

**Talks ...**

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PM Benjamin Netanyahu “up-ending any kind of viable pathway to peace in the Middle East.” “Between Israel and America, we have two criminal presidents,” Booker said, pointing to Trump’s prior conviction and Netanyahu’s corruption trial. “These are two failed world leaders,” he added. “These are both failed leaders that I cannot wait until they’re off the world stage.”

Asked whether Trump deserved credit for trying to end the war rather than escalate it, Booker responded: “That’s like giving somebody credit for—literally an arsonist starting a fire and getting credit for running out of the burning building.”

“This president has led this nation into a disaster,” Booker said. “We have surrendered our power. We have capitulated to the enemy, and they now are mocking us.”

Booker also faulted congressional Republicans for failing to implement proper checks and balances on executive power throughout the conflict. “I’m really sorry that Congressional Republicans from the start of this war have allowed him to [do] everything he wanted to do,” he said. “And now they’re crying foul because they don’t like the result. Shame on Congress.”

Trump has repeatedly shifted between diplomacy and threats—reportedly retracting “destroying Iran” statements at least eight times.

Parliament Speaker and lead negotiator Muhammad Bagher Ghalibaf delivered a sharp retort on social media: “If their threats had worked, they would not have reached today’s impasse. We don’t take American threats seriously. The more they talk, the more we act.”

Ghalibaf also shared details of a profound moment before the talks: he received a video call from the family of Mikaeil Mir Dorqi, a schoolchild martyred in the bombing of Shajareh Tayyeb Elementary School in Minab during the U.S.-Israeli war.

The mother told Ghalibaf: “I pray for you from the bottom of my heart to be victorious and successful... may Iran always be victorious and proud.” The flight carrying the Iranian delegation to Geneva bore the name of the school.

In a post on X, Ghalibaf wrote: “I consider the innocent children of Minab and all the martyrs of dear Iran to be watching over my every action and behavior at every moment. They see us and expect things of us. God forbid that I should ever bring shame to the innocent martyrs and the people of Iran.”

The talks, held in Switzerland’s Bürgenstock luxury resort with Pakistan and Qatar mediating, were meant to implement the 14-point memorandum signed June 18. However, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei said Israel’s “continuous and relentless violation” of the Lebanon ceasefire has placed the entire agreement at risk.

Iran’s central military command announced the re-closure of the Strait of Hormuz on Saturday, citing a U.S. “breach of contract” over Israel’s violations. Iran’s joint military command said the Strait was closed because of Israel’s continued attacks on Lebanon, which constituted a violation of the ceasefire commitments.

Iran has insisted that implementation of Article 1—ending the war in Lebanon—is a prerequisite for any broader negotiations. A source close to the Iranian team told Tasnim that the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz is contingent not only on the lifting of the naval

blockade but also on “the containment of Israel in Lebanon and the guarantee of Lebanon’s territorial integrity.”

No Photo Opportunity, No Handshake

The Iranian delegation also refused to participate in a photo opportunity with the U.S. team before the talks began.

The proposed ceremony was to be held just days before the funeral of Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, who was martyred in a U.S. strike. “Iranians want revenge,” a source said, explaining that images of Iranian and American officials together could have been interpreted domestically as a betrayal of those martyred during the terrorist war on Iran.

The Iranian delegation has made clear that without a full and verifiable implementation of the Lebanon ceasefire, no further progress is possible. A source close to the Iranian team warned that “if Israel does not withdraw from Lebanon, any negotiations will be suspended.”

Iran’s Foreign Ministry stressed on Sunday that the first priority in Switzerland will be to ensure enforcement of the deal, especially in Lebanon, before technical talks can proceed towards potentially achieving a long-term resolution. “You will see no leniency or compromise from the Iranian delegation in pursuing Iran’s interests,” Baghaei said.

**Poll...**

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issues that are important to Israel, such as the nuclear one, are left for some future that we don’t know.”

