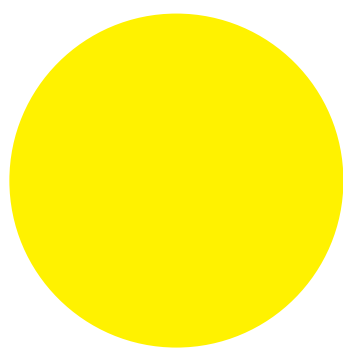


Tehran
Symphony
Orchestra
to perform
Karbala-inspired
'Khosouf'

8 >



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Iran says Oman's Hormuz proposal does not address its security concerns

2 >



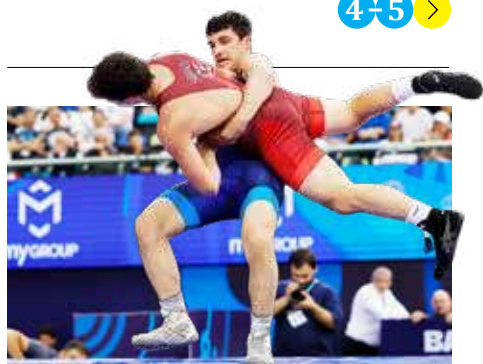
Veep calls for energy conservation, cites private sector, nuclear power as key measures

3 >



Theology of sanctions

4-5 >



U17 Wrestling World Championships: Rezaei gives Iran Greco-Roman consolation with 80kg gold

6 >

Iran slams US-Saudi strikes on Iraq as attempt to widen regional war

2 >



The picture shows a general view of scorched vehicles at the site of a joint strike by the US and Saudi Arabia in Bartalla in the northern Iraqi Nineveh Province on July 29, 2026.

● AFP

Saudi Arabia's open entry into war risks driving region toward wider crisis

By Delaram Ahmadi
Staff writer

INTERVIEW
EXCLUSIVE

US and Saudi warplanes struck targets in Iraq on Wednesday that Washington says were responsible for more than 24 drone attacks in recent days. According to US Central Command (CENTCOM), the strikes targeted "Iran-aligned terrorists." Earlier, Saudi Arabia claimed in a statement that oil facilities in two areas in the kingdom's east and in Riyadh had come under attack from Iraqi territory, although the Islamic Resistance in Iraq rejected the allegation. At the same time, despite a several-day pause in direct



Hassan Hanizadeh

US attacks, Tehran launched missile strikes on American positions in the region, a move that may not be unrelated to developments in Iraq. In an interview with Iran Daily, Middle East

affairs analyst Hassan Hanizadeh said Saudi Arabia has openly joined the United States in the war against Iran, the Axis of Resistance, Iraq and Yemen, warning that the region is naturally heading toward a suffocating crisis. He nevertheless described Iran's strikes as unrelated to those developments, saying they were a preemptive measure against newly deployed US forces.

IRAN DAILY: Can the US-Saudi operation be viewed as a sign that Riyadh has entered Washington's military campaign against the Axis of Resistance, or should it be seen as a limited tactical move?

HANIZADEH: The joint US-Saudi bombing of Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF) positions across seven Iraqi provinces amounts to a declaration of war by Saudi Arabia against Iraq. At present, one of the PMF's primary missions is to safeguard pilgrims visiting Imam Hussein's shrine in Karbala for the Arbadeen pilgrimage (annual Shia Muslim pilgrimage marking 40 days after the martyrdom

of Imam Hussein). Pilgrims from 80 countries are currently making their way to Iraq to visit the country's holy sites ahead of Arbadeen. Targeting Iraq under these circumstances constitutes a clear violation of international law and disrupts a major humanitarian, social and religious gathering. For that reason, Iraq's government and people insist that Saudi Arabia must pay the price for this attack politically, economically and militarily. The Iraqi people are also pressing Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi's government to respond swiftly to this crime committed by Saudi Arabia and the United States.

What impact will this attack have on Iraq's security balance and on the broader region? Could it mark the beginning of a new phase of escalation? Given that the strike took place on Iraqi soil, how is Baghdad expected to respond to what it sees as a violation of its sovereignty? Could this affect Iraq's relations with the United States and Saudi Arabia?

Saudi Arabia's entry alongside the Unit-

ed States against Iraq means the region has entered a broader crisis.

On one front, Yemen's Ansarullah forces are engaged in confrontation with Saudi Arabia. Under US pressure, Saudi Arabia also attacked the port city of Hodeidah and bombed civilian and urban infrastructure in Yemen. It has now struck Iraq across seven different provinces.

This shows that Saudi Arabia has open-

ly joined the United States in the war against Iran, the Axis of Resistance, Iraq and Yemen, and naturally the region is moving toward a suffocating crisis.

Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi's government may choose restraint and avoid escalation. However, the Iraqi people, particularly popular forces such as the Popular Mobilization Forces, Harakat al-Nujaba and Kataib Hezbollah, will respond.

Page 3 >



Iran says Oman's Hormuz proposal does not address its security concerns



Commercial vessels are anchored in the Strait of Hormuz as a small fishing boat sails in the foreground in southern Iran on July 27, 2026.

● ISNA

International Desk

Iran rejected an Omani proposal for joint control of the Strait of Hormuz, saying it does not address Tehran's security concerns, while warning the strategic waterway would remain closed unless Muscat accepts Iran's own proposal.

In an interview with state TV on Tuesday,

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi said that Omani officials had proposed a plan under which 50% of the shipping route would be under Iran's control and the remaining 50% under Oman's control.

"We said this does not address Iran's concerns," he added.

The Iranian official said Tehran had instead

proposed that the inbound shipping route be placed entirely under Iran's control, while part of the outbound route should also fall under Iranian control.

"This scenario is final and Iran will accept no other formula. 'If they accept this, we will move on to the next stage,'" Gharibabadi said.

He said the Strait of Hormuz would remain closed if Oman rejected Iran's proposal and added that Tehran was prepared for a resumption of war.

The Strait of Hormuz, located between Iran and Oman, is one of the world's most critical maritime chokepoints, linking the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea. A significant share of global oil and liquefied natural gas exports passes through the narrow waterway, making any disruption a source of concern for international energy markets and global shipping.

Iran shut down the chokepoint to enemies and their allies after February 28, when the US and the Israeli regime began their latest bout of wholesale unprovoked aggression against the Islamic Republic.

It began exercising far stricter controls after US President Donald Trump announced continuation of an illegal naval blockade of Iranian vessels and ports in spite of a cease-

fire that the US president, himself, had declared on April 7.

Gharibabadi also said Iran does not recognize the southern shipping route which was opened by the US in violation of the terms of the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding.

He said some countries, including parties that maintain contacts with Iran, have suggested that ships use the southern route at least until an understanding is reached. He stressed, however, that Iran "will not recognize this route even for one hour", arguing that the latest round of fighting had begun because ships had passed through the route's "illegal" passage.

New defensive capability

Gharibabadi also underlined that Iran's fixed policy is that the Strait of Hormuz will never return to its pre-war state.

"If the Strait of Hormuz returns to its pre-war status, our success in the war will not be complete," he said, adding that Iran has "discovered a new defensive capability" in the form of controlling Hormuz, which it views as an essential component of its national security.

The comments come as the United States launched a fresh wave of aggression against

Iran in July after violating terms of the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding. The US forces targeted military and civilian infrastructure, including bridges, roads, ports, desalination plants and rail roads mainly in southern Iranian provinces. Iran also responded by pounding US military bases in regional countries.

Based on the understanding, safe transit in the Strait of Hormuz must be realized under Iranian arrangement, highlighted Gharibabadi.

