear program since April, joined the war on June 22 by targeting several key nuclear sites in a separate military operation, code-named Midnight Hammer. Iran struck a major US military base in Qatar in retaliation.

The Israeli regime was forced on June 24 to declare a unilateral halt to its aggression, which was announced on its behalf by US President Donald Trump. The European Council president said the EU insists on diplomacy to resolve the existing issues and seeks improvement of cooperation with Iran.

Nuclear talks with US

Pezeshkian pointed to Israel's role in disrupting international peace and security and said the regime carried out its acts of aggression against Iran in cooperation with the US at a time that Tehran and Washington were engaged in indirect nuclear talks.

Iran's Foreign Minister Seyyed Abbas Araghchi has said Tehran is open to resuming negotiations with the US based on dignity and mutual respect.

In a detailed interview with Le Monde



published on Thursday, Araghchi emphasized that the US must first change its behavior and guarantee it will not conduct further military strikes against Iran during negotiations.

"Diplomacy is a two-way street. It was the US that broke off negotiations and resorted to military action. Therefore, it is crucial for the US to accept responsibility for its mistakes and to demon-

strate a clear change in behavior. We need assurances that the United States will refrain from military attacks during any future discussions," Araghchi stated. He highlighted that US attacks have caused damage to Iran's nuclear facilities, emphasizing that the country reserves the right to seek compensation once the extent of the damage is assessed.

Araghchi: Triggering snapback tantamount to military aggression

International Desk

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said triggering the so-called "snapback" mechanism by European countries against Iran would have the same effect as a military attack.

In an interview with Le Monde, the Iranian foreign minister said that activating the "snapback" mechanism would mark the end of France and Europe's role in the issue of Iran's peaceful nuclear program. "We support the constructive role of the three European countries [France, Germany, and the UK] in rebuilding the JCPOA (Iran 2015 nuclear deal), provided they avoid provocative and unconstructive actions such as threatening the "snapback" mechanism, which would have the same effect as a military attack," Araghchi said.

The so-called snapback mechanism allows for the return of anti-Iran sanctions suspended under the 2015 nuclear deal, from which the US withdrew in 2018 and its European parties failed to fulfill their commitments under the deal.

The Iranian foreign minister added that the threat of sanctions does not help diplomacy. If Europe truly seeks to play a central role, it must demonstrate independence and neutrality.

In recent months, the three European countries which are the signatories of the 2015 nuclear deal, have repeatedly threatened to activate the mechanism against Iran on different excuses.



In a latest warning, the UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy on Wednesday raised the alarm that European nations will act to impose "dramatic sanctions" on Iran in the coming weeks if it does not end what he called the uncertainty about its nuclear program, including by allowing the return of UN inspectors.

His warning was echoed by the French Foreign Ministry, which is working closely with the UK in this regard.

The UK, France and Germany – the E3 – signed the nuclear deal with Iran in 2015 and according to its terms can impose "snapback" UN sanctions without the risk of a security council veto, so long as they act by its expiry in October. Alternatively, they could table a UN resolution to delay the snapback by some months if Iran shows willingness to negotiate.

The three countries are also using their power to reimpose UN sanctions as a lever to persuade the US to join the talks with the Iranians, but have so far had no success.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Armed Forces not to abandon even an inch of Iran's soil: Army chief



International Desk

Iran's Army Chief Major General Amir Hatami said on Friday that the Iranian Armed Forces will not allow even a single inch of Iran's territory to be separated from the country.

Major General Amir Hatami made the remarks while visiting Shahid Lashgari Air Base in Tehran. In a meeting with the pilots of the

military base, Hatami emphasized that the Army's duty is to safeguard the territorial integrity, independence, and establishment of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Stressing that Iran's Army will continue its mission with full strength, he said, "We demonstrated during the eight-year Sacred Defense (Iraq's imposed war on Iran in the 1980s) that we will never allow a single inch of Iran's soil to be separated."

His comments came amid high tensions between Iran and the Israel following a 12-day unprovoked aggression by the regime against Iran last month, which claimed the lives of nearly 1,100 Iranians including women and children, as well as a dozen top military brass.

The Israeli regime launched its aggression on Iran's military and civilian infrastructure on June 13. In response, the Iranian Armed Forces launched a retaliatory campaign, Operation True Promise III, against Israel by targeting its key military, intelligence, industrial, energy, and R&D facilities.

Iran's Armed Forces also launched a missile attack on the US largest military base in the Middle East in Qatar after Washington joined the aggression on June 22 by targeting three Iranian nuclear facilities of Fordow, Natanz and Isfahan.

The Israeli regime was forced on June 24 to declare a unilateral halt to its aggression, which was announced on its behalf by US President Donald Trump.

ASEAN urges Iran, Israel to keep up adherence to cease-fire

International Desk

Member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) called on Iran and Israel to continue observing a unilateral cease-fire which ended a 12-day aggression by the regime against Iran. "We expressed concern over the escalation of tensions in the Middle East since 13 June 2025, and welcomed the cease-fire between Israel and Iran on 24 June 2025," according to a Joint Communique of the 58th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting which was held in Malaysia's capital, Kuala Lumpur.

"We urged all parties to respect the cease-fire and avoid further escalation of this conflict."

"We reaffirmed the obligation of all States to resolve their differences through peaceful means and to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all nations, in line with international law, including the United Nations (UN) Charter," the communique continued.



The ASEAN members also reiterated the obligations to protect civilians and civilian infrastructures in armed conflicts consistent with international law and relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

"We supported ongoing efforts, including those led by the UN, aimed at de-escalating tensions and facilitating the resumption of constructive engagement among parties involved," the document stated. Russia Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, who also attended the ASEAN meeting, called for the extension of the cease-fire "without any delays."

Israel launched airstrikes on several mili-

tary and nuclear site as well as residential areas across Iran on June 13, alleging that Tehran was on the verge of producing a nuclear bomb, a claim denied by Iran. The aggression killed 1,100 people and injured more than 5,000 in Iran.

At least 28 people were also killed and more than 3,000 others were wounded in Israel after Iran's Armed Forces targeted Israel's military sites in response to the regime's attacks.

After 12 days of aerial combat between the two sides, US President Donald Trump announced a unilateral cease-fire on June 24, which ended the conflict.