Iran has successfully leveraged its position to extract major concessions. The U.S.-backed memorandum includes the unfreezing of billions in Iranian assets, a U.S.-backed reconstruction plan worth at least \$300 billion, and crucially, Iranian acknowledgment that it will not acquire nuclear weapons—a position Tehran has long maintained. Iran retains its fundamental right to uranium enrichment and ballistic missile programs.

Citrinowicz concluded: “At the end of the day, Iran is becoming stronger, and Israel has no ability to influence the U.S. president’s decisions.” Michael Milshtein, an expert on Israeli military affairs, said the agreement leaves Israel in a weaker position than before the war on all fronts, arguing that “Netanyahu brought us to a point of very weak leverage.”

Netanyahu’s political career now lies in ruins. Support for his premiership has plummeted from 40.5 percent in early March to 29.4 percent in June. Nearly three-quarters of Israeli settlers do not believe his claims of military achievements, and 56.4 percent rate his war management as “failed” or “poor.”

Tisdall concluded: “Don’t make more trouble or more excuses, Bibi. Don’t wait to be pushed or sacked. Resign.”

**Hezbollah...**

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its resistance, and for their insistence that Lebanon be included in any understanding leading to the cessation of war.”

Sheikh Qassem also addressed the ongoing Lebanon ceasefire negotiations, warning that any agreement that gives the Israeli regime freedom of action “means the continuation of aggression” and that the resistance “will not accept such a proposal”—a position that has remained consistent over the past fifteen months.

“Israel will not accept any proposal that constrains its aggres-

sion,” Qassem warned, urging the Lebanese government to “utilize the capabilities of the resistance and Iran to strengthen Lebanon’s position” and to “take advantage of the closing of the Strait of Hormuz as a powerful tool”.

The Hezbollah chief reiterated the group’s refusal to disarm, stating that “disarming the resistance would, in fact, strip Lebanon of its defensive capability and serve as a prelude to annihilation, something we will never accept”.

He further criticized the Lebanese government for “making a free concession to Israel by entering into direct peace talks with it,” warning that such negotiations serve only to protect Israel’s interests.

**Iran ...**

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The Iranian delegation’s objective is limited to implementing Article 13 of the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding, with particular emphasis on Article 1—which requires the “immediate and permanent termination of military operations on all fronts, including in Lebanon”—as well as securing the release of Iranian assets and the lifting of oil sanctions.

Iran’s nuclear program will not be discussed during the current round of talks, Fars news agency reported, citing a source in the Iranian negotiating team. None of the members of Iran’s nuclear committee are part of the delegation attending the talks, the source said.

Discussions on Tehran’s nuclear file would only be considered if implementation of clauses 1, 4, 10 and 11 of the memorandum begins, the source added.

Grossi, who arrived in Switzerland ahead of the talks, met with Swiss Foreign Minister Ignazio Cassis at the Bürgenstock resort to “take stock of recent developments regarding Iran, the path ahead and the important role of the IAEA”. “At this critical moment, it’s important to give diplomacy every opportunity to succeed,” Grossi said on social media.

However, the IAEA chief’s presence at the venue does not signal his involvement in the negotiations with Tehran, the Iranian source emphasized.

The US and Iranian delegations began talks on Sunday at the Bürgenstock mountain resort to implement the 14-point memorandum signed on June 18. U.S. Vice President JD Vance is leading the American team, while Iran’s delegation is headed by Parliament Speaker Muhammad Bagher Ghalibaf and Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi. Pakistani and Qatari mediators are participating in the discussions.

Vance said there had been “great progress over the last few hours” and that the talks are “the beginning of a technical negotiation,” not intended to settle all differences between the parties.

Iranian officials have insisted that the nuclear issue is not on the agenda for this round of talks. A source close to the Iranian team told Tasnim that the delegation’s focus remains on ensuring U.S. compliance with the Lebanon ceasefire and the lifting of sanctions.

**Senior...**

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Iran’s Parliament Speaker Muhammad Bagher Ghalibaf, who is leading the Iranian delegation in Switzerland, said on Friday that talks with the United States would remain bound by Tehran’s “red lines”.

