

Last salute to Iranian leader!

by
our Arab Affairs
correspondent

Millions of Iranians paid their last respects to Sayyed Ali Khamanei at memorial ceremonies across the country as leaders from the Arab world, the broader Muslim community and the Global South landed in Tehran for the final salute to the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic who was martyred during the first wave of American and Israeli terror attacks in February.

Ali Akbar Pourjamshidian, Iran's deputy interior minister, said that following Friday's ceremony, farewell ceremonies will be held at Imam Khomeini's Mosalla prayer hall in Tehran over the weekend. A funeral procession follows on Monday. The following day a ceremony will be held in Iran's central city of Qom, and on 8th July, the Supreme Leader's body will be transferred to Iraq for further rites. He will finally be laid to rest in the north-eastern Iranian city of Mashhad on 9th July.

Any attempt by the Americans or their Israeli lackeys to disrupt the solemn ceremonies will be met with a fierce response. "We warn the enemies of Iran, especially the US and the Zionist



entity, to avoid any miscalculation and to think about the harsh retaliation our armed forces would make to any threat and aggression against our country" said Major-General Ali Abdollahi, the Commander of the Iranian High Command, the Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters.

More than 20 million people are expected in Tehran for the state funeral of former Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei who was killed with family members at the start of the US-Israeli war on

Iran. They're joined by delegations from around 100 countries, including senior officials from Pakistan, China, India and Russia, who have come to the Iranian capital to honour the memory of the spiritual leader of the Shia Muslim community this week.

Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif of Pakistan, who served as the main mediator between Tehran and Washington, will be there along with the leaders of Armenia, Georgia and Tajikistan.

Leadership delegations from Bangladesh, India, Iraq, Leba-

non, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, Venezuela, Belarus and the DPR Korea, as well as representatives of Hamas, Hezbollah and the north Yemeni Houthi government, are also attending the funeral.

Former Russian president Dimitri Medvedev, the Deputy Chairman of the Kremlin's Security Council widely tipped to succeed Vladimir Putin when the Russian leader retires, is there. So is He Wei, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, the highest legislative body in the People's Republic of China. But no invitations were sent to the Western European countries or those who directly, or indirectly, supported the Israeli and American military campaign on Iran.

FUND

Saved by the bell – or rather by the comrades from Richmond & Kingston NCP who donated £2,500 this week in memory of their old comrade, Harry Danvers, a life-long communist and a founder member of the Party. The final total for June stands at £4,396 which means we've topped our target by £896!

That's gone a long way to make up for recent short-falls but the battle on the financial front begins anew in July and although we shut down for our fortnight's summer break next week, the campaign to raise funds for the fighting fund continues.

Labour's got the 'Burnham bounce' and the Faragists are in turmoil with internal divisions and corruption scandals. The Corbynistas and the other left parties are in the doldrums while the Greens and the Lib-Dems hope to exploit mounting anger on the street to their own advantage. Workers can expect nothing from the mainstream parties – nor the phoney left and the Faragists for that matter. But the labour movement as a whole can be an instrument of change for the better and we are part of the struggle to make it so. Help us get the message across and build the communist movement in Britain. Make sure that the communist voice is heard every week in every factory, office and neighbourhood across the country by supporting the fighting fund.

Our communist weekly has been out on the street since 1977. So join us in the fight to guarantee the survival of the *New Worker*. All donations to: New Worker Fund, PO Box 73, London SW11 2PQ. Cheques and postal orders should be made payable to the 'New Worker'.

To save a stamp you can also use your credit or debit card to send contributions here: <http://newworker.org/ncpcentral/fightingfund.html>

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Summer shut-down

Our volunteers are taking their well-earned summer rest.

The last issue of the *New Worker* before our two-week summer break will be published on Friday 3rd July. We will be back on Friday 24th

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THE NEW WORKER

Weekly paper of the New Communist Party

If wishes were fishes...

...we'd all cast nets, they used to say, Now all we hear in the Westminster bubble are the odds on the gravy-trainers lobbying for jobs in the new Burnham government and the echoes of the media pundits on the direction that the 'King of the North' will take when he moves into Downing Street. A lot of the speculation is, of course, inspired directly by the Burnham team, who hope their leader's 'coronation' will lift Labour out of the pit of despair in which Starmer left the party after his two years of misrule ended this month.

Burnham is an ambitious politician who did little during the Corbyn and Starmer years to hide his ambition to lead the Labour Party and the country. Now his time has come with a 'Burnham bounce' that has given Labour its first lead in over a year in the opinion polls amid talk of "Manchesterism" and a "new vision" for the future. But what actually is on the Burnham table?

The answer is that nobody knows. Burnham is talking about launching the biggest council house building programme since the Second World War. He hasn't given a figure but last year he talked about building half-a-million "social homes" by 2030. If he ends the "right to buy" and the restrictions on council borrowing that have been upheld by successive Tory and Labour governments since 1979 that will drastically cut the shameful UK homeless figures and create more work for the younger generation throughout the country. Vague promises to return the water industry and the power utilities to public ownership have not been followed up with concrete plans to restore part of the public sector and talk of more power to the councils and the regions is all very well – but it's meaningless unless these local authorities are given the power and the funds to provide the social services that people so badly need.

Burnham's people are talking about electoral "reform" that would get the Greens and the Liberal-Democrats on track for a tactical vote alliance at the election. Your Party may be dead in the water as far as a national party is concerned but nevertheless they look likely to keep the five parliamentary seats they hold at the next election. It could even sway the Corbynistas, if only Burnham could swallow his fear of bringing Jeremy back on board.

But all this is meaningless without a social programme – a genuine commitment to implement the union agenda, restore the welfare state and the public sector we once had.

That's what the unions have got to fight for and that's where the struggle has only just begun.

We're having a heatwave...

by
Ding Gang

This summer, Europe is once again baking in relentless heat, with temperatures flirting with or breaching 40°C. The data from public health authorities, such as France's initial estimates of around a thousand excess deaths during a single heatwave, are grim. It is a recurring tragedy and yet the continent remains shockingly unprepared.

The issue is not merely the weather itself; it is Europe's persistent inability to adapt to it. What we are witnessing is a systemic failure of agility. When the heat hits, a desperate scramble for air conditioning begins but the market responds with a heavy, bureaucratic lag. The sudden surge in demand collides with a supply chain that operates in months and years, not days.

Even when units do arrive from global factories, they face a more formidable domestic bottleneck: a severe lack of skilled labour. An air conditioner is not a plug-and-play appliance; it requires a local ecosystem of technicians, structural permits and grid compatibility. In Europe, qualified installers are a rare breed. During peak season, waiting lists stretch for weeks, leaving thousands of expensive units sitting idly in warehouses. Added to this is the staggering cost of electricity on a continent struggling with energy transitions, making the simple act of staying cool an unattainable luxury for many.

Defenders often frame this lack of cooling as a conscious, 'green' choice – a commitment to

energy preservation and architectural heritage. But this argument rings hollow. Environmental sustainability is a noble goal but it cannot be bought at the expense of human lives. Protecting the most vulnerable from lethal heatwaves is a fundamental duty of any capable state. When a society fails at this basic level of protection, its claims to superior 'progress' begin to look incredibly fragile.

This goes far beyond domestic appliances. It exposes a fundamental shift in what it actually means to be a modern society in the 21st Century. For decades, we measured modernisation by what was already built: mature industrial bases, robust welfare states and established institutional frameworks. Under these 20th Century metrics, Europe was the gold standard. But the challenges of the 21st Century are entirely different.

Today, progress is measured by adaptability, systemic resilience and the speed at which a society can reconfigure its infrastructure to meet unprecedented crises. Modernisation is no longer a destination you reach and settle in; it is an ongoing process of rapid adaptation.

From this perspective, Europe's greatest strength has become its heaviest anchor. Because its systems were built so early and so well, the cost of changing them is astronomical. Centuries-old historical buildings are notoriously difficult to retrofit. Highly regulated labour markets make it nearly impossible to quickly scale-up service sectors, and a deeply entrenched bureaucracy slows down infrastructure overhauls.

Perhaps the most significant and deeply rooted barrier is intellectual. Europe has, over an extended period of time, grown accustomed to and comfortable within the narrative of being 'developed' to the point where that identity feels settled and unquestioned. This long-standing self-perception has gradually diminished the sense of urgency and hunger needed to continue evolving and adapting.

As a result, it increasingly sees its current social structures and physical infrastructure not as works in progress, but as the final and perfected form of civilisation. Rather than viewing these systems as temporary arrangements that require ongoing reassessment and renewal, they are often treated as complete and enduring, which reduces the perceived need for continuous improvement and change.

