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Editorial

Dr. Busharat Elahi Jamil - Assistant Editor



Israel's war frenzy engagement continuous to establish its firm sovereignty in the region since 1948. With the help of superpowers, Israel is also hegemonically promoting a particular expansion strategy. The region's peace is consistently in jeopardy because of Israel's ruthless policies and actions, which also cause the growing tension and distress that plagues the people of its bordering states.

According to the BBC, Israel attacked the Islamic Republic of Iran on June 13, 2025, in an attempt to contain it. Under the pretence of an IAEA resolution, Israel used non-cooperation and non-compliance as a pretext to attack Iran, and Iran responded by launching more than 500 ballistic missiles at Israel, putting it in danger. Iran viewed this as an assault on its religious pride in addition to its independence and sovereignty.

Aljazeera claims that over 200 Israeli fighter jets were used to strike over 100 locations in Iran, both military and civilian. However, Israel's anti-missile system, the Iron Dome, was destroyed by Iran's destructive approach. And in just 12 days, numerous places, including Haifa and Tel Aviv, were reduced to rubble. Benjamin Netanyahu, the prime minister of Israel, was taken aback by the Iranian reaction.

Reports state that 9 million Iranians were displaced, 4746 Iranians, including 185 women, were injured, and 610 Iranians, including 46 women and 13 children, died in all, the youngest of them was 2 months old. Israel attacked Iran 146 times between June 12 and June 25 (Aljazeera). Iran responded by attacking Israel 120 times between June 13 and June 23. Ninety percent of the approximately 1000 ballistic missiles and drones that Iran launched against Israel were intercepted, according to Israel. 28 Israelis lost their lives and 3238 were injured in Iranian assaults (Aljazeera).

Iran's missile program was banned by the UN Security Council in 2010 and placed on the FATF's blacklist in 2020. Although Iran has been under sanctions for decades, it has maintained its religious pride, sovereignty, and sent a message to the world that its weapons are for peace and defence. Israel's appeal for American assistance is evidence that its goals have been utterly unsuccessful. Israel's defence, strategy, policy, and technology, among other things, were a complete failure; in contrast, Iranian technology, war strategy, unity, solidarity, and vision were successful. Iran also demonstrated that it is capable of fighting any form of invasion despite limitations and sanctions.

The Iranian people stuck behind their separate leaders and foiled the superpowers' practice of overthrowing regimes from succeeding in Iran. They demonstrated that they are a great nation with exceptional unity, not just a country. Additionally, this marks the beginning of a robust and forward-thinking Iran. The conclusion of this conflict also demonstrates that Iran has not backed down from its nuclear pledge and that the only option left to the superpowers is to engage in discussions.

Iranians Put Faith in Diplomacy. Israel and Trump Shattered Their Hopes | Opinion



By Alex Shams

Every night for the last week, my family in Tehran wakes up to the Earth shaking as missiles strike and children scream. When the bombs go silent, they hear drones buzzing—a constant reminder they’re being watched by the foreign army assaulting their city.

Last week, Israel launched a surprise attack on Iran. Over 600 people have died, the majority civilians, including entire families killed while asleep. It has bombed Iran’s state TV live on air, killing at least one journalist. Israeli bombs have hit hospitals and ambulances, killing paramedics. Medical facilities are overflowing with the injured.

Israel says it targets military bases and nuclear sites. But its bombs have struck homes across the country. President Donald Trump said Tehran should evacuate—a threat to the entire civilian population. Tehran is a vast city of 10 million people. In June, the flowers are in bloom and the rivers overflow with glacier water. Mountain hiking paths fill with people. Tehran is also a diverse city. I lived near a church, close to a synagogue and Zoroastrian temple. There are Sunni and Shiite Muslims, atheists and Baha’is, Afghan and Iraqi refugees.

Today everyone in Tehran is experiencing terror.

Israel gives evacuation orders, like in Gaza and Lebanon. But it’s impossible for everyone to leave. Many orders go out at night, when Iranians are asleep. Israel has hit fuel depots, causing gasoline shortages. On Monday, Israel told residents of District 3 to leave—300,000 people live there, including my family. They have nowhere to go. Many of my friends have also stayed to take care of elderly relatives.

Those who can say goodbye to their homes, unsure if or when they’ll return. They fear being bombed on the road, just like people killed in Gaza and Lebanon, or by Israeli bombs in Tehran. Just last week, my family was planning for summer holidays. My cousins wanted to rent a cabin near the beaches of the Caspian Sea. Instead, they are praying bombs don’t kill them in their sleep.

It didn't have to be this way. Last week, Iran and the United States were in the middle of negotiations. They'd spent months working out a deal.

They already made a deal once before: the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). The 2015 Iran Nuclear Agreement led to joyful celebrations in Tehran. I'll never forget the optimism among friends and family. Both the U.S. and Iran held up their end of the bargain. Until Trump came to power and quit the deal in 2018. Former President Joe Biden campaigned on returning to the deal. But when he became president, he broke his promise.

Instead, the U.S. continued crippling sanctions on Iran. They have been devastating for civilians. The currency has lost most of its value. Medicines have become hard to find, leading to preventable deaths.

Ironically, sanctions strengthened the regime by encouraging smuggling, concentrating wealth among oligarchs. Sanctions did succeed in one thing: crushing ordinary Iranians. They weakened civil society, small businesses, and academic and cultural associations.

For decades, Iranians have organized, protested, and rebelled for greater freedom. They have also advocated for better relations with the U.S. But America's betrayal of the deal—and its support for Israel's surprise attack—has undermined peace-loving Iranians. Every time Trump goes back on his word, it's a message Americans can't be trusted.

Iranians have many reasons not to trust America, like the 1953 CIA coup that overthrew their democratically-elected government and put the tyrannical Shah back in power. Or U.S. support for Saddam Hussein when he used chemical weapons against Iranians.

But Iranians kept fighting for diplomacy. They elected a president who promised to make it happen. When Trump said he wanted a deal, Iranians believed him. When he said he'd avoid a new Middle East war, they cheered.

Instead, Trump secretly sent Israel missiles. Israel says it attacked because Iran is building a nuclear bomb. But U.S. intelligence has repeatedly shown this is false.

Ironically, it is Israel that has an estimated 90 undeclared nuclear bombs, hidden from international inspectors. And it is Israel that commits what law experts argue is genocide in Palestine and war crimes in Lebanon.

The U.S. not only failed to stop Israel—it keeps sending billions in military aid.

Iranians feel betrayed by Americans—and terrified by the reckless warmongering of our allies. If Trump is concerned about Iran getting a nuclear bomb, then he should study history: diplomacy works.

War is not the answer. The JCPOA is proof that Iran will uphold its end of a deal. Now Americans must prove that we, too, believe in peace, not war.

The U.S. needs to end the flow of arms and sanction Israel, stop the war, and return to negotiations. If we don't want another generation around the world to grow up hating America, we must embrace peace. Let's show Iranians that Americans can be trusted.

Source:<https://www.newsweek.com/iranians-put-faith-diplomacy-israel-trump-shattered-their-hopes-opinion-2088674>



U.S. bombs have fallen. What comes next?

***The president needs to explain
what he wants to achieve.***



In a Saturday night address, President Donald Trump claimed that the United States had “completely and totally obliterated” Iranian nuclear facilities at Natanz and Fordow, and a site at Isfahan where Iran has a uranium conversion facility. The president also called on Tehran to “make peace” or face “tragedy for Iran far greater than we have witnessed over the last eight days,” saying that there are many other targets the United States can hit.

No doubt. But, while ending Iran’s nuclear program would be a big win, risks abound, and it is still unclear what “peace” would look like. Trump stated he wanted an end to Iran’s nuclear weapons program. Yet he also has said, “I want to make a deal with Iran, I want to do something if it’s possible, but for that to happen, it must stop sponsoring terror, halt its bloody proxy wars, and permanently and verifiably cease its pursuit of nuclear weapons.”

Objectives tend to expand after shooting starts. Trump clearly wants a verifiable commitment from Tehran never to pursue nuclear weapons. Will this expand into ending Iran’s state-sponsored violence across the Middle East, activities that Trump specifically mentioned on Saturday night? Limits on conventional weapons? On Sunday morning, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said the mission “was not, has not been about regime change.” (Trump later mused otherwise on social media.)

Now that the president has decided

to risk entering the conflict — because only the United States has the bunker-buster bombs best suited to destroying Iranian nuclear facilities — he should ensure that Iran's nuclear program is demolished, as he appeared to claim it was on Saturday. This would mean the destruction of the targeted sites plus any residual weapons-building capacity. Then he would be well advised to strike a deal with Tehran designed to ensure the Iranians end their nuclear program for good.

This will be tricky. Following these strikes, the Iranian government will be tempted to pursue the security that possession of nuclear weapons provides — and to do so even more secretly than it had before.

This, in turn, could lead to calls for toppling the regime entirely. Trump should be aware that regime change would be even harder in Iran than it was in Iraq and Afghanistan. He faces a need to restrain Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu from trying to expand the conflict, too. Netanyahu already dragged the United States into this war; the president cannot allow the prime minister to dictate the terms of its completion.

Much also depends on how Iran now chooses to respond. More than a week of Israeli airstrikes have degraded its missile capacity, and its military command and control has been disrupted by the killing of several top members of its military leadership. But Iran likely retains some ability to strike at U.S. targets in the region, particularly the 40,000 American forces stationed in various Middle Eastern countries. Iran could try to disrupt international shipping in the Strait of Hormuz. It could also target other American allies in the area, in an attempt to spark a wider conflict.

It's possible a humbled Iran will limit its retaliation, at least in the short-term, and meet Trump ready to negotiate a deal that permanently restrains Tehran. Or an escalating campaign of strikes and counterstrikes could ensue. Destroying discrete nuclear weapons sites might be simple compared with degrading Iran's ability to strangle trade in the Persian Gulf or to conduct other asymmetric operations. The Iran-backed Houthis proved this as they menaced ships transiting the Red Sea, despite substantial international efforts to stop them. To what extent will Trump feel compelled to end such attacks with force — or at least try to? And to what extent would the president be satisfied with limits just on Iran's nuclear program, rather than on its capacity to produce and use conventional weapons? How long would he prolong the conflict to achieve aims beyond containing Iran's nuclear ambitions?

Americans — and their representatives in Congress, in whom the Constitution vests the power to declare war — did not imagine they would be fighting this war only a few weeks ago. Now the president needs to help them imagine how it ends.

