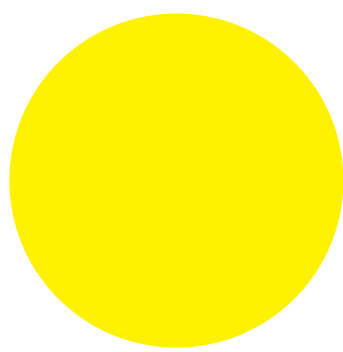


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Iran Daily

Vol. 7683 • Monday, October 28, 2024 • Aban 7, 1403 • Rabi' al-Thani 24, 1446 • 100,000 rials • 8 pages



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Leader of Iran's
Islamic Revolution
Ayatollah Seyed Ali
Khamenei addresses
a group of people
in Tehran, Iran, on
October 27, 2024.
● khamenei.ir

Israel's defense-offense myth shattered by Iran



By **Mohammad
Ali Senobari**
Director of New
Vision

**SPECIAL ISSUE
EXCLUSIVE**

Since World War II, no country has achieved undisputed dominance in both offensive and defensive military capabilities. The post-war era has been marked by a constantly shifting balance of power, with countries enhancing their military capabilities in specific areas while facing new threats that challenge traditional superiority. In this complex geopolitical landscape, one country stands out for its formidable defensive capabilities and strategic offensive maneuvers: Iran. Ironically, it is Iran's most vocal adversary, the Zionist entity, that has inadvertently highlighted the depth and precision of Iran's military prowess.

Iran's ascent as a military power with significant strategic influence in the Middle East has been a gradual, systematic process, shaped by decades of international pressure, regional conflicts, and evolving

Since World War II, no country has achieved undisputed dominance in both offensive and defensive

military threats. At the heart of this power dynamic are two distinct yet interconnected dimensions of Iran's capabilities: advanced missile technology and sophisticated drone warfare. Iran's advancements are beginning to reshape the dynamics of Middle Eastern politics, extending beyond its borders and influencing global political equations.

New era in Iranian military strategy

Iran's "True Promise" operations marked a pivotal milestone in its military strategy, showcasing its readiness to respond forcefully to perceived threats to its sovereignty. These operations against the Zionist entity demonstrated a striking combination of missile and drone technologies that few had anticipated. In the first "True Promise" operation, the coordination was so well-executed that it appeared more like a large-scale military parade than an offensive operation, underscoring Iran's clout in its domestic defense industry, an industry that has achieved major breakthroughs in missile and drone technology despite years of sanctions.

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Promising steps toward new records in oil exports

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Iran's small power plants set new record in electricity output



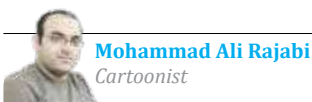
Economy Desk

The head of Iran's state electricity company Tavanir announced that small-scale power plants set a record in electricity generation this summer. Mostafa Rajabi Mashhadi said on Sunday during a meeting on the fourth day of the 24th International Electricity Exhibition, "The statistics indicate that small-scale power plants have produced over 1,300 megawatts of electricity this summer, registering a new record," IRNA reported.

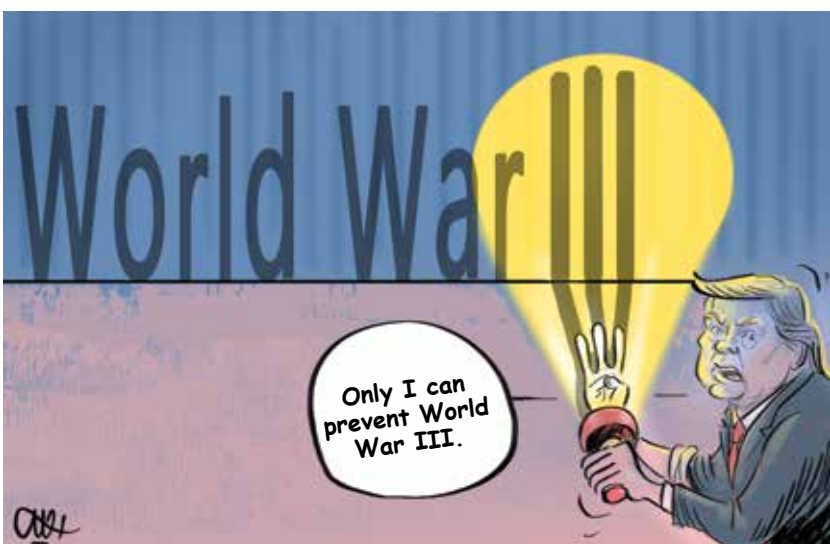
Rajabi Mashhadi emphasized the importance of creating new opportunities for small-scale power plants, saying, "We request that the capacity of these power plants be increased for next summer."

"Our goal for next year is to supply more electricity to the country's productive sector," he added. Rajabi Mashhadi noted that the average efficiency of small-scale power plants is 2-3% higher than that of thermal power plants, stating, "Since these power plants are located near consumption centers, they experience lower transmission losses."

He stressed the need to activate the heat recovery systems of small-scale power plants to address the issue of heat waste, saying, "Activating this system can increase the efficiency of small-scale power plants to over 75%, while also reducing fuel consumption significantly. This is a national issue that will benefit the country."



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Non-oil trade with neighbors hits \$41b in seven months: **IRICA**

Trade with OIC countries sees significant growth

Economy Desk

In the first seven months of the current Iranian year, the country's non-oil trade with neighboring countries reached 64.5 million tons, valued at \$41 billion, marking a 16% growth, as announced by the head of Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA). Mohammad Rezvanifar, the deputy minister of Economy, also stated that, according to Iran's customs data, the country's exports to member states of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) exceeded \$20 billion in the same period, which began on March 20, ISNA reported.

He noted that the highest value of trade exchanges with neighboring countries was with the United Arab Emirates, Turkey, Iraq, Pakistan, and the Russian Federation. Specifically, in the first seven months of the current year, the value of trade exchanges with these countries was as follows: \$16.2 billion with the UAE, \$9.9 billion with Turkey, \$7.6 billion with Iraq, \$1.6 billion with Pakistan, and \$1.5 billion with Russia.