An air conditioner is a mundane piece of technology. But when it intersects with global supply chains, labour shortages, skyrocketing energy costs, rigid building codes and public health, it becomes a diagnostic tool.

The current crisis is a warning sign that the continent is losing its capacity to modernise. If Europe wants to remain a model for the world, it needs to realise that the rules of the game have changed. You cannot solve 21st Century problems by simply reading from a 20th Century play-book.

The author is a senior editor with the *People's Daily* and currently a senior fellow with the Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies at Renmin University of China.

Global Times



Workers' Notes

Burnham flags "No.10 North" in major speech

Andy Burnham has proposed a "No.10 North" in his first major speech after being elected as a Member of Parliament.

"No.10 North" will be "an extended operation" of the prime minister's office based in Manchester, Burnham said on Monday, adding that it will offer new opportunities to "extend evolution in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland by taking power deeper down".

Hailing it as "the nerve centre of a rewired Britain", Burnham said "No.10 North" will support the regions on "reform of essential utilities, re-industrialisation and the regeneration of places".

He also proposed "Manchesterism" as a model – which he says is a "rejection of the old trickle down model" and will see that all parts of Britain be given "the chance to develop their own version of the same".

Burnham promised to "build an inclusive team at the very highest level" but adding that he will not announce the appointment decisions "until the end of this process".

Burnham also pledged to launch the biggest council house building programme since the post-war period.

He noted that Britain's housing crisis is having a ruinous impact on its public finances, and said measures will be taken to use vacant public land to reduce costs.

He also promised to reform business rates to better support high street businesses and reduce the welfare bill in a way that is fair and lasting and helps people

Drop the sanctions, Return the gold!

by
New Worker
correspondent

Venezuela was struck by two back-to-back earthquakes last week. La Guaira, a densely populated coastal strip just north of Caracas, has been declared a disaster zone. The death toll stands at over 2,250, with 40,000 feared missing. In the face of this catastrophe protesters called for the return of Venezuela's gold at a picket outside the Bank of England last week. They were demanding that the British government returns the 31 tonnes of gold stolen from the Venezuelan people and hoarded in the coffers of the Bank of England.

move forward.

Burnham won the Makerfield parliamentary by-election on 19th June and was sworn in later as a Labour MP. He is widely regarded as the frontrunner to succeed outgoing British Prime Minister Keir Starmer as Labour leader and prime minister.

Xinhua

Starmer eyes up NATO job

Sir Keir Starmer, who is stepping down following a revolt within his own party, is interested in becoming the next secretary-general of NATO, the *Observer* reported on Sunday. The newspaper claimed that Starmer is considering becoming the military bloc's chief in 2028.

A tearful Starmer announced his resignation as prime minister and Labour Party leader in response to mounting pressure last week. Several ministers left his Cabinet and more than 80 Labour



The Venezuelans were frozen out of their own gold deposits when the British government

refused to recognise the legitimacy of the elections that returned Nicolás Maduro to the president's

office in Caracas in 2018.

Today this is valued at three billion pounds.

MPs urged him to step down after the party lost nearly 1,500 local council seats in last month's elections. Former Manchester Mayor Andy Burnham, who won the Makerfield by-election on 18th June, is widely seen as Starmer's successor.

According to the *Observer*, Starmer is interested in becoming NATO secretary-general once Mark Rutte's term expires in 2028, unless it is extended. The newspaper added that Starmer would require "some sustained government backing" for a successful bid. It said Starmer's supporters point to his close relationship with Ukrainian leader Vladimir Zelensky, claiming that the two sometimes "pocket dial" each other by accident, as well as his ties with other European leaders.

The NATO secretary-general, usually a former head of government or senior diplomat, is selected through consultations among member states, with the final appointment requiring the unanimous backing of all 32 members.

Starmer led Labour to a landslide victory in the 2024 general election, vowing to bring stability after a string of short-lived Conservative prime ministers. However, his premiership quickly became associated with tax increases, welfare cuts, political scandals and an increasingly controversial foreign policy agenda. He made support for Kiev a

central pillar of his premiership while Britain grappled with defence funding shortages, procurement setbacks and growing concerns over military readiness.

According to the *Telegraph*, Starmer was also criticised for spending too much time on international affairs and not enough on domestic issues, travelling "more and further than any other British leader in official history". The newspaper said he spent around two and a half months abroad during his first 17 months in office.

Starmer's relationship with US President Donald Trump also soured over his refusal to back the US-Israeli strikes on Iran. Trump said Starmer is "no Winston Churchill" and criticised his record on migration and energy. By contrast, Trump repeatedly praised Rutte as both a friend and an effective leader, while criticising NATO as a whole.

rt.com

Trouble on the campus

by New Worker
correspondent

This week staff members at Glasgow Caledonian University (GCU) will be on strike over job cuts and redundancies at the university where former Prime Minister Gordon Brown was once a lecturer in Politics when it was the Glasgow Col-

lege of Technology.

While this is perhaps the only university at which pickets mingle with proud parents and graduates outside the graduation hall, at many other universities up and down the country staff are presently in various stages of industrial action in defence of jobs.

At GCU, the Education Institute of Scotland's University Lecturers' Association (EIS-ULA) is at the forefront of action opposing up to 100 planned job cuts.

After members voted for action, EIS General Secretary Andrea Bradley rallied the troops with an impassioned call to arms by declaring: "Any move to strike action is taken as a last resort, but our members at Glasgow Caledonian University have been left with no alternative as they seek to fend off the university's cuts agenda."

Local branch secretary Nick McKerrell added that: "The proposed loss of 100 jobs at Glasgow Caledonian University and senior management's refusal to rule out compulsory redundancies has provoked fury across campus. On top of that a costed plan put forward by trade unions to avoid these cuts was rejected out of hand.

"This intransigence is so frustrating as GCU has significant cash reserves of £95 million, one of the highest in the country. A fraction of that could be used to save jobs in the short term."

continued on page 4...

Congratulations!

Joan Danvers

105 and still going strong!

**Central Committee
New Communist Party of Britain**

...continued from page 3

Glasgow Caledonian University, which is regularly ranked among the UK's leading modern universities, has said the proposals are part of a wider programme aimed at addressing a significant financial shortfall.

As in many other similar disputes the GCU management lament that their income has fallen due to a decline in international student recruitment, in this case by £33 million in the last two years alone, but the EIS notes it has £95 million in reserves. A number of staff have taken voluntary redundancy but EIS opposes any enforced job losses.

In Devon, a similar story is unfolding at the University of Exeter where 150 jobs are on the line. Once again Management say they want to "secure the university's long-term sustainability, protect our teaching and research excellence". This they say will be at risk from declining tuition fee incomes, rising costs, underfunded research and a sustained drop

in international student demand.

Although it declares it wants to cut the head-count by voluntary means it has not ruled out compulsory redundancies. The Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences (HASS) will be particularly affected but Management say they do not intend to close any departments.

The local University College Union (EUCU) branch, which represents 1,200 academic staff, accused bosses of "targeting of the very disciplines to which Exeter largely owes its membership of the Russell group" and complain the rationale for the cuts has not been explained to them.

Local Labour MP Steve Race said: "The University of Exeter is a major economic driver of our city, and the benefits of its research partnerships with our local hospital, the Met Office, and others bring real benefits to everyone in our city. I want to make sure it continues to play that important role."

In Newcastle, staff at Nor-

thumbria University are balloting for strike action in very similar circumstances, but the cuts will be more dramatic – affecting a tenth of the jobs before Christmas. Again, Management are refusing to rule out compulsory redundancies.

UCU says the five million pound cuts come after an already damaging restructure and plans that would push staff out of pension schemes. They also complain of the folly of expensive building projects, including a £2.5 million Centre for Writing which would house some of those staff who survive the cull.

Further north on the banks of the beautiful silvery Tay things are getting even worse at the long-suffering University of Dundee, which was left with a huge deficit by the previous management who hastily departed when it was discovered.

A similar tale can be told of the University of Lincoln, where 97 per cent of UCU members voted "no confidence" in its senior leadership team last month. They say that having lost a third of the workforce, Management is refusing to rule out compulsory redundancies either in this academic year or the next. The cuts have unsurprisingly adversely impacted staff wellbeing, job security, and the quality of teaching and research, says UCU. Efforts by UCU to negotiate with the university over the changes have fallen flat.

In Robin Hood's territory the

part of the evil Sheriff of Nottingham is presently being played by the senior management of the University of Nottingham, who are once again wielding the axe on jobs and courses.