Source:<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2025/06/21/iran-war-trump-israel-nuclear-strike/>

Supreme Court ruling expands Trump's power - and he intends to use it



By Anthony Zurcher

The Supreme Court on Friday handed a significant victory to Donald Trump - and future American presidents - when curbing lower courts' power to block executive orders.

President Trump was beaming as he addressed reporters at the White House briefing room podium, calling it a “big, amazing decision” which the administration is “very happy about”.

He said it was a “monumental victory for the constitution, the separation of powers and the rule of law”.

The court's decision not only impacts Trump's birthright citizenship order, but also emboldens him to enact many of his other policy actions that have been temporarily thwarted by similar injunctions.

Impact on birthright citizenship

The Supreme Court has opened the door for the Trump administration to no longer grant automatic citizenship to everyone born on American soil – at least for the moment. Now the White House will have to implement its plan, which will be no easy task.

On Friday, the nation's highest court allowed Donald Trump's executive order to end birthright citizenship to go into effect in a month's time, while leaving room for lower courts to curb the impact on those who have standing to sue.

States traditionally handle processing birth certificates, and many do not record the citizenship of the parents. Democratic-run state governments will be in no rush to do so, no matter what the Trump administration may desire.

And Justice Amy Coney Barrett, writing for the majority, left the door open for states to make the case that a more broad block on Trump's birthright citizenship action is necessary.

That sets up big legal battles to come.

“As the States see it, their harms — financial injuries and the administrative burdens flowing from citizen-dependent benefits programs — cannot be remedied without a blanket ban

on the enforcement of the Executive Order,” Barrett wrote.

“The lower courts should determine whether a narrower injunction is appropriate, so we leave it to them to consider these and any related arguments.”

President Trump described the court’s decision on Friday as a “giant win”.

He added that the “birthright citizenship hoax” has been “indirectly, hit hard” and that the decision would prevent “scamming of our immigration process”.

Trump’s Attorney General Pam Bondi said on Friday that the Supreme Court will decide whether the US will end birthright citizenship in October during its next session.

Broadening presidential power

The court’s decision to limit the power of lower court federal judges to issue nationwide injunctions will have immediate, wide-ranging consequences.

Both Democratic and Republican presidents have often criticised what they say are ideological jurists in federal district courts who have been able to singlehandedly block executive actions and even legislation passed by Congress.

While doing away with automatic citizenship for the children of undocumented migrants born on US soil is at the centre of this high-profile case, there are a number of other actions taken by Trump in recent months that have also been held up by lower-level judges.

From Trump’s inauguration to April 29, the Congressional Research Service counts 25 such instances.

Following the court’s decision on Friday, Trump told journalists, “We can now properly file to proceed with policies that have been wrongly enjoined.”

Lower courts have blocked the president’s cuts to foreign assistance, diversity programmes and other government agencies, limited his ability to terminate government employees, put other immigration reforms on hold and suspended White House issued changes to election processes.

With the Supreme Court’s decision in this case, the administration is in a much stronger position to ask courts to allow it to push forward on many of these efforts.

During the Biden presidency, conservative judges prevented Democrats from enacting new environmental regulations, offering student loan forgiveness, modifying immigration rules. Courts blocked changes to normalised immigration status for some undocumented migrants during Barack Obama’s presidency, as well, and prevented him from making more white collar employees eligible for overtime pay.

In all these types of cases, courts will ultimately be able to step in and halt presidential actions that they deem illegal or unconstitutional.

The Supreme Court in its opinion said, “ The lower courts shall move expeditiously to ensure that, with respect to each plaintiff, the injunctions comport with this rule and otherwise comply with principles of equity.”

But that will come further along in the judicial process, at the appellate and Supreme Court level. In the meantime, presidents – Donald Trump and his successors, whether they are Republicans or Democrats – will have more time and space to act.

Source:<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cj9velv7z4no.amp>

Trump's path to Tehran: the making of a global bargaining chip



By Phar Kim Beng and Luthfy Hamzah

Taking out a major regional power would signal willingness to escalate beyond traditional economic warfare to get a better deal

The second Trump administration no longer needs to prove its foreign policy instincts.

They are clear, unmistakable and anchored in brute transactionalism. If the world learned anything from the former—and now resurgent—President Donald Trump, it is that he views diplomacy not as a delicate art of engagement but as a zero-sum game of power projection.

His latest rhetoric and posturing over Iran, especially in the wake of Israeli operations and heightened regional tensions, suggest a dangerous and deliberate strategy: to reduce Iran to rubble, not only for the sake of containment but to bolster American dominance in trade negotiations with China and recalibrate all relationships—friends and foes alike—on Washington's terms.

At the heart of this approach is Trump's insistence that Tehran must surrender unconditionally. This is not just hyperbole; it is a method. Trump thrives on spectacle and brinkmanship. His entire worldview is predicated on the belief that America is losing because it has been too nice, too generous and too forgiving.

Therefore, for Trump to extract what he perceives as “better deals” from China, Europe, ASEAN, Mexico and Canada, he must first demonstrate that the United States is willing and able to destroy one of its most intransigent adversaries—publicly, unmistakably and with overwhelming force.

Bunker buster diplomacy

Trump's obsession with bunker-buster bombs is not new. During his first term, he repeatedly floated the idea of using high-yield ordnance to obliterate Iran's underground nuclear sites.

While the Pentagon and international allies balked at the prospect, Trump's inner circle entertained such military options as ways to force diplomatic capitulation. In Trump's

view, diplomacy begins only when the enemy lies broken or at least battered enough to come to the table begging.

A full-fledged strike on Tehran, targeting its military-industrial infrastructure, would mark not only a significant escalation in the Middle East but a cornerstone of Trump's new foreign policy doctrine: militarized deal-making.

The point is not merely to neutralize Iran but to demonstrate to Beijing, Brussels and beyond that Trump's America is prepared to shatter international norms to reassert dominance.

Leverage through destruction

By pulverizing Iran's defenses and forcing a surrender, Trump can create a shockwave that ripples through multiple geopolitical theaters.

First and foremost is China. Beijing, already embroiled in a tit-for-tat tariff war with Washington, is being forced to reconsider its risk calculus. A United States that can unilaterally take down a major regional power signals a willingness to escalate beyond traditional economic warfare.

Trump clearly wants China's leadership to understand that their negotiation counterpart is not a rational actor bound by global rules—but a strongman driven by prestige, leverage and personal victory.

Second, Washington's allies would be caught in the moral and strategic dilemma of either backing Trump's new militarist campaign or risking their ties to the US economy and defense umbrella.

Members of the European Union—especially France—may voice concern, but ultimately, many of them remain economically and strategically tied to the United States. The same dynamic plays out in Asia, where regional powers depend on US security guarantees while also being wary of American unpredictability.

Third, Trump can use the devastation in Iran to undermine Russia's remaining influence in the region. With Iran weakened, Moscow's capacity to counterbalance US interests in Syria, Lebanon and Iraq will be significantly diminished. In this sense, Iran becomes both a target and a message: defiance will be punished, and accommodation will be rewarded—on American terms.

Calculated risk of regional blowback

Of course, bombing Iran is not without consequences. Trump's team understands the potential for a regional conflagration. Hezbollah in Lebanon, Shia militias in Iraq and the remnants of the Houthis in Yemen may launch retaliatory attacks on American interests and allies.

But Trump, emboldened by a Republican-controlled Congress and the politics of spectacle, is likely to argue that such blowback is manageable—collateral damage in a global campaign to reassert American primacy.

Israel, already engaged in shadow wars with Iran, would likely welcome such US involvement, seeing it as a decisive moment to dismantle the Islamic Republic's regional ambitions.

For Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, this could be the culmination of a decades-long security doctrine centered on preventing Iran from becoming a nuclear power or a

hegemon.

For Trump, Israel's support is not just strategic—it is deeply political. It energizes his evangelical base and signals to Washington's hawkish establishment that he is not just a deal-maker but a wartime president.

Deal-making through devastation

In many ways, this is a return to a form of Nixonian “madman theory”—showing unpredictability to coerce adversaries into submission. But Trump takes it one step further: unpredictability is no longer a tactic but a brand.

From tariffs to trade deals, embassy relocations to drone strikes, Trump has shown that chaos is not a byproduct—it is the plan.

Once Iran is bombed and coerced into surrender—should that scenario come to pass—Trump will likely position the act as proof that America is back, that it no longer tolerates deadbeat allies, hostile regimes or trade cheats.

He will then pivot to Beijing, pressuring China to remove barriers to US exports, agree to more stringent intellectual property protections and halt its support for Iran and Russia. “Look what happened to Tehran,” Trump might warn. “Don’t be next.”

In Southeast Asia, where countries are watching this dynamic closely, the message is equally stark. Malaysia, Indonesia, and Thailand—economies with strong trade linkages to both China and the US—will face renewed pressure to pick sides.

Trump's version of “with us or against us” will come cloaked in tariffs, sanctions and security demands. Even countries that enjoy exemptions today—such as Malaysia's semiconductor sector—could find those favors withdrawn if they do not align with America's broader geopolitical stance.

A world reordered by force

Trump's strategic calculus rests on one core principle: raw power, not persuasion.

His demands for Iran's unconditional surrender are not driven by fear of a nuclear Iran—there is little concrete evidence Tehran is on the brink of weaponization but by a need to demonstrate overwhelming power. In other words, Iran is not the final goal—it is the opening move.

In this worldview, multilateralism is obsolete, diplomacy is for the weak, and war—so long as it is winnable—serves a purpose beyond the battlefield. It is the ultimate bargaining chip.

What the world must understand is this: Trump's warnings are not rhetorical flourishes. They are statements of intent. The drive to bomb Iran is neither about containment nor about peace. It is about leverage. It is about rebalancing global power by unbalancing the world.

And in this dangerous recalibration, Tehran is just the first domino.

Source:<https://asiatimes.com/2025/06/trumps-path-to-tehran-the-making-of-a-global-bargaining-chip/>



Trump Issues Blistering Response After Iran's Supreme Leader Threatens U.S., as All Sides Claim Victory in Conflict

By Rebecca Schneid

President Donald Trump issued blistering remarks in response to Iran's Supreme Leader claiming victory over Israel and, by extension, the U.S. In a loaded public message, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei had also threatened to attack more U.S. Military bases, further splintering the Middle Eastern country's relationship with the U.S.

"Look, you're a man of great faith. A man who's highly respected in his country. You have to tell the truth. You got beat to hell," Trump said as he addressed the Iranian Supreme Leader during a White House press conference on Friday. Trump was asked by a reporter if the U.S. would consider bombing Iran again, if intelligence reports were to conclude that Iran could enrich uranium to a level that concerns him. "Sure, without question, absolutely," he replied.