He said Iran's adversaries have used a wide range of tools against the Islamic Republic over the years, including expanding military capabilities, supporting terrorist groups, carrying out operations against civilians, raising alleged human rights issues, and imposing sanctions.

He said that, just as Iran's enemies have developed multiple means to pressure the country, Tehran must also strengthen its own capabilities and instruments to defend the country and safeguard its national interests and security.

According to Gharibabadi, future arrangements governing the Strait of Hormuz will have long-term implications for Iran's national security and for assessments of the country's performance in the recent war.

Iran slams US-Saudi strikes on Iraq as attempt to widen regional war

International Desk

The Iranian Foreign Ministry strongly condemned deadly airstrikes by the United States and Saudi Arabia on Iraq, saying that the attacks were a blatant violation of Baghdad's sovereignty and a deliberate attempt by Washington and Israel to widen the regional war.

In a statement on Wednesday, the Foreign Ministry specifically highlighted the "criminal and anti-human" targeting of official state facilities and service stations dedicated to the millions of pilgrims participating in the sacred Arbaeen procession.

The ministry described the bombardment as a "blatant aggression against the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq" and a "flagrant violation of Article 2, Paragraph 4 of the UN Charter and fundamental rules of international law." It held the "warmongering US regime and its accomplices in the region" fully responsible for the dangerous consequences of these "criminal, inhumane, and provocative actions."

The joint airstrikes, launched in the early hours of Wednesday, targeted positions belonging to the Hashd al-Shaabi (Popular Mobilization Forces)



across several Iraqi provinces.

According to the Hashd al-Shaabi media office, the unprovoked aggression has so far resulted in the killing of at least 20 Iraqi people, including personnel and civilians, with 32 others wounded.

The resistance group said the strikes hit bases in seven provinces, including Baghdad, Nineveh in the north and Basra in the south, causing material damage as well.

It denounced the attacks as a "dangerous escalation" against an "official security institution".

The strikes came after Riyadh claimed its forces had intercepted drones targeting oil facilities, blaming resistance groups in Iraq. US Central Command and the Saudi Ministry of Defense said that the strikes were "precise" retaliations for drone attacks on American occupation forces and Saudi energy infrastructure.



Security forces and emergency personnel work at the site of US-Saudi strikes that targeted a base belonging to Iraq's Hashed al-Shaabi forces north of Al-Miqdadiyah district in Iraq's Diyala Province on July 29, 2026.

● AFP

Riyadh has repeatedly accused Iraqi resistance factions of targeting its petroleum facilities, without providing any evidence.

The Iraqi presidency denounced the strikes as "a blatant violation of Iraq's sovereignty".

The presidency, which did not name the United States and Saudi Arabia, said it "denounces the bombing that targeted the Hashed al-Shaabi bases and it considers it an unacceptable attack and a blatant violation of Iraq's sovereignty, targeting its official institutions".

It also said it rejects the use of Iraqi territory to launch attacks on neighboring countries.

Iraqi Prime Minister Ali Faleh Al-Zaidi also canceled his planned visit to Saudi Arabia on Wednesday.

US President Donald Trump on Wednesday claimed that the bombing had been coordinated with the authorities in Baghdad, Fox News reported.

IRGC hits US airbase in Jordan with ballistic missiles

Iran reaffirms right to defend itself against US-Israeli aggression

International Desk

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) staged a retaliatory ballistic missile strike against an American airbase in Jordan in response to the US aggressive actions against Iran.

"As long as threats against the Islamic Republic continue and the unlawful and hostile actions of US forces against our interests persist, resistance will also continue," the IRGC said in a statement on Wednesday. "Threats by US officials and unlawful interference against our interests must come to an end."

The United States has perpetrated numerous violations against Iranian territory since April 7, when US President Donald Trump announced a unilateral ceasefire in the latest bout of wholesale American-Israeli aggression targeting the Islamic Republic.

The violations continued even after Washington and Tehran signed a Paki-



● TASNIM

stan-mediated memorandum of understanding last month, whose first clause had clearly mandated cessation of aggression on all fronts.

Iran's Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations Gholamhossein Darzi warned that unlawful US aggression against Iran pose a serious threat to regional and international peace, reaffirming Tehran's right to self-defense.

Addressing the UN Security Council, Darzi said slammed Washington for violating the UN Charter and fundamental principles of international law through attacks on civilian infrastructure.

"The US has violated the

Charter of the United Nations... by deliberately targeting civilians and civilian infrastructure, including schools, hospitals, medical facilities, bridges and other essential infrastructure."

The envoy cited the attack on Minab school in southern Iran as "a tragic and undeniable example of war crimes," adding that senior US officials had publicly acknowledged the attacks. Calling on the Security Council not to tolerate impunity, the Iranian representative warned that "silence and impunity will only encourage the repetition of these crimes."

Concluding his remarks, the envoy reaffirmed that Iran's actions are rooted in self-defense under international law. "We reiterate that all Iran's measures are defensive, necessary and consistent with international law," he said. According to Iran's Health Ministry, at least 60 Iranians were killed in the new US aggression against Iran.

FM rejects Ukraine 'unintentional' claim over ship attack as 'unacceptable'

International Desk

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said Ukraine must accept responsibility for an "unlawful attack" on an Iranian commercial vessel in the Caspian Sea, rejecting Kiev's claim that the incident was unintentional after the Ukrainian president acknowledged responsibility.

Araghchi made the remarks during a phone conversation with EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas, as the two discussed the latest regional and international developments.

The Iranian foreign minister said that, given the Ukrainian president's "explicit statements" accepting responsibility for the attack on the Iranian commercial ship, claims that the strike had been accidental were "not acceptable." He said the "Ukrainian regime" must

"explicitly accept responsibility" for the "illegal and criminal act" that killed one Iranian citizen and wounded several others and damaged the their commercial vessel.

Araghchi also spoke by telephone with Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha, telling him that any attack on Iranian citizens or interests was unacceptable and insisting that all damages resulting from the incident must be fully compensated.

Deputy Speaker of Iran's Parliament Ali Nikzad on Sunday described Ukraine's attack as a "reckless action", saying that Kiev's move will not go unanswered.

Nikzad said that Iran will always exercise its legal right to defend its territorial integrity, warning that any location used as an origin for aggression against Iran will be a legitimate target for the country's armed forces.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said on Saturday that Kiev had carried out long-range strikes in the Caspian Sea against vessels involved in transporting military cargo involving Iran, as well as a warship.

Ukraine's intelligence services (SBU), for their part, claimed that drone attacks had been carried out against "cargo vessels under international sanctions that were used to transport military cargo between Iran and Russia".

Iran's Foreign Ministry summoned Ukraine's chargé d'affaires in Tehran to protest the "hostile and criminal" attack.

The ministry said in a statement that the attack reflected Kiev's continued "irrational and hostile approach" towards Iran, asserting that the Islamic Republic will defend its national interests.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

CARTOON



Veep calls for energy conservation, cites private sector, nuclear power as key measures

Economy Desk

Iran's First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref called for stronger energy consumption management to help sustain the country's production, saying the government was prepared to delegate the necessary authority to ministers to implement conservation measures. Speaking at a meeting of Iran's Supreme Energy Council on Wednesday, Aref said managing energy demand was essential to ensuring adequate supplies for the industrial, agricultural and residential sectors, according to Shana News Agency. "Energy consumption management helps sustain the country's production, therefore decisions on the issue must be made with a comprehensive approach and unified policy," Aref said. "The government is ready to delegate whatever authority is necessary to ministers to advance energy consumption management programs." He said expanding private sector participation in energy supply, continued government support for nuclear energy development and reducing energy consumption through the expansion of greenhouse farming were

among the key measures to increase production and improve energy efficiency. Iran is facing electricity shortages, a situation exacerbated by peak summer demand and the ongoing US war, which began in late February and has paused only for several weeks under a ceasefire agreed on April 8. A US-Israeli coalition launched attacks on the country on Feb. 28, particularly targeting civilians and infrastructure.