In the middle of last month the local UCU branch offered to suspend their marking and assessment boycott to allow students to graduate normally if Management confirmed some future degree-level provision for Modern Languages, Music and other areas threatened with complete closure, as well as an improvement to the current voluntary redundancy scheme. These modest proposals were rejected by Management, who only offered a short extension to the current consultation period. A more detailed financial counter-proposal from the union was also given short shrift. So far 350 mainly administrative and technical staff have already been given the boot, now 700 academic jobs are at risk. Over 2,500 "at risk of redundancy" letters have been issued.

The union's branch president, Lopa Leach, said: "Management has thrown students and their interests under the bus. Here was the possibility to end the dispute in time for graduation, but they are unwilling to entertain constructive solutions. Considering management's disinterest, we are now left with no alternative but to consider escalating the dispute." Robin Hood would have taken a firmer line...

On a more positive note...

...UCU has won a dispute at Sheffield Hallam University, where plans to force staff into a phony subsidiary company and out of their pension scheme (TPS) have been halted after weeks of industrial action.

UCU members have secured an agreement that academic staff will remain employed by the university and retain access to their existing Teachers Pension Scheme (TPS). The frustrated plans were part of a scheme to save £27 million by the end of this academic year, after two years of cuts that have seen the departure of 1,000 staff.

Early in June, at the neighbouring University of Sheffield, UCU has taken the drastic action of declaring an academic boycott of the university. This includes speaking or organising academic or other conferences at the university, giving lectures, accepting positions as visiting professors, researchers or external examiners.

All these disputes have much in common. They are all largely defensive, seeking to save jobs and preserve terms and conditions. One might well ask why UCU and other unions do not take a more unified approach. It should be far more proactive and take the fight to the academia's trade organisation, Universities UK...

In Memory of HARRY DANVERS

A FOUNDER MEMBER OF THE
NEW COMMUNIST PARTY
AND TIRELESS SUPPORTER
OF SOCIALISM

ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF HIS BIRTHDAY
FROM ALL HIS NCP AND RICHMOND &
KINGSTON BRANCH COMRADES

20 years ago
this week
in the New Worker

30th June 2006

DELEGATES at the annual conference of the British Medical Association (BMA) in Belfast last week queued up to express their anger over government reforms to the NHS, which allow the private sector to cream off NHS money and are breaking the service apart.

They also attacked the BMA leaders for failing to put up a strong opposition to the reforms thereby failing both patient and doctors.

James Johnson, a surgeon from Cheshire who chairs the BMA council, accused the Government of running the NHS like a supermarket, offering choice and

competition.

"There is no doubt it works in supermarkets," he said, "plenty of choice, good quality and low prices. But will it work in a health service where more 'customers' – we doctors are old fashioned enough to call them patients – do not mean more profits? They mean more cost."

He said that payment by results created "perverse incentives" to keep patients in hospital when the best treatment might be to provide some care in hospital and the rest in the community.

He also warned of the financial dangers of private companies commissioning services. "It would not take a financial wizard to work out that if a private company ran hospitals and also commissioned services it adds up to a licence to print money," he said.

Johnson accused managers of interfering in decisions about where patients were referred to for treatment because of pressured to use private companies that have been given government contracts to provide services.

He told the conference that it was "outrageous" that

patients were being diverted from their local hospitals to Independent Sector Treatment Centres (ISTCs) by non-medically qualified management consultants employed by local trusts.

The Government claimed that ISTCs reduced NHS waiting times, but many doctors call them a waste of money and the quality of care they offer is not monitored.

The conference passed a motion the condemning the BMA leadership's failure did to defend the NHS by 58 to 42 per cent and called for a "policy of active opposition and proper scrutiny".

Natasha Arnold, a geriatrician from Islington, said: "The BMA represents all of us here. The BMA has been working with the Government over the entire period of the reform but has not succeeded in influencing how reforms have been implemented despite the growing concern in the profession."

Is Cuba Next?

by Xu Tianqi

On 20th May the US Department of Justice indicted 94-year-old Cuban revolutionary leader and former President Raúl Castro on charges including conspiracy to kill US nationals, destruction of aircraft and murder. The move immediately fuelled speculation that, following its pressure campaigns against Venezuela and Iran, Washington may once again be setting its sights on Cuba.

Among the allegations cited in the indictment is Castro's alleged role in the 24th February 1996 shooting-down of two unarmed US aircraft operated by 'Brothers to the Rescue', a Miami-based group formed by Cuban exiles. Cuba has maintained that the planes violated its airspace, describing the downing as a legitimate act of self-defence. Following a logic similar to that used in the indictment of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro, Washington's so-called judicial prosecutions can be seen as little more than legally framed warrants for pursuit. In practice, they create a domestic legal justification for the US Government to seek the capture, or even the killing, of foreign leaders. If the Americans were to take action against Cuba, how might events unfold?

Cuba is unlikely to "surrender" even if Castro were captured or killed. Cuba's political system remains intact, with functioning leadership succession mechanisms. Castro stepped down from all party, government and military positions in 2021, transferring leadership responsibilities to President Miguel Díaz-Canel. Today, Castro is more of a symbolic figure from Cuba's revolutionary era in the 1960s. His removal would not paralyse the state's governing apparatus. On the contrary, it could provoke a nationalist backlash within Cuba and generate broader regional opposition across Latin America.

In addition, the notion that



the US military could quickly occupy Cuba, seize Castro and withdraw without substantial costs is far more difficult to realise than some assume.

Cuba presents a fundamentally different challenge. Geographically, the island possesses considerable strategic depth. Over decades, extensive defensive infrastructure has been developed across its territory. More importantly, Cuba has maintained unusually strong grass-roots mobilisation and social organisation mechanisms.

Beginning in the 1980s, Cuba adopted a "War of All the People" defence strategy, which integrates regular military forces with community-based militias. This institutionalised fusion of civilian and military preparedness enhances the country's capacity for local resistance. Regular strategic exercises, such as the Bastión series (first held in 1980), train leadership bodies, armed forces and the

general population in territorial defence.

Any military operation against Cuba would carry substantial risks of devolving into prolonged urban warfare and guerrilla conflict. A full-scale occupation of the island could require the deployment of well over 100,000 elite ground troops and months of sustained combat operations. Although Cuba possesses natural resources such as nickel that might theoretically off-set some wartime costs, the military expenditures and political risks involved would be enormous – and difficult for contemporary America to justify.

The USA can ill afford even a limited failure in Cuba. Any military setback on America's doorstep would completely shatter its military myth. American military dominance is the most critical pillar of its hegemony. A failure comparable to the 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion or

the 1993 Black Hawk Down episode in Somalia, or even a prolonged stalemate on Cuban soil, would accelerate international reassessments of American military capabilities and undermine a key pillar of US hegemony.

Viewed in this light, the indictment of Castro appears less a judicial proceeding than another instrument of political pressure. It serves as part of a broader effort to revive aspects of the Monroe Doctrine and increase leverage over both Cuba and the wider Latin American region. (The Monroe Doctrine is a 19th century US foreign policy that declared the Western Hemisphere off-limits to European colonisation or interference, while asserting US dominance over the region)

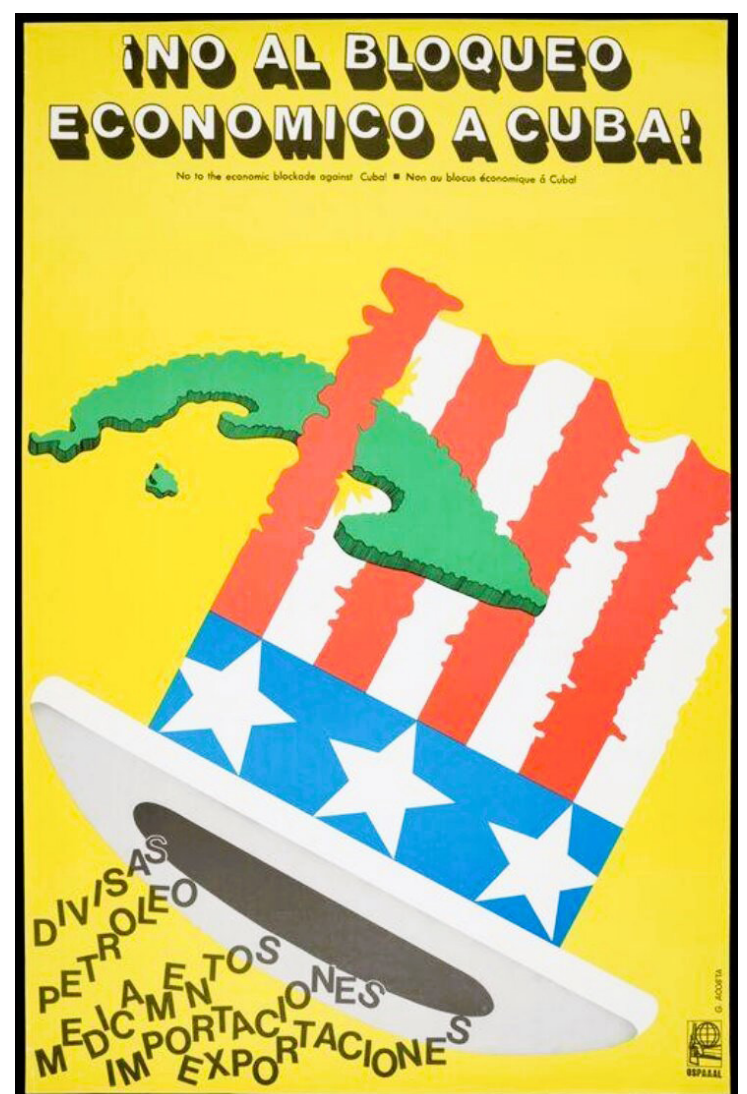
American sanctions have contributed greatly to Cuba's humanitarian hardships, drawing criticism from much of the international community. The USA should urgently rethink

and adjust its Cuba policy of, for example, unilateral measures and Cuba's continued presence on the American list of state sponsors of terrorism, rather than compounding its mistakes. While any US military action against Cuba would entail extraordinary risks, it would also be unwise to underestimate Washington's willingness to pursue increasingly aggressive options.