\$20b in exports, \$13b in imports

Regarding the volume and

value of exports and imports with neighboring countries, Rezvanifar said that, out of the total non-oil trade with neighboring countries in the first seven months of the current year, 51.1 million tons, valued at \$20.2 billion, accounted for exports to these countries, while 13.4 million tons, valued at \$20.9 billion, constituted imports from these countries.

The head of Iran's Customs Administration pointed out that Iraq, the UAE, Turkey, Afghanistan, and Pakistan were the top five destinations for Iran's exports to neighboring countries.

He pointed to the top five countries of origin for imports to Iran during the first seven months of the current year, which were the UAE, Turkey, Russia, Oman, and Pakistan.

Trade with OIC

According to the Iranian Customs Administration, in the first seven months of the current year, Iran's exports to member states of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) also reached 50.6 million tons, valued at \$20.364 billion, marking a 15% increase in terms of weight and a 22% increase in terms of value compared to the same period last year.



Meanwhile, Iran's imports from OIC member states in the first seven months of the current year stood at 12.4 million tons, valued at \$20.356 billion, showing a 14% increase in terms of weight and a 21% increase in terms of value compared to the same period last year. As a result, the total trade exchanges between Iran and these countries in the first seven months of the current year reached 63 million tons and \$40.7 billion.

lion. The OIC is an international organization with 57 member states, founded in September 1969 in Morocco.

10% growth in exports to West Asia

Meanwhile, the Director General of the West Asia Office at the Iran Trade Development Organization announced a 10% increase in exports to West Asian countries in the first half of the current year. According to a report by

IRNA, Abdulmir Rabihavi said on Sunday that Iran's exports to West Asian countries in the first six months of the current year reached \$12 billion, adding that the country's exports in this period experienced a 10% growth in terms of value compared to the same period last year.

He noted that among West Asian countries, Jordan saw the highest growth, with exports increasing from \$2 million to over \$13 million. Rabihavi further explained

that following Jordan, the countries with the highest growth in Iranian exports were Lebanon (from \$9 million to \$18 million), Bahrain (from \$4 million to \$6 million), Kuwait (from \$87 million to \$114 million), Oman (from \$638 million to \$782 million), Iraq (from \$4.554 billion to \$5.196 billion), the UAE (from \$3.028 billion to \$3.399 billion), and Qatar (from \$58 million to \$64 million), with these countries experiencing 89%, 46%, 31%, 23%, 14%, 12%, and 12% growth in exports, respectively.

Unlocking new markets:

MP calls for greater efforts to boost Iran pistachio exports



By Sadeq Dehqan
Staff writer

INTERVIEW

Iran has economic advisors in over 30 countries worldwide whose potential should be utilized to develop new export markets for various products, including pistachios, an Iranian parliamentarian said. In an interview with Iran Daily, Shahbaz Hassanpour, the representative of Kerman in

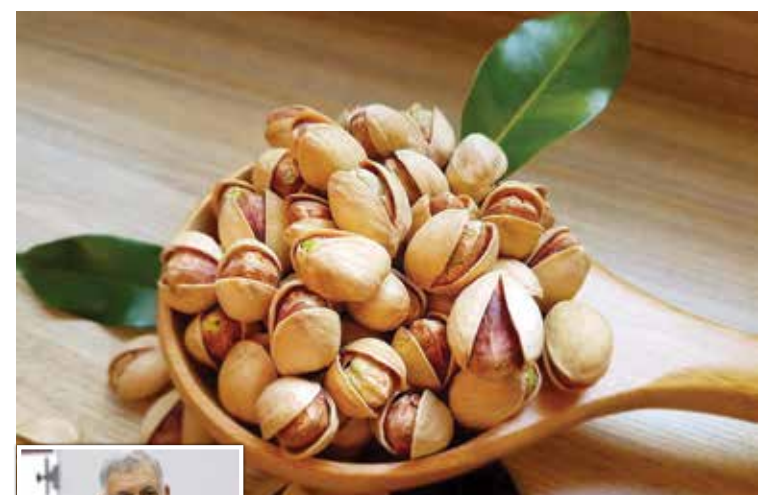
the Iranian Parliament, emphasized the necessity for Iran's economic advisors in foreign embassies to identify and cultivate new export markets for pistachios. He added, "it's high time we leveraged their expertise to explore new export markets for a range of products, with pistachios being a prime example." Hassanpour noted, "Although our economic advisors abroad are already taking steps to boost exports, they need to be more pro-

active and facilitate interactions between foreign traders and domestic merchants and manufacturers, while introducing Iranian products to foreign customers."

Referring to the foreign policy approaches of President Masoud Pezeshkian's government, Hassanpour stated, "Given that Mr. Pezeshkian's administration has made national unity and engagement with the world its top priority, we should seize this opportunity to maximize cooperation with other countries in economic and trade relations." Hassanpour highlighted the situation of the pistachio market in Iran, stating, "Although it is a high-quality product with a robust global reputation and a dedicated customer base worldwide, the pistachio market in Iran is far from ideal, primarily due to some imprudent decisions made by government bodies and relevant ministries." He criticized the decision to require merchants to surrender their foreign exchange commitments to the Central Bank of Iran, calling it a misguided

policy that has backfired on Iran's pistachio export market. "This ill-conceived move has, in effect, imposed a self-imposed restriction on pistachio exports and other agricultural products, dealing a significant blow to our export market," he lamented.