First phase of Iran's largest solar plant comes online in Isfahan Province

Economy Desk

The first phase of Iran's largest solar power plant with a capacity of 120 megawatts started operations in Kuhpayeh, Isfahan Province, with President Masoud Pezeshkian virtually in attendance.

The world's 25th largest solar power plant, aiming to produce 600 megawatts of solar electricity, was inaugurated via video conference attended by Pezeshkian and Minister of Industry, Mine, and Trade Mohammad Atabak. Addressing the ceremony, the minister emphasized that 'Eastern Sunshine' solar power plant, spanning 1,200 hectares and considered one of the key projects in developing the country's clean energy, is a significant step towards reducing fossil fuel consumption and increasing the share of renewable energy in Iran's power grid, according to IRNA. Atabak said that the domestically manufactured status of 40% of the power plant's equipment is "a testament to the

country's technical and engineering capabilities in the renewable energy sector, which can pave the way for cost reduction and increased competitiveness in similar projects."

Emphasizing the strategic importance of the Eastern Sunshine solar power plant project, the minister stated, "The inauguration of this plant is a significant step towards achieving sustainable development goals, energy security, reducing environmental pollution, and creating the necessary infrastructure for a greener future."

Atabak described this project as an outstanding example of industry-environment coordination and stressed, "The over 60 million Euro investment in the first phase of this plant" by the private sector not only indicates "the forward-looking approach of the country's major industries but also proves that this sector can play a decisive role in developing clean energy infrastructure."

"The extensive participation of knowl-

edge-based companies, consulting engineers, and domestic contractors in implementing this plan, besides reducing reliance on foreign technologies, has provided the ground for sustainable employment in the field of new energy," he added.

Referring to the economic and social dimensions of the project, the minister stated that the power plant has led to direct and indirect job creation in the region and will be a driver for infrastructural, economic, and even tourism development in the host province.

The project has created employment for 3,000 individuals during construction and 70 individuals in the first phase of operations.

The solar power plant, featuring track-



er technology for increased energy production (receiving solar energy from direct radiation onto the panel surface and reflection from the ground onto the panel back), prevents the emission of one million tons of greenhouse gas CO2 annually.

The final phase of the major project is scheduled to be completed by the end of the Iranian year 1405 (March 2027). Upon full commissioning, the country's solar power capacity will increase by 30 percent.

OPEC: Iran leads 2024 global oil output with 13% rise



Economy Desk

OPEC data showed that Iran secured the top rank worldwide for oil production in 2024, with an increase of 374,000 barrels per day (bpd) in crude oil output. According to statistics published in the 60th issue of the Statistical Bulletin of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), Iran achieved

the world's top position in crude oil production growth for 2024, recording a 13% increase, SHANA reported. The feat occurred while Saudi Arabia experienced a significant decrease in production for the second consecutive year.

Iran's daily crude oil production increased by 374,000 bpd, rising from 2.884 million bpd in 2023 to 3.257 million bpd in 2024.

The United States holds second place with an increase of 274,000 bpd in daily crude oil production (equivalent to 2% growth), followed by Nigeria (+158,000 bpd), Venezuela (+138,000 bpd), and Argentina (+65,000 bpd).

Conversely, Saudi Arabia experienced a decrease of 651,000 bpd (equivalent to 7%) in daily oil production, marking the second consecutive year of decline by this magnitude for the country. Russia, with a decrease of 404,000 bpd, and Iraq, with a decrease of 256,000 bpd, are among the countries that experienced the largest production declines.

Analysis of the data indicates that global oil production in 2024 decreased by 767,000 bpd compared to the previous year, with 572,000 bpd of this reduction attributable to OPEC members.

Also last week, a report by Bloomberg said that Iranian oil output reached a 46-year high in 2024. Citing figures from the UK

Energy Institute and its Statistical Review of World Energy, the report said that Iran had produced about 4.3 million barrels per day (bpd) of crude plus another 725,000 bpd of other liquids in 2024.

The report said that as the debate plays out over the damage done to the Iranian nuclear program by US and Israeli strikes in June, one reality is clear that the country's booming energy sector emerged unscathed.

It admitted that Iran has achieved a remarkable feat by raising its oil output to record levels at a time of increased American pressure. According to the Bloomberg report, the sanctions "exist only on paper while the White House hypes a non-existent policy of "maximum pressure" on the Iranian oil sector. "I only see maximum oil output," said the report by Javier Blas.

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record levels at a time of increased American pressure. According to the Bloomberg report, the sanctions "exist only on paper" while the White House hypes a non-existent policy of "maximum pressure" on the Iranian oil sector. "I only see maximum oil output," said the report by Javier Blas.

The world's top oil importer, China's oil imports from Iran surged in June as shipments accelerated before the Israeli-imposed war against the Islamic Republic and demand from independent refineries improved, according to analysts.

The biggest buyer of Iranian crude brought in more than 1.8 million barrels per day from June 1-20, as stated by ship-tracker Vortexa, a record high based on the firm's data.

Kpler's data put the month-to-date average of China's Iranian oil and condensate imports at 1.46 million bpd as of June 27, up from one million bpd in May.

Iran diversifies capital channels amid threats of war, sanctions

Economy Desk

The head of Organization for Investment and Economic and Technical Assistance of Iran (OIETAI) announced on Thursday the implementation of diversification in channels for attracting and receiving capital.

Emphasizing the need for necessary flexibility in the face of war and sanctions, Abolfazl Kudei expressed hope that following recent developments (the 12-day Israeli imposed war, launched on June 13), increased capability would be witnessed, Tasnim reported.

The deputy economy minister said that various scenarios and necessary tools are being examined and selected to confront any crisis.

According to the OIETAI chief, the organization has utilized tools of economic diplomacy and will employ modern financing, which will include the digital economy and smart gov-

ernment.

He added that diversification in channels for attracting and receiving capital has been implemented.

According to Kudei, Iran welcomes all investing countries; however, strategic priority will be given to countries with greater investment potential, with neighboring countries and those having strategic relations with Iran taking precedence.

He described the investment outlook as forward-looking and stressed, "We will use all legal and economic tools in the international arena to realize foreign capital provision, encompassing economic interdependence between Iran and neighboring countries as well as other nations."

The head of OIETAI stated that risks such as war and sanctions impact capital transfer; however, our targeting aims to reduce such risks.