The international community should not remain indifferent to the suffering of ordinary Cubans under illegal sanctions. Greater humanitarian assistance is needed, particularly through relevant UN agencies and co-ordinated efforts by Latin American countries to provide food and energy support.

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Beijing Review



Persian Gulf: Ceasefire but no grand bargain

by Vijay Prashad

THE Iran–US Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) emerged not from reconciliation, but from exhaustion and strategic failure by the USA and its allies. It was the product of a war that had reached its political limits. Washington and Tel Aviv presented their illegal war of aggression as a necessary response to Iran’s nuclear energy programme, missile capabilities, and regional alliances. Yet behind this language of security lay a broader objective: to weaken Iran decisively and restore a regional order centred on unquestioned American and Israeli dominance.

For more than two decades, successive US administrations had sought to contain Iran through sanctions, diplomatic isolation, covert operations, cyber-warfare and targeted assassinations. The recent war represented the most intense expression of this strategy. The assumption in Washington and Tel Aviv was that overwhelming force would cripple Iran’s military infrastructure, fracture its state capacity, provoke internal instability and perhaps open the way for political transformation.

That expectation was not fulfilled. Iran suffered extensive damage to military facilities, infrastructure and economic assets. Civilian life was severely disrupted. But the Iranian state did not collapse. Its command structures continued to function, its armed forces retained retaliatory capacity, and



its leadership preserved enough cohesion to withstand the assault. Despite the murder of several key leaders of the Islamic Republic, it remains in authority and its legitimacy has in fact been strengthened.

Equally important, Iran demonstrated that it could impose costs beyond its own borders. Missile and drone attacks reached Israeli territory and threatened strategic infrastructure across the Gulf Arab states. The conflict imposed by the USA and Israel ended up with disrupted shipping routes, raised insurance costs, unsettled energy markets and reminded governments across the world that instability in the Gulf cannot be contained within the region.

As the war continued, the gap between military power and political achievement became increasingly visible. The USA and Israel pos-

sessed overwhelming military superiority, but they could not convert battlefield pressure into decisive political outcomes. Iran remained intact; regime change did not occur. The Axis of Resistance – from Iran to the Mediterranean Sea – was weakened but not eliminated. Continued escalation promised greater destruction, but not strategic victory. Due to this fact, the MoU is not a final peace treaty. It is a provisional framework designed to halt direct hostilities, reopen channels of negotiation and prevent the conflict from spreading further.

Its first and most immediate provision is a temporary cessation of direct military operations. The framework establishes a 60-day period during which the parties are expected to negotiate the terms of a more durable settlement. This pause does not resolve

the underlying conflict, but it creates space to prevent accidental escalation and reduce the immediate risk of a wider regional war.

Second, the MoU centres on the Strait of Hormuz. This is the agreement’s most economically significant feature. Roughly one-fifth of globally traded petroleum passes through this narrow waterway. During the war, threats to shipping demonstrated both Iran’s geographic leverage and the vulnerability of the global economy to instability in the Gulf. The MoU treats maritime deconfliction not as a technical matter, but as a central pillar of regional and global economic stability.

Third, the agreement establishes a process for negotiations over Iran’s nuclear energy programme. Crucially, it does not impose imme-

diately dismantlement of Iran’s nuclear infrastructure. Instead, it opens discussions on enrichment levels, inspection mechanisms, monitoring arrangements, and the possible return of international technical oversight. This marks a shift from coercion to bargaining: Iran is not being treated simply as a target, but as a state whose consent is required for any durable nuclear arrangement.

Fourth, the MoU includes discussions on sanctions relief, oil exports, and the possible release or mobilisation of Iranian financial assets. The details remain contested. But the principle is clear: economic strangulation did not produce surrender. A sustainable settlement will require some degree of economic accommodation.

Fifth, the agreement reportedly includes regional deconfliction mechanisms, particularly around Lebanon. This reflects the fact that the conflict was never only bilateral. Iran’s regional alliances, Israel’s military operations, US security commitments, and the fragile balance in Lebanon, Iraq, Syria, Yemen and the Gulf are all connected. Any agreement that ignores this regional architecture will remain unstable.

The most revealing aspect of the MoU is what it omits. It does not demand regime change, it does not require Iran to abandon its missile programme and it does not force Tehran to withdraw entirely from regional political and security affairs. In short, the agreement recognises Iran as a regional power

whose interests must be negotiated, not simply bombed away.

The MoU exposes important differences between the strategic priorities of the USA and Israel. For Israel, the war was an opportunity to reshape the regional balance of power. Israeli policy-makers have long regarded Iran as the principal obstacle to their strategic ambitions in the Middle East. The weakening of Hezbollah, the fragmentation of resistance networks, and the isolation of Tehran were seen as necessary steps towards a regional order more favourable to Israel. The USA shared some of these objectives but operated under broader constraints. Washington had to consider not only military outcomes, but also oil markets, global trade, Gulf allies, domestic political pressures and the risk of wider international involvement. As the costs mounted, American calculations increasingly diverged from Israeli maximalism.

The result is an agreement that many in Israel are likely to regard as insufficient. The war did not eliminate Iran as a strategic actor. It did not produce regime change. It did not destroy Iran’s capacity to influence events beyond its borders. Most importantly, it ended not with capitulation, but with negotiation. This outcome reveals a deeper problem for Israeli strategy. Military superiority can inflict enormous damage, but it cannot by itself produce political legitimacy or regional acceptance. Israel can strike targets

across the Middle East, but it cannot determine the political future of societies beyond its borders through force alone.

For the USA, the MoU represents the recognition of another reality: military dominance no longer guarantees political obedience. This lesson has been learned repeatedly in Iraq, Afghanistan, Lebanon and now once again in relation to Iran.

The Gulf Arab monarchies are among the most important observers of this agreement. Throughout the conflict, Gulf governments were caught between competing pressures. They remain dependent on US security guarantees and have expanded overt or covert relations with Israel. At the same time, they understand

that any regional war with Iran places their own economic and social stability at risk. The disruption of shipping routes and threats to regional infrastructure made this vulnerability unmistakable. The Gulf states possess immense wealth, but their economies depend on secure maritime trade, stable energy exports, foreign investment, and the confidence of global markets. A prolonged war endangers all of these.

The likely conclusion for Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait and Oman is pragmatic rather than ideological. They will continue to work with Washington. Some will maintain or deepen relations with Israel. But they will also seek channels with Tehran and

avoid becoming direct platforms for escalation. This trend was already visible before the war. The Saudi–Iranian rapprochement facilitated by China in 2023 reflected a growing recognition that regional stability cannot be achieved through permanent confrontation. The war has reinforced that conclusion. The Gulf monarchies have learned that neither Iran nor the United States is going away. Their future depends not on choosing one side permanently against the other, but on managing the contradictions between them while protecting their own interests.

Whether Iran has won depends on how victory is defined. If victory means avoiding destruction, Iran did not

win. The country suffered severe economic losses, infrastructure damage, military degradation and human costs. The burden of the war fell heavily on ordinary Iranians. But strategic outcomes are not measured only by damage suffered. They are also measured by political objectives achieved or prevented.

The central objective of the USA and Israel was not merely to damage Iran. It was to fundamentally weaken Iran as an independent regional player. On that measure, the campaign fell short. Iran remains sovereign and the government of the Islamic Republic remains in power. Its military capabilities have been reduced but not eliminated. Its diplomatic relevance has

been strengthened by the fact that negotiations now revolve around securing Iranian consent rather than imposing foreign dictates. In this sense, Iran achieved what many states facing overwhelming military pressure have sought throughout history: survival. Survival is not romantic. It is often costly, brutal and incomplete. But in international politics, survival can be the most important measure of strategic success.