The MP also said, "Many farmers and gardeners in Kerman and other regions of the country depend on pistachio production for their livelihood. However, according to the Central Bank, the foreign exchange earned from pistachio exports must be calculated at the lower official exchange rate, while pistachio producers are forced to pay for essential items like pesticides, fertilizers, and other living expenses at the higher free market rate." He added, "The Parliament is working to reduce such self-imposed restrictions by collaborating with the Ministry of Economy and the Governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI). The government and authorities should strive to not only preserve the export markets that have taken years to es-



establish but also explore new target markets." Referring to the pistachio production status in the country, he explained, "Pistachio harvesting begins in mid-August and concludes by the end of September." According to him, the majority of pistachio harvesting takes place in Kerman Province, while the rest is carried out in other provinces such as Khorasan Razavi, North Khorasan, South Khorasan, Semnan, Yazd, Sistan and Baluchestan, Fars, Markazi, Qom, Qazvin, and Tehran." Hassanpour noted

that in recent years, pistachio production in the country has typically hovered around 200,000 tons, saying, "Droughts and frost have taken a toll on pistachio production in the country over the past few years, resulting in a decrease in the yield from orchards." "Iran has vast potential for developing pistachio orchards and increasing production, but the main problem our farmers face is water scarcity," the parliamentarian said, adding that, "Given that water scarcity is on the rise in Iran, during some months of the year, farmers are forced to deal with water and power shortages due

to the heat, and are left with no choice but to shut down their water pumps, which in turn affects the trees and ultimately leads to a decrease in production." Hassanpour stated, "As pistachios are among the country's most vital non-oil export products and significantly contribute to Iran's foreign trade, the government and authorities must support pistachio farmers and producers, acknowledging the product's importance in exports. The government's agricultural and economic team, consisting of relevant ministers, should implement measures to facilitate the export of pistachios."

Discovering Iran's charm through its railway stations

Iranica Desk

Iran, with its rich history and natural diversity, is an attractive destination for travelers and tourists. One of the best and most appealing ways to explore this country is by train. The railway stations in Iran serve not only as transportation hubs but also as significant parts of the history and culture of this land. This article introduces the best train stations in Iran, each providing a memorable experience for travelers with its unique features.

Tehran

Tehran Railway Station, built in 1933, is among the most important and busiest stations in the country. With its unique architecture and modern design, it serves as an excellent starting point for journeys to various parts of Iran. The diverse services provided at this station, including restaurants and shops, enhance the travel experience. As the main hub for rail transportation, the station facilitates access to all parts of the country, making it a bustling location. Amenities include comfortable waiting areas and various dining options, ensuring a convenient experience for travelers, IRNA wrote.

Mashhad

Mashhad Railway Station, which provides access to the holy shrine of Imam Reza (PBUH) and other tourist attractions, is a popular destination for pilgrims and tourists. Built in 1962, it is recognized as one of the largest and busiest stations in Iran. The beautiful architecture and amenities at this station make for a pleasant travel experience. Mashhad Station also offers convenient services such as private taxis and public transport, enabling easy access to the holy shrine and other city attractions. Consequently, Mashhad Station is not merely a transit point; it serves as a key location for experiencing the cultural and religious aspects of Iran.

Yazd

Yazd Railway Station, featuring traditional and attractive architecture, immerses travelers in the history of this city. Established in 1927, this station beautifully showcases Yazd's rich heritage. Travelers can enjoy various services such as cafés and local shops at the station. As one of the earthen and windward cities of Iran, Yazd is home to attractions such as the Dowlat Abad Garden and the historical Varzaneh Complex, both easily reachable by train. Visiting this station and its surroundings offers insight into the rich culture and local life of the Yazdis.

Tabriz

Tabriz Railway Station is recognized as one of the modern and beautiful stations in Iran. Built in 1933, it provides access to important tourist attractions in Tabriz, including the historic bazaar and the Blue Mosque, making it an excellent starting point for exploring Azerbaijani culture. The Tabriz Bazaar, known as one of the largest covered markets in the world, is conveniently located near this station, allowing easy visits for tourists. Furthermore, the station is well connected to the public transport network, ensuring quick and convenient transportation for travelers.

Bisheh

Bisheh Railway Station, situated in the heart of the Zagros Mountain forests, is a unique destination for photography enthusiasts and nature lovers. Established in 1965, it attracts tourists due to its pristine

natural beauty and tranquility. The surrounding hiking and nature exploration paths offer opportunities to experience local life and the region's extraordinary landscapes. Bisheh Station is also significant as a gateway for journeys to nearby mountainous and scenic areas

Kerman

Kerman Railway Station, built in 1961, is another beautiful and historical station in Iran. With access to historical attractions such as the Shahzadeh Garden and the Bam Citadel, this station provides an excellent starting point for adventures in the region. Kerman, known as one of Iran's ancient and cultural cities, offers unique experiences through its tourist sites. The station also boasts good amenities that meet passenger expectations.

Isfahan

Isfahan Railway Station is renowned as one of the most beautiful railway stations in Iran. Its distinctive architecture and proximity to historical attractions like the Si-o-se-pol (33 Bridges) and Naqsh-e Jahan Square make it a compelling destination for travelers. Known for its rich culture and art, Isfahan's railway station, built in 1971, serves as an entry point to explore the city. The station includes facilities such as local restaurants and souvenir shops, offering delightful experiences for visitors.

Semnan

Semnan Railway Station is recognized as one of the modern and well-equipped stations in the country. With access to the natural and historical attractions of Semnan, this station serves as an excellent starting point for exploring the desert plains and other natural wonders of the region. Semnan, characterized by its stunning desert and mountainous landscapes, presents exciting locations for tourists. Built in 1991, Semnan Railway Station is an ideal hub for traveling to these areas thanks to its strong rail connections and regular travel schedules.

Zanjan

Zanjan Railway Station, with its traditional and historical architecture, provides access to attractions such as the Soltanieh Dome. Built in 1932, this station is a significant site for discovering the history and culture of the city. Zanjan, famous for its handicrafts like Zanjani knives and hand-woven carpets, is an attractive destination for purchasing unique souvenirs and experiencing local culture.

Kashan

Kashan Railway Station, alongside the beauty of this historic city, serves as a key location from which travelers can visit the Fin Garden and other tourist attractions. Known for its historic houses, beautiful gardens, and historical artifacts, Kashan offers a rich travel experience. This station, established in 1968, is an excellent choice for travelers due to its proximity to various attractions.

Traveling by train in Iran is a unique experience that offers a special glimpse into the country's beauty. Railway stations, renowned for their architectural elegance and proximity to historical and natural attractions, play a pivotal role in attracting tourists. These stations are more than just transit points; they are integral to Iran's rich culture and history, deserving of every traveler's attention. By visiting these stations, you can truly savor the essence of travel in Iran and revel in the beauty of this land.



