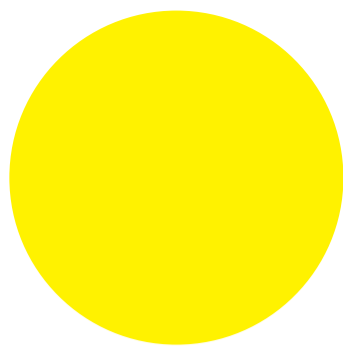


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# Iran Daily

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## Iran, Oman hold first meeting on Hormuz governance

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### President calls 'public trust, support' nation's main asset



President Masoud Pezeshkian meets separately with Ayatollah Javad Alavi Boroujerdi (Left Photo) and Ayatollah Mousa Shobeiri Zanjani in Qom, Iran on June 29, 2026.

### Germany must offer official apology to Iran

By **Abed Akbari**  
International affairs analyst  
**OPINION EXCLUSIVE**

June 28 marks the anniversary of the chemical attack carried out by Iraq's former leader Saddam Hussein against the Iranian city of Sardasht in 1987. This attack resulted in the deaths of 110 civilians and injuries to more

than 8,000 others. Although it remains one of the gravest instances of chemical weapons being used against a civilian population, the people of Iran were in fact subjected to more than 3,500 chemical attacks throughout the eight-year Iran-Iraq War (1980-88), leaving over 50,000 people dead or suffering lifelong injuries. More than three decades later, survivors and the Iranian government continue to bear the physical, psychological, and financial consequences of

these irreversible and devastating attacks. While the former Iraqi regime bears direct responsibility as the principal perpetrator of these crimes, an equally important issue concerns the responsibility of those states that indirectly facilitated these atrocities through the supply of chemical materials and technology. In international law, this is commonly referred to as responsibility in connection with the wrongful act of another state. The International Law Commis-

sion's Draft Articles on the Responsibility of States for Internationally Wrongful Acts (2001) and the Draft Articles on the Responsibility of International Organizations (2011) recognize the concept of responsibility arising from assistance or aid provided to another actor in committing an internationally wrongful act. According to these provisions, a state incurs international responsibility if: (a) it aids or assists another state in the commission of an inter-

nationally wrongful act with knowledge of the circumstances of that act; and (b) the act would have been internationally wrongful if committed by the assisting state itself. A state may argue that it lacked knowledge of the wrongful conduct or that its contribution was not decisive. However, the International Law Commission deliberately set a relatively low threshold for such responsibility. The Commentary to the relevant article makes clear that it

is sufficient for the assistance to make a significant contribution to the commission of the wrongful act; it need not constitute the determining or indispensable factor. Exporting large quantities of chemical precursors and specialized equipment intended for the production of chemical weapons to a state already known to possess and use such weapons clearly satisfies the requirements of both knowledge and substantial contribution.

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# Iran, Oman hold first meeting on Hormuz governance

## International Desk

Iran said on Monday it had held its first meeting with Oman on managing the Strait of Hormuz since it signed a preliminary deal with the United States to end the aggression against the Islamic Republic.

"During a trip to Muscat, the first meeting of the Joint Hormuz Committee was held," said Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi on X. "While reviewing the current issues related to the strait, we exchanged views on the future management."

Iran and Oman border the strait, through which a fifth of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas passed prior to the conflict.

Iran blockaded the waterway to enemies and their allies following the launch of the latest bout of unprovoked American-Israeli aggression against the Islamic Republic. It began exercising far stricter controls

after US President Donald Trump announced the continuation of an illegal naval blockade of Iranian vessels and ports in violation of the terms of a ceasefire announced on April 7.

A Pakistan-mediated memorandum of understanding (MoU) was recently signed between Tehran and Washington with the aim of ending the cycle arising out of the aggression. The MoU's fifth clause underlines recognition of Iran's sovereignty over the chokepoint.

Following the launch of the aggression, Iran and Oman began talks on the future governance of the waterway in line with the states' sovereign right over it.

Iran on Sunday warned that any attempt by ships to bypass its preferred route through Hormuz would "increase tensions" in the Middle East. The strait comprises Omani and Iranian territorial waters. "Any attempt to adopt new or sepa-

rate arrangements compared to what is underway by the Islamic Republic of Iran, will only lead to more complicated situations and delays in the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, and will increase the tensions," Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said. The published text of the memorandum of understanding says Iran will define the future administration of the strait in dialogue with Oman and the other Persian Gulf States, but "in line" with international law.

Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) said they were taking measures to control traffic in the strait and that vessels violating those measures would be dealt with more firmly than before.

Mohammad Mokhber, an adviser to Iran's Leader, wrote on X that as long as Iran managed the strait, Washington's "hegemonic dreams in the region will not be realized."



Picture posted by Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi on X on June 29, 2026, shows the first meeting of the Joint Hormuz Committee between Iran and Oman in Muscat.

## Tehran says 'no technical meetings' with US in coming days

### International Desk

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi on Monday denied reports that Iranian and American technical teams will meet in the coming days in Qatar to discuss the implementation of a recent memorandum of understanding reached between Tehran and Washington to end war on Iran.

"No technical meetings of the working groups are planned for this week," Gharibabadi told reporters, referring to the Iranian week ending on Friday. He added that consultations with Qatar are continuing, including efforts to follow up on the implementation of the opposite side's commitments under the Islamabad memorandum of understanding (MoU).

"The first round of technical talks within the framework of the designated working groups will be held once conditions are met and after



agreement is reached on the date and venue," the Iranian diplomat emphasized.

Citing US officials, American news site Axios reported on Sunday that Tehran and Washington would hold a meeting in Qatar on Tuesday to resolve their dispute over the strategic Strait of Hormuz.

It came after the US and Iran reportedly agreed to "stand down" following an exchange of strikes around the Strait of Hormuz over the past few days.

Traffic in the Strait of Hor-

muz fell during the tit-for-tat strikes, slowing the recovery of a waterway through which 20% of the world's crude oil once flowed.

A US official told the CBS News on Sunday that vessels would be able to move through the Persian Gulf waterway "freely," and that talks on a deal to permanently end the war would continue.

US President Donald Trump also claimed on Monday that a meeting would be held in Qatar's capital at Iran's request.

"IRAN HAS REQUESTED A

MEETING. IT WILL TAKE PLACE TOMORROW IN DOHA!" he wrote on Truth Social, without giving any details.

White House spokeswoman Karoline Leavitt said Trump's envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner will attend the meeting with Iran in Doha.

"Special Envoy Witkoff and Jared Kushner will be flying to Doha for high-level meetings this week, as we continue to discuss the memorandum of understanding. On the sidelines of those high-level talks, there will be the technical talks," she said in an interview with Fox News.

Qatar, alongside Pakistan, has acted as a mediator in talks between Iran and the United States aimed at ending the war in the Middle East.

The most recent discussions between Tehran and Washington took place in Switzerland on June 21 with the attendance of delegations from all four countries.

## Pezeshkian says \$6b of frozen assets in Qatar set to be unblocked

### International Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Monday that \$6 billion of the country's frozen assets held in Qatar will be released and returned to Iran under the recently-signed memorandum of understanding (MoU) between Iran and the United States.

"Based on the plans made, \$6 billion out of a total of \$12 billion of Iran's funds in Qatar will be released and returned to the country," Pezeshkian said during a meeting with Grand Ayatollah Shobeiri Zanjani.

He added that "necessary follow-ups are being carried out" for the return of the remaining funds. Pezeshkian described the Iran-US MoU as "a great victory for the Iranian people," adding that oil and petrochemical sanctions have been lifted as per the understanding.

"The US has ultimately forced the Zionist regime (Israel) to accept the understanding, although the Zionist regime and some monarchist currents remain opposed to its implementation," the Iranian president noted.

On June 18, Iran and the US signed the 14-point Pakistan-brokered MoU, which calls for a permanent end to hostilities across all fronts, including Lebanon, as well as the

removal of the naval blockade of Iran within 30 days, and the restoration of commercial traffic through the Strait of Hormuz.