He cited Iran as having security guarantees for investment and prof-



itability, announcing that during the 12-day attacks, the OIETAI convened the foreign investment board and issued "nearly 90 foreign investment permits."

He also announced the issuance of

\$10 billion worth of foreign investment permits in the first quarter of the year, saying, "We are striving to implement financing appropriately through modern methods and interaction with aligned neighbors."

Pezeshkian projected national ...

His conduct has been praised for its awareness and effectiveness, though it could have been sharper to avert war altogether. Still, given that the conflict was ultimately imposed by adversaries, the blame lies elsewhere. A more assertive and agile Iranian approach in nuclear negotiations with the US might have prevented the war. President Donald Trump, now in his second term, has shown himself to be a figure that can be dealt with. Iran should have taken the reins in managing Trump, rather than allowing Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to steer the course.

One of Pezeshkian's standout achievements has been his effort to bridge the gap between the public and the political establishment. This was evident in the national solidarity that followed Israel's attacks on Iranian soil. His people-oriented policies over the past year laid the groundwork for what became a national epic of unity in the face of aggression—an expression of sovereignty that compelled the enemy to propose a cease-fire.

Another key decision was his resistance to implementing the "Hijab and Chastity Law." This move likely prevented an internal rift at a time when national unity proved vital. In retrospect, this resistance played a significant role in enabling the show of collective strength that emerged during the conflict.

One of the Pezeshkian administration's core campaign promises was to be "the voice of the voiceless." That promise now seems fulfilled, as citizens see their voices reflected in the administration's actions. This resonance between public sentiment and state policy has made the government a source of renewed hope for many. It is a crucial asset—one that must be preserved with care and foresight. If maintained, this social capital could become a powerful force for overcoming future crises and pushing national agendas forward.

Against barbarism, normalization of genocide



Protesters show victory signs and wave Iranian flags in front of the Iranian Embassy in Baghdad, Iraq, in celebration of the unilateral cessation of Israeli aggression.
● HADI MUZZAN/AP

By Mozghan Savabieasfahani
Political activist

OPINION EXCLUSIVE

Iranians are the victors; Let us celebrate our victory against Israel. The victory of the Iranian people against Israel and the barbarians of the West is being celebrated not only in the countries of the region but also across the entire world. The world has watched us stand tall against a brutal genocide that aims to normalize the mass killing of children and total devastation of an entire people, the Palestinians. As the Western barbarians continue to help Israel destroy Gaza, the world honors and reverses us Iranians for defending humanity and leading the way to bring justice about. Only a few weeks after the unprovoked and illegal aggression of Israel on Iranian soil, even the Israeli media, alongside their American and Western counterparts, were forced to acknowledge the devastation that Iranian missiles brought upon Israel. The missiles that rained upon Tel Aviv, Haifa, and Eilat were conceived of, designed, and manufactured in Iran by Iranians who had withstood 40 years of brutal Western sanctions. This is a proud and outstanding moment for us that is worthy of national celebration. In the fight against the brutality and barbarism of the West and under severe Western sanctions, we triumphed, and justice prevailed. In defense of itself and the brutalized people of Gaza, Iranian defense forces took on the most dreaded and feared militaries of the world, the US military and the

Israeli IDF, and we decisively defeated them. The world has never seen such a victory and continues to be in awe of our success. In taking on the defense of the Palestinian children in Gaza, Iran has taken on the leadership of the global struggle against racism, Zionism, and the normalization of genocide as a means of human subjugation. Providing missiles, intelligence, and political and economic cover for Israel while it commits a prolonged genocide has left the world in disgust and horror. The world is witnessing the naked truth, which is that the West stands with an inhuman, barbaric force of destruction in contrast to Iran, which fights for those who cannot defend themselves.

Simultaneously, the Arab world, energized and revived by Iran's actions, is cheering Iran for its careful and effective response to Israel. The taste of justice has been sweet for millions of Arabs who have been deprived of justice under US-backed dictatorships that have choked them while aiding Israel in the enslavement and killing of Palestinians decade after decade. We, the Iranians, have given them hope and have shown them the way. We should feel proud of what we have accomplished for ourselves and the world. If you are still not convinced that we have won a massive victory against darkness and death, consider these facts: After decades of Israeli impunity and barbaric

attacks on helpless people of the region, we, the Iranians, gave Israel a taste of its own medicine. Tel Aviv, Haifa, and Eilat have been severely damaged. No one could ever imagine Israeli cities in ruins. According to the admission of Israeli media, the devastation of Israel is deep and irreparable. Iran destroyed the headquarters of Mossad, leveled the Wiseman Institute, home to Elbit Systems military technology research that supports the murderous IDF. With the destruction of the Wiseman Institute, their plans for developing horrific biological warfare against the world have also been diffused. This victory against Israel and Western militaries has been achieved first by the will of the

Iranian Nation and second by the sophisticated military technology that we developed in Iran. We stand together against foreign aggression, and we lead the world in fighting barbarism and colonialism. Without a doubt, the Iranian people recognize the fragility of these times. We have stood by the Islamic Republic to prevent chaos and disorder and to protect our borders against violent aggression. We recognize that together we can build a stronger Iran that stands for humanity and justice inside and outside of our borders. A free Palestine means a free Middle East. A free Palestine means freedom from Western colonialist oppression. Let's keep up the pressure.



Iranians wave flags during a protest against illegal Israeli attacks on multiple cities across Iran, after the Friday prayers at Enqelab (Revolution) Square in Tehran, Iran, on June 20, 2025.
● DEFA PRESS



Providing missiles, intelligence, and political and economic cover for Israel while it commits a prolonged genocide has left the world in disgust and horror. The world is witnessing the naked truth, which is that the West stands with an inhuman, barbaric force of destruction in contrast to Iran, which fights for those who cannot defend themselves.

Israel now faces adversaries that it cannot defeat

 By Jasim Al-Azzawi
Analyst, journalist

OPINION

Since October 7, 2023, the war of images has eclipsed the war of weapons. From Gaza's pulverised hospitals and starving infants to mass graves and desperate fathers digging through rubble, every pixel captured on a smartphone strikes deeper than a missile.

These raw, unfiltered, and undeniable images have a far greater impact than any press conference or official speech. And for the first time in its history, Israel cannot delete them or drown them in propaganda.