Power imports

The country imports about 500 MW of electricity annually from Turkmenistan and Armenia. According to the Energy Ministry, the imports help maintain the stability of electricity supply and reduce domestic fuel consumption. Tehran also plans to import 450 megawatts (MW) of electricity from Turkey to supply petrochemical companies as part of efforts to strengthen power supplies for large industries. Deputy Energy Minister Mostafa Rajabi Mashhadi, who accompanied Roads Minister Farzaneh Sadeq during a visit to Turkmenistan on Tuesday, held talks with Turkmen Energy Minister Annageldi Saparov on expand-

ing bilateral cooperation in the electricity sector. The two sides discussed increasing electricity imports from Turkmenistan, Iran's participation in power plant maintenance, construction of new transmission lines to boost electricity transit and the reliability of cross-border exchanges, as well as expanding technical and engineering services and the supply of electrical equipment needed by the sector. They also stressed the need to continue and strengthen bilateral cooperation in the electricity sector and discussed broader efforts to enhance transmission infrastructure and utilize the two countries' shared capacities.

Power generation restored

Meanwhile, Iran Power Plant Repairs Company has restored more than 3,500 MW of generation capacity to the national grid by completing 38 specialized turbine rotor and generator projects, Chief Executive Mohammad Bagher Lotfi said. Lotfi said ensuring continuous power generation and grid stability remained the company's main priority. He said the company's Inter-



Mohammad Reza Aref
● SHANA

national Rotating Equipment Balancing Center provides services covering more than 3,507 MW of capacity, helping prepare power plants for peak electricity demand.

The company has also delivered engineering services for nearly 20,000 MW of generating capacity under Iran's national power plant maintenance and readiness program, equivalent

to 21% of the total work carried out under the initiative, he said. According to the Energy Ministry, Iran's installed power generation capacity has exceeded 100,000 MW.

Tehran livestock exhibition shows Iran's meat, dairy production capacity

Economy Desk

The second specialized livestock, poultry and dairy exhibition opened at Tehran's Shahr-e Aftab International Exhibition Center on Wednesday, showcasing Iran's production capacity and technical capabilities across the sector. IRIB reported that the four-day exhibition features the country's capabilities in poultry meat, raw milk, eggs, red meat, as well as livestock and poultry equipment and feed. Ahead of the opening, the exhibition's executive director, Mehdi Masoudi, said the event would



● IRNA

showcase Iran's annual production capacity of 3.5 million metric tons of poultry meat, 13 million metric tons of raw milk, 1 million metric tons of eggs and 900,000 metric tons of red meat. Masoudi said domesti-

cally produced livestock and poultry equipment was not inferior to foreign products and, in some cases, competed with them. "Domestic production in this sector is not only no less than foreign counterparts, but in some cases

competes with them," he said. He added that Iranian manufacturers of poultry equipment were exporting their products and that their quality was "very high." Masoudi also said domestic specialists had strong technical and scientific capabilities in livestock and poultry feed production. "In the field of livestock and poultry feed production, domestic specialists have high technical and scientific capabilities, and the country lacks nothing compared with other parts of the world in terms of technical know-how and feed production machinery," he said.

Annual inflation rate reaches 61.4% in fourth month of calendar year: CBI



● IRNA

Economy Desk

Iran's annual inflation rate rose to 61.4% in the 12 months ending in the fourth month of the Iranian year, which ran from June 22 to July 22, while point-to-point inflation reached 83.9%, the Central Bank of Iran said on Tuesday. The central bank said monthly inflation rate, which measures changes in consumer prices from the previous month, was 3.6% during the fourth month of the Iranian year. The figures differed from those released by the Statistical Center of Iran on Wednesday. The statistics center said annual inflation rate over the 12 months ending in the fourth month of the Iranian year stood at 66%, while point-to-point inflation, which measures changes in consumer prices compared with the same month a year earlier, reached 87.9%. It said the consumer price index (CPI) for Iranian households rose to 676.9 in the fourth month of the Iranian year, up 3.1% from the previous month, 87.9% from the same month a year earlier and 66% compared

with the corresponding 12-month period a year earlier. Iran's national currency, the rial, has fallen to record lows amid mounting economic pressure. It has traded at around 1,950,000 rials per US dollar on the open market in recent weeks, compared with about 811,000 a year earlier. The sharp depreciation has underscored growing strain on the economy, which is already grappling with high inflation and Western sanctions. The country has also remained on a war footing since a US-Israeli coalition launched attacks in late February, particularly targeting civilians and infrastructure during a 40-day conflict.

Unemployment rises to 9.1%

The inflation figures came as separate labor force data released on Wednesday showed Iran's unemployment rate rose to 9.1% in the spring quarter of the Iranian year, 1.8 percentage points higher than a year earlier, while the country's employed population declined by about 450,000 from the same period last year.

Saudi Arabia's open ...

The PMF has already set a deadline for the Iraqi government. Baghdad has also convened an extraordinary security meeting to formulate its response. If the government fails to act within a short period, the PMF will step in and target Saudi territory.

Although direct US attacks have paused for several days, Iran has struck US positions in the region. In your view, what were Tehran's main objectives? Given that the strikes coincided with a meeting between Donald Trump and Benjamin Netanyahu, could they be interpreted as an attempt to send a political or deterrent message to Washington and Tel Aviv? Reports indicate that the United States is deploying forces at Muwaffaq Al Salti Air Base in Jordan, the largest US base

in the region, with the aim of establishing a new military posture for a future attack on Iran. Based on those reports, Iran targeted the newly deployed American troops. This was a preemptive measure and an entirely prudent decision from operational, military and security perspectives. The purpose of this operation, as well as the targeting of certain vessels that attempted to pass through the Strait of Hormuz without Iran's permission, was to demonstrate a high level of deterrence against any potential US military action.

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) has said these strikes were carried out in response to aggressive actions by the US military. Can they also be linked to the recent US-Saudi

attacks in Iraq?

Iraq itself bears responsibility for responding. Since Iraq is fundamentally part of the Axis of Resistance, its popular forces will naturally deliver the necessary response. In any case, Saudi Arabia has now openly and officially joined the United States against the Axis of Resistance, and it will pay a very heavy price for what is ultimately a futile adventure. Iran, too, will respond to Saudi Arabia at the appropriate time and place. However, last night's operation against US forces in Jordan was unrelated to those developments. Rather, it stemmed from the very reports indicating that the United States is deploying forces with the intention of seizing parts of Iran's islands. Therefore, the operation should be regarded as a deterrent measure.



By Amir Farshbaf
Staff writer

OPINION EXCLUSIVE

What is the essence of sanctions? Why did the West impose sanctions upon Iran, and why did the Iranian academic community fail to engage with this phenomenon in a proper manner, simultaneously proving unable to produce the requisite logical and scientific discourse about it? The absence of a profound engagement with the question of sanctions has engendered, and continues to engender, unfavorable consequences and damages, of which the atrophy of national self-consciousness represents the most considerable.

The normalization of this condition further conduces to a certain lethargy, an absence of effective action, and ultimately, capitulation before it. Consequently, until, on the one hand, the essence of this phenomenon, its historical roots, and its theoretical foundations are elucidated, and, on the other hand, until comprehensive and meticulous social scientific investigations are undertaken concerning it, one cannot correctly appraise its consequences nor effectively combat it.