The larger significance of the war lies elsewhere. The conflict demonstrated once again that destruction is not the same as power. Military force can demolish infrastructure, kill combatants and impose suffering. What it cannot always do is produce political transformation.

The USA and Israel possessed vastly superior military capabilities, yet they could not secure the political outcome they desired. The Iran–US MoU is therefore not a story of decisive victory by either side. It is the story of a war that revealed the limits of coercion. Iran emerges battered but standing. The USA and Israel emerge powerful but unable to dictate terms. The Gulf states emerge more conscious of their vulnerability. The region enters a new phase in which negotiations, rather than battlefield victories, will determine the next chapter of Middle Eastern politics. That is the deepest political meaning of the MoU: military power can destroy, but it cannot always rule.

People's Democracy (India)

World Cup: Boston fans say “Boycott the USA!”

by Steve Gillis

Activists with the Boston Coalition for Palestine (BCFP) joined with the Anti-Fascist Football Coalition (AFFC) on 13th and 19th June in out-reach in the streets to tens of thousands of international World Cup football fans. The groups explained how fans can join the international campaign to combat FIFA’s complicity with America’s war crimes, including genocide from Palestine, Lebanon and Iran to Cuba, Venezuela and Nigeria.

Fans from Brazil, Cabo Verde, Haiti, Morocco, Scotland and elsewhere embraced the Coalition’s message that now is the time to spread the call worldwide to “Boycott the US!”

Fans dressed in tartan kilts and other nation-

al fabrics or wrapped in their countries’ flags stopped to get souvenir pictures taken with BCFP’s banner that reads: “FIFA: Move the World Cup OUT of the US! Boycott the US for war crimes!”

Many fans said they hadn’t heard of the US boycott campaign before arriving in Boston, but now that they know, they’ll be raising demands back home to move future sporting and cultural events such as the 2028 Olympics, currently scheduled for Los Angeles, out of the United States.

At Boston’s South Station, where tens of thousands of fans were boarding trains to the out-of-town stadium on 13th June, BCFP activists held their ground when initially surrounded by police brass and FIFA security, with surveillance



drones buzzing overhead. The cops claimed that protesters’ presence in the “FIFA permitted” public street was not allowed. But thousands of fans witnessing the scene soon turned the balance of forces by embracing the pro-Palestine activists, accepting and waving hundreds of Palestinian flags supporters were passing out to the crowd.

A leaflet that the BCFP activists distributed in the thousands laid out the AFFC’s

clear reasons why the USA should be targeted, including American support for Israel, and its previous support for apartheid South Africa. The flyers advocated an international boycott, divest and sanctions campaign: “The demand by the Anti-Fascist Football Coalition to move the World Cup out of the United States due to blatant violations of human rights worldwide has been ignored. The Boston Coalition for Palestine, therefore, has

joined the international call by Black Alliance for Peace to ‘Boycott the World Cup!’ ‘Expel Israel from FIFA!’ and ‘Boycott the US!’”

The flyer continued “the United States is a dangerous place to host ‘the beautiful games’. Providing support for ongoing genocide in West Asia, waging illegal wars of aggression against Cuba, Nigeria, Venezuela and many other countries and profiting from the ICE imprisonment of people from the same countries the World Cup claims to celebrate, the United States has shown it cannot be trusted and is an illegitimate venue for all international events.

“Each passing day, officials, players and fans attempting to visit the US find racist and discriminatory barriers to their entry, whether by

inhospitable reception on arrival, by harassment and interrogation for hours, or by denying visas and entry to the USA. As it is our duty from the belly of the beast, Boston Coalition for Palestine is proud to be in solidarity with all who have been subjected to human rights abuses by the war regime in Washington DC.”

AFFC-organised actions at World Cup games throughout Canada, Mexico and the United States have been taking place daily since the tournament began, spreading the word globally that now is the time to target the USA – the source of the many wars being inflicted on the world’s working-class and oppressed peoples who are everywhere in heroic resistance to US imperialism.

Workers’ World (USA)

LETTERS

Keir Starmer has finally been forced to resign – brought down in no small part by his shameful support for Israel’s crimes. Whoever comes next must break with this moral bankruptcy, or they will face a similar fate.

Will you march to send a powerful message to the next Prime Minister?

Right now, it looks likely that Saturday 18th July will be the very day after Andy Burnham enters Downing Street. If not, it will be the start of a Labour leadership election that will choose a new Prime Minister.

The same weekend will mark two years since the International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruled Israel’s occupation to be unlawful. The ICJ called on other states – including Britain – to cease all aid or assistance to this grave violation of international law. Disgracefully, the British government has still not even issued a formal response. Instead, it allows the arms trade with Israel to continue as well as trade that facilitates Israel’s illegal settlements and other ongoing crimes against Palestinians.

Just this week, an independent UN inquiry confirmed that Israel continues its genocide through ‘deliberate targeting and killing of Palestinian children’ as part of a ‘strategy to destroy the future of the Palestinians in Gaza’.

We owe it to the Palestinian people to match their determination and keep up the pressure on the government no matter who

is in charge.

Starmer has been driven from office following disastrous elections last month. For millions of voters, Palestine was on the ballot when they went to the polls.

Tell the next Prime Minister – dump Starmer’s policy or suffer the same consequences. Join us at 12 noon on Saturday 18th July when we march for Palestine in London.

Peter Leary
Deputy Director
Palestine Solidarity Campaign
London

A significant event occurred recently in Shanghai that has received little coverage in the western media. At the Lujiazui financial conference, He Lifeng, Chinese Vice Premier with responsibility for his country’s entire financial system, took to the rostrum and delivered a strong warning to the USA, saying that what they are doing to China and others was unreasonable foreign suppression. He Lifeng said: “China is going to write anti-sanctions rules directly into its financial laws,” adding: “We don’t stir up trouble but we are absolutely not afraid of it.”

For the last 80 years the USA has dominated and controlled most of the world’s financial activity. In particular with the US Dollar accepted as the global reserve currency they have been able to impose their hegemony by threatening others and taking advantage of the currency’s position to run a permanent deficit sustained by selling treasury bonds. With the USA now starting to decline and seeing its position increasingly challenged it has reacted with threats, sanctions, trade wars and financial moves aimed at almost the entire world but especially China and the socialist countries. For the last 10 years the

moves against China have been unprecedented. The actions against Huawei and banning companies under the guise of being an alleged security risk have been outrageous.

Unlike in the past, China is now strong and feels able to resist US demands. Enough is enough. China is going to adopt a financial weapon that would make it illegal for any western country to comply with US sanctions against them. In a move that could be considered an historical turning point China has exposed the futility of American pressure. Others will be watching. A line has been drawn that changes everything.

John Maryon
Suffolk

The Four Day Week Foundation says that it wants a world where “we work to live, not live to work”.

They argue that a four day week would “rebalance the economy”. We have some people overworking. Others are unemployed or under-employed.

It would increase productivity. People would do more on the days they did work and do it better.

Plus it would strengthen communities. People would have more time to build relationships and local links.

And it would reduce the carbon footprint with less people driving to and from work for instance.

Surely this is a campaign socialists should support!

Alan Stewart
Wakefield

The President of the Awami Workers Party of Pakistan, Comrade Akhtar Hussain, has strongly condemned the detention of Afzal Shah Khamosh, Chairman of the Pakistan Mazdoor Kisan Party, after he was prevented from travelling abroad and subsequently taken into custody.

Akhtar Hussain said that the detention of a veteran progressive political leader without publicly disclosing the legal grounds or producing him before a court is a grave assault on democratic norms, constitutional rights, and the rule of law. Such actions deepen concerns about shrinking democratic space and the growing use of state power to suppress peaceful political dissent.

He said that Afzal Shah Khamosh has devoted his life to organising workers, peasants, students, and other oppressed sections of society through peaceful democratic struggle. Treating political disagreement as a security issue and resorting to arbitrary detention instead of respecting constitutional freedoms is unacceptable in any society that claims to uphold democracy.

The Awami Workers Party demands that the Government of Pakistan immediately disclose the legal basis for Afzal Shah Khamosh’s detention, ensure him unrestricted access to his family and legal counsel, and either produce him before a competent court in accordance with the Constitution and the law or release him immediately if there are no lawful grounds for his continued detention.

Akhtar Hussain further stated that the continued harassment, intimidation, and detention of political workers, trade unionists, journalists, and human rights defenders cannot extinguish the democratic aspirations of the people. History bears witness that repression has never succeeded in defeating struggles for democracy, social justice, and the rights of working people.