“If the enemy seeks to be excessive, we have proven that our fingers are on the trigger and we have no hesitation in giving a crushing

response,” Ghalibaf warned.

His remarks echoed statements from Iran’s National Security Commission, which declared “absolute distrust” toward the United States and said parliament would closely monitor implementation of the agreement.

Both the IRGC and the Iranian army issued statements affirming their forces remain “on trigger” and ready to defend the country’s security, dignity, and national interests in the event of any breach.

Rezaei, in his interview with CNN earlier this month, had cast doubt on the durability of any nuclear agreement with Trump, citing the U.S. leader’s withdrawal from the 2015 nuclear deal and what he called a strategy of “ambiguity” in the talks.

Should negotiations fail, Rezaei said Iran is prepared for a potential U.S. invasion of its territory, warning that the U.S. would “enter into a dark corridor” should it resume fighting.

The quadrilateral talks in Switzerland, scheduled for Sunday afternoon, included representatives from Iran, the United States, Qatar, and Pakistan.

Baghaei emphasized that Iran’s approach remains based on the principle of “commitment for commitment,” stating that “if the other side fails to honor its obligations, the Islamic Republic of Iran will certainly take the necessary measures”.

A senior IRGC Navy official stressed that national power remains the only effective guarantee against adversaries, stating that Iran’s enemies retreat only when confronted with strength.

“The enemy retreats when it sees your strength, not because it feels sympathy for you,” said Muhammad Akbarzadeh, the IRGC Navy’s deputy for political affairs said in Bandar Abbas, referring to the recent U.S. and Israeli aggression against Iran which was met with the country’s decisive retaliation.

Addressing ongoing diplomatic engagement between Tehran and Washington, the official emphasized that power remains the ultimate safeguard in any future agreement.

“The real guarantee in any agreement is power,” he said, adding that Iran would not retreat if the opposing side failed to honor its commitments. “We negotiate to secure our rights, not to grant concessions.”

Akbarzadeh said the Islamic Republic is the principal obstacle to regional projects such as the Abraham Accords and the so-called expansionist “Greater Middle East” scheme, saying this has contributed to continued hostility toward the country.

He also addressed the enemies’ “cognitive warfare” against Iran, noting how hostile actors seek to weaken public resolve through media campaigns.

**Karbala...**

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drawn between the crucifixion of Jesus of Nazareth and the events of Karbala are not interpreted as historical equivalences, but as expressions of a broader symbolic grammar of sacrifice.

In the Hellenic reception of Christianity, the passion narrative was absorbed into an intellectual and aesthetic environment shaped by Greek tragedy, in which human existence was often understood through suffering, fate, and moral elevation.

Similarly, the narrative of Karbala has been preserved within Islamic civilization not only as a historical episode but as a foundational moral paradigm. It represents resistance to injustice, fidelity to ethical principle, and the affirmation of human dignity under conditions of extreme oppression.

Over time, it has generated a vast cultural repertoire expressed through elegiac poetry, ritual per-

formance, visual representation, oral transmission, and collective commemoration.

According to Mollasalehi, these commemorative systems demonstrate the capacity of human civilizations to transform historical events into enduring symbolic structures. Such structures operate as mechanisms of intergenerational transmission, preserving ethical archetypes and sustaining cultural continuity across time. They allow societies to encode experiences of suffering and moral struggle into forms that remain socially and spiritually active.

The analysis further highlights the limitations of reductionist historiographical approaches that confine historical phenomena to empirical description alone. Strictly positivist readings risk flattening multi-layered cultural realities into linear factual accounts, thereby obscuring their symbolic, existential, and ethical dimensions. In contrast, a more comprehensive interpretive framework is required to account for the depth of meaning embedded in ritual memory.

In conclusion, the commemorative traditions associated with Karbala, when viewed alongside analogous ritual systems in ancient civilizations, represent enduring frameworks of civilizational meaning. They continue to shape moral imagination, collective identity, and ethical sensibility, functioning not as static remnants of the past but as living structures through which societies interpret suffering, affirm dignity, and sustain cultural continuity.