Under the MoU, the two sides have entered a 60-day negotiation period, with the goal of reaching a comprehensive final agreement.

US President Donald Trump and American officials have claimed that the initial financial relief under the Pakistan-mediated memorandum of understanding would be used to purchase corn, wheat and soybeans from American farmers.

Trump insisted that no cash would reach Tehran directly, promising the funds would instead go to US growers to alleviate what he claimed as Iran's "hunger problem."

However, Iran's lead negotiator on Thursday dismissed US claims. "America falsely claims our unfrozen assets will buy their agriculture," Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf wrote on social media platform X. Mohammad Jafar Qaempanah, an Iranian vice president, recently said that an estimated \$25 billion of the country's frozen assets would gradually be released.

He noted that the financial resources will be directed toward expanding critical infrastructure — such as transport, highways, and airports — to improve public welfare.

## Germany must offer...

According to numerous documented sources, 86 German companies, operating under export licenses issued by the German government, supplied approximately 1,027 tons of various chemical substances—representing nearly 52% of Iraq's imported chemical materials used in its chemical weapons program—to Saddam Hussein's regime. For example, the German magazine Stern reported in February 1987 on Iraq's chemical weapons program and described a massive chemical production facility located around 120 kilometers north of Baghdad. The complex covered nearly 25 square kilometers, was surrounded by multiple security barriers, and protected by surface-to-air missile systems. At this facility, Iraq manufactured mustard gas, tabun, and sarin for use in the war against Iran. Significantly, Stern reported that the plant's raw materials and equipment, valued at about one billion Deutsche Marks, had been supplied by German companies, particularly a company known as Pilot Plant. The report further stated that, throughout the Iran-

Iraq War, a Hamburg-based company continued exporting machinery to Baghdad for the production of mustard gas.

In light of the doctrine of responsibility reflected in the International Law Commission's 2001 and 2011 Draft Articles, Germany bears international responsibility proportionate to its contribution to Iraq's internationally wrongful acts. Although legal accountability should be pursued through the appropriate mechanisms of international law, there also exists a profound moral obligation that has yet to be fulfilled: an official apology.

To date, the German government has not offered a formal and adequate apology to the Iranian people for its indirect role in enabling Iraq's chemical weapons program. Such an apology represents one of the most fundamental requirements of human rights and historical justice.

Germany has consistently emphasized human rights as a cornerstone of its foreign policy and has demonstrated its willingness to confront historical injus-

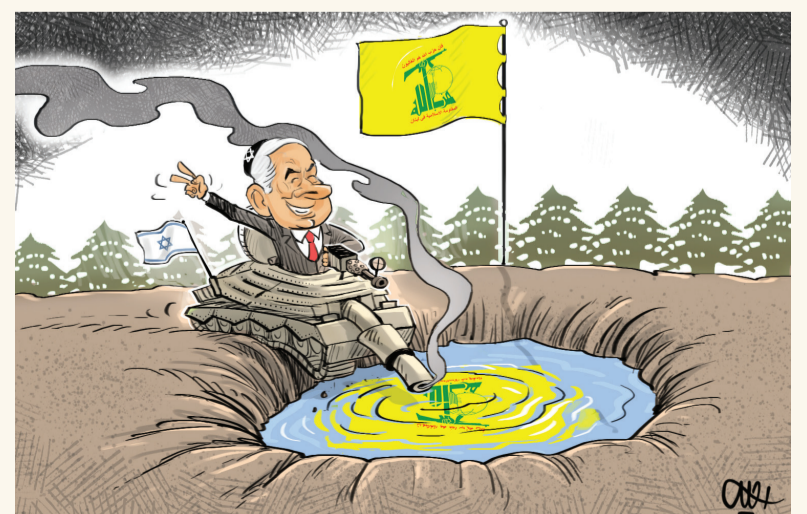
ties by commemorating events such as the Holocaust and acknowledging its historical responsibilities. Accordingly, it is reasonable to expect that Germany should likewise officially commemorate June 28 by issuing a formal apology to the Iranian people and holding a symbolic ceremony in memory of the victims of the Sardasht chemical attack and the thousands of other Iranian victims of chemical warfare.

Such an apology cannot erase the suffering, trauma, or lasting memories of the victims and their families. Nevertheless, it would constitute an important act of moral accountability and would reinforce international norms emphasizing states' responsibilities regarding human rights violations. It would also serve as a meaningful reminder that complicity in crimes against humanity carries enduring legal and ethical consequences.

It is our hope that such tragedies will never be repeated and that humanity may move toward a future founded upon peace, justice, accountability, and respect for human dignity.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist

CARTOON



# VP calls for enhanced cybersecurity after banking disruptions

## Economy Desk

Iran's First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref on Monday called for strengthening the country's cyber defenses, saying that national cybersecurity should be a priority to prevent adversaries from inflicting damage through digital means. Speaking at a meeting of the strategic headquarters for the development of information and communication technology, Aref stated that "serious measures must be pursued in this area." He emphasized that while Iran maintains a defensive posture in cyberspace, it must also be prepared to launch offensive operations if necessary, according to IRNA. The remarks came as Iranian authorities worked to restore banking services following a fresh wave of cyberattacks that disrupted card-based systems over the past several days. The disruptions reignited public concern, with local media reporting interruptions in daily financial transactions and delays in the disbursement of state subsidies to some eligible recipients.

On Monday, the CEO of the Informatics Services Corporation (ISC) apologized to customers for the renewed outages affecting Bank Melli and Bank Saderat, and said technical teams were striving to resolve the issues by the end of the day. Bank Melli Iran moved to reassure its clients, stating in a notice that, "No damage has been done to the principal of deposits, financial information, or customer confidentiality, and all transactions are being conducted in a secure environment with full support." Tasnim news agency reported on Sunday that, following the latest incidents, "with the efforts of technical teams, IT specialists, and cybersecurity experts, the problems have been resolved and customers can once again use banking services." In a statement, the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) confirmed that, in light of the disruptions affecting four major banks, lenders have been authorized to utilize the capacity of other information technology firms, in line with approvals from higher



Iran's First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref chairs a meeting of the strategic headquarters for the development of information and communication technology in Tehran on June 29, 2026. IRNA

supervisory bodies, to restore service stability as quickly as possible. The central bank added that it "plays no role in selecting service providers,"

and that such decisions rest with the banks themselves in accordance with relevant regulations. A separate cyberattack on June

13 brought down services at four major Iranian banks, though no customer data was compromised, the Banks Coordination Council (BCC) said at the

time. The council said the attack targeted a shared communications infrastructure used by Bank Melli, Bank Tejarat, Bank Saderat and the Export Development Bank of Iran, prompting technical teams to implement protective measures and temporarily affecting some banking services. Authorities did not disclose the parties responsible for the attack or specific details about the attack methods. The cyber incidents occurred against a backdrop of ongoing diplomatic engagement between the United States and Iran, who signed a memorandum of understanding for peace with mediation from countries including Qatar and Pakistan. A US-Israeli coalition launched aggression on Iran on February 28 that was halted by a ceasefire announcement on April 8.

## Dubai welcomes first Tehran flight after wartime hiatus



ISNA

## Economy Desk

A flight from Tehran landed at Dubai International Airport on Monday, marking the first direct service from the Iranian capital since the US-Israel war with Iran disrupted regional aviation. According to ISNA, the Iranian Consulate General in Dubai announced in a statement, "Sepehran Airlines flight, which departed from Tehran's Imam Khomeini International Airport, landed at Dubai International Airport at 13:18 local time." A return flight from Dubai to Tehran was scheduled to depart later Monday. Before the conflict,

dozens of flights operated every week between the UAE and Iran. UAE operators, including flydubai and Air Arabia, are yet to resume operations between Iran and the UAE. While the route has reopened, flight availability remains limited. Sepehran's website, flysepehran.com, showed only sporadic availability for Dubai services, with the next Tehran-Dubai flight listed for Wednesday and another scheduled for July 8. The reopening follows weeks of disruption after military strikes on Iran on February 28 triggered closure of the region's

airspace. Iran's airspace gradually reopened after a ceasefire was reached between Washington and Tehran on April 8, ending a 40-day conflict launched by the US-Israeli coalition in late February. Last month, Imam Khomeini International Airport City Chief Executive Ramin Kashef-Azar said foreign airlines were in talks to resume flights to Iran and had announced their readiness to return to the market. He said negotiations were underway as conditions stabilized following the conflict.