The Awami Workers Party stands in complete solidarity with Afzal Shah Khamosh, his family, and the Pakistan Mazdoor Ki-

continued on page 9...

Diary

Check the Stop the War Coalition and Palestine Solidarity Campaign websites for emergency Iran, Venezuela and Gaza protests across the country.

UNTIL 18 OCT

‘Comrades in Art: Artists Against Fascism’ exhibition, on the anti-fascist Artists International Association. The Towner Eastbourne, Devonshire Park, College Road, Eastbourne BN21 4JJ.

MON 6 JUL

Global Justice Now: Get Palantir out of the NHS. 18:30. Highbury Roundhouse Community Centre, 71 Ronalds Road, London N5 1UB.

TUES 7 JUL

Labour & Palestine: End UK complicity in Genocide: Sanction Israel. 18:30–20:00. Book on Eventbrite.

SAT 11 JUL

Durham Miners Association: Durham Miners’ Gala. Durham city centre DH1.

SAT 11 JUL

Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament: NATO in crisis: time to overcome the war machine. Online summit. 14:00–16:00. Book on CND website.

THUR 16 JUL

Marx Memorial Library: Discover the lives of Radical Women in Clerkenwell. 18:00. In person. 37a Clerkenwell Green, London EC1R 0DU.

FRI 17 JUL

Marx Memorial Library: Western Marxism & Postmodernism: A Dual Book Launch. 19:00. MML Hybrid.

FRI 17 JUL

Ipswich New Worker Group: Impressions of People’s China by Samuel Swale following his recent study tour. 19.30–21.30. Friends Meeting House, 39 Fonnereau Road, Ipswich IP1 3HJ.

FRI 17–SUN 19 JUL

Tolpuddle Martyrs Festival, Tolpuddle Martyrs Museum, Dorchester Road, Tolpuddle, Dorset DT2 7EH.

SAT 18 JUL

Prince Charles Cinema: *Man with a Movie Camera*. 1929 silent film with live score. 12:00. Prince Charles Cinema, 7 Leicester Place, London WC2H 7BY. Book on PCC website; PCC is showing other Soviet films in July.

SAT 18 JUL

Palestine Solidarity Campaign: National March for Palestine: Tell the new PM: End the genocide. 12:00. Central London. Check PSC website for location.

SAT 18 JUL

Korean Friendship Association: Meeting. TBC. Marchmont Community Centre, 62 Marchmont St, Kings Cross, London WC1N 1AB.

MON 20 JUL

Campaign Against the Arms Trade: Various protest events at Farnborough International Airshow. ETPS Road, Farnborough

GU14 6FD.

THUR 23 JUL

Palestine Solidarity Campaign: Protest at Elbit Systems. 11:00–13:00. Elbit Systems, 38 Bolingbroke Way, Bristol BS34 6FE.

THUR 30 JUL

General Federation of Trade Unions Educational Trust: Trico: The Longest Equal Pay Strike. 19:00. Online talk. Book on GFTUET website.

SUN 2 AUG

Caribbean Labour Solidarity: Sunday Zoom seminar. Subject TBA. 14:00. Register on SLS website.

THUR 6 AUG–SUN 9 AUG

Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament: Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings nationwide commemorations. See CND Events for details of local events.

SAT 5 SEPT

Society for Co-operation in Russian and Soviet Studies: Jim Jump on Soviet Policy and the Spanish Civil War. 14:00–15:00. SCRSS, 320 Brixton Road, London SW9 6AB.

SUN 6 SEPT

Caribbean Labour Solidarity: Sunday Zoom seminar. Subject TBA. 14:00. Register on SLS website.

SUN 6 SEPT

Burston strike school rally. Church Green, Burston, near Diss, Norfolk IP22 5TZ. Visit the NCP stall.

SAT 19 SEPT

Society for the Study of Labour History: Chartism Day 2026. Friends Meeting House, 39 High Street, Warwick CV34 4AX. Details from SSLH website.

30 SEP–21 NOV

Townsend Theatre Productions: Ribert Tressell’s *Ragged Trousered Philanthropists*. Touring play. See TTP website for venues and booking.

SUN 4 OCT

90th anniversary of the Battle of Cable Street, London. Details TBA.

SUN 4 OCT

Caribbean Labour Solidarity: Sunday Zoom seminar. Subject TBA. 14:00. Register on SLS website.

FRI 9 OCT

Unveiling of the Mandela statue. 16:00. Nelson Mandela Place, Glasgow G2 9 IYQ.

FRI 9–SUN 11 OCT

International Brigade Association: AGM weekend Glasgow. Various venues. Details TBA.

SAT 31 OCT

Marx Memorial Library: Book sale of second-hand books and pamphlets. 11:00–15:00. At MML.

The editor welcomes letters from our readers. If you have a contribution to make please make sure it reaches us before Wednesday.

You can send your letters to: PO Box 73, London SW11 2PQ, or email party@NCP.clara.net

**JOIN US!
For peace!
justice!
socialism!**

I would like to join the New Communist Party....
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Name.....

Address.....

postcode.....

phone.....
Send to NCP, PO Box 73, London SW11 2PQ.



...continued from page 8

san Party. We call upon all democratic political parties, trade unions, lawyers, human rights organisations, students and progressive forces to unite in defence of constitutional liberties, due process, and the democratic right to organise and dissent.

The immediate and unconditional release of Afzal Shah Khamosh is the need of the hour. Any harm to his life, health or liberty while in state custody will be the sole responsibility of the Government of Pakistan and the concerned authorities.

**Pervez Fateh
Awami Workers Party
Leeds**

The *New Worker*, a concentrated source of news and ideas, deserves support as a combat force against the war mania of the British government.

**Elijah Traven
Hull**

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Make your commitment to sustaining the New Worker in the struggle for peace and socialism
COMPLETE THE BANKER'S ORDER FORM BELOW:
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(in words) each month starting on.....

Signature.....

RETURN THIS FORM TO:

NCP Fund, PO Box 73, London SW11 2PQ.

Great to read Brandon Naidoo's article last week [NW:2254, 26 Jun 2026] on Soweto when the kids confronted the guns of apartheid. Could do with more resistance like that against the other fascist regimes around the world. Good riddance to Starmer and his ilk, Will miss you over the summer shutdown and have to rely on the other papers that try to emulate you with varying degrees of success. Enjoy your break.

**John Allan
Glasgow**

Make a donation to the New Worker (Pleckbond Ltd) today via your smartphone by scanning this QR code:



Scottish Political News

by our Scottish political affairs correspondent

Holyrood has gone on its holidays, or recess as they call it. The final day of business until September was marked by First Minister John Swinney swiftly declining to take up a suggestion by Reform's Malcolm Offord that some of the purchases made by Peter Murrell be acquired for national museums. Sadly, future generations will not be able to see the fountain pen used by Nicola Sturgeon in her resignation letter in Glasgow's People's Palace, nor will the two famed toilet seats go

to Perth to sit alongside the Stone of Destiny as suggested.

More seriously, the last hour of the session was used to sneak out the news that the SNP are backtracking on an urgently needed replacement for the Monklands Hospital in Lanarkshire, which is to be delayed yet again.

Health Secretary Angela Constance ordered the project to be redesigned. She said: "Proceeding in this cost envelope would significantly limit our ability to invest in services and infrastructure across the wider NHS." In other words, they can't afford it after the estimated cost rose from £1.3 billion since December to £2.1 billion. The original price tag was to be about £700 million, so the increase is not as bad as for the famous ferries. While Constance assures

us that this is a "reset and not a stop", others are not so convinced.

North Lanarkshire council leader Jim Logue, who said the decision was "in effect a complete cancellation", announced it is thinking about suing the SNP Government. He added that "legal challenges" from approved contractors who have about 300 workers on site undertaking predatory groundwork are likely. Already about £100 million has been spent on acquiring and reshaping the land.

During the election campaign it was hailed in the SNP manifesto as one of their major projects. An opening date of 2031 was announced. Just as with the timing of Murrell's trial, questions have been asked about the timing of this announcement.

A previous SNP Health Minister got into hot water because he wanted the new hospital to be built in his own constituency, rather than somewhere more convenient for the catchment area. A new hospital is urgently needed as the existing hospital is falling apart, and local demand for healthcare is very high due to the massive consumption of Buckfast in the locality.

Labour Pains

The Scottish Labour Party is holding a post-mortem into its defeat at the Holyrood elections that saw them sink to just 17 seats, level with Reform. This pattern of decline in vote and seat share in the Holyrood elections has been well established. Leader Anas Sarwar and his deputy Dame Jackie Baillie have promised a "big review" but it is unlikely to conclude or even suggest that their policies might be wrong.