The comprehension of modern phenomena and concepts within the domain of human sciences and relations is attainable through diverse methods; concepts such as liberty, welfare, rationality, development, justice, and others may, at times, be examined via the Socratic dialectical method, at times their semantic evolution throughout history may be revisited, or they may be analyzed from the perspective of moral philosophy with respect to their individual and social consequences, and at times, through a sociological lens and a bottom-up perspective, the conditions for the emergence of these phenomena may be scrutinized.

One of the captivating methods for analyzing ideas and concepts consists of investigating the transformation of their meanings within the historical context and revisiting the connections and relations between old and new significations; a method prevalent in 19th- and 20th-century Germany and employed in the works of thinkers such as Max Scheler, Nietzsche, Heidegger, and Carl Schmitt. The phenomenon of sanctions also ranks among those modern concepts that occupy a determinative position within the contemporary international legal and political order, and through the aforementioned method, one may, on the one hand, descend into the depths of its theological foundations, and, on the other hand, utilizing sociological research methods, examine its impact upon the diverse classes and guilds of the target society.

Research concerning the theology of sanctions can furthermore furnish a framework for comprehending global politics, its instruments — such as economic punishment — and its objectives. Nevertheless, as an initial step, it appears that one can only employ these models in a formal manner for the theological and historical analysis of the concept of sanctions; for, to the best of the authors' knowledge, no comparable research before regarding "sanctions" is worthy of mention, and to surmount this methodological underdevelopment, in addition to the framework of social analysis and critique of the Iranian academic research system, an attempt shall be made to elucidate the pattern of the West's adversarial conduct against Iran by utilizing genealogical and analytical frameworks derived from thinkers such as Nietzsche, Schmitt, Foucault, and, briefly, Agamben.

Theology of sanctions



● RICHARD ASH/IWM

In sacred scriptures and the language of divine religions, sanctions possess diverse meanings and synonyms, having experienced varied applications across different contexts.

Within Christian theology, the concept of "Anathema" — signifying curse, excommunication, and ostracism — may be regarded as an instrument for preserving faith and the Church's power, of which "sanctions" — according to the models that shall be enumerated — are the subsequent and secularized form within the modern moral and political order.

The Old Testament, likewise, owing to the absolute dominance of the discourse of Christian law, is replete with curses, prohibitions, excommunications, and all kinds of punishments and their promises. For example, one may refer to the "Book of Genesis" and the curse of Ham (son of the Prophet Noah), or to the "Book of Deuteronomy," wherein, according to the testament of Moses (PBUH), six tribes of the descendants of Jacob (PBUH) are to bless the people, while the other six tribes are to direct curses toward the future idolaters and infidels of the community: "Cursed be the man that maketh any graven or molten image, an abomination unto the Lord, the work of the hands of the craftsman, and putteth it in a secret place." And all the people shall answer and say, 'Amen.' Cursed is anyone who dishonors their father or mother... Cursed is anyone who moves their neighbor's boundary stone... Cursed is anyone who leads the blind astray on the road... Cursed is anyone who accepts a bribe to kill an innocent person. And all the people shall answer and say, 'Amen.'" (Deuteronomy 27: 15–25)

With this description, according to the frameworks that shall be mentioned, the

decree of these prohibitions will also extend to the modern era, and sanctions represent the continuation of the theology of punishment and one of its subsequent forms, which the modern state imposes upon "adversarial" states.

Schmitt and the theology of 'friend/enemy'

Carl Schmitt does not explicitly address the subject of sanctions in his works; however, through a reconstruction of his argumentation and chosen method, one can deduce sanctions as one of the forms of modern "punishment". The cornerstone of Schmitt's analysis is the proposition he advances in his book *Political Theology*: "All significant concepts of the modern theory of the state are secularized theological concepts." According to this framework, punishment, like the concept of "sovereignty" and many new legal and political expressions, is a secularized theological concept.

On this basis, the sovereign, in the capacity of a secularized god, holds the monopoly over "Gericht" (German for judgment), and this judgment culminates in the "state of exception," which is the secular equivalent of the "miracle"; in other words, just as God suspends the cosmic order during miracles to guarantee the salvation of humanity, the modern sovereign likewise suspends positive laws to rescue the terrestrial order: "Schuld" (German for guilt) is not merely a transgression of a legal norm but is rooted in the "original sin," which constitutes the innate condition of humankind.

From Schmitt's perspective, to comprehend the structure of au-

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Carl Schmitt does not explicitly address the subject of sanctions in his works; however, through a reconstruction of his argumentation and chosen method, one can deduce sanctions as one of the forms of modern "punishment". The cornerstone of Schmitt's analysis is the proposition he advances in his book *Political Theology*: "All significant concepts of the modern theory of the state are secularized theological concepts." According to this framework, punishment, like the concept of "sovereignty" and many new legal and political expressions, is a secularized theological concept.



● EVA BEE/THE GUARDIAN

thority in the modern state, one must look to the metaphysical structure that this state has superseded — namely, monotheistic theology. He endeavors to demonstrate that modern politics still acquires meaning within a theological structure.

Another point that ought not to escape attention is the fundamental distinction between "friend" and "enemy," which directly pertains to the discussion of sanctions. In his book *The Concept of the Political*, he identifies the inception of politics as the moment when the enemy is determined and defined. Sanctions constitute the contemporary consequence of this distinction: a declaration of enmity without a declaration of war. In this logic, sanctions represent the ritualistic act of excluding the enemy from the sacred community of law.

In Schmitt's philosophy, political power is inherently theological, for the concept of "exception" — which sanctions here represent — still derives sustenance from a miracle-centered theology. The theology of sanctions in a Schmittian reading signifies the return of God in the guise of the international sovereign: God/State, which can at any moment suspend the rules in order to execute its own justice.

Another point concerning international sanctions from Schmitt's standpoint is that, in *The Concept of the Political*, he enumerates four "central domains" that, from the 16th through the 20th centuries, have dominated the spiritual life of the European human: first, the theological domain; second, the metaphysical domain; third, the humanitarian-moral domain; and finally, the economic domain. Rejecting the cliché of the pacifistic nature of economic discourse, he maintains that, in the current situation, an imperialism founded upon pure economic power will naturally endeavor to preserve conditions in the world that enable it to employ its economic instruments without interference from others; instruments such as the repudiation of credits, sanctions on raw materials, and the destruction of others' currency, et cetera.

In the central economic domain, for the application of such instruments, a new and intrinsically pacific vocabulary is created; war is condemned, but executions, sanctions, punitive expeditions, pacifications, protection of treaties, international police, and measures for the preservation of peace remain. For this reason, the "adversary" is no longer [merely] designated as "enemy," but rather defined as a disturber of peace and therefore a "hors-la-loi" (French for outlaw) and "hors l'humanité" (French for outside humanity), and the war waged for the purpose of protecting and expanding economic power must, with the aid of propaganda, be transformed into a crusade and the final battle of humanity! Consequently, from Schmitt's perspective, international sanctions are an instrument of domination for the economic discourse, through which the adversarial power that has targeted this central domain is punished.

Theology of servitude and the ethics of sanctions

One of the principal perspectives in the critique and examination of sanctions is the horizon of moral philosophy. Sanctions may be analyzed, both in terms of their essence and their consequences, from an evaluative standpoint. Anglo-Saxon and analytic moral philosophies predominantly critique and analyze sanctions from the angle of consequence-assessment and their effects, whereas the methodological principles of the Continental tradition necessitate a revisiting of their historical nature and genealogical semantic trajectory. Friedrich Nietzsche ranks among the

earlier thinkers of the Continental tradition who examine the Christian system of valuation from a genealogical perspective. Of course, Nietzsche, like Schmitt, does not offer an extended explicit treatment of the concept of sanctions and their historical roots; here, on the basis of his chosen method, an attempt shall be made to infer certain points in this regard. However, prior to that, concerning the precedence of Schmitt over Nietzsche (despite Nietzsche's chronological priority), it should be recalled that it is solely on account of Schmitt's more mature methodological framework in the discussion of political theology and because the general Schmittian spirit dominates this writing that his view was presented first.