## ICT minister opens digital economy center in Hamedan

## Economy Desk

Iran inaugurated a Digital Economy Growth and Development Center in the western province of Hamedan on Monday as part of efforts to expand the country's digital economy ecosystem, support innovative businesses and create jobs.

The center was inaugurated by Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Minister Sattar Hashemi, who described it as the most important project of his visit to Hamedan Province, according to IRNA. Hashemi said 101 communications and infrastructure projects across Hamedan were also inaugurated and brought into operation during the visit. He said expanding communications infrastructure and supporting the digital economy remain among the government's priorities, adding that the new center would help strengthen content production, support innovative businesses and create employment opportunities for skilled young people in the province. Hashemi said developing the digital economy extends beyond



ICT Minister Sattar Hashemi cuts the ribbon during the inauguration of a Digital Economy Growth and Development Center in Hamedan Province on June 29, 2026. IRNA

expanding communications infrastructure, stressing that the production of high-quality, locally developed and value-added digital content is of critical importance and requires targeted planning alongside network expansion. He added that nine digital economy growth and development centers have so far been established across Iran under a national policy, with the Hamedan center created

following provincial studies and research. According to ISNA, the digital economy currently accounts for 7.14% of Iran's gross domestic product, compared with a global average of 15%. To narrow the gap, authorities have set a target under the country's Seventh Five-Year Development Plan to raise the sector's share of GDP to 10% by March 2029.

## Tehran, Kabul target \$10b in annual trade within three years

## Economy Desk

Iran's bilateral trade with Afghanistan reached \$2.7 billion in the last Iranian year (ended March 21), and the two countries are now aiming to boost economic exchanges to \$10 billion annually within the next three years, Iran's commercial attaché in Kabul said. Hossein Roustaei told the Iranian Labor News Agency (ILNA) that Afghanistan was currently Iran's

fifth-largest trading partner, with total bilateral trade of \$2.7 billion in the previous fiscal year. Roustaei added that the two countries expected to reach their \$10 billion target over the next three years by expanding industrial and mining cooperation, according to Iran's Trade Promotion Organization. Senior officials from Iran's Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade and Afghanistan's Ministry of Industries and Mines met in the northeastern city

of Mashhad early this month, alongside economic actors from both countries, to discuss ways of strengthening economic ties. The talks focused on the development of rail corridors, joint investments in mining projects, and the transfer of technical knowledge. The two sides also explored joint investment opportunities in Afghanistan's mining sector, particularly in exploration, extraction and mineral processing.



## War may be ending

## What did Epic Fury cost?



By Mark F. Cancian  
Senior adviser with the CSIS



By Chris H. Park  
Research associate at the CSIS

## ANALYSIS

With a cease-fire agreement signed, negotiations ongoing, and the Strait of Hormuz open, the latest US campaign against Iran that began in February 2026 may be ending. Congressional attention now turns to the war's cost — it needs to be covered, as neither the FY 2026 Department of Defense (DOD) budget nor the president's FY 2027 budget proposal include war costs.

CSIS estimates war costs to be around \$40 billion (\$34 billion to \$42 billion). Six cost categories make up this top-line figure: (1) deployment/redeployment, (2) munitions, (3) higher operational tempo, (4) equipment losses, (5) base damage, and (6) higher fuel prices. This analysis includes only the additional costs to the DOD incurred because of the war and excluded costs already in the budget. Thus, it represents the difference between the DOD budget without the war and the DOD budget with the war.

Table 1: Additional Costs to DOD from Iran War

DOD Category	Costs	Comments
Deployment/Redeployment	\$0.17 B	Most activities already in budget
Munitions	\$26.1 B	Main driver of war costs
Higher Operational Tempo	\$0.75 B	Includes personnel benefits
Equipment losses	\$1.7-\$3.5 B	Aircraft and major ground equipment
Base damage	\$4.0-\$9.4 B	Structures and interior content
Other DOD costs	\$1.5 B	Higher fuel costs, infrastructure security
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$34.2-\$41.5 B</b>	

CSIS

War costs were not distributed evenly over time but came in four phases:

- The first phase took place over several weeks as US forces deployed to the region.
- The second phase ran about five days, during which the United States used many expensive missiles to attack ground targets and defend against Iranian attacks.
- In the third phase, Iranian missile and drone attacks declined by 80–90 percent. The coalition also allegedly gained air superiority, so ground attacks transitioned to short-range — and much less expensive — munitions.
- Costs declined during the

cease-fire due to a decrease in activity, though they did not fall to zero because forces still operated at higher levels than in peacetime. Periodic skirmishing saw some munitions use, but much less than during the active air campaigning.

The additional cost of the war to federal government departments other than the DOD is estimated at \$1 billion, which includes war-related activities in other departments such as Homeland Security, Veterans Affairs, and Energy. Beyond that, there are real but highly uncertain costs to the US and world economies.

## How this estimate compares to others

DOD officials first cited \$25 billion and later \$29 billion in war costs but acknowledged that those numbers were incomplete. Defense officials stated that their estimate does not include base damage, which accounts for a major piece of CSIS's higher estimate.

One study from the American Enterprise Institute (AEI) estimated \$5 billion for base damage, and another estimated \$26–\$36 billion for the other five categories in the CSIS estimate. Together, the AEI estimates suggest war costs are between \$31 and \$41

timinate in the war's first week of \$1 billion per day. This approach does not reflect the reduction in US strikes after the cease-fire or the use of cheaper munitions that lowered the daily war costs in its latter weeks.

Finally, the CSIS estimate is lower than the reported DOD wartime supplemental request of \$80 billion. That request, however, includes costs not directly tied to the war, such as expenses to "jump-start" the munitions acquisition process.

## Costs for the Department of Defense

The sections below discuss each of the six cost categories in detail. The quality of available data varies, thus requiring rough estimates in some categories; however, rough estimates are better than no estimates because excluding a category implicitly assumes the cost is zero, which is clearly inaccurate. In other instances, alternative assumptions

new bases of operations once in theater, however, incurred costs beyond normal operations. These costs are reflected here.

Although redeployment has not yet begun, all forces will likely return to their home bases because the Trump administration has signaled it will reduce forces in the Middle East rather than increase them. The cost to return will likely be lower than the cost to deploy because it can be done gradually and without having to establish new bases of operation.

• **Munitions:** \$26.1 billion. US forces fired many expensive missiles, making munitions the largest component of the war cost estimate. All need replacement, given that prewar inventories were considered inadequate. Tables 2 and 3 include all munitions — ground attack, missile defense, and drone defense — whether launched from land or sea. They build on previous CSIS analyses of war costs and munitions expenditures.

Table 2: Cost of Expended Ground Attack Munitions

Munition Type	Number Expended	Unit Cost	Total Cost
Tomahawk	1,000+	\$2.8 M	\$2.8 B
JASSM	1,100+	\$1.9 M	\$2.3 B
PrSM/ATACMS	150-380	\$1.6 M	\$0.5 B
JDAM	~10,000	\$0.09-\$0.2 M	\$0.9 B
LUCAS	100	\$0.035 M	\$0.004 B
Other Strike Munitions (AARGM/HARM, JSOW, SDB I and II)	~1,250	\$0.04-\$2.2 M	\$1.1 B
<b>Total</b>	<b>~13,800</b>		<b>\$7.5 B</b>

Note: The estimates represent the cost of a like-for-like replacement with variants currently being procured. The original acquisition costs likely were incurred many years ago and would be much lower.

CSIS

were available, requiring a range of possible costs.