Trump issued an even stronger response on his social media platform, Truth Social, later in the day, and doubled down on his stance once more when he reposted his message early Saturday morning.

In the lengthy post, Trump accused Khamenei of publicly sharing a "lie" by claiming Iran achieved a victory over Israel. He reaffirmed his much debated viewpoint that the U.S. strikes "obliterated" the three key nuclear facilities it targeted on Saturday, June 21. Trump also seemingly made reference to previous reports that stated the White House turned down a plan by Israel to try and kill Khamenei.

"His country was decimated, his three evil nuclear sites were obliterated, and I knew exactly where he was sheltered, and would not let Israel, or the U.S. Armed Forces... terminate his life. I saved him from a very ugly and ignominious death," Trump said, lamenting that Khamenei would not "thank" him for this. "During the last few days, I was working on the possible removal of sanctions, and other things, which would have given a

much better chance to Iran at a full, fast, and complete recovery. The sanctions are biting! But no, instead I get hit with a statement of anger, hatred, and disgust, and immediately dropped all work on sanction relief.”

According to Congress, the U.S. sanctions on Iran “are arguably the most extensive and comprehensive set of sanctions that the United States maintains on any country.” They block Iranian government assets in the U.S., ban nearly all U.S. trade with Iran, and prohibit foreign assistance and arms sales.

Trump concluded his charged social media message by saying “Iran has to get back into the world order flow” or else things “will only get worse for them.”

“They are always so angry, hostile, and unhappy, and look at what it has gotten them. A burned out, blown up country with no future, a decimated military, a horrible economy, and death all around them. They have no hope, and it will only get worse! I wish the leadership of Iran would realize that you often get more with honey than you do with vinegar. Peace!”

Khamenei broke his silence on Thursday, publicly speaking out—via a pre-recorded televised address and various social media comments—for the first time since Trump announced the (admittedly fragile) cease-fire between Israel and Iran.

In his televised message, Khamenei threatened to attack more U.S. military bases should any further aggression from the U.S. side occur.

“The Islamic Republic slapped America in the face. It attacked one of the important American bases in the region,” Khamenei said, referring to his country’s air assault on Al Udeid Air Base, a U.S. airbase in Qatar. The strikes were intercepted by the U.S. (except for one that was allowed to proceed as there was no risk of contact), and no casualties were reported. The military action was retaliatory, a direct response to the U.S. strikes on nuclear facilities.

Khamenei claimed “total victory” over Israel. But Israel, the U.S., and Iran have all claimed to have won the war that started on June 13, when Israel launched strikes on Iranian nuclear and military targets, amid growing concern over Iran’s nuclear capabilities. When the U.S. actively joined the conflict on June 21, striking three key Iranian nuclear facilities, world leaders urged de-escalation and a return to negotiations, amid fears of a far-reaching war erupting.

Though Trump continues to say that Iran’s nuclear sites were “totally obliterated,” others have cast doubts on how effective the U.S. strikes were in setting back Iran’s nuclear program. Leaked U.S. intelligence suggested that the damage to Iran’s nuclear program may not be as severe as Trump has stated. CIA director John Ratcliffe said on Wednesday that the sites had been “severely damaged” by the U.S. strikes, and that it would take years to be rebuilt. Amid the debate, the White House has put out statements arguing Trump’s stance that the facilities were “obliterated,” labelling reports to the contrary as “fake news.”

But some Democrats left a classified meeting with lingering questions over the

effectiveness of the strikes.

“There’s no doubt there was damage done to the program, but the allegations that we have obliterated their program just don’t seem to stand up to reason,” said Sen. Chris Murphy of Connecticut on Thursday. “To me, it still appears that we have only set back the Iranian nuclear program by a handful of months.”

When asked about concerns of Iran having “secret nuclear sites” at Friday’s press conference, Trump said he was “not worried about it at all.”

“They’re exhausted. The last thing they’re thinking about right now is nuclear,” he told reporters. “You know what they’re thinking of? They’re thinking about tomorrow, trying to live in such a mess. The place was bombed to hell.”

Meanwhile, Iran’s Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said on Friday that Trump needs to retire his “disrespectful” tone towards Khamenei if he wants a deal to be struck between the U.S. and Iran.

“If President Trump is genuine about wanting a deal, he should put aside the disrespectful and unacceptable tone towards Iran’s Supreme Leader, Grand Ayatollah Khamenei, and stop hurting his millions of heartfelt followers,” he said. “The great and powerful Iranian people, who showed the world that the Israeli regime had no choice but to run to ‘Daddy’ to avoid being flattened by our missiles, do not take kindly to threats and insults.”

Araghchi was referencing remarks made by NATO chief Mark Rutte who, during the NATO Summit on Wednesday, referred to Trump as the “daddy” who had to intervene in the conflict between Israel and Iran.

Amid the back-and-forth between Trump and Iran, on Saturday, thousands of mourners gathered in Tehran for the funerals of top Iranian military commanders and scientists that were killed in the Israeli strikes. According to reports, crowds chanted “death to” Israel and America.

Araghchi paid tribute to those who had been killed, and went on to tell Iranians on Saturday that the “pride of a nation is paramount,” pledging that Iran would return to “new glory and greater strength.”

As the funerals took place, Khamenei spoke out via a post on his Farsi-language social media account, sharing a message that translated to: “The Iranian nation should know that the reason for the opposition to America is that they want Iran to surrender, and this is a great insult to the Iranian nation by the Americans, and such a thing will never happen.”

Source:<https://time.com/7298477/trump-iran-threat-khamenei-nuclear-bombs-sanctions/>

The Supreme Court of Canada has ruled that Indigenous groups do not have veto power over projects such as pipelines that cross their territory, but the government must meaningfully consult them and accommodate their legitimate concerns.

But, what happens when a group is so opposed to a project that nothing will satisfy them, no matter how many concessions are made?

In that case, who has the ultimate power to decide on the merits of the project — the government or the protesters?

Many environmental groups that have no intention of ever consenting to any fossil fuel energy project, no matter what concessions are made to address their concerns, routinely launch court challenges with the goal of slowing down the approval process to the point where the project becomes economically unviable.

This seems inevitable given the passage of the Liberal government's One Canadian Economy Act on Friday, supported by the Conservatives, to green-light "nation-building projects" such as pipelines, mines and energy infrastructure that cross Indigenous territory where treaty rights apply.

Prime Minister Mark Carney has said the government will not approve fast-tracking projects opposed by Indigenous groups — but what does that mean?

Does it mean in a jurisdiction where consent is necessary from multiple Indigenous groups that every one of them must agree to the project, or only a majority and, if so, what kind of a majority?

Does a majority mean 51% or 99% approval and what does a reasonable effort to accommodate concerns mean?

These are relevant questions because Indigenous protests that blockade rail lines and highways to protest government decisions in this regard will be damaging to our economy at a time when it is already being weakened by the tariff and trade war launched against us by U.S. President Donald Trump.

Ideally, nation-building projects approved by the federal government will have substantial support from Indigenous communities under agreements which include significant economic benefits from projects crossing their territory.

From existing court decisions, we already know that projects which run roughshod over Indigenous rights will not survive the judicial process.

But, at some point, decisions will have to be made on who is the ultimate authority — the government or groups who will always oppose these projects no matter what accommodations are made?

Source: <https://torontosun.com/opinion/editorials/editorial-whose-rights-prevail-in-nation-building>



Whose rights prevail in 'nation-building'?

What Ted Cruz's Iran Moment Reveals About America's Foreign Policy Illiteracy | Opinion



By Brett Erickson

On June 17, Tucker Carlson asked Senator Ted Cruz (R-Texas) what should have been a simple question: What is the population of Iran? Cruz didn't know. Carlson then asked him to name the country's major ethnic groups. Cruz came up blank again.

This was not a gotcha moment. It was a spotlight. Cruz is a senior U.S. senator, a former presidential candidate, and a vocal advocate for a hardline U.S. posture on Iran. The fact that he couldn't name the most basic demographic facts about the country he wants to confront says a lot about how foreign policy operates in the U.S., and who it's meant to impress.

What happened in that exchange wasn't just awkward, it revealed something more troubling. It laid bare the way American foreign policy often functions: heavy on confidence, light on depth. When elected officials speak with authority but can't answer the most basic facts, it reveals more than a personal gap. It reflects a deeper failure in how we prepare, and tolerate, those who shape our foreign policy. Cruz reflects a pattern that's become far too common.

According to a 2020 Morning Consult/POLITICO poll, only 23 percent of Americans could locate Iran on a map. The rest pointed to Eastern Europe, South America, even Australia. And yet the same electorate regularly weighs in on questions of war, sanctions, regime change, and diplomatic withdrawal. The reality is that many Americans have strong views on foreign policy, but no geographic or historical grounding to anchor them.

In a moment of relative global calm, that gap might be more forgivable. But we aren't in a calm moment. In fact, we're in the most conflict-saturated period in recent history. According to the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO), 2024 recorded the highest number of state-based armed conflicts since 1946. Sixty-one such conflicts were active last year, including four between nation-states, the highest number of interstate wars in over 35

years. Almost 130,000 people were killed in battle-related deaths globally.

We don't just live in a volatile world. We live in a dangerously mismatched one, where the complexity and lethality of modern conflict is rising, while public literacy about that complexity is falling.

And this isn't just a polling problem or a media failure. It's a democratic one. In a system built on civilian oversight of military and diplomatic power, ignorance becomes a liability. It allows narratives to be crafted not around facts, but around vibes. When voters can't distinguish between a proxy conflict and a territorial war, or don't understand where the Strait of Hormuz even is, it becomes easier for bad policy to sound like strong policy. Slogans win. Nuance loses.

This isn't just a voter problem. It's a leadership problem. When our lawmakers are allowed to posture confidently on matters of war and peace without even the most basic command of regional realities, the public follows their example. We normalize strategic amnesia. We reward theatrical strength over intellectual depth. And we end up with a foreign policy debate that centers on volume, not value.

We also risk generational disengagement. Younger voters are inheriting a global environment that is far more multipolar, fragmented, and ideologically diffuse than the Cold War framework their textbooks still teach. But they're doing so with less geographic instruction, less civic education, and more algorithmically filtered noise. If that continues, the quality of our foreign policy conversation will degrade even further, not just in accuracy, but in accountability.

This disconnect weakens democratic oversight. It makes military action easier to sell and harder to question. It elevates performative certainty over strategic thought. And it turns foreign policy into something closer to domestic theater, a place for identity posturing rather than global consequence management.