In *On the Genealogy of Morality*, Nietzsche initiates a project whose objective is the disclosure of the concealed origin of values; in his conviction, morality is born not of reason or revelation, but of the conflict of social forces — though not in the Marxist sense thereof. According to this genealogy, sanctions arise from a kind of theology of judgment that the weak exercise against the strong.

According to Nietzsche, in the beginning, aristocratic morality was founded upon the affirmation of life, and the concept of "good" was employed to mean powerful, noble, and beautiful. But the "slaves," who lacked the capacity for "action," inverted values through a spiritual reaction to oppression; instead of "action," they created judgment. As a rule, religious sanction — in the sense of prohibition (haram) and exclusion — constitutes the primary instrument of this judgment: the sanctioning of strong actions, the sanctioning of pleasure, the sanctioning of beauty, the sanctioning of pride, et cetera. This inversion, according to Nietzsche, was "one of the most important events in Western history," for from then on, humanity became its own enemy within itself.

From Nietzsche's perspective, God and the concept of sin likewise determine these judgments; God is the ultimate judge and absolute sanctioner, transforming the morality of slaves into the law of existence. Consequently, sanctions become the mechanism for the survival of suffering; humanity, in order to endure suffering, finds meaning in sin.

In Nietzschean logic, sanctions possess an intrinsic connection with guilty conscience: sanctions are that inner voice that commands, prohibits, and directs its wrath toward its own subject. Sanctions, in this sense, constitute the internal mechanism of obedience. Consequently, the theology of sanctions from Nietzsche's perspective signifies the theology of the tormented conscience in a world whose god is preserved through cursing and exclusion. But how, from this point, can one draw a line to politics and modern international relations? Based on what has been stated, one can propose the proposition that political and economic sanctions represent the reproduction of that same mechanism of moral conscience on a collective scale, through which the state or the international community, by imposing sanctions upon others, defines itself.

In other words, sanctions in Nietzschean genealogy — like Schmitt — constitute the secularized form of divine cursing,



● sproutsschools.com

Nietzsche ironically designates this logic as the incapacity to suffer pain: an order that, instead of creating new values and tolerating the rival order, passes judgment and sanctions adversarial forces. In the theology of sanctions, this judgment transforms into a system of power; yet it remains the case that the same spirit of revenge by the weak against the strong is at work.

Sanctions as an instrument of behavioral control

Another comparable framework through which the discussion of sanctions may be examined is the theoretical model of Michel Foucault. Foucault extends Nietzsche's genealogy to the level of institutions and bodies. In his works from the earlier phase of his thought — from *The Order of Discourse* to *Discipline and Punish* — he demonstrates that modern power operates not through overt command, but through a network of sanctions: the sanctioning of speaking, of seeing, and even of being.

In *The Order of Discourse*, he maintains that every society constructs a system of prohibitions (taboos) that determines who may speak and about what one may or may not speak. From this perspective, the sanctioning of speech constitutes the constructor of truth: that which cannot be spoken delineates the boundary of knowledge. Consequently, sanctions represent the primary constitutive act of knowledge.

It is worthy of note that Foucault's formulation bears an interesting resemblance to Wittgenstein's views, both in the *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus* and in the *Philosophical Investigations*; in the former, he determines the boundaries of the sayable and the unsayable, and in the latter, he determines legitimate linguistic discourses under the theories of language-games and family resemblance. Of course, the point of departure, the te-

los, and the methodology of Wittgenstein differ from those of Foucault.

In *Discipline and Punish*, sanctions are transferred from the domain of speech to the "body". Power no longer tortures the body; rather, it disciplines it. Punishment migrates from public spectacle to closed institutions (the school, the prison, the hospital), and in all these cases, sanctions do not negate but rather systematize: "Sanctions signify conditional permission to live!"

In his subsequent phase, with the concept of "biopower," Foucault demonstrates that sanctions constitute part of the mechanism for managing populations; modern states exercise control over the life of citizens not through death, but through the management of birth, health, illness, et cetera. Political and especially economic sanctions also follow this logic: the control of the adversary's behavior through the management of the target society's life.

At this level — contrary to the preceding negative levels — sanctions represent a kind of positive power; they no longer merely exclude, but rather shape. Foucault considers this the distinguishing feature of modern power as opposed to sovereign power: Sanctions, according to this framework, appear restrictive, but in reality, they are constitutive of a particular type of subject and reality (truth). Consequently, the theology of sanctions from Foucault's perspective signifies a theology of discipline. God here is not a judge, but an overseer: precisely as modern society, through its "panoptic" gaze, compels individuals toward obedience.

Modern sanctions constitute modern penance; a perpetual surveillance of behavior.

But on the international scale, one can state that, according to Foucault's view, sanctions represent the mechanism for containing forces, organizations, and adversarial states that do not conform to the



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logic of the international system. Sanctions, within this framework, constitute an instrument of pressure and behavioral modification of the opponent, preceding military warfare — an instrument that, in the view of some, constitutes a prelude to war; and, in the view of others, a factor for avoiding military aggression.

Divine economy and the ontology of sanctions

Another theoretical framework, influenced by Schmitt — or at least following the general spirit of his thought — is the model stated by the phenomenologist Giorgio Agamben. Agamben continues Schmitt's project with a critical perspective; in his books *State of Exception* and *Homo Sacer*, he demonstrates that the foundation of all modern politics is not law, but rather "exception". *Homo sacer* is the human who is excluded from the legal order, yet remains within the sphere of its power; "one who may be killed, but not sacrificed."

Sanctions, from this perspective, reproduce this same condition: a population that is deprived of its right to life and its right to death, yet remains ensnared within the global order. Sanctioned peoples are the modern *homines sacri*.

In *State of Exception*, Agamben demonstrates that the exception is no longer a temporary condition; rather, it is the very form of government, and sanctions today are permanent, not transient. Humanity lives in a condition of "institutionalized exception"; consequently, the boundary between war and peace, and between legality and lawlessness, is effaced.

But the most explicit views of Agamben regarding sanctions are to be sought in his book *The Kingdom and the Glory*. Concerning economic theology, he maintains that modern power, in the form of "oikonomia" (Greek for "government of men," also the root word for economy), originates from theology, that is, a governance that administers the world through a combination of justice and efficiency. On this basis, economic sanctions can be regarded as one of the secularized forms of "divine economy": punishment for the sake of salvation, and control for the sake of redemption.

Thus, the theology of sanctions in Agamben's view is not merely ethical or political, but is fundamentally ontological: a decision concerning life that is livable and death that is unlivable; sanctions signify the definition of who falls within humanity and who falls outside it.

From an international perspective, Agamben's view similarly resembles Schmitt's, and according to his perspective, one can state that the dominant international discourse, through the construction of ostensibly pacific meanings, not only excludes rival or adversarial forces from the domain of conventional order, but also from the circle of humanity, in order to legitimize its subsequent conduct, including the deprivation of their right to life. In Agamben's logic, sanctions constitute the glorious garment of justice in appearance, draped over a kingdom devoid of mercy (grace).

The article first appeared in the Persian-language newspaper Iran.