• **Deployment/redeployment:** \$0.17 billion. This is the cost to send forces into the theater and then return them to their home stations. On January 2, President Trump warned that the "United States of America will come to their rescue" if the Iranian regime continued cracking down on rioters. Movement of personnel, supplies, and equipment into theater — the "TPFDD flow" — was reported in open sources soon after the president's threat. At the beginning of Operation Epic Fury, US air and naval assets in theater included two carrier strike groups, dozens of fighter aircraft, and many more support and logistics assets — alongside air defense, field artillery, and ground combat units. Much of the cost to move forces, such as flight hours for transport aircraft, was already in the FY 2026 defense budget. Increased sortie rate to move forces to the Middle East and activities to establish

Admiral Brad Cooper, the Central Command commander, reported that US forces fired 13,629 strike munitions against more than 13,000 targets by the time of the

Table 3: Cost of Expended Air Defense Munitions

Munition	Number Expended	Unit Cost	Total Cost
Patriot	1,060-1,430	\$4.9 M	\$5.3-\$7.1 B
THAAD	190-290	\$11.9 M	\$2.3-\$3.5 B
SM-3	130-250	\$28.7 M	\$3.9-\$7.5 B
SM-2/6	190-370	\$4.3 M	\$0.8-\$1.6 B
Other interceptor missiles (AIM-9, AIM-120, APKWS)	2,500+	\$0.02-\$1.4 M	\$1.2 B
Drone interceptors (Coyote, Roadrunner)	Limited	~\$0.05 M	\$0.01 B
Cannon, small arms ammunition	Many	-	\$0.01 B
<b>Total</b>			<b>18.5 B</b>

Note: Because of offsetting missile usage, the total does not add all the high or low values.

CSIS



An EA-18G Growler launches from the flight deck of Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) in support of Operation Epic Fury on March 6, 2026.

US NAVY

The CSIS estimate is lower than several others. For example, it is lower than that of the Cost of War Project at Brown University, which includes \$40 billion for the increased cost of fuel to the entire US economy — not just the DOD. Early estimates of a trillion-dollar war assumed that it would be more intense and much longer than it was. The Iran War Cost Tracker cites \$113 billion by projecting a reported DOD estimate in the war's first week of \$1 billion per day. This approach does not reflect the reduction in US strikes after the cease-fire or the use of cheaper munitions that lowered the daily war costs in its latter weeks.

cease-fire. CSIS also included estimated munitions used related to skirmishing during the cease-fire, including 49 Tomahawks fired on June 10. Note that all the long-range attack munitions — Tomahawk, JASSM, and PrSM/ATACMS — have a high cost. Low-cost alternatives such as LUCAS, a copy of the Iranian Shahed 136, are not yet in serial production.

Calculations for air defense munitions assumed that the United States shot down between 40 and 60 percent of incoming drones and ballistic and cruise missiles. Coalition partners greatly decreased US costs and losses by intercepting rest of the drones and ballistic and cruise missiles. A "shoot-look-shoot" shot doctrine was assumed, so more than one missile was sometimes used for an interception.

US forces predominantly used cheaper, short-range munitions rather than expensive, long-range systems after the first few days of the war. A single dumb bomb fitted with a JDAM guidance kit and a Tomahawk both deliver 1,000 lb payloads with extreme precision but at a much different cost (\$2.6 million versus \$100,000). Iranian launches also diminished significantly by the end of the war's first week, meaning fewer interceptors were needed. Some lawmakers have expressed skepticism of the DOD's \$29 billion war cost estimate after officials reportedly informed Congress that the first six days cost \$11.3 billion. The munitions shift resulting from operational success partly explains the non-linear daily war cost.

• **Higher operational tempo:** \$0.75 billion. The war incurred costs for people and unit operations beyond what has already been appropriated. However, the amounts were not large because most of these costs were already in the budget. For example, crew compensation and ship and aircraft operating costs for the Lincoln carrier strike group were in the FY 2026 budget. However, aircraft flew more missions and ships stayed at sea longer than planned. The crew also received some additional benefits such as imminent danger pay.

The analysis captured these incremental costs for units participating in the conflict by assuming a 10 percent increase in operating costs during the 39 days of active combat, based on practice in the Office of Management and Budget during the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. As the build-up and cease-fire both involved some combat operations, 2.5–5 percent was assumed for these periods of the campaign. These costs will continue to accrue at the rate of about \$4 million per day until the forces return home or resume their previously planned operations.

**Figure 1: Operational Costs of Operation Epic Fury Through Day 120**



• **Equipment losses and damages:** \$1.8–\$3.5 billion. The analysis used DOD press releases and public reports to estimate equipment losses — mostly aircraft — from the war. Base equipment losses are included under “base damage”. The Congressional Research Service identified 42 lost or damaged aircraft. Table 4 includes several tilt-rotor aircraft and a mobile Terminal High-Altitude Aerial Defense (THAAD) radar in addition to the CRS list. Note that most lost aircraft are uncrewed drones. The United States is much more willing to risk uncrewed aircraft than crewed aircraft.

numbered in the thousands. Despite this, there is little evidence that Iranian attacks materially restricted US operations during this campaign. The New York Times, Wall Street Journal, and Washington Post have all analyzed satellite imagery showing the damage. CSIS has its own set of overhead photographs and made damage estimates from those. CSIS analysis produced a range of \$2.2–\$5.1 billion for the 122 structures examined — and \$4–\$9.4 billion, accounting for the greater number of buildings damage identified by the Washington Post. The actual cost to repair all damages will be greater, as restricted ac-

where available, and visual recognition. Permanent structures were differentiated from temporary structures. The estimated repair costs were derived from the DOD construction handbooks detailing the “cost to design and construct a notional facility to current standards to replace an existing facility on the same site”. The estimate accounts for differences in facility type, as well as design and planning costs, overhead, and location-specific construction cost factors.

The DOD has not included the cost of repairing bases in its calculations because it is reviewing its posture in the Middle East and may not continue to use all the bases or use them in the same way. This would reduce costs. On the other hand, moving activities to new locations entails its own costs. The estimate captured three uncertainties with base damage: The major uncertainty is the number of buildings struck. The most comprehensive base damage assessment so far, conducted by the Washington Post, identified 228 structures in a more comprehensive database that includes similar categories of facilities as the CSIS one. Assuming the additional 106 structures identified by the Washington Post have the same composition as those in the CSIS database, the range would then be \$3.2–\$9.2 billion.

Another uncertainty is determining the cost of what was inside the buildings. For some, such as barracks and gyms, the material contents were not particularly costly. For warehouses, however, the contents could be as valuable as the building itself. CSIS used standard warehouse factors to estimate lost inventories. Commercial counterparts were used for other building types, such as hangers, dining facilities, and living quarters.

Damages were assessed only if visible in images. There is likely much more damage that is not visible, and many structures may have become unusable because of nearby explosions. Reported DOD estimates suggest that the CSIS analysis — or those by media outlets — may not reflect the full extent of the regional base damage. The embargo on satellite imagery prevents efforts to get greater fidelity on US base damage.

• **Other DOD costs:** \$1.5 billion. The previous categories picked up nearly all costs, but a few need to be treated separately:

**Table 5: Cost to Repair Damage to Bases and Fixed Infrastructure**

Base	Costs
Al Dhafra Air Base	\$143.4–\$576.9 M
Al Sader Air Base	\$11.2–\$54.5 M
Al Udeid Air Base	\$171.9–\$465.8 M
Ali Al Salem Air Base	\$316.6 –\$788.8 M
Camp Arifjan	\$382.8–\$1,001.3 M
Camp Buehring	\$519.8–\$856.6 M
Camp Victory	\$92.2–\$154.2 M
Harir Air Base	\$97.3–\$179.8 M
Muwaffaq Salti Air Base	\$21.7–\$56.8 M
Naval Support Activity Bahrain	\$252.8–\$551.8 M
Prince Sultan Air Base	\$131.9–\$345.5 M
Shuaiba Port	\$17.7–\$45.0 M
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,159.3–\$5,074.8 M</b>

• **DOD FACILITIES PRICING GUIDE/CSIS**

**a) Fuel:** \$1.4 billion. The DOD is a major consumer of fuel, so the entire department, not just deployed forces, is affected by price increases. A rough calculation compares what the DOD budgeted for jet fuel (\$3.67/gallon) for FY 2026 with current prices, which rose to about \$4.46/gallon — \$0.79 above what the DOD budgeted. In 2026, the DOD was projected to use 3.05 billion gallons of fuel. The higher fuel cost during four months of war therefore totaled \$800 million. If it takes six more months for prices to return to prewar levels, then the DOD’s additional cost during this period will be \$600 million, bringing the total to \$1.4 billion.