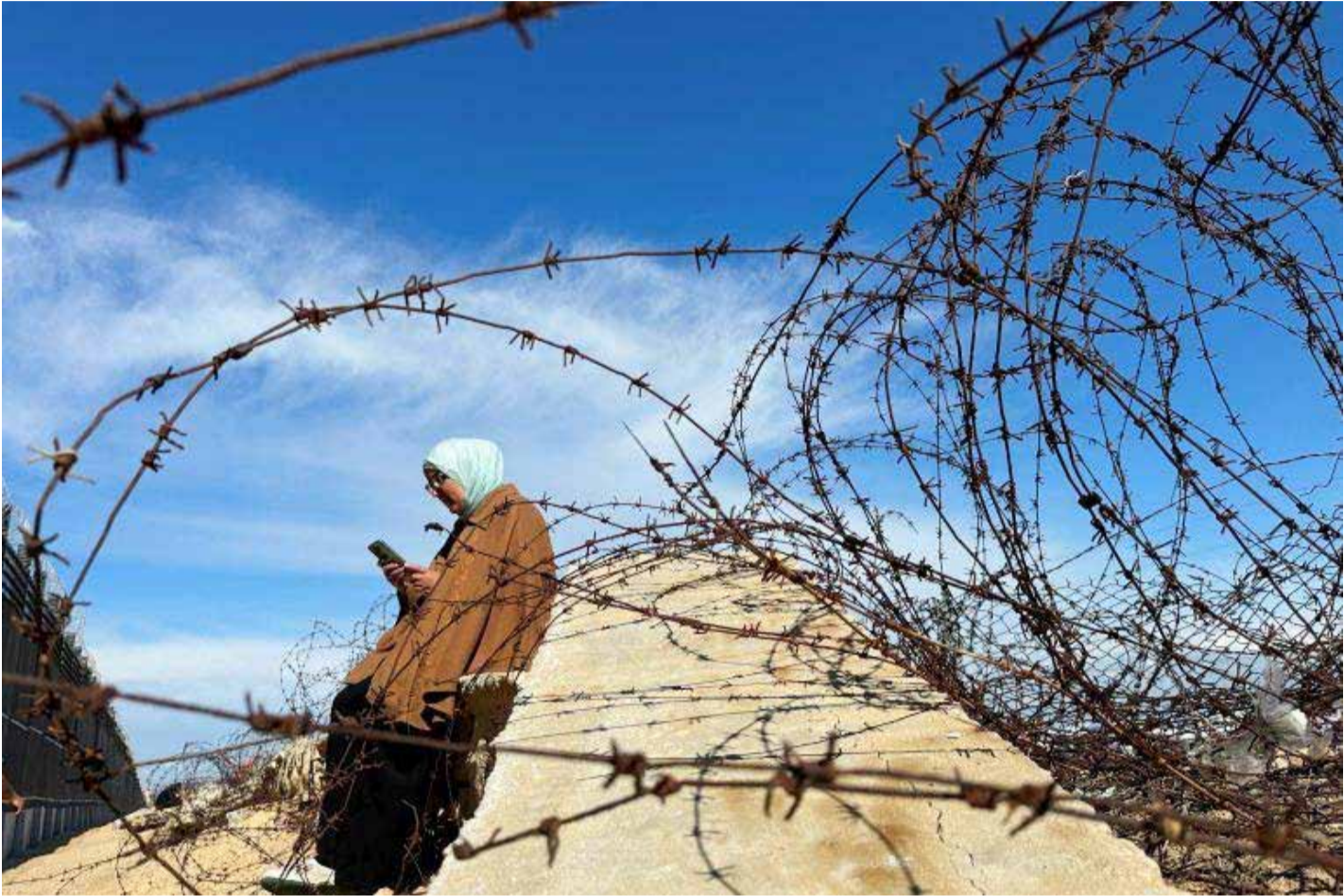
The horrifying images of the Israeli army massacring people at aid distribution locations prompted newspaper Haaretz's Gideon Levy to write on June 29: "Is Israel perpetrating genocide in Gaza? [...] The testimonies and images emerging from Gaza don't leave room for many questions."

Even staunchly pro-Israel commentator and New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman no longer buys into the Israeli narrative. In a May 9 op-ed, addressed to US President Donald Trump, he declared: "This Israeli government is not our ally," clarifying that it is "behaving in ways that threaten hard-core US interests in the region".

Once, Israel's narrative was protected by the gates of editorial rooms and the gravity of Western guilt. But the smartphone shattered those gates. What we see now is no longer what Israel tells us — it's what Gaza shows us.

The platforms carrying these images — TikTok, WhatsApp, Instagram, X — don't prioritise context; They prioritise virality. While older generations might look away, younger ones are glued to the stream of suffering, absorbed by every pixel, every siren, every moment of destruction. The global public is agitated, and this works against the Israeli interest. Israel is no longer just at war with its neighbours; It is at war with the lens itself.

The psychological toll of this visual war is reverberating



deep inside Israeli society. For decades, Israelis were conditioned to see themselves as global narrators of trauma, not subjects of international scrutiny. But now, with videos of Israeli bombardment, flattened Gaza neighbourhoods, and emaciated children flooding every platform, many Israelis are grappling with a growing ethical predicament.

There is unease, even among centrists, that these visceral images are eroding Israel's moral high ground. For the first time, public discourse in Israeli society includes fear of the mirror: What the world now sees and what Israelis are forced to confront.

Internationally, the effect has been even more destabilising for Israel's diplomatic standing. Longstanding allies, once unconditionally supportive, now face growing domestic pressure from citizens who are not consuming official statements but TikTok's live streams and Instagram's im-

age feed.

Lawmakers in Europe and North America are openly questioning arms shipments, trade deals, and diplomatic cover, not because of the briefings they have on Israeli war crimes but because their inboxes are flooded with screenshots of scattered body parts and starving children.

The battlefield has expanded into parliaments, campuses, city councils, and editorial rooms. This is the backlash of a war Israel cannot win with brute force. To regain control of the narrative, Israeli officials have pressured social media platforms to curb content they dislike. Yet even Israel's most sophisticated public diplomacy efforts are struggling to keep pace with the virality of raw documentation.

Behind closed doors, the Israeli military is no longer merely worried about public relations; It is concerned about prosecution. The Israeli army has admonished soldiers for taking selfies

and filming themselves demolishing Palestinian homes, warning that such material is now being harvested as evidence by international human rights organisations.