You don't need to be an expert on every region to have a valid opinion about the world. But you should at least be able to find the country on a map before you advocate for bombing it. And our elected officials should be able to answer basic demographic questions about the places they want to sanction or confront.

Because when they can't, and when we don't care that they can't, the result isn't just ignorance, it's escalation.

We are in a moment where ignorance no longer leads to inaction. It leads to conflict.

And we're going to pay for that gap with more than just polling errors. We're going to pay for it with human lives, diplomatic credibility, and the erosion of global stability itself.

Source:<https://www.newsweek.com/what-ted-cruzs-iran-moment-reveals-about-americas-foreign-policy-illiteracy-opinion-2088556>

Netanyahu's legacy will not be security - it will be isolation

By Kamel Hawwash

His pursuit of dominance has not made Israel safer, only more reviled and alone on the world stage.



Since its founding in 1948, Israel's prime ministers have sought to leave legacies that would outlast them — some through war, others through diplomacy, and a few through historic blunders. David Ben-Gurion secured the state's independence and built its foundational institutions. Golda Meir presided over a war that cost her office. Menachem Begin signed peace with Egypt while expanding illegal settlements. Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated for trying to make peace with the Palestinians.

Each leader, in some way, left their mark. But none has ruled as long – or as divisively – as Benjamin Netanyahu. And now, more than ever, the question is not just what kind of legacy he wants to leave, but what legacy he is actually creating.

In 2016, I argued that the Arab world had effectively crowned Netanyahu “King of the Middle East” — a title that reflected his success in positioning Israel as a regional power without making any concessions to the Palestinians. Today, I believe he sees an opportunity not only to consolidate that title, but to reshape Israel's regional position permanently — through force, impunity, and a strategy rooted in securitised dominance.

Since his first term, Netanyahu has insisted that Israel's security must override all other considerations. In his worldview, a Palestinian state is not merely incompatible with Israel's security; it is an existential threat. Even were such a state to be created, Netanyahu has made clear that Israel must retain what he calls “security sovereignty” over all of historic Palestine.

This has never been mere rhetoric. It has shaped his every major decision, none more so than the current war on Gaza. The assault has levelled entire neighbourhoods, killed tens of thousands of Palestinians, displaced most of its two million people, and created an unprecedented humanitarian catastrophe.

Israel stands accused by human rights groups and United Nations agencies of committing war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and genocide. It is facing genocide charges, supported by multiple countries, at the International Court of Justice. The International Criminal Court has also issued arrest warrants for Netanyahu and his former defence minister, Yoav Gallant, for alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity, including the use of starvation as a weapon of war.

Yet Netanyahu presses on, arguing that Gaza must never again pose a threat to Israel, and that the destruction is necessary to secure the country's future.

This logic does not stop at Gaza. He has used similar arguments to justify Israel's attacks on

Lebanon, including targeted strikes on Hezbollah figures and the attempted assassination of the group's leader, Hassan Nasrallah.

Using the same rationale, Israel has also launched strikes in Yemen and made clear that it will act in Iraq whenever and wherever it deems necessary.

The security argument has likewise been used to justify the continued occupation of Syrian territory and is currently invoked to legitimise ongoing attacks on Iran, ostensibly to prevent it from acquiring nuclear weapons and to degrade its missile and drone capabilities.

In every case, the same narrative is repeated: Israel cannot be safe unless its enemies are broken, its deterrence unchallenged, and its dominance undisputed. All dissent, disagreement, or resistance — whether military, political, or even symbolic — is cast as a threat to be eliminated.

Even Netanyahu's diplomatic efforts follow this logic. The Abraham Accords, signed with the UAE, Bahrain, and Morocco during his premiership, were hailed as peace deals but functioned primarily as instruments of regional alignment that marginalised the Palestinians. For Netanyahu, normalisation is not a path to peace — it is a way to cement Israel's position while avoiding a just resolution to the occupation.

What, then, is the legacy Netanyahu seeks?

He wants to be remembered as the prime minister who crushed all resistance to occupation, permanently ended the idea of a Palestinian state, and enshrined Israel's dominance in the Middle East through sheer force. In his vision, Israel controls the land, dictates the rules, and answers to no one.

But history may remember him differently.

What Netanyahu calls security, much of the world increasingly sees as systemic violence. The global response to the war on Gaza — millions marching in protest, international legal action, growing boycotts, and diplomatic downgrades — suggests that under his leadership, Israel is not gaining legitimacy but losing it.

Even among its allies, Israel faces growing isolation. While the United States continues to provide diplomatic cover, terms like “apartheid”, “ethnic cleansing”, and “settler colonialism” are no longer confined to fringe activism. They are entering mainstream political discourse and shaping public consciousness, particularly among younger generations.

Many commentators argue that Netanyahu is clinging to power merely to avoid prosecution for corruption or accountability for the failures of the October 7, 2023, attacks on Israel. But I believe this analysis misses a deeper truth: that he sees this moment — this war, this absence of accountability — as a historic window of opportunity. In his mind, this is legacy work.

The tragedy is that in pursuing this legacy, he may achieve the opposite of what he intends. Not a stronger Israel, but a more isolated one. Not a secure homeland, but a state increasingly seen as a violator of international norms. Not a legacy of strength, but one of moral and political collapse.

Netanyahu will be remembered. Today, as Gaza burns and Iran faces strike after strike, there is no longer any doubt about that. The only question is whether his legacy will be one of national security, or one that leaves Israel more alone, more condemned, and more precarious than ever before.

Source: <https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2025/6/21/netanyahus-legacy-will-not-be-security-it-will-be-isolation>



UK prepares flight from Israel for British nationals

By Cachella Smith

The UK government is organising a chartered flight next week for British nationals who want to leave Israel.

Britons are being asked to register interest in the flight via online forms but have been told not to travel to the airport unless told to do so.

Over the past week the government has been working with Israeli authorities on plans to arrange flights out of the country and Occupied Palestinian Territories.

The latest announcement comes after the US launched strikes at nuclear facilities in Iran overnight amid an escalation in tensions between Israel and Iran.

The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office has advised against all travel to Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

Israeli airspace was closed on 13 June after it launched its operation against Iran, prompting retaliatory strikes.

The FCDO said further flights would be considered depending both on demand and the latest security situation.

It added the volatility of the situation meant the ability to run flights “could change at short notice”.

British nationals and non-British immediate family members travelling with them are eligible for a seat, but places on the flight from Tel Aviv will be allocated according to need.

On X, the FCDO said the flight would be for “vulnerable British nationals and their dependents”.

Passengers will need the necessary travel documents and visas.

A spokesperson said: “The safety of British Nationals in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories continues to be our utmost priority – that’s why the UK government is preparing

flights to help those wanting to leave.”

On June 15, the FCDO changed its travel advice to warn against all travel to Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, having previously told Britons to avoid “all travel to parts of Israel”.

This followed an escalation in military activity in the region after Israel launched attacks on Iranian military infrastructure and nuclear sites.

The US said it launched strikes on three nuclear facilities in Iran on Saturday night.

While the UK said it did not participate, government minister Jonathan Reynolds told the BBC they had been informed in advance about the plan.

Other countries have been organising their own evacuation plans for their citizens.

India said on Thursday it planned to evacuate all Indian nationals who wished to leave, firstly by land and then air, while the US ambassador to Israel said on Saturday that America had begun assisted departure flights.

The Chinese ambassador to Israel said in a media interview around 400 of China’s citizens had been evacuated as of Saturday, including students. The country has also been evacuating from Iran.

Austria’s foreign ministry said in its latest statement around 120 people, including citizens of partner countries, have been evacuated from Iran and Israel.

Israel said it would temporarily reopen its airspace for six hours on Sunday in a bid to repatriate citizens who are stranded abroad under its ‘Operation Safe Return’ scheme.

It said Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv would be open for landings from 14:00 to 20:00 local time (10:00 BST to 18:00 BST).

Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c86gw0j3dzxo>

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Fraudulent City boss ordered to pay back £64 million

By Jenny Garnsworthy, PA

A City boss compared to the The Wolf Of Wall Street has been ordered to pay back £64 million over his role in a multi-million pound Ponzi-style investment scam, prosecutors said.

Anthony Constantinou remains on the run after he fled the UK during his fraud trial at London's Southwark Crown Court in June 2023.



Hundreds of investors were duped out of a total of £70 million between 2013 and 2015 while he ran Capital World Markets (CWM).

A spokesman for City of London Police said a confiscation order was made against him on Thursday for the sum of £64 million, which is payable within three months.

The default period of imprisonment was set at 14 years.

Police released photographs of some of the luxury vehicles Constantinou spent his fraudulent money on, including a Porsche, Range Rover and luxury motorbike.

They previously said he was thought to be in Turkey or Dubai after being stopped in Bulgaria with a fake Spanish passport.

CWM had high-profile sponsorship deals with the Honda Moto GP, Chelsea Football Club, Wigan Warriors rugby league club, Cyclone Boxing Promotions and the London Boat Show.

The seven-week trial heard how Constantinou spent £2.5 million of investors' money on his "no expense spared" wedding on the Greek island of Santorini in September 2014, while his son's first birthday party a few days earlier cost more than £70,000.

More than £470,000 was paid for private jet hire to fly him and his associates to Moto GP races across Europe as well as a return flight to Nice for a 150,000-euro five-day yacht cruise around the Mediterranean to Monaco.

The firm paid £200,000 a quarter to rent "plush" offices in the City's Heron Tower, while nearly £600,000 was spent on just six months' rent of his large home in Hampstead, north-west London, where his luxury cars were parked in the drive.

Promised returns of 60% per year on risk-free foreign exchange (FX) markets, a total of 312 investors trusted their money to CWM.

Some were professionals but most were individuals who handed over their life savings or pension pots, with a large number of Gurkhas paying into the scheme, said prosecutor David Durose KC.

Constantinou denied wrongdoing but was found guilty of one count of fraud, two counts of fraudulent trading and four counts of money laundering and sentenced to 14 years in

prison in his absence.

Adrian Foster, of the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), said: "This was a callous scam targeting members of the public. Many people lost their hard-earned money because of Constantinou's greed and false promises in this fake investment scheme.

"We continue to pursue the proceeds of crime robustly with the City of London Police, where we identify available assets to disrupt and deter large-scale frauds like this case.

"In the last five years, over £478 million has been recovered from CPS obtained confiscation orders, ensuring that thousands of convicted criminals cannot profit from their offending. £95 million of that amount has been returned to victims of crime, by way of compensation."