**b) Security and overtime:** \$100 million. The DOD has enhanced physical security on its bases and may have surged some equipment maintenance and production. These costs will appear mostly as overtime for government employees and contractors.

**Costs for the federal government outside the DOD**

Although the DOD incurred the bulk of costs associated with the war, other government agencies had smaller roles that nevertheless required additional resources.

- **Homeland and diplomatic security:** \$300 million. The Federal Bureau of Investigation and the National Coordinator for Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience have issued warnings about Iranian attacks on the US homeland, and agencies have increased physical security. The amount shown here funds cyber defense, antiterrorism activities, and government-wide law enforcement. For the State Department, it funds embassy security and consular services for evacuees. The categories and amounts are based on analogs to US activities in the Ukraine-Russia war.
- **Future veterans’ costs:** \$400 million annually. Service members who participated in the conflict will have medical and disability claims above the usual veterans’ benefits. The DOD has said that about 400 service members have been injured, though most returned to duty. These injuries will need immediate care. However, the major cost will arise over time as veterans age and conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, hearing loss, joint pain, and tinnitus appear. The cost estimate here assumes that veterans of this conflict receive disability benefits at the same level of severity (\$16,100 average per year) as veterans of the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, but at a lower rate (35 percent versus about 50 percent) because the tour of duty has been shorter.

The images make clear the Iranian strikes were precise. There are no random craters indicating misses or wasted assets. Most struck facilities were unusable afterward. Iran has had decades to prepare its target lists. It likely developed most of its own targeting information, using its proximity to the targets and its many agents on the ground. However, it may have received intelligence help from Russia or China in identifying mobile or fleeting targets.

**Table 4: Cost to Replace Lost and Damaged U.S. Equipment**

Lost/Damaged Date	Location	System	Number Lost/Damaged	Cost
<b>Lost Equipment</b>				
March 2	Over Kuwait, friendly fire	F-15E	3	\$0.3 B
March 2	Jordan	AN/TPY-2	At least 1	\$0.4 B
March 12	Over Iraq, friendly airspace	KC-135	1	\$0/\$0.1 B
March 27	Prince Sultan Air Base	E-3	1	\$0/\$0.7 B
April 2	Over Iran	F-15E	1	\$0.1 B
April 5	Temporary airstrip in Iran	MC-130J	2	\$0.2 B
April 5	Temporary air strip in Iran	MH-6	4	\$0.06 B
April 6	Strait of Hormuz	A-10	1	\$0/\$0.1 B
April 9	Unspecified	MQ-4C	1	\$0/\$0.1 B
June 9	Strait of Hormuz	AH-64	1	\$0.025B
Various	Various	MQ-9	25	\$0/\$0.4 B
<b>Damaged Equipment</b>				
March 12	Over Iraq, friendly airspace	KC-135	1	\$0–\$0.1 B
March 14	Prince Sultan Air Base	KC-135	5	\$0.1–\$0.6 B
March 19	Over Iran	F-35	1	\$0.08 B
April 5	Over Iran	HH-60W	1	\$0.006–\$0.02 B
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$1.8–\$3.5 B</b>

• **CENTCOM/CSIS**

Table 4 shows a high and low to capture the different approaches to calculating replacement costs. The high-end cost is a one-for-one replacement with the most comparable aircraft currently in production. Thus, an F-15EX would replace a lost F-15E and an F-35A would replace a lost A-10. The low-end cost excludes aircraft such as the A-10 and E-3 that are planned for retirement. The theory here is that replacements are already in the budget. The cost to repair damaged aircraft is assumed to be 25 to 75 percent of the replacement cost, captured in the range of the estimate.

• **Damage to bases and fixed infrastructure:** \$4.0–\$9.4 billion. Throughout the conflict, Iran has attacked US bases with missiles and drones. The coalition allegedly intercepted up to 90 percent of those attackers. However, 10 percent leakage still caused much damage when attackers

access to satellite imagery limits analysis using available open-source information.

The images make clear the Iranian strikes were precise. There are no random craters indicating misses or wasted assets. Most struck facilities were unusable afterward. Iran has had decades to prepare its target lists. It likely developed most of its own targeting information, using its proximity to the targets and its many agents on the ground. However, it may have received intelligence help from Russia or China in identifying mobile or fleeting targets.

Iran attacked not just warfighting facilities but barracks, gyms, and dining facilities, indicating an intent to cause US casualties. This was largely unsuccessful because the United States had evacuated many personnel and put others under cover.

This analysis identified the damaged buildings using base maps,

**Table 6: Federal Government Costs Outside the DOD**

Cost Types	Cost	Comments
Homeland security	\$0.3 B	Additional security
Future Veterans Affairs costs	\$0.4 B	Per year for wounded care and delayed conditions
Fuel, nuclear, and other	\$0.3 B	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1.0 B</b>	

• **CSIS**

million annually. Service members who participated in the conflict will have medical and disability claims above the usual veterans’ benefits. The DOD has said that about 400 service members have been injured, though most returned to duty. These injuries will need immediate care. However, the major cost will arise over time as veterans age and conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, hearing loss, joint pain, and tinnitus appear. The cost estimate here assumes that veterans of this conflict receive disability benefits at the same level of severity (\$16,100 average per year) as veterans of the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, but at a lower rate (35 percent versus about 50 percent) because the tour of duty has been shorter.

The total cost over 30 years (\$12 billion) is large but much less than that for veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars because fewer service members were involved (70,000, including support outside the theater, versus 2,000,000) and the duration was shorter (four months versus 20 years). Because the federal government has no accrual system for veterans’ benefits, this is not a current cost that can go into today’s budget but a future cost. Table 6 includes the first year.

• **Fuel, nuclear, and other costs:** \$265 million. Although the DOD accounts for 90 percent of the federal government’s fuel usage, other agencies also have increased costs. This amounts to \$165 million using the same methodology as for the DOD’s fuel cost. The National Nuclear Security Administration, the part of the Department of Energy that deals with nuclear weapons, likely had additional costs relating to nuclear monitoring and preparation for disposal of Iran’s nuclear materials (\$50 million, based on similar activities related to the war in Ukraine). Other agencies likely had incidental additional costs, such as the Department of the Treasury regarding sanctions enforcement (\$50 million, also based on experience during the Ukraine war).

**Economic and human costs**

These are not part of the federal budget but are nonetheless real and should be recognized. The first is the cost to the US economy. The Cost of War project estimated \$40 billion in additional fuel costs for the American public: This estimate appears accurate using our fuel pricing methodology. Other costs are hard to measure. Moody’s estimated that the war will cost Americans \$132 billion. Economic performance statistics for this period might show some effect when they are published. A stable and successful peace might produce some long-term economic benefits.

Like the US economy, the world economy has also sustained damage, though national energy inventories have mitigated that damage.

Finally, there is a human cost. The 13 US casualties, while individually tragic, have been few by the standards of warfare. Israel suffered around 40 fatalities, civilian and military. At least 30, mostly civilians, have been killed in the Persian Gulf States. Iran is reported to have suffered 1,700 civilian fatalities, and Lebanon has likely suffered many civilian casualties as well.

The full article was first published by the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

## Volleyball Nations League:

## Iran beats Cuba to snap losing streak

## Sports Desk

Iran defeated Cuba 3-1 (25-22, 25-21, 20-25, 30-28) in Orléans, France, on Sunday to end a four-match losing streak in the preliminary round of the FIVB Men's Volleyball Nations League.

Only a second victory in eight outings lifted Iran to 14th place in the 18-team standings with nine points. Still without a win at this year's tournament, Cuba remained bottom of the table with two points and faces relegation at the end of the preliminary phase's second week.