Footage and images from social media have already been used by activists to target Israeli servicemen abroad. In a number of cases, Israeli citizens have had to flee countries they were visiting due to war crimes complaints filed against them.

In the age of smartphones, the occupation is no longer just visible — it's indictable.

In the past, Israel fought wars that it could explain. Now, it fights a battle it can only react to — often too belatedly and too clumsily. The smartphone captures what the missile conceals. Social media disseminates information that official briefings attempt to suppress. The haunting images, digitally preserved, ensure that we never forget any devastating atrocity or act of brutality.

Images of conflict do not just convey information; They can also redefine our perceptions and influence our political positions. The powerful "Napalm Girl" photo that captured the aftermath of an attack by the US-allied South Vietnamese army on civilians during the Vietnam War had a profound impact on American society. It helped create a significant shift in public opinion regarding the war, accelerating the decision of the US government to end it.

Today, in Gaza, the stream of powerful images does not stop. Despite Israel's best efforts, the global opinion is overwhelmingly against its genocidal war. Smartphones have completely changed the nature of conflict by putting a camera in the hands of every witness. In this new era, Israel struggles to defeat the relentless, unfiltered visual record of its crimes that calls for justice.

The article first appeared on Al Jazeera.



A displaced Palestinian woman tries to get Internet service on her phone through the Egyptian networks to communicate with her relatives, near the border with Egypt, in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip on February 1, 2024.

● MOHAMMED SALEM/REUTERS



Once a master of narrative warfare, Israel is now losing to smartphones, social media, and the digital archive. With videos of Israeli bombardment, flattened Gaza neighbourhoods, and emaciated children flooding every platform, many Israelis are grappling with a growing ethical predicament.



The brother of Sund Abu Shaar cradles the two-month-old, who was killed in an Israeli attack on a home, before the baby's body was taken for funeral prayers in Deir al-Balah, Gaza, on March 17, 2024.

● ALI JADALLAH/ANADOLU



Fadi Zant, nine, receives treatment for malnutrition after being evacuated from the northern Gaza Strip to a field hospital in Rafah, on March 24, 2024.

● ALI JADALLAH/ANADOLU

Asian U20 Wrestling Championships:

Iranians bag nine medals to clinch Greco-Roman title

Sports Desk

Iranian Greco-Roman team dominated the Asian U20 Wrestling Championships, notching up a remarkable nine medals – including four golds – across 10 weight classes to lift the team trophy in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, on Thursday. The impressive medal haul saw Iran finish atop the team table with 185 points, with Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan in the following spots, collecting 166 and 151 points, respectively. Mohammad-Hadi Seydi brought the curtain down on a glittering campaign for the Iranian boys by defeating South Korean Jaeno Choi in emphatic fashion (9-0) to walk away with the ultimate prize of the 97kg category. Seydi's triumph secured the sole gold medal for the country on Thursday, with Seyyed Iman Hosseini (60kg), Gholamreza Abdevali (67kg), and Amir-Mahdi Saeidinava (72kg) settling for a joint-bronze medal in their respective classes. Alireza Mohammad-Hosseini was the only Iranian Greco-Roman wrestler to leave Bishkek empty-handed, finishing fifth in the 82kg division. The preceding day in the Kyrgyz capital, however, proved much more prolific for the Iranian squad with triple gold medals and double bronzes.

Payam Ahmadi defeated opponents from Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan to progress to the final, before beating the host's Kutman Kalbaev 6-1 for the 55kg gold. Ahoura Bouveiri rounded off an emphatic run in the 77kg contests by outmuscling Omar Duisembek of Kazakhstan 15-6 in the final showpiece. Abolfazl Fat'hi, meanwhile, defended his superheavyweight title in style as the Iranian claimed back-to-back superiority wins without conceding a single point to reach the final before inflicting a pinfall defeat – while leading 2-1 – on Uzbekistan's Amirkhon Berdikulov to grab the 130kg gold. Mohammad-Javad Talebi (63kg) and Hamdireza Keshtkar (87kg) bounced back from last-four defeats in their respective events to add a couple of bronzes to Iran's medal haul. The freestyle competitions kick off today in Bishkek, where Arshia Haddadi (57kg), Sajjad Pirdayeh (65kg), Ebrahim Elahi (70kg), Abolfazl Shamsipour (79kg), and Erfan Alizadeh (97kg) will be in action across different classes. Abolfazl Bakhshoudeh (61kg), Mohammad Mamivand (74kg), Asian senior champion Abolfazl Rahmani (86kg), Tohid Nouri (92kg), and Mohammadreza Lotfi (125kg) will get their campaigns underway on Sunday.



● IAWFIR

AFC Women's Asia Cup qualifiers:

Head coach Jafari hails Iran's 'commitment' in statement win



Iranian girls celebrate a goal during a 4-0 victory over Singapore at the AFC Women's Asia Cup qualifiers in Amman, Jordan, on July 10, 2025.

● AFC

Sports Desk

Iranian head coach Marziyeh Jafari was pleased to see her team play with "high concentration and commitment" to get off to an emphatic start at the AFC Women's Asia Cup qualifiers. Iranian girls routed Singapore 4-0 in their Group A opener in Amman, Jordan, on Thursday to throw down the gauntlet to the host and other opponents in the five-team group. Iran started right on the front foot at the King Abdullah II Stadium, with Afshaneh Chatrenoor and Zahra Qanbari going close before Fatemeh Shaban broke the deadlock in the 18th minute with a left-footed effort from inside the box. Jafari's girls had to wait until the 47th minute to double their lead, when substitute Zahra Alizadeh evaded her marker on the edge of the area before teeing up Sara Didar to slot the ball into the roof of the net. Singaporean goalkeeper Izairida Shakira then had to be on her toes six

minutes later to keep out Negin Zandi's glancing header off Qanbari's set-piece but Iran's pressure was too much for the Southeast Asian side to handle as it conceded again in the 77th minute. Atefeh Imani played the ball into space for Zahra Sarbali, whose shot from an acute angle led to Singapore's Yasmine Zaharin turning the ball into her own net. Iran capped off its fine start in the 86th minute courtesy of Qanbari, who exchanged passes with Didar before storming into the box and executing a composed finish. Qanbari's goal celebration, however, led to a second booking for the Iranian captain, who will be ruled out of Sunday's massive game against Bhutan. Having had to cope with less than perfect preparations coming into the qualifiers, Jafari, who was appointed to the job in May, was pleased with the debut victory on Iran's bench. "We achieved the result we wanted," Jafari said after the game. "The first game always has its own special chal-