Constantinou was previously jailed for a year at the Old Bailey in 2016 after being found guilty of sexually assaulting two women during after-work drinks.

One of the victims described how the parties were just like the raucous scenes depicted in Martin Scorsese's *The Wolf Of Wall Street*, starring Leonardo DiCaprio as rogue New York trader Jordan Belfort.

Source: <https://uk.news.yahoo.com/fraudulent-city-boss-ordered-pay-181626878.html>



US consulates in Pakistan ask F, M and J visa applicants to make social media accounts public for vetting

The United States consulates in Karachi and Lahore on Thursday requested that all applicants for F, M or J nonimmigrant visas make their social media accounts public for vetting, after similar instructions were issued by the US Embassy in Delhi earlier this week.

US President Donald Trump's administration on Wednesday ordered the resumption of student visa appointments but significantly tightened its social media vetting in a bid to identify any applicants who may be hostile towards the country, according to an internal State Department cable reviewed by Reuters.

US consular officers are now required to conduct a "comprehensive and thorough vetting" of all student and exchange visitor applicants to identify those who "bear hostile attitudes toward our citizens, culture, government, institutions, or founding principles", said the cable, which was dated June 18 and sent to US missions on Wednesday.

In Instagram posts uploaded today, the consulates said: "Effective immediately, all individuals applying for an F, M, or J nonimmigrant visa are requested to adjust the privacy settings on all of their social media accounts to 'public' to facilitate vetting necessary to establish their identity and admissibility to the United States."

Source: <https://www.dawn.com/news/1920307/us-consulates-in-pakistan-ask-f-m-and-j-visa-applicants-to-make-social-media-accounts-public-for-vetting>

‘World-first’ people smuggling sanctions to come into force in months as Channel crossings hit record highs

“World-first” sanctions on people smuggling gangs are set to come into force within months as migrant Channel crossings hit record highs.

Foreign Secretary David Lammy has accelerated plans to crack down on criminals who traffic migrants to Britain in small boats.

Foreign Office sources suggested that the National Crime Agency (NCA) has already identified suspects for sanctions and they would be ready to go when the legislation is passed by Parliament, which is expected to be before the Autumn.

The government has insisted “nothing is off the table”, with penalties set to include UK include travel bans, asset freezes and disqualification from being the director of a British company.

However, critics have argued the measures are too minor to definitively stop small boat crossings.

Record numbers of migrants are crossing the English Channel in small boats. More than 1,000 people arrived in the UK on Friday and Saturday, according to Home Office figures.

It takes the total to 18,400 so far this year - 45% higher than at this point in 2024.

Mr Lammy said: “We’re accelerating efforts with our partners to pinpoint where sanctions can have a clear disruptive and deterrent effect on key individuals in these criminal networks, and which can complement existing law enforcement action.

“This will ensure that when our sanctions regime is launched, it has maximum impact from day one.

“This is about dismantling networks, hitting the profiteers hard and sending a clear message: that criminals who put people’s lives at risk have nowhere to hide as we restore order to the immigration system.”

Under the plan investigators will assess which targets should be prioritised for sanctions, from individuals directly involved in people-smuggling to financiers and companies that supply small boats and other maritime equipment.

The Government hopes the sanction measures, first announced in January, will help breakdown the gangs and networks behind the migrant traffickers.

The new powers will work in tandem with other policies announced under Labour’s promise to “smash the gangs”, including extra funding for the NCA and the UK’s new Border Security Command (BSC) to make more arrests.

NCA Director General of Operations Rob Jones said: “Tackling organised immigration crime remains a top priority for the NCA, and we are putting more resource into targeting the criminal networks behind it than ever before. We are determined to do all we can to disrupt and dismantle people smuggling gangs wherever they operate, using the full range of the tactics at our disposal.”

Nick Dale, Director of Intelligence at Stop The Traffik said: “Traffickers run criminal enterprises that rely on exploiting some of the most vulnerable in society, and they are motivated by greed.

“At Stop The Traffik, we are really pleased that the FCDO is taking the view that traffickers should be sanctioned to prevent them from enjoying their ill-gotten gains, and keen to play our part in making sure that traffickers have no place to hide.”

Source:<https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/people-migrant-smuggling-sanctions-small-boat-crossings-channel-b1234535.html>

Capital moving toward resilience, scale and depth – and emerging Asia offers that in ways few other regions can

In a year dominated by policy instability and asset repricing across developed economies, global capital is shifting course.

The momentum now sits with Asia's emerging markets, where renewed economic strength, demographic force and valuation advantages are converging. Allocations are rising fast, as major institutional investors rewire their strategies toward regions with clearer prospects and fewer distortions.

Much of this movement is driven by contrast. While political gridlock and policy unpredictability continue to define key developed markets, Asian economies are showing signs of coordination and forward planning.

Central banks in countries like India, Indonesia and the Philippines adjusted rates earlier, took measured fiscal decisions and maintained external buffers. These policy choices are now being rewarded by markets.

The investment case across Asia is also built on more than just macro discipline. Valuations remain compelling.

Equity multiples across emerging Asia trade at steep discounts to long-term averages and to their global peers. This is drawing in funds that are tired of crowded trades and thin upside in overvalued sectors elsewhere. Portfolio managers are rotating into regions that offer both room for expansion and more clarity on direction.

This is being reflected in the numbers. The latest data from global fund manager surveys shows allocations to emerging markets at their highest point in nearly two years.

Within that, flows into Asia have dominated. From direct investment to sovereign debt to

Why capital is flooding into Asia's emerging markets

By Nigel Green

ESG-focused products, Asia is attracting capital across the spectrum.

Supply chain realignment is accelerating this move. The tariff regime reintroduced by US President Donald Trump—targeting several Asian nations with steep import duties—is prompting strategic reassessments.

Rather than pulling investment out of the region, the shift is reinforcing its importance. Firms are diversifying across multiple countries, with Vietnam, India, Malaysia and Bangladesh becoming core industrial hubs. Regional integration, more than global decoupling, is now the dominant theme.

India is growing its influence quickly. The economy continues to post strong GDP growth, supported by rising domestic consumption, digital infrastructure expansion and steady market reforms.

Vietnam is another standout. Manufacturing exports are rising, capital investment is climbing, and institutional interest is scaling up. Across Southeast Asia, demographic depth and upward mobility are building a long-term consumption story that's already underway.

Attention is also turning to less conventional destinations. Central Asian markets like Uzbekistan are gaining serious interest. Investment banks have highlighted its external debt as a strong pick, underpinned by rising gold revenues, a smaller fiscal gap and upgrades to sovereign credit ratings.

The country's economic profile—low debt levels, strong resource backing, and an increasingly modern regulatory framework—is turning it into a surprising beneficiary of broader market reallocation.

Investors are also taking notice of ESG-linked opportunities. Asia's emerging economies are becoming core components of new green and social bond funds launched by some of the world's biggest financial institutions.

These products are driving institutional re-engagement with regions that were previously underweighted. Asian issuers are proving that ESG-linked capital can be matched with credible projects and policy backing.

Currency risks, policy friction and election cycles will remain part of the picture. But investors are recalibrating how they assess such risks. Price dislocations, cleaner balance sheets and increasing regional coordination are tilting the scales.

Capital isn't chasing novelty, it's moving toward resilience, scale and depth. And emerging Asia offers that in ways few other regions can. The region's markets are liquid, its governments are investing in infrastructure and technology, and its economies are participating more actively in the realignment of global trade and finance.

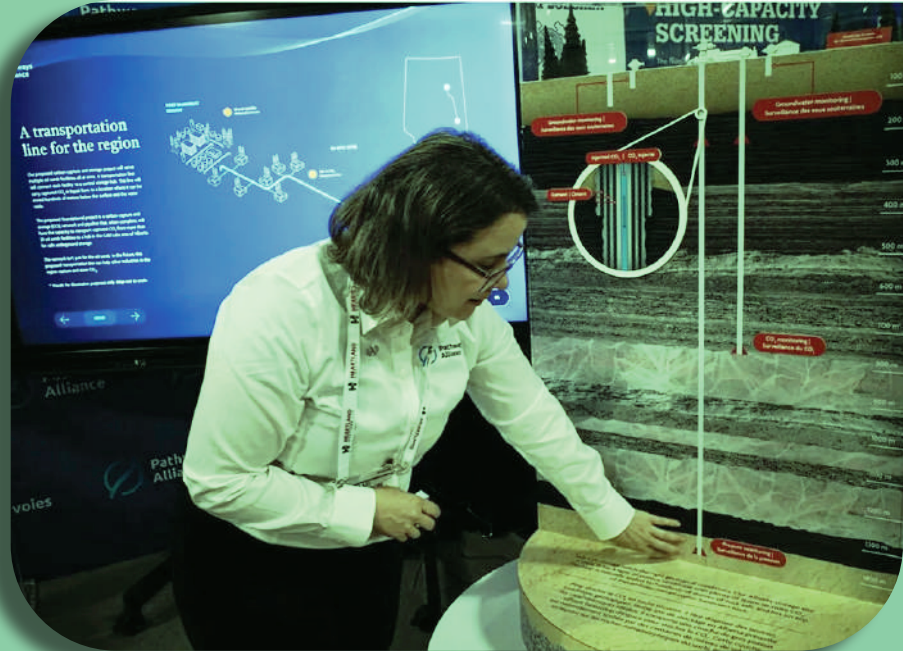
Investors are no longer benchmarking Asia against old models; they're assessing it on its own terms.

And this reweighting is gaining speed. The shift in capital is visible, deliberate, and likely to accelerate. Asia is asserting itself as a primary arena for global investment, with momentum, increasing policy clarity and structural demand on its side.

Source:<https://asiatimes.com/2025/06/why-capital-is-flooding-into-asias-emerging-markets/#>

Opinion: To build Alberta, we must protect our innovation funding

By Catie O'Neal, Calgary Herald



As the federal government looks to fast-track nation-building projects and critical infrastructure, Alberta's experience and technical expertise in advancing major projects that balance decarbonization and economic development must be leveraged. Even more notably, Alberta is actually one of the best places to dream up new ways of developing Canada sustainably.

But the province must maintain its competitive edge by protecting and investing in its existing comprehensive innovation funding channels.

The Government of Alberta is engaging stakeholders on the Technology Innovation and Emissions Reduction program ahead of its legislated review by the end of 2026. Although there is plenty of conversation around TIER as it relates to carbon pricing, we would do better to acknowledge its support of Emission Reduction Alberta, which funds innovative technologies and the jobs that come with them across the province.