"We desperately needed this victory. I think we delivered some solid performances over the past two weeks, except in the match against Belgium, when we made too many mistakes," said Ali Hajipour, Iran's leading scorer with 20 points.

"Unfortunately, bad luck and our lack of experience prevented us from capitalizing on our momentum at times," the Iranian opposite added.

Outside hitter Ali Haqqarast added 15 points, including three aces, for Iran, while Cuban outside hitter Marlon Yant was the match's top scorer with 23 points. Jose Israel Masso Alvarez (17), Robertlandy Simon (11) and Miguel Angel Lopez (11) also



Iranian opposite Ali Hajipour hits a spike during a 3-1 victory over Cuba in the Volleyball Nations League preliminary round in Orléans, France, on June 28, 2026.  
● PAYAM SANI/volleyball.ir

reached double figures for Cuba at CO'Met Arena.

"There is no easy game in the VNL," Iran head coach Roberto Piazza said after the match, adding: "Even when we lost in straight sets to the USA, it wasn't an easy match for them. It's al-

ways difficult to play in this tournament because you're facing the strongest teams in the world." The Italian praised his young team's performance in the first two sets before a serious leg injury to Cuban middle blocker Javier Octavio Concepcion proved to be

a turning point in the contest. "We were really good until the end of the second set, when Concepcion suffered a terrible injury. Then they found another level of energy, while we lost our focus because the players were thinking about their middle blocker rather

than the game," the Italian said.

Iran will resume its campaign in Week 3 in Belgrade, beginning with a daunting match against surprise package Ukraine – fifth in the standings with a 5-3 record – on July 15. Piazza's men will then face Germany and Slo-

venia before wrapping up the preliminary phase against Turkey on July 19.

Piazza said he was pleased with the progress his team – the second youngest among the tournament's 18 teams – has made ahead of the third week, while acknowledging it remains far from the finished article.

"The final week is going to be a long one and we have to improve. The players are starting to play better and better, but that's not enough for me. Now it's time to analyze the situation with the team before we start thinking about the final week," Piazza said. The top seven teams in the preliminary standings will be joined by hosts China (17th) in the VNL Finals, which begin with the quarterfinals at Ningbo's Beilun Gymnasium on July 29.

Japan has already secured a place in the last eight after maintaining its perfect record atop the standings. The United States, Poland, Slovenia, Ukraine, Italy and Turkey currently occupy the remaining qualifying spots.

## Nemati edges Abazari to secure kumite berth for Asian Games



● ISNA

## Sports Desk

Iranian karateka Mahmoud Nemati secured the +84kg berth in the men's national kumite roster for September's Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games thanks to a victory over Saleh Abazari in the national team trials on Sunday. Nemati emerged victorious 3-2 in a thrilling best-of-five series against the former world champion, who came from behind to level the contest with back-to-back wins before suffering a 7-3 loss in the decider.

Nemati will be a clear favorite to reach the top step of the podium at the multi-sport event, having claimed gold at the Asian Championships in Bali, Indonesia, last week courtesy of a 4-0 victory over Saudi defending champion Sanad Sufyani in the final.

Joining Nemati in the Iranian Asian Games squad will be his brother, Morteza Nema-

ti, who will compete in the -75kg class.

Morteza Nemati will also head to September's showpiece as the reigning Asian champion after defeating Nurkanat Azhikanov 3-2 in the final in Bali to make amends for last year's title-match defeat to the Kazakhstani karateka.

Former world bronze medalist Ali-Asghar Asiabari completes the Iranian men's kumite trio with a berth in the -84kg class.

Asiabari had to settle for a bronze medal at the Asian Championships and was also part of the Iranian team – alongside Morteza Nemati – that fell to Jordan in the final of the team kumite event. Atousa Golshadnejad, meanwhile, will be the Iranian to watch in the women's kumite competition.

Golshadnejad enjoyed a remarkable international season in 2025, winning the second Asian title of her ca-

reer before claiming gold at the Islamic Solidarity Games and making history as the first Iranian female karateka to capture a kumite world title.

Golshadnejad, however, was unfortunate to miss out on defending her -61kg title in Bali following an injury setback in the national team trials.

Fatemeh-Zahra Saeidabadi will also fancy her chances of a podium finish at the Asian Games after featuring in the Iranian quartet that defeated Japan in the final to win the country's first Asian women's team kumite gold since 2019.

In the women's kata event, the Iranian trio of Fatemeh Sadeqi, Sepideh Amini, and Zeinab Hosseini will compete on the back of the team's Asian bronze medal, while Sadeqi, who also won individual bronze in Bali, will be part of the women's individual draw.

## Persepolis in advanced talks with ex-Tractor coach Skocic: Report

## Sports Desk

Persian Gulf Pro League club Persepolis is closing in on a deal to appoint Croatian coach Dragan Skocic as its new head coach ahead of the upcoming top-flight season, according to reports in the Iranian media. Skocic, who led Iran to qualification for the 2022 World Cup but was replaced by Portuguese coach Carlos Queiroz for the finals in Qatar, has been without a job since parting ways with Tractor SC in mid-February.

The 57-year-old Croatian etched his name into Tractor history after steering the northwestern Iranian club to its maiden league title in the 2024-25 campaign, before lifting the Iranian Super Cup with a 2-1 victory over Esteghlal ahead of last season. Tractor was second in a tightly contested league table with 35 points from 20 matches, one point behind Golgozar with a game in hand, when

Skocic walked away from his job. The Tabriz-based side also impressed in the league stage of the AFC Champions League Elite under the Croatian, securing a place in the round of 16 with two matches to spare. However, local media reported that tensions between Skocic and several senior players following a 2-0 defeat to Al Sadd in an ACL Elite dead rubber may have contributed to his decision to leave. Should the deal go through in the coming days, Skocic will replace Brazilian coach Osmar Loss Vieira on the Persepolis bench. The Brazilian, who led Persepolis to the domestic league title in the 2023-24 season, endured a poor run of results after returning to the club for a second spell last November, managing just

two wins in seven matches while suffering five defeats before the Iranian league was called off due to the country's war with the United States and Israel in February. Persepolis, which was sixth in the table when the league was suspended, hit a new low under Osmar on Friday, falling 2-1 to Chadormalou after extra time in a domestic playoff for a place in next season's AFC Champions League Two.



## IHF Men's Beach Handball World Championships:

## Iran finishes ninth after shootout win over France

## Sports Desk

Iran secured a consolation ninth-place finish at the IHF Men's Beach Handball World Championships after defeating France in a shootout in the classification playoff in Zagreb on Sunday. Head coach Mahdi Qashqaeirad's side won the first period 24-21 before the European team bounced back to claim the second 23-15 and force the contest into a shootout, which Iran won 7-6. Iran's Ali Heidarian scored a game-

high 15 points, while teammates Ali Pirzadeh (13) and Amin Kazemi (10) also reached double figures. Horace Quintin led the scoring for tournament debutant France with 12 points, while Marius Inocencio and Paco Nichelatti added nine and eight, respectively. The result marked Iran's fifth victory in nine matches and concluded the country's fourth appearance at the global showpiece since making its debut in 2008. Iran's best finish remains eighth place, achieved in the 2022 edition.

Entering the tournament on the back of last year's silver-medal finish at the Asian Championships, Iran made a losing start in the preliminary round, suffering back-to-back 2-1 defeats to Spain and 2024 bronze medalist Portugal.

More daunting tests awaited Iran in the main round, as the Asian side lost 2-0 to Denmark, runner-up in each of the previous two editions, before falling 22-20, 23-22 to 2010 finalist Hungary later on Thursday. A 2-0 victory over Tunisia saw Iran finish fifth in Main Round Group I before the team defeated Puerto Rico and Tunisia again – both by 2-1 scorelines – to book its place in Sunday's playoff against France. Germany defeated Brazil 2-0 in the final later on Sunday to win the title, while Argentina beat two-time defending champion Croatia in a shootout to claim the bronze medal.