Tehran Railway Station



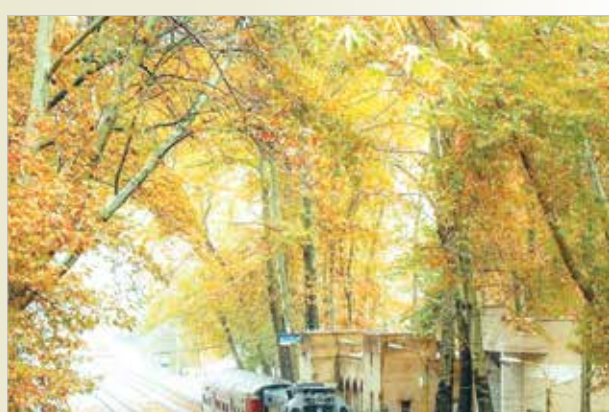
Mashhad Railway Station



Yazd Railway Station



Tabriz Railway Station



Bisheh Railway Station



Kerman Railway Station



Isfahan Railway Station



Semnan Railway Station



Zanjan Railway Station



Kashan Railway Station

Promising steps toward new records in oil exports

Western sanctions on Iran's oil industry lost steam

Economy Desk

PERSPECTIVE

Iran's oil barrels are poised to regain their former glory, as the Oil Ministry under the current government takes steps to revive the country's energy exports. Gone are the days when sanctions posed a menacing threat to the growth of oil production, exports, and development activities. Iran is now steadily and resolutely moving forward on a path that has become a model for sanctioned countries to maximize their opportunities, particularly in the oil industry, as exemplified by Russia, which immediately followed in Iran's footsteps after being sanctioned.

One can confidently say that the sting of oil sanctions has lost its bite, and the 14th government is determined to leverage Iran's vast hydrocarbon reserves to achieve better records for the oil industry and tap into the full potential of its oil barrels. In today's global and regional context, Iran's robust return to the world markets and its regained position in the oil market is an economic, political, and security imperative. This seems to be a top priority for the Oil Ministry.

Ups and downs of oil sales

Looking back at the onset of the latest sanctions and the new era of restrictions on Iran's oil industry, the dominant narrative was the use of oil as a political tool to pressure the country. The ruthless and unilateral sanctions introduced a new wave of restrictions, making the situation even more dire for the Iranian oil industry. The primary goal of these sanctions was to cripple the industry entirely.

We still remember the words of US officials who fantasized about reducing Iran's oil exports to zero - a dream that never came true. During the second round of US sanctions, Iran's oil industry, banking transactions, shipping, insurance services, and energy sector were all targeted. Although the US granted waivers to major buyers of Iranian oil at various intervals, its ultimate goal was to eventually revoke all waivers, forcing buyers to find new suppliers, and ultimately bringing Iran's oil exports to zero. This goal remains unfulfilled, and the repeated failures have led to the imposition of new sanctions.

It is undeniable that the US's dream of completely zeroing out Iran's oil exports did not materialize. However, it is clear that effective management in this sector involves making the right decisions in tough times. The Oil Ministry plans to adopt a more transparent approach to oil sales, refining, and other activities, aiming to turn this into a win-win situation that benefits the economy. As the First Vice President Mohammad-Reza Aref said, "In the past, there have been fluctuations in oil and gas revenues. Now, the country can choose its strategic customers. Perhaps in the past,



IRNA

we used non-transparent channels to sell oil, which we need to clarify. On the other hand, the ministry should review and operationalize the sale of petroleum products to stable customers who can be relied upon." There is no doubt that the current state of oil sales requires repair."

According to Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad, the need to improve exports and prioritize them in the ministry's programs is more pressing than ever."

Oil Ministry's plans

As outlined by Paknejad, the ministry's program, which is based on the country's upstream documents, including the permanent provisions of the country's development plans, the general policies of the system in the oil and gas sector, the policies of the Resistance Economy, and the enacted laws and regulations, including the Seventh Development Plan and the laws and regulations governing the Oil Ministry's duties and authorities, has allocated a significant portion to the production and export of crude oil, with the aim of restoring the power of Iranian oil barrels.

Defying threats

Iran possesses 159 billion barrels of oil reserves and 182 billion barrels of gas reserves, making it the country with the largest hydrocarbon reserves in the world, with a total of 431 billion barrels of oil equivalent. The Oil Ministry is determined to break through the intensified restrictions and limitations imposed on the oil industry following the unilateral withdrawal of the United States from the JCPOA.

The ministry's program addresses the international limitations and intensification of these restrictions, citing the

country's upstream documents and the general policies of the Resistance Economy, which highlight the need to counter the vulnerability of oil and gas export revenues by selecting strategic customers, diversifying sales methods, and involving the private sector in sales. The program also emphasizes the importance of maintaining and developing oil and gas production capacities, particularly in joint fields. The program also recalls the oil industry's vision outlined in the country's development plan, which aims to restore Iran's position as the second-largest oil producer in OPEC. Based on these principles, the ministry's program emphasizes the need to increase oil exports through cooperation with target countries, including neighboring countries. The National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) is tasked with pursuing this goal, in addition to expanding diplomacy and cooperation with target countries, attracting investment for the development of oil and gas fields, and increasing oil and petroleum product exports.

To achieve this, the NIOC plans to continue and expand cooperation with traditional and current customers of oil and petroleum products, including negotiating with countries that possess refineries, offering diverse packages to them, and utilizing the capacities of private companies and other government agencies to increase exports.

Minister's speech

In a speech in the Iranian Parliament, Paknejad emphasized the importance of increasing production, exports, and diplomacy. He noted that Iran, as one of the largest holders of oil and gas reserves in the world, can become a hub for many of its eastern, western, and southern neighbors, and therefore, it is essential for the country to regain its position in OPEC. Despite the fluctuations in Iran's oil exports in recent decades due to the sanctions and infrastructure problems, the country has not been able to fully utilize its potential in the global oil market.