● cepr.org

U17 Wrestling World Championships:

Rezaei gives Iran Greco-Roman consolation with 80kg gold

Sports Desk

Alireza Rezaei won the Greco-Roman 80kg gold medal, offering Iran some relief after a shaky start to its bid for a fifth consecutive team title at the U17 Wrestling World Championships. Ali-Akbar Akou provided further consolation later on Tuesday by claiming bronze in the 110kg class, while three other Iranians missed out on podium finishes in their respective weight categories by the end of Day 2 in Baku, Azerbaijan. Rezaei enjoyed a comfortable run to the final, outscoring his opponents 26-1 across four bouts, but had to dig deep against Azerbaijan's Isfahan Hasanov, rallying from behind to secure a nervy 2-1 victory over the home favorite. Rezaei was put in par terre first but defended the position to keep Hasanov's lead at 1-0 at the break.

In the second period, Rezaei got his chance from par terre and, although he could not execute a big move, lifted Hasanov and forced him out of bounds for a step-out point to take a 2-1 lead. Hasanov then needed at least one point to regain the lead on criteria, but the Iranian avoided any such situation to walk away with the gold medal. Akou, meanwhile, bounced back from a 5-4 quarterfinal defeat to Ukraine's Tymofii Prykhodko by beating Georgia's Saba Takidze 7-3 before edging Russia's Fedor Sukharev 1-1 on criteria in the bronze-medal bout. Elsewhere, Ali Esmaili – the U17 Asian champion in May – opened his 48kg campaign with an 11-1 technical superiority victory over Algeria's Houssein Eddine Bouha but suffered a 6-1 quarterfinal defeat to Azerbaijan's Omar Salmanov. He was denied a place in the repechage after the Azerbaijani failed to reach the final.

Vahid Ashiri, another reigning U17 Asian champion, suffered a shock first-round exit in the 55kg division after a 5-3 defeat to Georgia's Giorgi Kedelidze. Armin Qoli Goleh also saw his 65kg campaign end after a single bout, losing 7-4 to Armenia's Vazgen Mnatsakanyan. Meanwhile, the Russian squad, which is eligible to earn team points for the first time since 2021, built early momentum in its pursuit of a first Greco-Roman team title in nine years, collecting two gold medals through Soltan Iusupov (48kg) and Shamil Labazanov (65kg), as well as a bronze courtesy of Edem Paiziev in the 55kg category.



Iran's Alireza Rezaei (blue) attempts a throw against Azerbaijan's Isfahan Hasanov during the Greco-Roman 80kg final at the U17 Wrestling World Championships in Baku, Azerbaijan, on July 28, 2026.
● KADIR CALISKAN/UWW



WSPS World Cup Novi Sad 2026:

Javanmardi, Galavi shatter world record to win gold

Sports Desk

Iranian shooters Sareh Javanmardi and Ali Galavi produced a record-breaking performance to win the mixed 10m air pistol SH1 (P6) gold medal at the first WSPS World Cup event of the season in Novi Sad, Serbia, on Tuesday. Having finished empty-handed in their respective individual events the previous day, Javanmardi and Galavi teamed up to top the qual-

ification standings with a score of 565 and advance to the final. The Iranian pair then set a new world record with a score of 465 to defeat their Indian opponents and claim the title, while Kazakhstan took the bronze medal. The gold marked a statement return for four-time Paralympic champion Javanmardi, who announced in June that she would come out of retirement to pursue a second

Asian Para Games gold medal in October. Nicknamed the "Pistol Queen," Javanmardi, who appeared to have brought the curtain down on her illustrious career after winning the women's 10m air pistol title at the Paris 2024 Paralympics, had to settle for fourth place in the 50m pistol SH1 event on Monday. The 41-year-old shooter still did enough to secure qualification for September's World

Championships in Changwon, South Korea, where she will make her first appearance in seven years, as well as the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Para Games, which begin on October 18.



Iran's Sareh Javanmardi (L) and Ali Galavi pose with their gold medals after winning the mixed 10m air pistol SH1 title at the WSPS World Cup in Novi Sad, Serbia, on July 28, 2026.
● ISSF

AVC Women's Volleyball Continental Championship:

Iran drawn against China, Chinese Taipei, Iraq in pool phase

Sports Desk

Iran has been drawn alongside host China, Chinese Taipei and Iraq in Pool A of the AVC Women's Volleyball Continental Championship, which will get underway on August 21 in Tianjin, China. The draw for the 23rd edition of the tournament was held on Tuesday, with the 12 participating teams divided into three preliminary pools. This year's tournament will mark Iran's ninth appearance. The team finished 10th at the previous edition in Thailand in 2023, with its best-ever result coming in 2019, when it placed seventh. With the champion securing direct qualification for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games, China – runner-up in 2023 – will be eager to claim a record-extending 14th continental title and its first since 2015 on home soil.

Chinese Taipei, meanwhile, will look to improve on its ninth-place finish in 2023, while Iraq is set to make its tournament debut. Elsewhere, defending champion Thailand has been drawn in Pool B alongside Kazakhstan, Indonesia and Australia, while five-time champion Japan joins Vietnam – winner of the AVC Women's Nations Cup in June – South Korea and Hong Kong in Pool C. The top two teams from each pool will advance to the quarterfinals, while the remaining two knockout berths will go to the two best third-placed teams. Unlike previous editions, the quarterfinal matchups will be determined using the AVC's Combined Team Ranking System rather than teams' finishing positions in their respective pools. As a result, a runner-up from



● CAVA

one pool could be seeded higher than the winner of another based on its overall performance during the preliminary round. Iran's 21-player squad is currently holding a training camp in Tehran, with South Korean head coach Lee Do-hee overseeing preparations remotely, ahead of what will be the national team's third

major international tournament of the season. Iran retained its CAVA Championship title in June, thanks to a final victory over Kazakhstan, before enduring a disappointing campaign at the AVC Women's Nations Cup, where it finished seventh in the 12-team tournament in Candon, Philippines.

Aichi-Nagoya 2026 Asian Games:

Iranian teams learn fate in 3x3 basketball draw

Sports Desk

Iran's men's and women's teams have learned their opponents for the 3x3 basketball competition at the upcoming Aichi-Nagoya 2026 Asian Games. Iran's men's team, looking to build on last year's silver-medal finish at the Islamic Solidarity Games, has been drawn alongside China, Malaysia and Hong Kong in Pool B of the 16-team tournament. In the women's competition, meanwhile, Iran has been drawn against Japan – bronze medalist at the previous edition – Chinese Taipei and Uzbekistan in Pool B. Elsewhere in the men's draw, Mongolia – the bronze medalist at Hangzhou 2022 – has been joined in Pool A by the Philippines, Kazakhstan and Sri Lanka, while Pool C features Chinese Taipei, Qatar – the gold and silver medalists in Hangzhou, respectively – Indonesia and Bahrain. Japan, Singapore, South Korea and Thailand complete the lineup in Pool D. Reigning champion China has been drawn in Women's Pool A alongside Kazakhstan, Qatar and Sri Lanka, while Pool C features Mongolia, the Philippines, Malaysia and Macau.



● ISNA

Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand and South Korea complete the lineup in Women's Pool D. Named "Angels of Minab" in memory of the 168 victims, including 120 schoolchildren, killed in a U.S.-Israeli airstrike on Shajareh Tayyebbeh Elementary School in Minab, southern Iran, on February 28, the Iranian delegation will comprise 214 men and 94 women competing across 36 sports at this year's Asian Games. The 20th edition of the continental multi-sport event will open at Paloma Mizuho Stadium in Nagoya, Japan, on September 19.

New archaeological discovery reported near Lama Cemetery in SW

Iranica Desk

A member of the Research Institute of Cultural Heritage and Tourism's academic staff has announced the possible identification of a new ancient burial site near the historic cemetery of Lama village in Dena, Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad Province, while stressing the need for urgent rescue excavations.