**To Restore...**

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On using global experiences, Talebian said: “Using global experiences does not mean imitating them. Each historical site has its own unique characteristics. The approach to damage at Golestan Palace will differ from that at the Senate Palace or Chehel Sotoun. Each monument has its own narrative, and the solution must be tailored to that narrative.”

He said that decisions must be made through a collective process rooted in shared wisdom. First, the content narrative of each site must be developed, then reviewed by experts, technical councils, and decision-making groups.

“The narrative of war must be preserved so that future generations can understand the events that have taken place in our country’s history,” Talebian said.

**New...**

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The event included a panel discussion addressing Taghvaei’s contributions to Iranian cinema and his engagement with traditional performance forms, particularly Ta’zieh (Iranian passion play).

Speakers emphasized Ta’zieh as a foundational element of Iran’s intangible cultural heritage, while also noting its underrepresentation in academic infrastructure and institutional preservation efforts. Discussions highlighted the need for expanded archival systems, research frameworks, and cultural policy support to sustain the tradition.

Elsewhere in Tehran’s independent theater circuit, productions at the Nofel Loshato Theater venue include “Zaar,” “Torop-e Tarab,” and “Selool” (“Cell”) with “Selool” continuing an extended run following more than 90 performances. At the Iran Shahr Theater complex, “Sho’leh-ha-ye Sarkash-e Tariki” (“Fierce Flames of Darkness”), written by Antonio Buero Vallejo and directed by Houshang Honarvar, has opened with a large ensemble cast.

At the Iranian Artists’ House, “Viran-Tan” (“Ruined Body”),

a monodrama directed by Ali-reza Akhavan, has begun performances exploring themes of loss, memory, and emotional rupture through a minimalist narrative form.

Finally, the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance announced the call for submissions to the 10th International Popular Theater Festival of the Arbāeen Pilgrimage (Revayat-e Rahiyan), scheduled for August 2026. The festival will feature Ta’zieh, street performance, mobile theater, puppetry, and ritual storytelling along pilgrimage routes in Iraq, integrating artistic production with religious-cultural practice.

The deadline for submissions is July 16, with accepted groups set to depart from the Shalamcheh border crossing.

**Archaeological...**

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The structure is considered of particular importance for studies concerning spatial organization of settlements, defensive architecture, and historical patterns of land management across different periods.

The survey has also documented a number of archaeological mounds in the Kharaf-Khaneh area of Garizat, which are regarded as among the most significant discoveries of the project.

The sites are expected to provide valuable insights into the formation processes of human settlements, cultural transformations, and interactions among past communities in this part of the Iranian Central Plateau.

Further analysis of the sites is anticipated to yield critical data on patterns of habitation, subsistence strategies, and cultural evolution, thereby contributing to the reconstruction of lesser-known chapters in the region’s historical narrative.

In addition, the discovery of stone tools in the vicinity of the Gariz water basin represents another important finding of this season’s fieldwork. While preliminary observations suggest their scientific significance, their precise chronology, function, and cultural attribution remain subject to further specialized study.

Researchers hope that continued field investigations will eventually identify the primary context of these artefacts and the associated settlement site. Such discoveries could open new perspectives on prehistoric occupation in Garizat and Taft, further enhancing the region’s importance within Iranian archaeological research.

According to the preliminary report of the survey team, fieldwork in the Nir district has been completed, while investigations in the eastern part of Garizat have also been successfully concluded.

All identified sites have been accurately recorded and mapped using geospatial positioning systems, and their conservation status has been assessed as part of the documentation process.

**Handicrafts...**

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establishment of regular handicrafts “day markets” and “night markets” across all provinces. Some of these initiatives are already operational, while others are in planning or early implementation stages.

The proposed markets, developed in coordination with municipal authorities, are expected to be held in public pedestrian areas and other designated urban spaces, as well as venues affiliated with the Ministry of Cultural Heritage.

Officials say the long-term objective is to create permanent and recurring platforms that ensure continuous exposure and income opportunities for handicraft producers across the country.