Upgrade in oil ranking

Iran is currently the third-largest oil producer in OPEC. According to the latest report published by OPEC in August, after Saudi Arabia, which produced 8.983 million barrels per day, and Iraq, which produced 4.228 million barrels per day, Iran maintained its position as the third-largest producer with a daily production of 3.277 million barrels. According to this report, the production of seven member countries of OPEC has increased during the period under review, with the largest increase in production being 57,000 barrels

per day, belonging to Nigeria. Iran, Venezuela, and Libya are exempt from the agreement to reduce production by the OPEC+ coalition. The important point is that Iran has increased its exports in recent years, despite the ongoing US sanctions, and this figure has reached its highest level since 2018, which can be hoped to upgrade its ranking.

Role of private sector

The Oil Ministry's program emphasizes the need to increase the participation of the private sector in the oil industry, particularly in the sale of oil. The program highlights the importance of diversifying sales methods and involving the private sector in the sale of oil.

Major opportunity for Iran

The global oil market is expected to grow in the coming years, with OPEC predicting that the world will need 18 million barrels of oil per day by 2050. This presents a major opportunity for Iran to increase its oil production and exports, and to regain its position as a major player in the global oil market.

From development plans to exports

Oil exports are a crucial source of revenue for Iran, and the Oil Ministry's plan to increase oil production and exports is expected to have a significant impact on the country's economy. The plan also aims to reduce the country's dependence on oil exports and to diversify its economy. The oil minister has emphasized the importance of increasing oil production and exports, and has outlined several strategies to achieve this goal. He has also highlighted the need to involve the private sector in the oil industry and to diversify sales methods. The ministry's plan to increase oil production and exports is a major opportunity for Iran to regain its position as a major player in the global oil market. The plan aims to increase oil production to over 4 million barrels per day by 2029 and to reduce the country's dependence on oil exports. The involvement of the private sector in the oil industry and the diversification of sales methods are also key components of the plan.

In his program, the minister has announced that the growth of sales and exports requires the revival of Iran's crude oil production, which averaged 3 million and 826 thousand barrels per day after the JCPOA and before the re-imposition of international sanctions in 2018. Currently, despite the gradual removal of export barriers and the possibility of maximum production from oil fields, the trend is still declining.

The full article was initially published by SHANA, the Persian-language news agency of the Iranian Oil Ministry.



Clean energy, saving measures key to gasoline crisis



By Sadeq Dehqan
Staff writer

INTERVIEW

Iran has long struggled with excessive and unregulated fuel consumption, especially gasoline, which is further complicated by an illogical pricing system. In the early days of President Masoud Pezeshkian's administration in this August, government officials proposed plans to reform fuel consumption and pricing, igniting widespread discussion.

However, experts contend that rising gasoline prices, considering the high fuel consumption of domestic vehicles, would not benefit citizens and vehicle owners, as it would impose economic pressure on the general public.

Experience has demonstrated that an increase in gasoline prices creates a ripple effect on the overall pricing of goods in Iran.

Consumption higher than standards

In an interview with Iran Daily, Ramazanali Sangdovini, a member of the Iranian Parliament Committee on Energy, discussed the government's perspective on fuel consumption reform. He stated, "One reason the government is focusing on gasoline consumption is that, despite our high production capacity, we still need to import gasoline due to our excessive consumption."

According to Sangdovini, "Daily gasoline consumption is approximately 120 to 140 million liters, which is an excessive amount and does not align with global standards. Despite our efforts to increase production, we still face a fuel shortage."

He added, "This high fuel consumption is not unfounded. Many vehicles used in Iran, mostly produced by domestic automakers, consume a significant amount of fuel. On average, these vehicles consume between 10 to 15 liters of fuel per 100 kilometers. We need to revamp our automotive industry and phase out vehicles with such high fuel consumption, which is currently around 15 liters per 100 kilometers."

Sangdovini noted, "Considering that half of Iran's population owns a vehicle, and some individuals own multiple vehicles, this has driven up gasoline consumption in the country."

No alternative to optimizing energy consumption

According to a report from the Parliament's Research Center, Iran's gasoline consumption has surged by 265% over the past 30 years. In contrast, countries such as Turkey, Germany, and France have seen a decline in gasoline consumption during the same period and have successfully managed to control their usage. In Europe, this has even resulted in the closure of several refineries.



IRNA

Sangdovini stated, "The government must find a solution to optimize gasoline consumption in the country, which is also a priority in the Seventh Development Plan."

Alternative fuels to gasoline

According to the Research Center's statistics, the average fuel consumption of vehicles in Iran is nearly three times the global standard. While domestic vehicles should consume 4 liters of gasoline per 100 kilometers, they currently consume 10 to 12 liters. Therefore, if the high fuel consumption of domestic vehicles is addressed and citizens have the option to choose between fuel-efficient and fuel-inefficient vehicles, it's possible that there will be no need for gasoline imports and high currency expenditure in this area.

Many countries are currently decreasing the production and use of gasoline-powered vehicles to align with environmental goals while promoting hybrid and electric vehicles instead. Although the production and importation of electric vehicles in Iran remain in their infancy, utilizing fuel-efficient vehicles and alternative fuels can aid in reducing gasoline consumption in the country.

In an interview with Iran Daily, Reza Sepahvand, another member of the Energy Committee discussed the country's gasoline consumption. He explained, "According to the latest report on gasoline imports (from September this year), the country's gasoline imports

have reached 4.5 million liters per day, which is a high figure and results in significant currency outflow."

Sepahvand emphasized that gasoline consumption in the country must be optimized, stating, "On the other hand, we need to incorporate alternative fuels like LPG (Liquefied Petroleum Gas), and CNG (Compressed natural gas) into the country's fuel cycle and use them to meet our fuel needs."

He added that by expanding the use of LPG to meet the country's fuel needs, Iran's need for gasoline imports will be completely eliminated, and we can even become a gasoline exporter to other countries.

Sepahvand highlighted the benefits of LPG consumption, saying, "LPG is a clean fuel with very low pollution levels, and increasing its consumption in vehicles and other sectors can help reduce air pollution in the country's major cities."