# Jaame Mosque of Saveh demonstrates layered history of Islamic architecture

Iranica Desk

Jaame Mosque of Saveh is one of Iran's most prominent historical monuments and among the most valuable works of Islamic architecture in the country's central plateau.

Seyyedeh Maryam Navabi, head of the Jaame Mosque of Saveh National Heritage Site, wrote in a note published by [chtn.ir](http://chtn.ir) that the structure has undergone multiple transformations over more than a thousand years of existence and is now recognized as a unique complex representing layered stages of Islamic architectural development.

Architectural studies indicate that the mosque's earliest core was formed as a hypostyle structure, with prayer halls arranged around a central square courtyard. In this original layout, the southern, eastern, western, and northern sides of the courtyard featured eight, eight, seven, and nine bays respectively. Over time, this initial configuration was altered and expanded in response to the religious, social, and artistic needs of successive periods.

The first major phase of transformation dates to the 4th-7th centuries AH (10th-13th centuries CE), when a maqsura and a brick dome adorned with fine stucco decorations were added

● [chtn.ir](http://chtn.ir)

to the complex. Although much of this domed structure has not survived, its foundations and examples of fine stucco work on the northern brick base of the current dome chamber remain visible. The construction of multiple mihrab-like niches, painted Kufic inscriptions on mudbrick and clay columns, and the erection of a dated minaret are among the key architectural developments of this period. The Ilkhanid era marks one of the most significant phases in the mosque's evolution. In the 8th century AH (14th century CE), the western ivan was constructed as the largest architectural project of the complex. To achieve this, part of the western prayer hall was modified, creating a deep and prominent space on the western side



of the courtyard. A new spatial section was also added in the southeastern corner of the mosque through alterations to the original structure.

Other developments during this period included

the reconstruction of the northern façade of the dome chamber and the organization of courtyard elevations. A unified façade featuring decorative brickwork and stucco inscription elements was executed across the mosque.

The creation of multiple mihrab-like niches on the northern side and the use of the so-called Mohrkobi technique are among the most distinctive features of this phase. In this deco-

orative method, brickwork and stucco were combined to form geometric and ornamental patterns, incorporating the sacred names "Allah," "Muhammad," and "Ali," giving the space a unique artistic character typical of Ilkhanid architecture.

During the Safavid period, the Jaame Mosque of Saveh once again received considerable attention, and significant parts of it were restored. The construction of the current dome chamber in 922 AH (1516 CE) atop the remains of the earlier structure represents the most important development of this era. Safavid architects reused parts of the previous structure while creating a space suited to the needs of their time. The open southern area of the earlier dome chamber was also roofed,

forming the present southern ivan. A tile inscription at the end of the eastern wall of this ivan records the date 936 AH (1530 CE), attributing this work to the reign of Shah Tahmasp I. The western ivan was also restored during this period.

Despite its architectural significance, one of the lesser-known aspects of the mosque complex is the extensive historical area surrounding it. This valuable zone contains the remains of the ancient city of Saveh, which has been buried under successive layers over centuries.

Evidence and historical aerial imagery suggest that this archaeological area extends at least one kilometer around the mosque and once formed a major part of the ancient urban fabric of Saveh. Unfortunately, portions of this area have been damaged in recent decades due to illegal excavations and human interference.

Today, the Jaame Mosque of Saveh is more than a religious monument; it is a valuable ensemble of Iranian history, architecture, and urban identity. Protecting this monument and its surrounding archaeological landscape is an essential step in preserving the country's cultural heritage and historical memory.

## Reading Room

### Coffeehouse painting in Iran's collective memory

Coffeehouse painting (Naqqashi-ye Qahveh-Khaneh) is one of the most authentic and popular expressions of Iranian art. Unlike courtly art, which flourished in royal workshops and palaces, this artistic tradition emerged among ordinary people and became a visual language for the beliefs, ideals, and collective memories of Iranian society.

Also known as "imaginative painting" or "folk painting," coffeehouse painting is deeply intertwined with oral traditions, storytelling, religious passion plays, and Shi'a rituals, making it one of the most significant manifestations of popular art in Iran, according to IBNA.

Researchers trace the earliest roots of this art form to the Safavid era, when Shi'a Islam became the state religion and religious and epic narratives gained unprecedented prominence in public culture. Although what is recognized today as coffeehouse painting largely flourished during the Qajar period—particularly alongside the Constitutional Revolution—its intellectual and narrative foundations can be found in the religious banners, Shi'a iconography, and storytelling traditions of the Safavid age.

In his book *Painting in the Coffeehouse*, Hossein Mirmostafa describes the origins of the genre as follows: "Coffeehouse painting emerged from the working-class and lower social strata without any formal academic training and independently of official artistic schools, gradually developing into a distinctive and self-sufficient style."

This characteristic has led many art historians to regard coffeehouse painting as Iran's first truly popular artistic movement.

The emergence of the style was closely linked to the tradition of Naqqali—the art of storytelling. In past centuries, coffeehouses were not merely places for drinking tea and socializing; they functioned as important cultural and social centers. Storytellers recounted episodes from Ferdowsi's *Shahnameh*, the events of Ashura, and religious tales, while painters enhanced these narratives by depicting key scenes on large canvases and panels.

As a result, these works were often monumental in scale and designed so audiences could clearly see their details even from a distance. In essence, coffeehouse painting served



as a form of visual storytelling that complemented the art of oral narration.

The themes of these paintings can generally be divided into three main categories. The first—and by far the most prominent—consists of religious subjects. The tragedy of Ashura, the battles of Imam Ali (PBUH), the martyrdom of Abbas ibn Ali (PBUH), Ta'zieh performances, and episodes related to the family of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) were among the most frequently depicted themes.

The second category includes epic and national subjects, largely inspired by Ferdowsi's *Shahnameh*. Scenes such as the battle between Rostam and Sohrab, the struggle of Rostam

and Esfandiar, the Seven Labors of Rostam, and other heroic narratives ranked among the most popular topics.

The third category encompasses festive and historical themes. Though less common, these works portrayed scenes from the lives of legendary heroes, romantic tales, and selected historical events.

One of the defining characteristics of coffeehouse painting is its departure from the conventions of courtly art. Most artists working in this tradition lacked formal academic training and focused less on conveying emotion and narrative.

Multiple scenes often appear within a single composition,

while different times and places are represented simultaneously. Heroes are painted larger than other figures to emphasize their significance, and vivid, striking colors are used to heighten emotional impact.

Nevertheless, during the late Qajar period, some painters came under the influence of Western artistic traditions and began incorporating perspective, chiaroscuro, and volumetric modeling into their works. Before the rise of modern media, coffeehouse painting served as one of the most important vehicles for transmitting religious ideas and values. A considerable portion of Iranian society during the Qajar era and earlier periods was illiterate, making visual imagery an essential medium for communicating religious concepts. In this context, coffeehouse paintings became a form of popular visual media that narrated historical and sacred events for the public.

These paintings also played a significant role in shaping the collective memory of Shi'a communities. During the months of Muharram and Safar, coffeehouse banners and painted panels were displayed in Tekyehs, Hosseiniye-

hs, and mourning gatherings, becoming an integral part of commemorative rituals. From this perspective, coffeehouse painting fulfilled both social and ceremonial functions, helping preserve and transmit the culture of Ashura and the Shi'a identity of Iranian society. Although epic themes derived from the *Shahnameh* occupied an important place within the tradition, many scholars argue that the enduring popularity of coffeehouse painting stemmed primarily from its profound connection to the culture of Ashura. Through dramatic depictions of the Battle of Karbala, the martyrdom of Imam Hussein's (PBUH) companions, and the sufferings of the Prophet's family, artists evoked powerful religious emotions while illustrating concepts such as sacrifice, justice, loyalty, and resistance against oppression.

For this reason, coffeehouse painting can be regarded as one of the most important forms of ritual art in Iran—an art that transcended aesthetics alone and became a vehicle for transmitting beliefs, values, and religious identity, maintaining its place within Iranian culture for more than a century.