During a visit to the historic Lama Cemetery, archaeologist Ahmad Azadi reviewed the history of archaeological investigations in the area and highlighted the importance of accelerating rescue excavations at the newly identified location, chtn.ir wrote. Azadi said archaeological research in Lama dates back to the late 1990s, when construction of the Yasuj-Isfahan Road led to the accidental discovery of several ancient graves after a bulldozer struck burial remains. Following reports from local residents, road construction was halted, and a team of archaeologists led by Hassan Rezvani carried out six months of rescue excavations at the site.



chnn.ir



IKNA

During the first excavation season, more than 60 ancient graves were uncovered, demonstrating Lama's considerable archaeological importance and its value for understanding ancient burial practices, Azadi said.

A second excavation season, also directed by Rezvani in the mid-2000s, investigated additional graves and resulted in the publication of the scientific findings from both excavation seasons. The results were released in a final excavation report together with a comprehensive catalogue of the site's archaeological discoveries, providing valuable documentation for future research and heritage conservation. The third and most recent excavation season was directed

by Mohammad Javad Jafari. Alongside the excavation of additional graves, archaeologists discovered a seal engraved with the image of an ostrich, a find that Azadi said could provide important insights into the cultural, artistic, and symbolic traditions of past communities in the region.

Azadi also referred to a recent development in Lama village, saying that about three months ago a bulldozer apparently uncovered another ancient grave while road construction was



IKNA

underway at a location some distance from the previously excavated cemetery. According to Azadi, the grave closely resembles those previously excavated at Lama, raising the possibility that another an-

cient cemetery exists in the area. Following reports from local residents, work at the site was suspended, and heritage authorities are now expected to initiate rescue excavations to determine the archaeological significance of the discovery.

Azadi stressed that the experience at Lama once again demonstrates the necessity of conducting archaeological assessments before implementing development projects in historically significant areas. He warned that neglecting cultural heritage considerations during infrastructure works could result in the irreversible loss of valuable historical and cultural resources.

With three excavation seasons, dozens of ancient burials, and significant archaeological discoveries already documented, the Lama Cemetery has become one of the most important archaeological sites in Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad Province. The possible discovery of a new burial ground nearby could open a new chapter in archaeological research in Dena.

Fair trade is key to sustainable growth of handicrafts market

Iranica Desk

Iran's handicrafts market today needs development more than ever — a development capable of increasing the sector's contribution to the national economy, improving the livelihoods of thousands of artists and craftspeople, and strengthening the position of Iranian handicrafts in global markets. However, one fundamental question has received less attention: Does every form of growth and increase in sales necessarily represent real development in the handicrafts sector? Or does development only gain meaning when it is built on the principles of fair trade, public trust, and respect for the rights of all participants in the handicrafts market?

Hojjatullah Moradkhani, a handicraft researcher and university professor, wrote in a note published by Mehr News Agency that, in recent years, discussions about expanding the handicrafts market have largely focused on increasing sales, expanding distribution channels, entering new markets, and using modern marketing methods. Undoubtedly, all these measures are necessary for the development of Iranian handicrafts. Yet, if the fundamental principles of fair trade are ignored, the final outcome may be nothing more than unsustainable, unbalanced, and fragile growth.

Unlike industrial products, handicrafts are based on trust, authenticity, cultural identity, and a fair relationship among producers, sellers, and consumers. Principles such as transparency, fair pricing, protection of artists' rights, healthy competition, social responsibility, and commitment to quality and authenticity not only strengthen public confidence but also increase the cultural and economic added value of these products.

On the other hand, moving away from these principles can weaken social capital, reduce market credibility, harm craftspeople's livelihoods, and ultimately diminish the competitiveness of Iranian handicrafts in domestic and international markets. From this perspective, fair trade is not merely an ethical gesture or a symbolic framework; it is a strategic necessity for preserving the sustainability, reputation, and future of Iran's handicrafts economy.



wikipedia.org

The principles of fair trade, widely recognized internationally by organizations such as the World Fair Trade Organization (WFTO), generally include: creating economic opportunities for producers and disadvantaged groups; transparency and accountability in management and business activities; fair and ethical trading practices; payment of fair prices to producers; prohibition of forced labor and child labor, along with non-discrimination; gender equality and freedom to form trade associations; providing safe and suitable working conditions; empowering producers and developing their capacities; promoting fair trade and raising consumer awareness; and respecting the environment and sustainability principles in production and trade. These ten principles now form

the foundation of many fair trade policies and standards worldwide in fields such as handicrafts, agriculture, textiles, and indigenous products. Based on these principles, successful international projects such as Ten Thousand Villages have operated since 1946 and have played a significant role in the sustainable development of rural handicrafts sales in developing countries. However, one of the main weaknesses in Iran's handicrafts poli-

cymaking is that development is often measured through quantitative indicators. Increasing the number of shops, export growth, a rise in the number of exhibitions, or higher sales volumes are undoubtedly important, but none of these factors alone represent sustainable development in handicrafts. The development of this ancient Iranian art industry will become sustainable only when the quality of economic relationships improves — meaning that producers, sellers, and consumers all feel they are part of a fair and transparent system. Ignoring fair trade principles in this cycle first damages public trust. Whenever consumers become uncertain about the authenticity of a product, its quality, its price, or the honesty of advertising, the social capital of the market declines. This loss

of trust usually does not remain limited to one product or one economic actor. Consumers often extend negative experiences to the entire market, affecting the reputation of many responsible producers as well. Such damage, if it occurs, can have harmful consequences for Iran's handicrafts ecosystem. Similar concerns have emerged in recent years in some art auctions, where uncertainty caused by insufficient transparency has led domestic and foreign enthu-

siasts and investors to approach Iran's art markets with greater caution.

At the same time, fair trade is not limited to consumer rights. As mentioned, this approach also emphasizes preserving the dignity and rights of producers. Many handicraft artists work in rural areas and small towns, and a significant portion of their income depends on various intermediaries. The more transparent and fair the value chain becomes, the greater the share of added value that reaches producers themselves, increasing motivation to preserve traditional skills and transfer them to future generations.

It should also be remembered that Iranian handicrafts compete in global markets not only through technical quality, but also through their cultural narratives and ethical credibil-

ity. Today, consumers in many countries seek products that are produced through responsible, fair, and sustainable processes. Therefore, adherence to fair trade principles is no longer a luxury or symbolic choice; it has become an important factor in international competitiveness. In this regard, protecting consumer rights is also of great importance. Consumers should be able to purchase high-quality products at fair prices, rather than discovering after a pur-

chase that, due to insufficient market supervision, they have paid far more than the actual value of a handicraft item. Such cases have occurred in various forms in recent years.

At the same time, producers must also be able to present their works under fair conditions and should not be pressured by intermediaries or marketers to reduce prices unfairly. Unfortunately, this issue has become more visible in some network-based sales models in Iran's handicrafts sector in recent years, creating negative effects on the market. Considering global developments, it appears that the concept of development in Iran's handicrafts policymaking needs to be redefined. Development in this field means creating a market in which trust, transparency, fairness, and quality are consid-

ered as important as economic indicators.

If these elements are ignored, market growth — even if impressive in the short term — will eventually lead to declining public confidence and reduced credibility for Iranian handicrafts. In this regard, the lack of continuous supervision by relevant authorities can further disrupt the handicrafts ecosystem. Simply creating extensive sales networks by non-governmental groups and using their statistics without properly monitoring and verifying the mechanisms behind these activities may cause, in the medium and long term, sometimes irreversible damage to Iran's handicrafts sector.

Sustainable growth in the handicrafts market does not come from directives or administrative orders; rather, it depends on commitment to and implementation of fair trade principles. Market trust cannot be created through advertising campaigns or regulations alone. It is built through repeated responsible actions and maintained through continuous adherence to fair trade values.