lenges – from weather issues to the team having to be in match conditions. "It should also be taken into account that we did not have a warm-up game but our players nevertheless played with high concentration and commitment. "The first game is always a bit difficult, because there is a need for more coordination, and we will certainly appear better and more coordinated in the future." The win took Iran into second place in the group table, three points adrift of Bhutan, which continued its perfect run with an impressive 2-1 victory over Lebanon later on Thursday. Jordan is third in the table after defeating Lebanon by four unanswered goals on the first day of the group fixtures and will fancy another comfortable win against Singapore on Sunday. Iran will then face Lebanon on Wednesday before squaring off against the host on Saturday. Only one team from the group will progress to the Asian Cup finals in Australia next March.

IOC chief Coventry offers sympathy with Iranians after 12-day war

Sports Desk

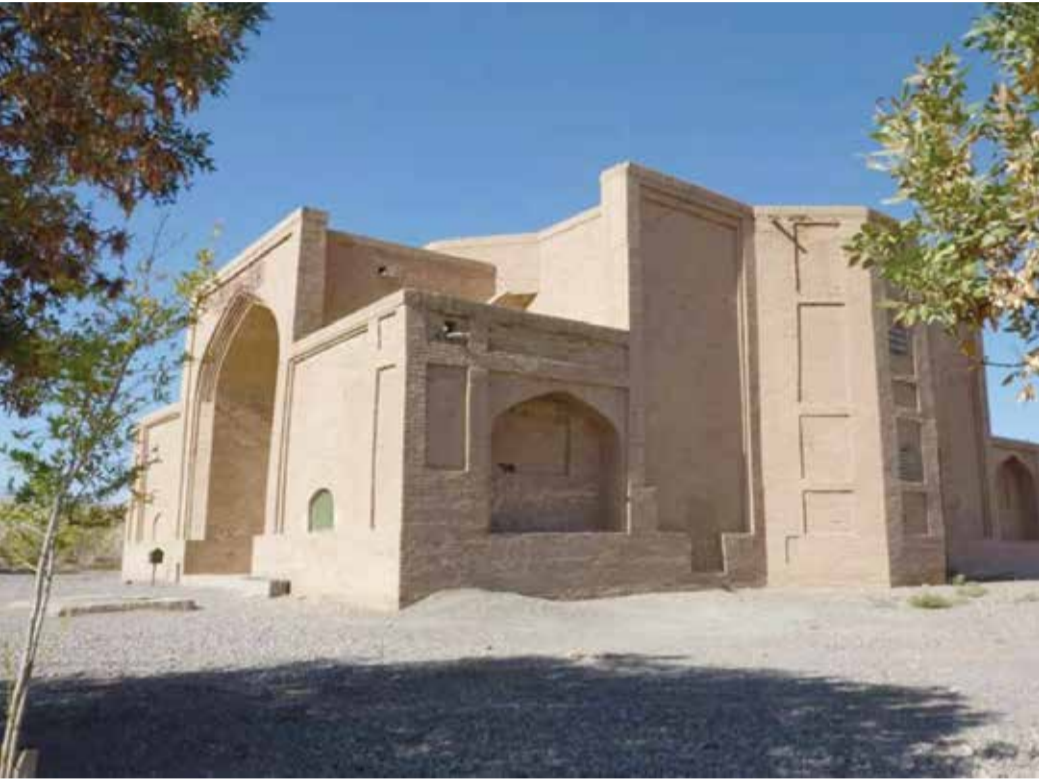
Kirsty Coventry, the president of the International Olympic Committee, offered her condolences to the Iranian people, who lost their loved ones during the 12-war with Israel. Nearly 700 civilians, including a number of Iranian athletes, were among the victims of Israel's unprovoked aggression against the country, which started on June 13, Iranian Health Ministry confirmed on Wednesday. "Please allow me to offer my sincerest condolences and thoughts for the innocent victims of this conflict and their families," Coventry wrote in response to a letter – dated June 23 – by Iranian National Olympic Committee chairman Mohammad-Hadi Khosravi-Vafa, in which he had urged the IOC to hand

Israeli athletes suspension from all international sporting events. "The IOC stands for peace, harmony and solidarity, and please be rest assured that, in the current international context more than ever, the IOC will continue to do its utmost at all levels to promote and safeguard the Fundamental Principles of Olympism and Olympic values, and particularly the unifying power of sport," the former Zimbabwean swimmer added. "Under these tragic circumstances, let me reiterate the IOC's full support and solidarity to your NOC and the Iranian Olympic community as a whole. "Thank you for valuable collaboration and continuous efforts to promote the Olympic values, and we remain fully at your disposal for any specific assistance you might need."



● IOC

Rich cultural, spiritual heritage encased in Shah Qasem Anvar’s shrine



kojaro.com

Iranica Desk

The shrine of Shah Qasem Anvar in Langar village of Torbat-e Jam is not only a significant historic monument with centuries of history but also a profound emblem of Iran’s rich cultural and spiritual heritage. Faramarz Saber Moqaddam, the head of the Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Department of Torbat-e Jam, stated in an interview with ISNA, “The tomb of Qasem Anvar, situated amidst the breathtaking natural scenery of Khorasan Razavi Province, has long been recognized as a central hub for mystical and cultural gatherings, especially during the Safavid era.”

He further added that through ongoing restoration efforts, there is hope that this historic building will be restored to its former splendor and grandeur. This would not only attract tourists and researchers but also serve as a lasting reminder of Iran’s rich cultural and spiritual values.

He also noted that emergency restoration work has commenced on the shrine. “This mausoleum, with its rich and valuable history, is located approximately 24 kilometers northwest of Torbat-e Jam,” he explained, “and stands as one of Iran’s most important historic sites.”

He pointed out that the structure was originally built by Amir Ali Shirnavai, a prominent figure

of the Safavid period, and contains inscriptions from that era that vividly reflect the magnificence of the time. Emphasizing its significance, he stated, “Shah Qasem Anvar was a renowned mystic and Sufi of the 8th and 9th centuries AH. He is buried here, and his influence on the history of mysticism and Persian literature remains profound.”