# President calls 'public trust, support' nation's main asset

## Social Desk

President Masoud Pezeshkian pledged to strengthen public trust and social unity during meetings with senior Shia clerics in the holy city of Qom on June 29, saying his administration remained committed to improving people's well-being, expanding equitable access to public services and preserving public confidence as "the country's greatest social capital." Meeting Grand Ayatollah Javad Alavi Boroujerdi, Pezeshkian said the government was working to safeguard national interests while improving living conditions for ordinary Iranians, adding that policy decisions should reflect the realities and needs of society,



president.ir reported. He said the administration's overriding goal was "to improve people's lives," despite obstacles facing the government. Alavi Boroujerdi praised the administration's management under difficult circumstances and said officials should remain focused on realistic poli-

cymaking and the public interest. "The welfare of the people must remain the highest priority," he said, adding that greater hope and social well-being would reinforce the country's stability. Later on June 29, Pezeshkian met Grand Ayatollah Mousa Shobeiri Zanjani, thanking Ira-



President Masoud Pezeshkian meets separately with Ayatollah Javad Alavi Boroujerdi (Left Photo) and Ayatollah Mousa Shobeiri Zanjani in Qom, Iran on June 29, 2026.  
● president.ir

government officials for their service and urged them to remain steadfast despite criticism. He said dedication to serving the public would endure beyond political debate and expressed confidence that the people would strengthen the nation.

A day earlier, on June 28, Pezeshkian also met Grand Ayatollah Naser Makarem Shirazi, outlining government efforts to rebuild damaged infrastructure,

expand access to education and healthcare, strengthen social protection programs and improve public services.

Makarem Shirazi urged the government to give greater attention to household livelihoods, particularly by addressing rising housing and rental costs, supporting young people with marriage, employment and affordable housing, and reinforcing oversight of consumer prices. He said sustained coordination among state institutions and tangible improvements in people's daily lives would help foster greater public confidence and social hope.

Pezeshkian said the government had introduced measures to regulate the rental market, broaden social support and reduce disparities in access to education, healthcare and welfare services.

He reiterated that public trust remained the government's most valuable asset and pledged to continue policies aimed at strengthening social cohesion and improving the quality of life for all Iranians.

## Quiet strength of Simin-Dokht Vahidi's verse lives on

### Arts & Culture Desk

The passing of poet Simin-Dokht Vahidi marked the end of a remarkable literary life, but her true legacy reaches far beyond the mourning ceremonies that followed. While tributes at her funeral celebrated her place among the pioneers of post-revolutionary Persian poetry, those who knew her work suggest her greatest achievement was not simply what she wrote, but how she shaped generations of poets through a language that remained accessible, compassionate and deeply rooted in faith, patriotism and lived experience.

Born in Jahrom in southern Iran, Vahidi began writing as a teenager and remained active in literature for decades as a poet, teacher, editor and mentor. Before the 1979 Islamic Revolution, she wrote politically charged poetry; afterwards, her works increasingly reflected themes of the Revolution, the Sacred Defense, national identity and spiritual resilience. Yet readers often found that beneath these grand subjects lay an unmistakably human voice, one that spoke in clear, unpretentious language rather than elaborate literary ornament. Her death on June 27 and the funeral held in Tehran drew senior cultural officials, poets and literary figures, many of whom reflected not only on her literary achievements but also on her role in nurturing Iran's contemporary poetic landscape. Speaking at the funeral,



Mourners gather to pay their final respects to renowned Iranian poet Simin-Dokht Vahidi during her funeral ceremony on June 29, 2026.  
● MEHR NEWS AGENCY

Gholam-Ali Haddad Adel, president of the Academy of Persian Language and Literature, described Vahidi as one of the few women who helped establish revolutionary poetry during its formative years. He recalled that in the early years after the Revolution, when accomplished revolutionary poets were still few in number, Vahidi stood alongside figures such as Tahereh Saffarzadeh and Sepideh Kashani as a voice that gave confidence and direction to a growing literary movement.

For poet and researcher Reza Esmaeili, however, Vahidi's greatest contribution may have been her literary style. He described her poetry as "soft, fluent and contemporary," noting that her verses remained free of heavy or inaccessible language. That simplicity, he argued, enabled her poems to reach ordinary readers without sacrificing emotional or artistic depth.

Her influence extended well beyond the printed page. Esmaeili recalled that Vahidi transformed her own home into a gathering place for aspiring women poets, hosting regular workshops and literary discussions while editing anthologies that introduced dozens of emerging voices. In doing so, she became, in the words of many colleagues, less a celebrated poet than a patient teacher.

The same theme echoed through other tributes. Poet Fariba Yousefi described Vahidi as someone who championed women writers long before structured support networks existed, helping younger poets find both confidence and an audience. Iran's Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance, Abbas Salehi, likewise praised her poetry as "rooted, candid and responsible," saying her work embodied a lasting connection between Iranian culture, religious belief and love of homeland.

Perhaps that explains why Vahidi's legacy cannot be measured solely by the volumes she published, including 'One Sky of Anemones,' 'I Feel Life,' 'Restless Waves' and 'Hour'. It also lives in the generations of poets who found encouragement around her living room table, in the readers who discovered that poetry could speak plainly without losing its soul, and in the enduring belief that the strongest verses often arrive not with the loudest voice, but with the quiet conviction to remain faithful to one's ideals.

## Iran unveils southern tourism corridor to spur rural revival, rebrand travel

### Arts & Culture Desk

Iran plans to develop a new tourism corridor stretching from Makran on the Gulf of Oman to Khorramshahr in the southwest, Culture, Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Minister Reza Salehi-Amiri said Monday in Tehran, unveiling a strategy aimed at expanding pilgrimage and coastal tourism while creating jobs across rural communities.

Speaking at a meeting with members of the Iranian Parliament's Commission on Councils and Internal Affairs at the Sa'adabad Cultural and Historical Complex, Salehi-Amiri said the initiative forms the backbone of the government's post-conflict tourism agenda, CHTN reported.

"We will develop a new southern tourism corridor from Makran to Khorramshahr," he said. "The plan will strengthen religious



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tourism, capitalize on the unique attractions of Hormozgan Province and Hormuz Island, and present a renewed and authentic image of Iran to the world." The minister said tourism would play a pivotal role in revitalizing Iran's countryside, arguing that sustainable employment is the cornerstone of rural development.

"It is impossible to revive 45,000 villages without employment and tourism," he said. "Our 'Return to the Village' program is designed to encourage re-

verse migration, expand local businesses, and generate lasting rural jobs."

According to Salehi-Amiri, more than 29 million trips were recorded during the Nowruz holidays this year, with over four million travelers visiting rural destinations, underscoring growing interest in village-based tourism. To support that trend, the government has earmarked 140 trillion rials in national and provincial financing for rural employment this year, alongside an additional 123 trillion

rials in interest-free loans for handicrafts producers, eco-lodges, and village-based enterprises.

Salehi-Amiri said the government also plans to ease administrative procedures, raise lending ceilings, and expand support for family-run handicraft workshops to strengthen local economies and promote balanced regional development. "The future of rural prosperity," he said, "depends on turning Iran's cultural heritage and natural landscapes into engines of sustainable growth."



### AUCTION SJSCO. D140505

**Sirjan Jahan Steel Company** is pleased to announce the sale and export of 25,000 tons **DIRECT REDUCTED IRON (DRI)**, on basis of FAS at the Buyer's warehouse in Bandar Abbas, IRAN according to INCOTERMS 2020. Interested applicants are hereby invited to obtain the tender documents by visiting the official website of Sirjan Jahan Steel Company at [sjSCO.ir](http://sjSCO.ir), through the Sales and customer portal, Tender and Foreign Tender section. Alternatively, interested bidders may collect the physical tender documents in person from the head office of Sirjan Jahan Steel Company at the following address: 2<sup>nd</sup> FLOOR, No. 2, JOOBIN ALLEY, SHAHIDI STREET, JAHAN KODAK JUNCTION, TEHRAN, IRAN. All bids on conformity to tender instruction should be submitted no later than **Monday, July 13, 2026.**

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