Separately, the province also provides funding for early stage technology through Alberta Innovates. Between ERA and Alberta Innovates, the province can support innovation in the energy sector from the beginning to the end of its development cycles.

As the provincial government undertakes its review, Alberta's industries recognize that TIER might change. However, it is important to reflect on the major investment success stories that were achieved due to this program.

This support — plus Alberta's business-friendly environment, natural resources, existing technical expertise and well-established regulatory framework — makes the province an obvious destination of choice for clean tech project developers and innovators.

With all the uncertainty facing innovators around the world, this is a great time to celebrate their contributions to the province.

For example, since its inception, funds from the TIER system have enabled ERA to invest more than \$1 billion into Alberta projects, many of which would not have happened without it. This funding has created an innovation ecosystem. It has helped close the funding gap faced by all new technologies, derisked and leveraged private-sector investment, and shown the international community that Alberta is open for business.

While other provinces struggle with piecemeal approaches to economic diversification, Alberta has created a self-sustaining model where industry payments fund the very innovations that strengthen industry competitiveness. This approach has allowed the province to support jobs and economic activity without taxpayer dollars — a fiscally responsible strategy that any

government should be proud to champion.

From 2023 to 2024 alone, ERA invested approximately \$170 million, unlocking 49 new projects valued at \$802 million that are providing more than 3,200 jobs. From ERA's inception to now, its economic effect has surpassed \$7 billion.

Alberta Innovates and ERA are also key to newer industries, especially those developing capital-intensive infrastructure projects that require years of innovation before becoming commercially viable.

Losing innovation funding would leave a particularly devastating gap for industries such as Alberta's emerging permanent carbon removal sector, where companies are developing technologies to extract carbon dioxide directly from the atmosphere, and which is just beginning to scale up operations across the province.

Carbon removal technologies such as direct air capture, biomass carbon removal and carbon mineralization rely heavily on early funding support as they work to commercialize. They are worth our investment as they form the foundation of what could become Alberta's next major export industry, with global carbon removal markets projected to reach hundreds of billions annually by 2050.

Whatever the future of TIER looks like, Alberta must find a way to continue supporting innovation funding to diversify our economy, attract critical investment and secure our place as a global leader in energy innovation. As shifting political winds cause investment uncertainty around the globe, now is the time for Alberta to seize the moment and offer a safe harbour for these investment dollars.

Having more to offer is always better.

Source: <https://calgaryherald.com/opinion/columnists/opinion-to-build-alberta-we-must-protect-our-innovation-funding>



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The World on the Edge:

Islam's Universal Message of Peace



By Arshad Ahmad Shahbaz

Humanity today stands at the brink of a terrifying precipice. We have sent machines to the moon, mapped the human genome, and are preparing to colonize Mars—yet we have failed in the most basic of human duties: to live with one another in peace, dignity, and compassion.

Our battles are no longer just fought with weapons; they are waged in hearts and minds. The world is under siege—psychologically, ideologically, and morally. Hatred festers, prejudice burns, greed corrupts, and vengeance blinds. Humanity bleeds not just from bombs, but from broken trust and shattered justice. The strong crush the weak, cloaked in the pursuit of power and profit, while the cries of the vulnerable echo in silence.

Nations loudly proclaim peace while secretly sharpening swords. National interests override moral imperatives. Military might takes precedence over mercy. Global arsenals expand while millions starve, sleep on pavements, or die silently from curable diseases. In such a time, the world does not need empty slogans. It needs a moral, spiritual, and actionable roadmap—a path that can heal the soul and reform society.

Islam offers just that. It is not a ritualistic creed but a complete and living philosophy of life—an eternal code that nurtures justice, economic equity, moral clarity, political balance, and global cooperation. At its heart lies a profound truth: true peace can never exist

without true justice.

The Holy Qur'an commands:

“O you who believe! Be steadfast in upholding justice, bearing witness for Allah, even if it be against yourselves or your parents or kin.” (Surah An-Nisa: 136)

This principle was upheld by the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) himself when he declared:



“Even if my daughter Fatimah were to steal, I would cut off her hand.” (Bukhari & Muslim)

Such a declaration wasn’t cruelty—it was courage. It was the embodiment of unflinching justice, where no privilege, relation, or status could shield one from accountability.

His Holiness Mirza Masroor Ahmad, the Fifth Caliph of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, stated:

“The fundamental principle of Islamic peacebuilding is the establishment of justice—even with one’s enemies. If world leaders adopt this principle, not only can wars be prevented, but a sustainable world order can emerge.” (Address to Canadian Parliament, 2012)

In an era when religion is too often weaponized, the Qur’an’s message is clear and timeless: “There is no compulsion in religion.” (Surah Al-Baqarah: 256)

Islam does not force belief. It defends religious freedom and promotes respect for all faiths. Tolerance, in Islam, is not grudging acceptance—it is heartfelt acknowledgment. As one wise thinker once said, “When we deny others the right to believe, we jeopardize the sanctity of our own belief.”

His Holiness Mirza Tahir Ahmad, the Fourth Caliph, emphasized:

“Those who commit atrocities in the name of Islam are not its representatives. Islam’s true message is one of mercy, patience, and compassion. We follow the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), who treated prisoners of war with honor and kindness.”

He further warned:

“Until justice becomes the foundation of international relations, and until nations respect one another’s basic rights, lasting peace will remain a distant dream. Force does not solve problems—it aggravates them.” (Friday Sermon, 1991)

Much of today’s unrest stems from systemic inequality, poverty, and exploitation. When wealth is hoarded by the few, injustice festers in the hearts of the many. Islam addresses this with powerful reforms: zakat (charity), inheritance laws, honest trade ethics, and a strict ban on interest-based exploitation.

The Qur’an proclaims:

“So that wealth does not merely circulate among the rich among you.” Surah Al-Hashr: 8)

Islam’s path to peace is not through dominance but through dialogue, empathy, and sincere moral effort.

The Qur’an instructs:

“And if they incline towards peace, then incline to it also; and trust in Allah.” (Surah Al-Anfal: 62)

This reveals the soul of Islam—not as a faith of conquest, but of reconciliation. Even if an adversary seeks peace, the believer is bound to respond with openness and trust.

The Prophet’s life is filled with such moments. From the Treaty of Hudaibiyah to the conquest of Mecca, he chose patience over provocation, mercy over revenge. At Mecca, he famously declared:

“Go—you are all free.”

He forgave those who had once tried to kill him, proving that true greatness lies not in conquest, but in compassion.

Islam also teaches that external peace is born from internal purity.

The Qur'an says: "He truly prospers who purifies his soul."

"He truly prospers who purifies his soul."
(Surah Ash-Shams: 10)

His Holiness Mirza Masroor Ahmad (aba) beautifully summarizes:

"If every nation rises above self-interest and desires for others what it desires for itself, the world can become a cradle of peace."
(World Crisis and the Pathway to Peace, 2012)

Islam offers more than theology—it offers transformation. It calls on humans to rise above pettiness and pride, to live with grace and give with purpose. Its teachings are rooted in justice, tolerance, economic fairness, forgiveness, and spiritual reform.

If the world embraces these principles—not as slogans, but as living values—we may yet witness the dawn of a new age. An age where peace is not a utopia, but a shared reality.

When Muslims embody the Prophet's values of equity, forgiveness, and dignity, they become lighthouses in the storm—shining with hope, principle, and healing strength.

And this message is not limited to Muslims alone. It is a universal offering for every soul—of any faith, race, or nation—who longs for a better, more humane world. The crises we face today will not be resolved in boardrooms or battlefields, but in the human heart.

It is the moral duty of every person to become an agent of change—just, compassionate, and awake. When we align our lives with truth, act with conscience, and care deeply for the suffering of others, we lay the first stones of lasting peace.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

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May Allah be with you - Amen

Is the World on the Brink of Collapse?



By Dr. Maqsood Jafri

Great British philosopher Bertrand Russel in his book titled “Has Man a Future”, had written that if the Third World War breaks out, then the whole world would turn into a debris. The humans will perish and it will be the greatest human catastrophe. It seems to me as the racists and Zionists are dragging the whole world to Third World War.

Before shedding light on the recent horrific situation, it is necessary to briefly discuss the nature of Israel- Palestine conflict in the light of UN resolutions. The UN has passed numerous resolutions concerning the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, addressing issues like the partition of Palestine, the status of Jerusalem, the rights of Palestinian refugees, and the illegality of Israeli settlements. Key resolutions in this regard include Resolution 181,(Partition Plan), adopted in 1947. Resolution 194, and Resolution 242(calling for withdrawal from occupied territories), adopted in 1948. From 2015 through 2023, the UN General Assembly has adopted 154 resolutions against Israel. On 22 Nov1974, UN General Assembly 3236, recognized the right of the Palestinians to Self- determination, national independence and sovereignty in Palestine. Palestine was a geographic region that was the part of Ottoman Empire for centuries. From the times of prophet Jacob and prophet Mose, this territory is known as Palestine.

To find the peaceful and amicable solution of this conflict, Two Sate Solution was proposed by the United Nations. The first proposal for separate Jewish and Palestine in the territory was made by the British Peel Commission Report in 1937. Then on November 29, 1947, the UN General Assembly adopted a Partition Plan for Palestine, leading to the 1948 Palestine War. By resolution 181(second), the United Nations General Assembly decided to partition Palestine into two separate states: one Arab and one Jewish state, with Jerusalem placed under a special International regime.

Besides, there are OSLO accords which are a pair of interim agreements between Israel and Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO); the OSLO 1 Accord, signed in Washington

DC in 1993. The Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat, the Israeli government and the President of America played potent role to make this accord. The OSLO second accord was signed in Taba, Egypt in 1995. It aimed at propelling the peace process forward and providing for the expansion of Palestinians Self- rule through out most of the West Bank.

With this brief back ground of this conflict, every man of conscience and consciousness will agree to the fact that Israel is a violator of UN resolutions and is an aggressor. Since the illegal occupation and inception of Israel, a number of wars have been fought between Arab countries and Israel; such as conflicts and wars in 1948, 1956, 1967, 1973, 1982, 2006 and present war in 2023.