He continued by highlighting the distinctive architecture of the shrine, which showcases the artistry and elegance characteristic of the Safavid era. “This structure is designed in a rectangular form and features a cruciform domed hall,” he explained. “The entrance porticoes are situated on the southern and eastern wings of the building, while the northern wing is designed as a deeper hall that enshrines the tomb of Qasem Anvar. The ceiling of this hall is adorned with beautiful, shallow muqarnas, adding to the place’s aesthetic appeal.”

He elaborated, “The mausoleum of Shah Qasem Anvar epitomizes Iranian art and architecture at its peak during the Safavid period. The precise and artistic design of the dome and porticoes reflects the profound thoughts and skilled craftsmanship of the artisans of that era.”

According to him, “The main entrance leads from the eastern portico into the interior of the mausoleum. On either side, there are two distinct architectural spaces: the northern area has a square plan, and the southern

area, with a rectangular plan, contains a room that extends to the roof via a staircase from the northwestern corner — most probably serving as a kitchen or utility space.”

Addressing the current condition of the shrine, he said, “Due to erosion and climatic factors, this historic structure urgently requires repairs. Thanks to the allocation of emergency funds, the restoration process has been initiated as a priority.”

He explained, “The ongoing repairs involve replacing worn or fallen bricks, repointing various sections of the structure, and mending cracks caused by earthquakes and weather conditions. These restoration works are performed by experienced artisans under the strict supervision of cultural heritage experts, ensuring the preservation and longevity of this invaluable monument.”

Saber Moqaddam explained that the restoration efforts underway include the stitching and repair of cracks on the western side of the building, as well as targeted repairs to the outer walls and the roof. These measures are crucial for the preservation and conservation of this highly significant historical site, ensuring its structural integrity and longevity.

He also emphasized the vital importance of these restoration activities in safeguarding the region’s rich cultural and historical identity. “We must protect and maintain these valuable monuments in the best possible way,”

he remarked, “so that future generations will also have the opportunity to benefit from and learn from these cultural treasures, ensuring that their historical and spiritual significance endures.”

The shrine of Shah Qasem Anvar is not merely a historical relic; it is also a living symbol of cultural pride and spiritual heritage for the people of the region and the country at large. This mausoleum was officially registered on Iran’s National Heritage List on May 6, 1975, and since then, it has been recognized as both a significant cultural landmark and a popular tourist destination, drawing visitors from different parts of the country and beyond.

Highlighting the architectural importance of this monument, Saber Moqaddam stated, “This mausoleum exemplifies the continuation of the Timurid architectural style, which is also seen in other historic structures such as the Sheikh Ahmad Jami Mosque and School. It vividly demonstrates the rich cultural and artistic heritage of this region, reflecting the skills and artistic sensibilities of its builders from that era.”

He further added, “In addition to its historical and architectural significance, the mausoleum also serves as a central hub for tourism. It has the potential to contribute significantly to the economic development of the county by attracting visitors, pil-

grims, and researchers interested in Iran’s spiritual and cultural history.”

Expressing hope for the successful completion of the ongoing restoration projects and emphasizing the importance of preserving this invaluable monument for future generations, he said, “These restoration efforts are aimed at protecting the cultural and historical identity of the region, while also promoting tourism in Torbat-e Jam. We believe that safeguarding our rich heritage will benefit not only the local community but also enhance Iran’s overall cultural reputation.”

He also underlined the critical role that attention to and preservation of these historical sites can play in attracting tourists. “Tourists are increasingly interested in exploring authentic and culturally rich sites, and maintaining these monuments will boost regional tourism and contribute to the local economy,” he explained.

Torbat-e Jam, named after the revered 5th-century mystic Sheikh Ahmad Jam, is situated about 162 kilometers southeast of Mashhad. The region’s climate is characterized by hot and dry conditions, which influence the lifestyle of its inhabitants. The local people are primarily engaged in agricultural activities, animal husbandry, and traditional crafts such as carpet weaving. The shrine of Shah Qasem Anvar remains a prominent tourist

and pilgrimage attraction, continuously attracting visitors, researchers, and spiritual seekers interested in Iran’s mystical heritage and rich cultural history.

Torbat-e Jam is also renowned for the Tomb of Sheikh Ahmad Jam, Islamic architecture, and traditional regional music. With its diverse array of attractions, the city is an enticing destination for travelers seeking a distinctive and authentic experience.

The Tomb of Sheikh Jam stands out as one of the most significant landmarks in Torbat-e Jam. Featuring stunning architecture and intricate decorations, it serves as an emblem of Islamic artistic heritage in Iran. The mausoleum, characterized by its striking turquoise dome and detailed tilework, attracts numerous visitors annually who are interested in exploring Iran’s history and culture.

The traditional music of Torbat-e Jam is another prominent feature of the city, offering visitors a unique and unforgettable experience through its melodious tunes and mystical songs that create a deeply spiritual atmosphere.

Additionally, the local bazaars present a wonderful opportunity for tourists to purchase authentic souvenirs and immerse themselves in the local culture. These vibrant markets, known for their diverse products and reasonable prices, are an ideal choice for those looking to take home cherished mementos from their visit to Torbat-e Jam.



Minister unveils phased reopening plan of museums, historical sites after 12-day war

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts announced a three-stage plan to gradually and safely reopen museums and heritage sites across the country, following a period of heightened security concerns. The phased roadmap, approved by senior officials including Deputy Minister Ali Darabi, outlines a return to normal operations "rooted in international protocols" and domestic recovery measures, IRNA reported.

The plan comes as Iran moves past what officials described as an "emergency phase." Drawing

from lessons in cultural crisis management and the 1954 Hague Convention, the ministry is aiming not just to reopen cultural venues, but to restore their social role and safeguard the nation's historical identity. The program also reflects broader efforts by Tehran to stabilize public life and rebuild confidence following months of unrest and site closures. According to Darabi, the first phase — a month-long "limited and expert-led reopening" — will only include low-risk provinces. Visits will be restricted to open-air archaeological sites and venues without museums, such as Naqsh-e Jahan

Square, Taq-e Bostan, the Bam Citadel, Bisotoun, Persian gardens, and historic mosques. Phase two, set to begin one month later, will expand access to other museums and sites, but only in areas that have regained full security clearance. Small-scale cultural programs may resume in open spaces. "This is not a one-size-fits-all approach," Darabi noted, stressing that reopening timelines will vary based on provincial risk assessments and approval by local security councils. The final phase will mark a full return to regular operations. With clearance from national security agencies, all museums will resume

public services including cafés, gift shops, and interactive exhibits. Authorities also plan to document lessons learned and update protective protocols. The reopening is not without ongoing oversight. Darabi confirmed that a dedicated museum crisis committee will remain active under the ministry's emergency task force to monitor risks, respond to threats, and supervise site readiness. He described the move as "a cautious but necessary step" toward cultural stability. "We're not just unlocking buildings — we're re-activating memory and meaning," he said.