As a result, other members have been chipping in with their penny-worths. One of these is former Central Scotland Labour-

Co-op MSP Monica Lennon – who has called for the review to ask "very searching questions" including breaking away from the UK party. Another unsuccessful candidate, Jack MacConnel, has launched a "Just For Scotland" campaign to do the same. Lennon said that "what we need to do within Scottish Labour is have more control over our own destiny". Presumably by that she means leaders who do not put her so down the regional list that she had no hope of re-election.

Lennon blamed the defeat on Starmer telling BBC Scotland that "anyone who knocked doors for Scottish Labour in the build up to that election campaign could not get beyond the UK Government's record". MacConnel (not to be confused with Jack McConnell, the former First Minister now Baron McConnell of Glenscorrodale) argues that the "election losses have previously prompted Scottish Labour to turn left, right, and round in circles. Regardless, we keep losing. The question is no longer whether Scottish Labour faces a crisis. It is whether we are willing to confront its causes."

Brian Wilson, a former MP who was a long-standing opponent of devolution and a minister in the Blair era, has lent weight to this argument, saying Scottish Labour should "act decisively" and "become an autonomous party which is not constantly bound by the constraints of dual identity".

MacConnel claims that his supporters come from the left and right of the party and looks to the SDLP in Northern Ireland as one model of a sister-party relationship with UK Labour, but says similar electoral pact arrangements, such as those in Quebec and Bavaria, could also be adopted. The Scottish Tories under another ennobled leader, Ruth Davidson, rejected going down a similar path.

FROM THE NEW COMMUNIST PARTY

- The Middle "Class"** by Neil Harris. £2 plus 50p p&p (New Worker reprint).
- The ruling class, fascism and the State** by Neil Harris. £2 plus 50p p&p (New Worker reprint).
- The poisoned well** (an insight into imperialist intelligence work). £2 plus 50p p&p (New Worker reprint).
- Communists and the united front** by Neil Harris. £2 plus 50p p&p. (New Worker reprint).
- New technology and the need for socialism** £2 plus 50p p&p.
- Communists in Britain today** £2 plus 50p p&p (New Worker reprint).
- Peoples's China in perspective** £2 plus 50p p&p (New Worker reprint).
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- All in the family** by Daphne Liddle. £1 plus 50p p&p (New Worker reprint).
- Arab nationalism and the communist movement** by Andy Brooks. £1 plus 50p p&p (New Worker reprint).
- Killing ourselves to live** by Daphne Liddle. £1 plus 50p p&p (New Worker reprint).
- The first 30 fighting years of the New Communist Party of Britain** £2 plus 50p p&p (New Worker reprint).

**NCP Lit. PO Box 73, London SW11 2PQ.
(cheques to New Worker)**

Defend People's Korea!

by
New Worker
correspondent

NCP leader Andy Brooks joined other comrades at a protest picket outside the American embassy in London last weekend. Braving the abnormally hot weather to show solidarity with People's Korea, the protesters were marking the 76th anniversary of the Korean war and demanded an end to the American occupation of south Korea.

The demonstration was called by the Korean Friendship Association (KFA), whose chairman, Dermot Hudson, said: "We are here today picketing the US embassy because a few days ago on Tuesday 25th of June, it was the 76th anniversary of the provocation of the Korean War which is known as the Fatherland Liberation War in the Dem-



ocratic People's Republic of Korea. The was not a war between Koreans but between a small country, the DPR Korea, and the American empire. Indeed it was a war against Korea,

against the Korean people. "Let's remember that the United States is not some wonderful land of 'freedom and democracy' – but the head of a giant corrupt empire that gave

you Jeffrey Epstein and has military bases in every corner of the globe."

A message of solidarity from KFA Germany was read out by KFA organisation secretary Alan Bolon,

which stated: "The US-imperialists threw 600 000 tons of bombs and napalm on the DPRK. 600 000 tons. Almost four times as much as on Japan during the Pacific war. An un-

imaginably high number. One ton is 1,000 kilograms. So the US-imperialists threw 600 million kilos of bombs and napalm bombs on Korea. Those bombs did not just hit military targets. These bombs destroyed over 50,000 industrial facilities, over 4,500 school buildings, almost 600 scientific facilities, over 8000 cultural and media facilities and over two million dwelling houses. That's a two with six zeros.

"But has there been any reparation? Any apology? No, to the contrary! The US imperialists still try to destroy the DPRK. Until this day the 'United Nations Command' troops, including soldiers from Germany and the United Kingdom, are stationed in south Korea... Until this day the US imperialists threaten the DPRK with aggressive military manoeuvres and try to economically destroy the DPRK with sanctions."

Boycott Barclays Bank!

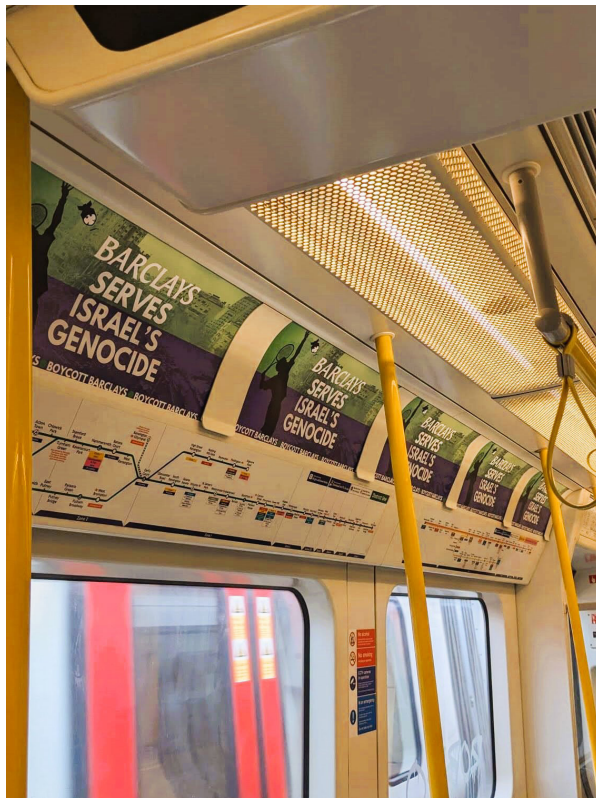
by New Worker
correspondent

Palestinian rights campaigners have plastered tube trains in London to make sure that tennis fans travelling to Wimbledon this week know the truth about Barclays, the tournament's sponsor. Campaign poster ads are going up across the London Underground faster than the authorities can take them down. And the message is 'Boycott Barclays'!

A number of British companies have seedy and nefarious financial ties with Zionist Israel. The ongoing genocide in Palestine has intensified calls for an immediate ceasefire

and sparked an international campaign supporting Palestinians in their fight against oppression. Campaigners have been raising awareness on the economic ties a vast number of UK institutions have with companies that are providing Israel with the military and technological equipment to facilitate its oppressive regime. Barclays is one of them.

Barclays Bank is bank-rolling Israel's genocide and apartheid against Palestinians. Barclays provides investment and loans worth more than eight billion pounds to arms companies supplying Israel with weapons used in its genocide in Gaza and military assaults across



the West Bank. Barclays took over Tesco Bank on 1st November 2024 so campaigners are calling on all Tesco Bank customers to shut their accounts as part of the boycott of Barclays.

The Boycott Barclays campaign began in 1969 when the bank was exposed as a major investor in racist, apartheid South Africa. In recent years the focus has been on the bank's colossal investments in Zionist Israel.

It works. Recently, data revealed that the bank has stopped underwriting Israeli government bonds under pressure from our boycott and protests.

We must continue our campaigning to force the bank to permanently and

publicly withdraw as a primary dealer of Israeli government bonds, and to divest from all companies arming Israel's genocide and apartheid against Palestinians.

The Boycott Barclays campaign want as many people as possible to close their account on a single day, to send a clear message to the bank that its complicity in Israeli apartheid has a cost – it will lose a sizeable number of its customers who stand with Palestine, and this will have a greater impact if it is on a single day.

So if you're still a Barclays or Tesco Bank customer, join the next mass account closure day on Thursday 30th July!

Show FIFA the Red Card!

by Nikos Mottas

For years, FIFA has insisted that football must remain free from politics. This principle has repeatedly been invoked to sanction supporters over banners and slogans, to warn players against political gestures and to remind national federations that the game must not become a platform for political expression. Yet this proclaimed commitment to keeping politics out of football has proved remarkably selective.

Apparently, politics becomes unacceptable only when it comes from supporters, players or broader social movements – not when it serves the interests of bourgeois governments, multinational monopoly groups and those who hold economic power.