Iran's gasoline among cheapest in world

One of the reasons why fuel price reform is being considered is the low price of gasoline in Iran. Global statistics and comparisons of gasoline prices in Iran and other countries indicate that Iran offers the lowest-priced gasoline in the world, with the price of one liter of gasoline in neighboring countries sometimes reaching up to 40 times the price of this product in Iran.

For example, the price of gasoline in Saudi Arabia, the largest oil producer in the world, is around 20 times higher than in Iran. However, it's worth noting that the price of gasoline should be calculated in proportion to the average income of the middle class in each country. In Iran, the gov-

ernment has been trying to control the price of gasoline to prevent economic pressure on the population.

For several years, the government has been implementing a strategy to keep gasoline prices below their actual value by introducing a rationing system and setting a dual pricing mechanism for gasoline, comprising a subsidized and a free-market rate. While the rationing of gasoline and the dual-pricing system have been measures aimed at supporting consumers, they have also had negative consequences, including an increase in fuel smuggling.

As of October 2023, gasoline prices in Iran are subsidized and remain relatively low compared to global prices. The government, which controls one of the world's largest oil and gas reserves, sells gasoline at extremely low, subsidized prices, charging less than 10 US cents per gallon, or about 15,000 rials (less than 3 cents) per liter, while neighboring oil-producers have much higher prices, in line with international market rates. Second only to Venezuela, Iran has the world's cheapest gasoline price.

Under a plan announced in 2023, about 70% of citizens can receive 30 liters of gasoline per refueling session in small towns and 40 liters in large cities.

It has been approximately five years since the last price adjustment, during which time inflation has risen and the prices of other goods have increased, but the price of gasoline in Iran has remained constant. According to experts, the stagnation of gasoline prices, despite the increase in prices of other goods, and the significant price differential with neighboring countries, has contributed to the rise in



Ramazanali Sangdovini



Reza Sepahvand

gasoline smuggling in the country. "Instead of increasing the price of gasoline, we should focus on finding alternatives to fuel or improving fuel efficiency in vehicles. However, we also need to find a solution to the current dual-pricing system for gasoline to prevent smuggling. In reality, we should continue to provide subsidized gasoline to citizens at the current price, but find a solution for the portion of gasoline that is sold as free-market gasoline at gas stations, which is smuggled out of the country in large quantities," Sepahvand said.

He added, currently, free-market gasoline is being smuggled into Pakistan and Afghanistan. In my opinion, this portion of gasoline should be sold at the FOB (Free On Board) price of the Persian Gulf, which currently exceeds 55 cents per liter.

FOB is a commercial term that refers to the price of a product at the point of delivery to the ship. It is the lowest price of a product and is not exclusive to the Persian Gulf, but is also used in many international trade ports around the world.

Sepahvand continued, "In addition, we should import fuel-efficient vehicles or modify our domestic car production lines to produce fuel-efficient vehicles, so that the issue of gasoline can be gradually resolved. In my opinion, the issue of fuel and gasoline can be easily resolved without the need for sudden price increases, as long as the government allocates a year for these reforms and designs the right plans. This way, we won't need to increase prices or import large quantities of gasoline, and at the same time, fuel consumption will decrease and the country will generate revenue from exports."

U23 Wrestling World Championships: Firouzpour, Ma'soumi cruise to freestyle golds



Amirhossein Firouzpour (l) and Amirreza Ma'soumi celebrate with Iranian flag after winning the gold medal of their respective freestyle class at the U23 Wrestling World Championships in Tirana, Albania, on October 26, 2024. UWW

Sports Desk

Amirhossein Firouzpour and Amirreza Ma'soumi dominated their respective weight classes as Iran collected three freestyle medals at the U23 Wrestling World Championships in Tirana, Albania.

Ebrahim Khari added a bronze to Iran's haul on Saturday, when he bounced back from a last-four defeat (12-2) against Russian defending champion Bashir Magomedov – participating as a neutral athlete – to rally past Armenia's Levik Mikayelyan 4-3 and share the third podium with Indian Abhishek Dhaka in the 61kg contests.

"A bronze was nothing more than I deserved here. It could have been a more colorful prize, though I am still glad I won a first medal for the Iranian freestyle squad in Tirana," Khari said. "The Armenian opponent was a decent wrestler and I had fight hard to come from behind in the final minute," added the Iranian, who won three bouts by technical superiority before the semifinal setback. Magomedov went on to beat Ruslan Abdullayev of Azerbaijan 4-0 in the final.

Double domination

Ma'soumi and Firouzpour might be second in the pecking order

of the seniors' national team but the two proved to be the ones to beat when it comes to world age-group competitions. Firouzpour, who fell short against Kamran Qasempour in the Iranian team trials for the upcoming Seniors World Championships, claimed his second world under-23 title in style, outmuscling American Jacob Cardenas in the final showpiece of the 92kg event. The American held the criteria advantage, 4-4, at the break but it was all Firouzpour and his under-hook offense in the second period as the Iranian walked away with a 11-4 triumph.

A former world cadet and junior champion, Firouzpour began

his campaign with a 13-1 rout of Moldovan Ion Demian and then came out on top 3-1 against Greek wrestler Gkivi Bliatze for a place in the semifinals, where he defeated Turkey's Fatih Altunbas 8-2.

"I suffered from a minor elbow injury before the tournament and was far from my best form yesterday. I rode my experience to make it to the final," said Firouzpour, also a two-time Asian senior champion, adding: "Thank God I could raise my level for today's final and delivered my best performance against the American wrestler."

Ma'soumi, meanwhile, was again in a league of his own in the su-

perheavyweight class.

Chasing a sixth world age-group title, the 20-year-old made a quick work of India's Anirudh Kumar, Russian Abdulla Kurbanov, and American Lucas Stoddard to progress to the 125kg final, not conceding a single point in the superiority wins against all three. It was also a one-way traffic in the final, as the Iranian pulled in yet another masterclass in under-hooks and aggressive wrestling to demolish European champion Alen Khubulov of Bulgaria 11-0 and clinch a third world under-23 gold.