The question arises as to what are the designs of Israel? Why Israel is not implementing UN resolutions? The simple answer is that Israel is a racist state run by Zionists who believe in the political and religious philosophy of Theodore Herzl, who proposed the idea of Greater Israel. For this nefarious plan, the Zionist lobby in America is very active and has succeeded in involving American establishment in their favor. The sane element of Americans is opposing the policies of Israel and its unprecedented atrocities incessantly being perpetrated on the civilians of Gaza/ Palestine. The way, Israel for the last two years is killing the innocent civilians of Gaza, American establishment and the West are silent on this horrendous tragedy. Great are those Jews and Christians who are rallying against Israeli aggression in America and in the West. The former president of America Joe Biden visited Israel during his term as president and in a press conference in a vociferous statement bragged that he was more a Zionist, than any Zionist. Does he know the meaning of Zionism? This statement depicts his extreme hatred for Muslims. I wonder, why the American Christians did not take him to task? Why the Christian priests didn't ask him, who had crucified Jesus Christ, whether the Muslims or the Jews?

The present situation is very alarming. It can turn into Third World War. The genocide of the people of Gaza and the attacks of Israel on Yemen and Iran are against international law and human morality. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is an aggressor and he has involved America in this war. Americans are criticizing his war mongering policies. Even American senators, congressmen, politicians, journalists, writers and public are calling for peace and condemning Donald Trump for his attack on Iran. The intervention of America in the war of Israel has prepared the grounds for World War. Britain, France and Germany have also asked America to help getting this dispute amicably and avoid being partisan and siding with Israel. China and Russia have warned America to remain away from supporting the aggression of Israel. It seems Donald Trump and Benjamin Netanyahu are on one page against Muslims. The Israelis are rallying against Netanyahu in Israel and chanting the slogans “ Iran forgive us; please stop the war.” They also say” Pakistan help us”. As a humanitarian, I feel pity on the war affected Israeli civilians and have sympathies for them, but the question arises, the innocent civilians of Gaza are still being brutally killed, have the Israelis ever raised voice against the brutalities inflicted on them by this racist Benjamin Netanyahu? He is protesting against the missile attack on a hospital in Israel and trying to win the sympathies of Americans and of the West. Has he forgotten the demolition of 73, hospitals in Gaza by Israeli bombs in which thousands of thousands patients were killed including ladies and kids? Shame on this hypocrite. Now, the Israelis are rallying and begging for peace. If they want permanent peace; they will have to announce two focal points: one, to end the fascist regime of Netanyahu, second to accept Two State Solution proposed by UN. There is no other way to maintain peace. Without justice, peace is never maintained. Better will be, the Americans should

pressurize Trump to get this issue resolved in the light of UN resolutions, instead of fueling the flames. When such powerful personalities will behave insanely and irresponsibly, then the future of mankind is bleak as prophesied by Bertrand Russell. In a nutshell, the whole issue can be abridged likewise. The world teeters on the brink of collapse as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict escalates, threatening to engulf the world into bloodshed.

The international community has been criticized for its inconsistent response to the conflict. The United States has provided significant military aid to Israel, while the European Union has expressed concerns over Israel's actions in Gaza. The UN has passed numerous resolutions condemning Israel's occupation and settlement expansion.

A lasting peace requires a just solution that addresses the rights and dignity of both Israelis and Palestinians. The Two-State Solution, proposed by the UN, remains a viable option. However, it necessitates.

Israel must withdraw from occupied territories and cease settlement expansion.

Palestinians deserve recognition as a sovereign state with East Jerusalem as its capital.

The international community must pressure both parties to negotiate a peaceful resolution.

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is a complex and deeply entrenched issue. A peaceful resolution requires a multifaceted approach, addressing the historical grievances, current humanitarian crisis, and future aspirations of both Israelis and Palestinians. The world watches with bated breath, hoping for a brighter future where both nations can coexist in peace and dignity.

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Home Office worker granted asylum applications for money

By Charles Hymas



Imran Mulla rang Nural Amin Begh in February 2024 and offered to secure him the right to stay in the UK in return for money

A Home Office caseworker took more than £3,000 in bribes to grant the asylum claim of a Bangladeshi migrant. Civil servant Imran Mulla, 39, rang the Bangladeshi man the day after his asylum claim was refused in February 2024 and offered to take over his case to secure him the right to stay in the UK in return for money.

Six days later, Nural Amin Begh, the 23-year-old Bangladeshi national, transferred £1,500 into Mulla's bank account. Mulla, who was working as part of an asylum claims team in Manchester, breached Home Office policy by allocating Begh's case to himself and granting his asylum application.

Begh continued to transfer more money over the next few months, to a total of £3,500, in return for his successful asylum claim. On Tuesday, Mulla was jailed for four-and-a-half years after his scam was uncovered when he tried a similar tactic on a Turkish national who blew the whistle.

Securing unauthorised access

At Preston Crown Court, Mulla pleaded guilty to assisting unlawful immigration to the UK, securing unauthorised access to computer material with intent to commit or facilitate an offence, and three counts of bribery. Begh, who pleaded guilty to conspiracy to assist unlawful immigration to the UK and two counts of bribery, was jailed for 18 months.

Mulla was foiled after contacting another target, the Turkish national who was waiting to hear if his asylum had been granted, on March 7, 2024. After ringing the asylum seeker, and giving a false name, he told the man his application was likely to be refused but that he could help if he paid him £2,000.

'A trusted position'

The Turkish national then contacted his immigration solicitor. Mulla was arrested 12 days later, on March 19. He made no comment in a police interview.

Frances Killeen, senior crown prosecutor for CPS North West, said: "Imran Mulla was in a trusted position in the asylum team at the Home Office. He abused that trust to line his own pockets by offering to change the outcome of asylum applications for money.

"I hope this case sends a clear message – the CPS is committed to working closely with law enforcement and immigration authorities to stamp out corruption." A Home Office spokesperson said: "We expect the highest standards from asylum officials to ensure claims are properly considered, decisions are sound and that protection is granted to those who genuinely need it.

"We are unequivocal that whenever unacceptable behaviour is found, the matter will be fully investigated, and prosecution will be pursued where appropriate."

Source: <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2025/06/24/home-office-worker-granted-asylum-applications-for-money/>

American investors urged to explore mineral sector

By Bakhtawar Mian

“Federal Minister Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik and US Chargé d’Affaires Natalie Baker co-hosted a webinar to promote investment in Pak’s mining sector amongst American investors at OGDCL head office in Islamabad on June 25. — Press Information Department (PID)”

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Energy Ali Pervaiz Malik on Wednesday urged American investors and companies to explore Pakistan’s vast mineral wealth through public-private partnerships and joint ventures.

Speaking at a webinar titled “Opportunities in Pakistan’s Mining Sector – Unlocking Mineral Potential”, the minister highlighted the country’s rich endowment of mineral resources, including gold, copper, coal, rare earth elements and other critical minerals vital for the global energy transition.

The event was jointly organised by the Ministry of Energy and the US Embassy in Pakistan to promote investment opportunities in the country’s minerals and mining sector.

Mr Malik assured that both the Government of Pakistan and the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) are fully committed to facilitating international companies seeking to partner in unlocking Pakistan’s mineral reserves.

He emphasised Pakistan’s growing role in the global shift towards clean energy, citing the nation’s abundant reserves of critical minerals as a key enabler of a green transition. “Renewable energy development is central to our climate goals and economic future. We are facilitating this shift by supporting the mining of essential minerals and improving ease of doing business,” he stated.

The minister underscored the international significance of the Reko Diq copper-gold project, while also referencing recent discoveries in Balochistan’s Chaghi district and KP’s Waziristan region.

Mr Malik lauded the success of the Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum 2025 (PMIF25), held earlier this year, which attracted over 5,000 participants and global attention. “PMIF25 marked a turning point, showcasing Pakistan as a serious player in the global

minerals economy,” he remarked.

US Chargé d’Affaires Natalie Baker reaffirmed the strong economic ties between the US and Pakistan. “Pakistan offers immense opportunities in the minerals sector. With one of the world’s largest undeveloped copper and gold deposits at Reko Diq, and a strong commitment to economic reforms, this is the right time for US investors to explore and engage,” she said.

Ms Baker welcomed Pakistan’s recent policy initiatives aimed at unlocking the sector’s potential and pledged continued support from the US Embassy in facilitating American businesses. “We are here to foster connections and build win-win partnerships. US investors have long contributed to Pakistan’s development, and we see great promise in this sector,” she added.

She concluded by reaffirming the US government’s commitment to supporting Pakistan’s economic development and strengthening bilateral economic ties. “We believe in Pakistan’s potential and see shared opportunity in its journey toward inclusive, sustainable growth,” she said. The webinar was broadcast from the head office of Oil and Gas Development Company Ltd (OGDCL) and brought together senior officials from the Ministry of Energy, leading mineral and energy firms, SIFC representatives, US diplomats, and energy sector stakeholders.

Source: <https://www.dawn.com/news/1920169/american-investors-urged-to-explore-mineral-sector>

EU Proposes Eel Trade Restriction Despite Japan’s Opposition

BRUSSELS (Jiji Press) — The European Union on Friday proposed making all eel species, including the Japanese eel, subject to regulation under an international treaty to protect endangered species, while Japan opposes the move. The EU, along with the Dominican Republic, Panama and Honduras, submitted the proposal to the secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, or CITES.

The proposal is aimed at putting fry, full-grown eels and processed eel products of all 18 species under regulation. CITES, also known as the Washington convention, lists animals and plants requiring protection in annexes on three levels depending on the degree of regulation. The EU and others seek to add all eel species to the second level.

The proposal will be discussed at a conference of the parties to the pact to be held in Uzbekistan from November to December. If the proposal is approved, exporters will be obliged to issue permits based on scientific assessments, putting eels and processed products under stricter trade control.

Japan, where eels are prized food, opposes the proposal. A Fisheries Agency official has said, “There is no risk of eels becoming extinct due to international trade.” On Friday, agriculture minister Shinjiro Koizumi voiced deep regret over the situation, adding that his country will do everything it can to block the adoption of the proposal in cooperation with China and South Korea.

Source: <https://japannews.yomiuri.co.jp/business/economy/20250628-266415/>



'Kolobrzeg's Venus' - a 6,000-year-old figurine discovered in Pomerania excites scientists



By Katarzyna-Maria Skiba

A simple figurine, only 12 centimetres high, has made its mark in the history of Pomerania. Made of limestone, without eyes, nose or mouth, hollowed out by the waters of the Parsa River, it is considered the 'discovery of the century' and expected to shed new light on Poland's archaeology.

Discovered by a farmer in Pomerania in 2022, the so-called "Kolobrzeg Venus" has now been confirmed as a six-thousand-year-old artefact, which, according to archaeologists, is unique in the history of Polish specimens. Following an extensive dating process, the figurine will be presented in a new part of the permanent exhibition of the Museum of Polish Arms.