Nothing has exposed this contradiction more clearly than the disgustingly servile conduct of FIFA President Gianni Infantino towards Donald Trump ahead of the 2026 World Cup. Infantino has gone well beyond the protocol expected of the head of an international sporting organisation. His repeated public appearances alongside Trump and his eagerness to cultivate this relationship reveal something far more significant than questionable personal judgment: they expose a FIFA leadership that no longer seeks merely to govern world football, but increasingly acts in deference to political power, imperialist influence and the interests of big capital.

If there were still any doubts about where FIFA's leadership stands, they were dispelled when Infantino chose to present Donald Trump with FIFA's so-called "Peace Prize". Few decisions could better illustrate the political and moral bankruptcy of

today's FIFA. Honouring a political figure whose record is marked by military escalation, unwavering support for Israel's devastating war on Gaza, the blackmailing and strangulation of the Cuban people, repeated threats of military force and the pursuit of imperialist interests across the globe is not merely an act of astonishing cynicism. It demonstrates how readily FIFA's leadership abandons its proclaimed principles whenever proximity to political and economic power is at stake.

Nor should this surprise anyone. Modern football has become one of the most profitable sectors of the global entertainment industry. Broadcasting rights, sponsorship agreements, betting companies, investment funds and multinational corporations generate enormous wealth, while the institutions governing

the sport have become deeply embedded in this commercial ecosystem. Under such conditions, it is hardly accidental that FIFA's leadership feels more at ease in the company of presidents, billionaires and corporate executives than among the millions of supporters whose passion has made football the world's most popular sport. Under Infantino, FIFA has increasingly behaved not as an independent sporting institution, but as a willing and servile partner of those who dominate the political and economic order.

The contradiction becomes even more striking when compared with FIFA's own rhetoric. Political messages from below – whether they concern social injustice, racism, war or workers' rights – are routinely treated as threats to the game's neutrality. Political messages from

above, however, are readily embraced whenever they reinforce commercial partnerships, enhance diplomatic prestige or strengthen relations with governments capable of advancing FIFA's economic interests. Neutrality, it seems, applies only to those without economic or political power.

The problem, however, extends well beyond Gianni Infantino himself. He did not transform football into a commodity; he presides over an institution that increasingly reflects the broader logic of capitalist development. As every sphere of social life is subordinated to the pursuit of profit, football has likewise been reshaped into a global marketplace. Stadiums become investment projects, clubs become financial assets, supporters are reduced to consumers and major tournaments are

increasingly treated as opportunities for commercial expansion.

The collective labour, creativity and emotional investment of millions generate immense wealth, but that wealth is concentrated in the hands of corporations, media conglomerates, sponsors and football bureaucracies.

It is therefore impossible to separate the commercialisation of football from the economic system within which it operates. The growing influence of multinational corporations over the game, the relentless search for new markets and the increasingly close relationship between football's governing bodies and political leaders are not unfortunate deviations from the ideals of sport. They are entirely consistent with a system in which profit inevitably takes precedence over social need.

Football remains one of the few cultural phenomena capable of bringing together millions of ordinary people across continents, languages and cultures. Precisely because of this extraordinary social influence, it has become an object of extraordinary political and commercial competition.

The closer FIFA aligns itself with governments and corporate power, the further it distances itself from those who have always been the true custodians of the game: the workers who built it, the supporters who sustain it, the local communities that keep it alive and the generations of young people for whom football has never been merely another commodity.

Red-carding FIFA therefore means much more than expressing indignation over the conduct of one FIFA president. It means rejecting the growing subordination of the world's most popular sport to the interests of political power and big capital. As long as football remains subordinated to the logic of profit, FIFA's leadership will continue to reward the powerful, accommodate imperialist interests and silence those who challenge them.

Obviously, that is not simply a failure of one president's character; it is the inevitable consequence of a system that has transformed the world's game into another profitable commodity. Defending football from this course is therefore not merely a matter of sporting ethics. It forms part of the broader struggle against the commercialisation of every sphere of social life and for a society in which human needs – not corporate profit and imperialist ambition – set the priorities.

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Cuba Does Not Abandon Venezuela

by Alejandra
García Elizalde

Venezuela was just beginning to recover from the wounds left by the 3rd January attack when a new tragedy struck the country once again. On that day, American bombs rocked Caracas and La Guaira, leaving more than a hundred dead. Among them were 32 Cuban fighters who lost their lives defending Venezuelan soil. Months later, while the nation was still seeking solace in its grief, the earthquakes of 24th June opened a new chapter of loss and uncertainty.

This time, it wasn't the explosions of an imperialist attack. It was nature. But the devastation felt all too familiar. Last Wednesday, Venezuela was rocked by a sequence of two major earthquakes, measuring 7.2 and 7.5 on the Richter scale, separated by just 39 seconds: the most powerful natural phenomenon recorded in the country in over a century.

More than 30 Cuban citizens remain missing or have been confirmed among the fatalities buried under the rubble. They are workers, young people, mothers, children – people who had made Venezuela their second home and who now form part of the shared grief between two peoples accustomed to resilience.

However, even as tons of concrete and dust were still being cleared away, Cuba made a decision that required no speeches: not to abandon Venezuela. On Sunday afternoon, the first contingent of Cuba's Special Search and Rescue Brigade landed. Along with the 13 specialists came



• Cuban medical team arrives in Caracas.

Tito, Eva and Choco – three dogs trained to find life where silence seemed to have won the battle.

They arrived with their backpacks, their equipment and the weariness of a country that is also going through one of the most difficult periods in its history. In Cuba, power outages, material shortages and constant uncertainty in the face of new military threats from the USA continue. “Cuba is next” President Trump has said bluntly, more than once. Even so, they crossed the sea to come and save lives.

They were welcomed by the Cuban ambassador, Jorge Luis Mayo, with a long embrace. That gesture seemed to encapsulate the relief, concern and pride of Cubans living in Venezuela who feel this tragedy as if it had also occurred in their own neighbourhoods.

There was no time to rest. As soon as they arrived, the Cuban rescue

teams joined the search efforts, while the Cuban Medical Brigade here remained where it had never left: in hospitals and health centres responding to an unprecedented emergency. There, alongside Venezuelan doctors and professionals from around the world, they are sustaining a healthcare system that today bears the weight of thousands of injured people.

Amid so much pain, small moments began to emerge that restored hope. In recent hours, videos of members of the Cuban brigade participating in rescues amid the rubble have gone viral. One of them was captured forever on film.

A young man was found alive in La Guaira nearly 120 hours after the twin earthquakes. As rescuers made their way through the shattered concrete, a paramedic ran alongside the stretcher.

“Make way! We're here with you!” she shouted as they moved toward the ambulance. It wasn't just an order to clear the path. It was a certainty.

Just as he was about to get into the vehicle, while she gently adjusted the young man's shirt to preserve his dignity, she spoke to him again in a soft voice that stood in stark contrast to the chaos surrounding her: “You're not alone. We're not going to leave you alone.”

Amid sirens, dust and people running, those words seemed directed at an entire country as well. In the wake of the tragedy, there are still people willing to stay; there are still hands sifting through the rubble, dogs sniffing out hope, doctors who refuse to abandon their posts, and a people willing to stand by another people in their darkest hour; not giving up hope that more will be found alive.

Many stories are circulating these days about

Cuban healthcare workers providing services to the poor people of Venezuela, who are now playing a leading role in caring for those affected by the earthquakes.

Yamila Coba Rondón, an intensive care nurse, was working her shift on the afternoon of 24th June when strong tremors shook Caracas and six other states in the country.

We were providing our usual services and also assisted the entire affected population who flocked to the diagnostic centre that day she said. Off-duty medical personnel immediately joined the effort and “together we got the job done” triaging every patient as needed together with the centre's Venezuelan staff.

“Cubans and Venezuelans worked together all night and we're still doing so.” The most common conditions seen during those first anxious hours

were patients with seizures, multiple traumas, hypertension, asthma attacks and panic attacks. The Cuban nurse, with over 30 years of service, emphasised that children who should have been treated at the nearby paediatric clinic also arrived, but due to a power outage they had to take them in and provide them with the necessary care. “We treated all the children, from the paediatric level up, and the others who arrived at the Diagnostic Centre,” she said.

In a message to her family, friends, colleagues and the people of Cuba, who remain anxiously awaiting news of the tragedy unfolding in Venezuela, Yamila said: “We came here to serve, and for that, much more, and whatever is needed, because we are well-trained.”

Solidarity makes no noise. It doesn't always make the headlines. It doesn't change the course of an earthquake. But it changes the way people navigate the darkness. And while Venezuela continues to hope for more miracles amid the ruins, Cuba once again steps up, just as it has so many times before.

Radio Havana Cuba

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