Ma'soumi's emphatic triumph in Tirana was a testament to his merit for a shot at seniors' glory,

though he will still have to see off reigning world champion and Olympic silver medalist Amirhossein Zare' for the national team berth.

Saturday's results came after the Iranian Greco-Roman squad had lifted a third team trophy in five years last week in the Feti Borova Sports Hall.

Ali Ahmadi Vafa (55kg), Mohammad Naqousi (82kg), and Fardin Hedayati (130kg) notched up three golds, while Danial Sohrabi (72kg), Shayan Habib-Zare' (97kg), Erfan Jarkani (63kg), and Ali Oskou (77kg) finished with a consolation bronze, as Iran stood atop the team table with 149 points – 28 clear of runner-up Georgia.

Persian Gulf Pro League:

Mosimane given reality check in start to Esteghlal tenure

Sports Desk

Esteghlal's miserable start to the Persian Gulf Pro League season continued with a 3-1 thrashing at the hands of newly-promoted Kheybar Khorramabad, a defeat that laid bare the daunting task facing the Tehran Blues' new head coach Pitsso Mosimane. Mehrdad Qanbari gave the home side, which also had a new coach in Saeid Daqiqi on the bench, the lead with 10 minutes into the game but Ramin Rezaeian's header pulled Mosimane's men level in the 55th minute.

Masoud Mohebbi slotted home four minutes later to restore the lead for Kheybar before Mohsen Sefid-Choghaei's smashing strike deep into stoppage time sealed the maximum points for Daqiqi's side. Esteghlal, which has now lost five in six outings across all competitions, remains 12th in the table with eight points – three clear of the relegation zone – and with the domestic and continental games coming thick and fast, Mosimane is left with much to do to turn his side's fortunes around.

Esteghlal will take on Tractor in a highly-anticipated game in the Iranian top flight at home on Thursday before visiting Riyadh to face Saudi heavyweight Al Hilal in the AFC Champions League Elite next Monday. Elsewhere on Sunday, Persepolis celebrated a fifth successive victory in the league by defeating Shams Azar 2-0 in Tehran.

Ali Alipour bagged his third goal of the season from close range in the 11th minute, smuggling in a Soheil Sahraei's low cross, before Vahid Amiri's sensational lob from

outside the box in the 91st minute sealed the win for Juan Carlos Garrido's side. Persepolis will be back in league action against Esteghlal Khuzestan in Ahvaz on Wednesday and then chase a much-needed first victory in the Champions League when playing Qatari club Al Gharafa in Dubai next week.

Kheybar's Faraz Emam-Ali (9) and Esteghlal's Ramin Rezaeian go up for a header during a Persian Gulf Pro League game in Khorramabad, Iran, on Oct. 26, 2024. FFIRI



Renard reappointed Saudi boss after Mancini exit

BBC – Herve Renard has been reappointed manager of Saudi Arabia following Roberto Mancini's departure. Frenchman Renard took charge of the Saudi men's team from July 2019 to March 2023 and led them to a remarkable victory over eventual tournament winners Argentina in the group

stage of the 2022 Qatar World Cup. The 56-year-old left the role to lead France's women at the 2023 World Cup and on home soil at this year's Olympics. He was replaced at the Saudi helm by Mancini, who he now succeeds after the Italian agreed with the Saudi Arabian

Football Federation to end his contract. Mancini, 59, left his role as Italy head coach and became Saudi Arabia manager in August 2023, but he endured a difficult time in charge. "I am back," Renard said in a video, external posted on the Saudi national team's X account.

"I did not intend to leave, but when your country knock on your door, you have to respond. "I did not finish my story with Saudi yet." Renard's second spell in charge will begin with World Cup qualifiers away to Australia and Indonesia in November.

Leader: Israel needs to realize Iran's clout

Israeli strikes 'should neither be exaggerated nor downplayed'

International Desk

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said Israel needs to understand the power and determination of Iranian nation after the regime launched a strike on Iran on Saturday.

"They (the Israelis) need to understand the power, determination, and innovation of the Iranian nation and its youth," he told a group of people in a meeting in Tehran on Sunday.

"How to convey this power and resolve of the Iranian nation to the Zionist regime is for our officials to determine, and what is in the best interest of the nation and the country should be done." Ayatollah Khamenei said that the regime's miscalculation should be disrupted.

The Leader further emphasized that Israel's evil act should "neither be exaggerated nor downplayed." Four Iranian Army offi-

cers were killed in the attack. In the early hours of Saturday, Israeli warplanes used the space available to the US military in Iraq to fire long-range air-to-air missiles in Iran's Tehran, Khuzestan, and Ilam provinces in flagrant violation of international law and the UN Charter.

Iran said that the attack was successfully intercepted and countered by the country's air defense system and that it only caused "limited damage" to radar sites. The Israel's aggression was a response to Iran's missile attack on the regime's military sites on October 1, itself a retaliation for the assassination of the leaders of Hamas and Hezbollah resistance groups and an Iranian commander.

'Definite response'

Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf said that the Islamic Republic's response to the act of aggression will be

"definite and calculated."

"Even though the Zionist regime's military action against Iran was all out of despair and turned into another defeat for the entity, the Islamic Republic of Iran considers itself entitled to self-defense within the framework of the inherent right of legitimate defense and under Article 51 of the UN Charter," he said on Sunday.

"The response to this act of aggression will be definite and calculated," the parliament speaker warned.

According to Qalibaf, a comparison between Operation True Promise II and the usurping regime's latest action attests to the deterrence power of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

US involvement

Also on Sunday, Iran's foreign minister pointed to the US role in Israel's attack on Iran, saying that Washington's complicity

in the Israeli act of aggression against Iran is "quite clear" as it has provided the regime with military equipment and airspace to conduct the terrorist raid.

His remarks came a day after US officials claimed that Washington was not directly involved in the Israeli assault.

"The least they (the Americans) did was to provide a space corridor for the Zionist regime, as well as the equipment they already supplied [to Israel] somehow for participation in this operation."