This "unusual stone figurine" - as the experts examining it describe it in a press release - was discovered in the village of Obroty, near the Parseta River. It came into the hands of Waldemar Sadowski, a member of the Parseta Exploration Group operating at the Society of Friends of the Museum of Polish Arms in Kołobrzeg. Then, in 2023, archaeologist Marcin Krzepakowski of the Relicta Foundation, together with a team of experts, confirmed the uniqueness of the artefact.

There had never been such a discovery in the history of this country. According to the researchers, the Kolobrzeg Venus figurine "will be one of the oldest artefacts" in the museum, and "at the same time a unique find in Central and Eastern Europe from the area of Western Pomerania".

The figurine dates back to the Neolithic period and archaeologists believe that it is most likely a symbol of Venus, the goddess of love and fertility. Although the figurine has no facial features, it clearly highlights female characteristics. It is possible that it was used for fertility rituals in the Neolithic era.

"It may be the work of the first farmers who settled in the fertile lands of Western Pomerania, in this case around the Parseta River," - write the researchers in the release.

'Discovery of the century'

While this is not the only Venus figurine found in Europe, experts say that "the Kolobrzeg Venus represents [...] a unique find from an area of Poland where, for the time being, we do not find an analogue". What's more, while this type of figurine was usually made of clay, the Polish example was made of limestone, a mineral used in fewer cases of this type of work.

"I can confidently say that this is the discovery of the century," - Aleksander Ostasz, historian, underwater

archaeologist and director of the Museum of Polish Arms in Kołobrzeg, told National Geographic.

"It absolutely pushes our boundaries of Kolobrzeg's history". - he added.

The figurine now joins other well-known examples, including the Venus of Willendorf, discovered in Austria in 1908, and the Venus of Hohle Fels, discovered in 2008, as one of the largest prehistoric discoveries from the region. According to the communiqué, experts will continue to study the figurine to gain more information about Neolithic life.

"Currently, an interdisciplinary team of scientists assembled by Marcin Krzepakowski of the Relicta Foundation, is preparing a detailed study devoted to the Kolobrzeg Venus," the press release reads.

Source:<https://www.euronews.com/culture/2025/06/29/kolobrzegs-venus-a-6000-year-old-figurine-discovered-in-pomerania-excites-scientists>

Netherlands returns 119 artifacts looted from Nigeria

By Rédaction Africanews

The Netherlands on Thursday returned 119 artifacts looted from Nigeria, including human and animal figures, plaques, royal regalia and a bell. British soldiers looted the artifacts, known as the Benin Bronzes and mostly housed in a museum in Leiden, in the late 19th century.

In recent years, museums across Europe and North America have moved to address ownership disputes over artifacts looted during the colonial era. Nigeria's National Commission for Museums and Monuments requested that they be returned.

During the handover ceremony in Edo State, Oba Ewuare II, the monarch and custodian of Benin culture, described the return of the artifacts as a "divine intervention." Nigeria's National Commission for Museums and Monuments requested that the Benin Bronzes be returned.

The monarch said that restitution is a testament to the power of prayer and determination. Marieke Van Bommel, director of the Wereld Museum, said the Dutch government is committed to returning artifacts that do not belong to the country.

Olugbile Holloway, the commission's director, said the return of 119 artifacts marks the largest single repatriation. His organization is working hard to recover more items looted during colonial times.

Nigeria formally requested the return of hundreds of objects from museums worldwide in 2022. That year, 72 objects were returned from a London museum, while 31 were returned from a museum in Rhode Island. The Benin Bronzes were stolen in 1897 when British forces under the command of Sir Henry Rawson sacked the Benin kingdom and forced Ovonramwen Nogbaisi, the monarch at the time, into a six-month exile. Benin is located in modern-day southern Nigeria.

Source:<https://www.africanews.com/2025/06/22/netherlands-returns-119-artifacts-looted-from-nigeria/>

'It's okay to feel scared': How UAE parents can help kids cope with war news

By Sara AlKuwari

Be mindful of graphic content and limit the amount of news and social media your children consume

As news of the conflict between Iran and Israel dominates media channels, children in the UAE are increasingly exposed to distressing images, headlines, and adult conversations that may overwhelm their emotional capacity.

Mental health experts are urging parents to initiate age-appropriate discussions to help children understand what they are seeing and hearing.

Instead of waiting for children to ask questions, especially when they may already feel scared or confused, parents are encouraged to start the conversation gently. A simple statement like, "You might have heard people talking about serious things happening in the world. If you're ever worried or confused, I'm always here to talk," can go a long way in building a sense of safety and emotional openness.

"Starting these conversations early helps prevent children from forming misguided conclusions based on social media or overheard conversations," Gayatri Govind Gajjam, a clinical psychologist at Aster DYU Child Development Centre, told Khaleej Times.

Age-specific responses

Gajjam explained children's responses to war and conflict vary significantly based on their developmental stage:

Under 7: Young children interpret the world largely through imagination. Without a clear sense of geography, they may perceive distant events as immediate threats.

Ages 7-12: As logical thinking develops, children begin to understand cause and effect, which may trigger anxiety, especially around the safety of loved ones.

Teenagers: Adolescents process the moral and ethical dimensions of war more deeply. They may respond with frustration, sadness, anger, or a desire to take action while also feeling helpless.

She noted that it's important to acknowledge what children feel. "Simple affirmations like 'It's okay to feel scared' or 'I understand this is confusing' can be very validating," she added.

Watch for emotional overload

Dr Shaju George, Psychiatrist at International Modern Hospital Dubai, warned that children may exhibit signs of emotional distress following media exposure or discussions at home. “If a child becomes unusually anxious, asks repeated safety-related questions, or withdraws from activities, it could indicate they are overwhelmed,” he said.

He advised parents to let children guide the depth of the conversation. “Answer their questions honestly, but simply — and only as much as they want to know. Avoid sharing your own stress or using fear-inducing language.”

Terms like “people are killing each other” or “this could become World War III” can be traumatic. Instead, experts suggest highlighting humanitarian efforts, such as doctors, peacekeepers, and aid workers, to model empathy and resilience.

Dr Sumit Lakhanpal, specialist paediatrician at Aster Clinic, Liwan, emphasised the importance of reassurance. “Children need to hear that they are safe, that peace will return, and that adults are working to resolve the situation,” he said. He encouraged parents to use simple, honest language and to monitor their children’s media exposure closely.

“Be mindful of graphic content and limit the amount of news and social media your children consume. It’s also important to watch for changes in sleep patterns, appetite, or general behaviour,” he added.

Creating a safe, supportive environment

Experts recommend several strategies to help children feel emotionally secure during uncertain times:

Reinforce safety at home: Remind children that their home is a safe place.

Maintain daily routines: Predictability helps children feel more in control.

Be emotionally available: Listen, validate their feelings, and offer comfort.

Limit your own news exposure around children: Your reactions can influence theirs.

Share hopeful stories: Discuss individuals who are making a positive impact and helping others.

Encourage small acts of kindness: Donating toys, writing notes of hope, or engaging in school peace initiatives can help children feel empowered.

Children often take their emotional cues from the adults around them. When parents remain calm, consistent, and compassionate, they help their children develop resilience.”

When to seek help

If a child continues to show signs of distress or anxiety, experts advise seeking support from a child psychologist or mental health professional. Early intervention can prevent long-term emotional strain and help children navigate complex feelings in a healthy, supported way.

Source: https://www.khaleejtimes.com/uae/uae-parents-can-help-kids-cope-with-war-news?utm_campaign=recommended-inarticle-mob&utm_medium=art-rcmd-api&utm_source=netcore

Sunburn isn't just red skin - here's what's happening underneath the burn

By Mickey Carroll



Since the early 1990s, the number of skin cancer cases in the UK has more than doubled - with the rise partially attributed to older groups knowing “less about the dangers of tanning in their youth”.

The government is warning that the NHS will be under even more pressure this weekend as temperatures soar, so looking after yourself in the sunshine is crucial.

But how much do you know about the science behind sunburn... and how to prevent it?

What is sunburn?

While we all know what sunburned skin looks like - red and sore - it might not be so clear what is happening underneath the skin.

“Essentially, it’s inflammation,” said Dr Rachel Abbott, a consultant dermatologist who specialises in skin cancer for the Cardiff and Vale University health board.

“It’s triggered by ultraviolet radiation, primarily UVB but also by UVA.”

Ultraviolet radiation is carcinogenic and when it is allowed to penetrate the skin, it triggers an inflammatory reaction, said Dr Abbott.

Histamines - chemicals produced by the body’s immune system - and prostaglandins - compounds that help the body deal with injuries and illness - are released as your body

begins reacting to the damage.

Although the inflamed, red, itchy skin will fade, those carcinogens will do permanent damage to your DNA, according to Dr Abbott.

“The redness and pain can be managed symptomatically, but that DNA damage is permanent,” she said.

“We’ve all got DNA repair mechanisms in our bodies. But this is why we’re seeing such a massive increase in skin cancer, because [as we get older], the battle between the DNA damage and the skin cells becomes more than the immune system can cope with.”

Since the early 1990s, the number of skin cancer cases in Britain has more than doubled and last year, the number of cases was predicted to hit an all-time high of 20,800, according to Cancer Research UK.

The cancer charity partially attributed the rise in cases to older groups of people knowing “less about the dangers of tanning in their youth”, who “may have taken advantage of the cheap package holiday boom from the 1960s”.

This would lead to increased sun exposure and more damaged DNA, increasing the risk of skin cancer further down the line.

The ‘most effective’ protection (and it isn’t suncream)

There is currently no conclusive treatment to deal with the DNA damage caused by sunburn - although Dr Abbott said there is “exciting” work being done in that area.

Instead, the way to stop yourself from sustaining long-term damage is to protect yourself from UV rays.

“A lot of people associate temperature with the heat of the sun, whereas actually it’s the UV index that’s the critical thing. And that usually peaks around midday,” said Dr Abbott.

Contrary to what some may think (or hope), suncream should be a last resort.

Shade “is the most effective thing”, she said, but if you have to be out in the sunshine, “obviously we recommend hats, clothing and then sunscreen”.

“It is a last resort for those areas that you can’t cover up with clothing and hats, and sunglasses.”

The cancer care charity Macmillan recommends a suncream with a sun protection factor (SPF) of 50, or at least 30, and to reapply it regularly.

“There is no such thing as a safe suntan,” advises the charity.

It also recommends using around six to eight teaspoons of suncream for an adult - one teaspoon for each limb, one for your chest, one for your back and one for your head and neck.

Source:<https://news.sky.com/story/sunburn-isnt-just-red-skin-heres-whats-happening-underneath-the-burn-13389368>