Ultimately, the future of Iranian handicrafts will not be determined solely by production levels, the number of shops, or export volumes. It will be shaped by the quality of trust between producers, markets, and consumers.

Any policy, program, or business model that strengthens this trust moves toward sustainable development, while any approach that sidelines fair trade principles — even if it appears successful in the short term — risks endangering the greatest asset of this sector in the long run: credibility and public confidence.

True development of handicrafts begins when fairness is not merely a slogan, but the foundation of market governance.



IRNA



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Tehran Symphony Orchestra to perform Karbala-inspired 'Khosouf'



Arts & Culture Desk

The Tehran Symphony Orchestra will perform 'Khosouf' (literally meaning an eclipse of the moon in Persian), a major contemporary Iranian symphonic work by Mohammad-Saeed Sharifian, over two nights in Tehran in a programme drawing on the tragedy of Karbala, one of the most significant events in Shia history. The work will be performed on August 6 and 7 at 9:30 p.m. at the city's iconic Vahdat Hall, with guest conductor Arash Amini leading the orchestra and the choir conducted by Behrang Shegharfkar, Mehr News Agency reported on July 29. Tickets for the performances are available through the

Honarticket website. 'Khosouf' is regarded as one of the prominent works of contemporary Iranian symphonic music inspired by the tragedy of Karbala, in which Imam Hussein (PBUH), the grandson of the Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) and the third Imam of Shia Muslims, was martyred more than 14 centuries ago in an unequal battle against the forces of Yazid, the tyrannical ruler at the time. The Tehran Symphony Orchestra will bring to the stage what is considered one of the most important works in Iran's symphonic repertoire relating to the events of Karbala. Using the combined capabilities of a symphony orchestra and choir, 'Khosouf'

explores themes including mourning, sacrifice, freedom, faith and the search for truth through a musical language and dramatic expression. Rather than relying on a direct narrative, the work uses the expressive power of music to invite audiences to reflect on the human dimensions of the Karbala tragedy and offers a distinctive interpretation of the connection between symphonic music and religious and cultural themes. The performance will give audiences of classical and refined music an opportunity to take in a different interpretation of the Karbala story through symphonic music performed by the Tehran Symphony Orchestra.

Iranian short film 'Pasta Alfredo' heads to Uruguay's Fenacies Festival after Albanian award

Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian short film 'Pasta Alfredo,' written and directed by Leila Noei, will head to the 16th Fenacies Festival in Uruguay as the only Iranian short film in the event, continuing its international festival run. The film, produced by Raham

Rasouli, will compete alongside 43 other entries in the Student Competition at the festival, which will be held in Montevideo from September 7 to 13, according to a report carried by Mehr News Agency on Wednesday. The latest selection follows on from the film's success at the 13th Dea Open Air Festival in

Albania, where it won the award for Best Student Short Film. 'Pasta Alfredo' has also been screened at the 21st Diecimintu Film Festival in Italy, the 23rd CortiSonanti Film Festival in Italy, the 33rd St. Anna International Film Festival in Russia and the competition section of the 14th FerFILM Festival in Kosovo.

The cast includes Mohana Seyedi, Saeed Nejati, Sima Khan-Vakili, Barbod Farshidzadeh and Mohammadreza Ariansadr. The film tells the story of Niloufar, a 14-year-old girl who tries to bring a moment of warmth to her home's cold atmosphere by organizing a birthday party for her cat and cooking pasta.



Isfahan to host ECO health tourism event



Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's central city of Isfahan has been chosen to host the fourth Health Tourism Event, Conference and Exhibition of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), Iran's deputy Tourism Minister Anoushirvan Mohseni Bandpey said on Wednesday. The decision followed a specialist assessment of bids from Isfahan, Tabriz, Yazd, Birjand and Ahvaz by members of Iran's Health Tourism Steering Council during the fourth meeting of its specialized planning working group, IRNA reported. The proposals were assessed against criteria including medical and tourism infrastructure and facilities, transport, health tourism capacity and competitive advantages, development plans, target markets, scientific and specialist programs, the ability to hold business-to-business (B2B) meetings, and information and media programs, Bandpey said. "After the council weighed up the expert assessments, Isfahan was se-

lected because of its outstanding capacities, organizational capabilities and proposed programs," he added. Bandpey noted that the international event would be an important step toward expanding regional co-operation, promoting Iran's health tourism capabilities, increasing scientific, medical and commercial exchanges among ECO member states and strengthening Iran's position as a leading health tourism destination in the region. The fourth ECO health tourism event will bring together representatives from member states, tourism industry operators, medical centers, hospitals, facilitator companies, universities and specialists in the sector. It will provide a platform to build up health diplomacy, exchange knowledge and experience, and create new opportunities for economic and medical cooperation across the region. It has yet to be decided when the event will take place in 2026. ECO is a regional intergovernmental organization founded in 1985 by Iran, Pakistan and Turkey, with its headquarters in Tehran. Its main objective is to promote economic, technical and cultural cooperation among its members. The organization now has 10 member states that include Iran, Pakistan, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan.

Notice of tender for export sale No. Z/1405/12(renewed)
Gol Gohar Mining and Industrial Company

Hereby Gol Gohar Mining & Industrial Co. announces selling and export 70,000 metric tons of Pellet (%Fe:65.50) on basis of F.O.B at Barco Jetty Bandar Abbas - Iran. Interested bidders should find tender documents at Golgohar website: www.geg.ir. All bids on conformity to tender instructions must be submitted no later than 12:00 A.M. on 08.Aug.2026 to Golgohar Tehran office at: 4th Floor, No.37, West 22nd, North Allameh St, Saadat Abad. Bidders are invited to the transactions commission department of the seller with an introduction letter of interested buyer and personal identification of the representative. Tender results shall be announced at 12:00 A.M. on 08.Aug.2026 at the office of the Seller.

Analysis %		
% Fe	65.50	Ave
% FeO	1.0	Ave
% P	0.04	Max
% S	0.01	Max
% SiO2	3.0	Max
% Al2O3	0.7	Max
% CaO	0.7	Max
% MgO	2.5	Max
CCS (kg/p)		Ave 250
8-16 mm%		Min 90
-6 mm%		Ave 5
A.I%		Max 3.5
T.I%		Min 95
Prososity%		19-24
Reducibility%		Min 90

GOLGOHAR MINING & INDUSTRIAL CO.

Notice of tender for export sale No. Z/1405/11(renewed)
Gol Gohar Mining and Industrial Company

Hereby Gol Gohar Mining & Industrial Co. announces selling and export 70,000 metric tons of Iron Ore Concentrate (%Fe:68 ave.) on basis of F.O.B at Rajaei Jetty Bandar Abbas - Iran. Interested bidders should find tender documents at Golgohar website: www.geg.ir. All bids on conformity to tender instructions must be submitted no later than 12:00 A.M. on 08.Aug.2026 to Golgohar Tehran office at: 4th Floor, No.37, West 22nd, North Allameh St, Saadat Abad. Bidders are invited to the transactions commission department of the seller with an introduction letter of interested buyer and personal identification of the representative. Tender results shall be announced at 12:00 A.M. on 08.Aug.2026 at the office of the Seller.

Analysis %		
%Fe Ave	68.00	
%FeO	Min 24	Max 28
%P Max	0.035	
%S Ave	0.5	
%SiO2 Max	2.2	
%Al2O3 Max	0.6	
%CaO Max	0.7	
%MgO Max	2.2	
%Moisture Max	7.0	
Blaine (cm2/gr) Ave	1100	
Size ave	80%<0.15 mm	

GOLGOHAR MINING & INDUSTRIAL CO.