Archaeologists uncover centuries-old ironworks hub in northern Iran



Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian archaeologists announced the discovery of extensive medieval iron-smelting operations near Masuleh, a mountain town in Gilan Province, after a new round of exca-

vations began earlier this summer. The first season of excavation at the Khan Baji Sara site, located three kilometers from the old town of Masuleh, revealed evidence of continuous iron production spanning from the late Seljuk period (12th–13th century) through the Qajar era (19th century), ILNA reported. The work is part of Iran's broader effort to secure UNESCO World Heritage status for Masuleh's cultural landscape. Lead archaeologist Abdolreza Mohajernejad said that the team, including five Chinese experts, uncovered remains of iron smelting furnaces and

tools used over several centuries. "We've identified all four traditional stages of smelting," he said. The process included transporting raw iron ore from local mines, extracting sponge iron, and forging items ranging from household tools to swords and cannonballs. The excavations also turned up fragments of colored glass bangles, hinting at small-scale glassmaking in the region. But the central story remains the scale and longevity of metalwork. "The technology used in Khan Baji Sara's furnaces appears older and more advanced than what we've seen in Kohneh Masuleh," Mohajernejad

said, referring to earlier digs in the historic section of the town. According to the findings, the region served as a key corridor for iron goods flowing westward to Gilan, Ardebil, and Azarbaijan. "This was a hub," said Mohajernejad. "They weren't just making tools for themselves—they were feeding a broader trade network." The site's geographical placement, along an ancient east-west trade route, backs up that theory. Its output appears to have played a vital role in the region's commercial and military economy well into the 19th century. Excavators found later-peri-

od artifacts linked to the production of cannonballs during the Qajar dynasty. Masuleh today still carries the legacy of that metallurgical heritage. Blacksmithing is one of its few surviving crafts, with several workshops still active. "The reason blacksmithing stuck around here is because it never really left," Mohajernejad said. The dig wrapped up earlier this month. Samples are now being tested in Tehran, and findings will be submitted as part of the documentation package for UNESCO consideration. Further excavations may follow based on lab results and funding.

Top contemporary painting prize opens in Tehran

Arts & Culture Desk

The third edition of the Grand Prize of Iran Contemporary Painting opened Friday at the Iranian Artists Forum in downtown Tehran, showcasing works by 170 painters from across the country. The exhibition, which features selected entries from more than 4,500 submissions, will run through July 20, excluding Saturdays. The annual event, one of Iran's leading platforms for contemporary painting, is organized by the Iranian Painters Association in col-



laboration with Saman Insurance. The exhibition spreads across six galleries—Mirmiran, Namayesh, Bahar, Tabestan, Paeiz, and Zemestan—inside the well-known

arts hub. This year's jury includes veteran artist Shahriar Ahmadi, critic and painter Rozita Sharafjahan, and academic Amir Nasri. The prize aims to elevate contemporary voices in Iranian visual art and spotlight emerging talents. According to the organizers, the high number of submissions signals growing public interest in painting as a form of "critical expression" amid shifting cultural dynamics. The event is backed by multiple working groups under the Painters Association, including curatorial, research, and digital units.

Iran resumes work on northern cultural megaproject after years of delay

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, Reza Salehi Amiri, visited the eastern Golestan province and officially relaunched construction on what is set to become the largest museum in northern Iran after a years-long halt. The Golestan Grand Museum, a long-stalled project located in the city of Gonbad-e Kavus, aims to serve as a regional flagship of cultural preservation. Originally launched in 2016 but left unfinished, the museum is designed to showcase the historical, ethnic, and cultural diversity of Iran's northern provinces. Officials now hope to turn the project into what they call a "civilizational mission" rather than just a building, Tasnim News Agency reported. Salehi Amiri, who toured the construction site in Dariush Park on the first day of his trip on July 9, called for swift mobilization. "This museum must become the beating heart of heritage in the north," he said. Stressing the symbolic importance of the project, he framed it as essential for safeguarding Iran's identity and "narrating the story" of its ethnic mosaic. The government plans to break ground again within the next month. The first phase will proceed based on the existing structure, with financing split between national and provincial sources. Parliament representatives and local officials are expected to help fast-track the process. Around half of the total budget, the minister noted, will go to construction, while



the rest will cover interior design, content curation, and conservation systems. Private sector and local investors—especially those in handicrafts and cultural industries—are expected to foot part of the bill, as long as the project stays "within the Iranian-Islamic identity" and avoids turning into a commercial venture. Abdolkarim Agharkakli, who represents Gonbad-e Kavus in parliament, urged the government to allocate a dedicated national funding line through Article 23 budget procedures to "accelerate the timeline" and respond to public demand. Fereydoun Fa'ali, Golestan province's cultural heritage chief, reported that since ground was first broken in 2016, nearly \$2 million have been spent, mostly from national sources. The museum sits on a 20,000-square-meter municipal land grant, of which 2,500 square meters have been excavated and reinforced. Physical progress stands at just 20 percent. According to Fa'ali, the museum will be built in stages. The state heritage office is responsible for the gallery and storage units; the city will handle landscaping and a garden-museum; and cultural tourism investors will develop the hospitality segment.

Tender invitation

Invitation to public tender for CHIMEC 4242 // 6000 kg

Tabriz petrochemical company intends to procure its required quantity of CHIMEC 4242 for Olefin plant. Interested suppliers should submit their request to below email in order to get tender documents until July 22, 2025. Deadline for submission of offers for tender is: August 02, 2025
Email: me.rahimi@tpco.ir Phone No.: +98-41-34282592

Tender	No	Quantity
CHIMEC 4242	PVS-0431022	6000 KG

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