The top diplomat also noted that the United States bears responsibility for its "completely obvious" partnership in the occupying regime's atrocities and escalation of tensions in West Asia.

He further said that Israel is committing crimes in the Gaza Strip and Lebanon using US weapons and enjoying Washington's political support.

"It is a well-proven fact that without the US, Israel has no power

Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei addresses a group of people in Tehran, Iran, on October 27, 2024.



in the region," Araghchi emphasized.

Letter to UN chief

Abbas Araghchi also sent a letter to the UN chief and the head of the Council "demanding an urgent meeting of the Security Council to take a decisive position in condemning this aggression," a ministry statement said. In his letter, Araghchi said "most

of the projectiles fired were intercepted by Iran's defense systems" but the attack led to damage at "the target points," as well as the death of four Army servicemen.

He said the Israeli attack was a "clear violation of the sovereignty" of Iran which "reserves the inherent right... to respond to this criminal aggression."

UN chief 'shocked by harrowing levels of death, injury, destruction' in north Gaza

National Desk

UN chief Antonio Guterres said Sunday he was "shocked by harrowing levels of death, injury and destruction" in north Gaza, where Israeli forces are carrying out deadly strikes for several weeks.

"The plight of Palestinian civilians trapped in North Gaza is unbearable," Guterres's spokesman Stephane Dujarric said.

"The Secretary-General is shocked by the harrowing levels of death, injury and destruction in the north, with civilians trapped under rubble, the sick and wounded going without life-saving health care, and families lacking food and shelter."

The spokesman said that according to Gaza's health ministry, hundreds of people have been killed in recent weeks and

more than 60,000 others were forced to flee.

"Repeated efforts to deliver humanitarian supplies essential to survive -- food, medicine and shelter -- continue to be denied by the Israeli authorities, with few exceptions, putting countless lives in peril," Dujarric said. "In the name of humanity, the Secretary-General reiterates his calls for an immediate ceasefire, the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages, and accountability for crimes under international law."

On Saturday, dozens of Palestinians were killed after an Israeli strike destroyed several buildings in a residential area of Beit Lahiya in besieged northern Gaza, with the Health Ministry describing it as a "horrific massacre". According to witnesses and medical sources, at least



45 people were killed on Saturday evening with dozens more wounded. Palestinian Wafa news agency reported that many of the killed and injured are children, women and the elderly. Rescue efforts are being hampered due to a lack of ambulances and civil defense services, as Israeli forces have blocked access to the area, it said. Northern Gaza has been under a three-week ground assault by Israeli forces who are forcibly displacing tens of thousands of residents out of the area.

One dead, dozens hurt in Israel truck ramming

A driver rammed his truck into a crowd at a bus stop in central Israel on Sunday, killing a man and injuring more than two dozen people, medics and police said.

In a separate incident, Israeli soldiers killed a man who tried to stab them during an operation near Jerusalem, the military said.

The truck ramming happened on Ahron Yariv Boulevard in Ramat HaSharon near Tel Aviv, Israel's commercial hub, AFP reported. Preliminary police findings showed the truck driver also hit a bus that had stopped at the same station to drop off passengers, the police said in a statement.

At least 29 people were injured, including several in serious condition, emergency service providers Magen David Adom said in a statement. Police did not say whether it was an attack, but added that civilians at the scene shot dead the truck driver.

One of those hurt died later of his injuries, said the hospital where he was taken for treatment. Paramedic Elijor Yosef, who arrived at the bus stop after the ramming, said he saw eight people "trapped under the truck".

"A number of further casualties were either lying or walking near the truck," he was quoted as saying in the Magen David Adom



statement. Palestinian resistance group Hamas, in a statement, said the "heroic ramming attack" that was carried out near "Mossad headquarters... was in response to the crimes committed by the Zionist occupation" against Palestinians.

Elsewhere, a man who tried to stab a group of soldiers was killed in

Hizma, a Palestinian town near Jerusalem. Since the Israeli war on Gaza began on October 7 last year, there have been several retaliatory attacks in Israel carried out by Palestinian fighters. At least 30 people, including Israeli soldiers, have been killed in such attacks in Israel, according to an AFP tally based on official Israeli figures.

Israel's defense-offense ...

These operations were not just responses to specific incidents but served as broader warnings. With "True Promise 2," Iran extended its reach by targeting Israeli interests deep within the occupied territories. This escalation was aimed not only at the Zionist entity but also at sending a clear message to the United States, underscoring Iran's capability to disrupt the Middle Eastern balance of power if its sovereignty is threatened. By targeting the heart of the occupied entity, Iran aimed to deter future incursions, signaling that any perceived threat would be met with a robust, far-reaching response.

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True Promise 3
Iran's position became unmistakably clear as it established decisive "deterrence equations" for Israel. Operation True Promise 1 was launched in response to the bombing of the Iranian consulate in Syria, sending a clear message that attacks on Iranian interests abroad would not go unanswered. Subsequently, following the assassinations of key allies, Ismail Haniyeh and Hassan Nasrallah, Operation True Promise 2 delivered an even stronger warning, demonstrating Iran's willingness

to escalate in defense of its regional allies. With the Zionist entity's attack on Iranian territory, Iran is signaling that the third "True Promise" operation is set to be faster and more destructive. This progression from symbolic retaliation to concrete deterrence underscores Iran's strategy that any violation will be met with a decisive and overwhelming response. Through these operations, Iran has succeeded in establishing a framework of deterrence, demonstrating its capability to defend its interests and its allies with increasing force.

Iran's advanced air defense a 'game changer'
Iran's defense strategy is built on a blend of indigenous and acquired technologies, honed over years of enduring sanctions. This has driven Iran to develop a unique self-sufficiency in military technology, resulting in an air defense system highly adaptable to regional threats and the demands of modern warfare.

Iran's air defense systems, including the Bavar-373, rival the Russian S-300 system, and Iran has continued to strengthen its defense infrastructure against high-tech incursions. In recent Israeli attacks,

Iranian defenses even targeted Israeli assets on the Iraqi airspace, demonstrating the extended range and precision of these systems. This development not only deters Israeli strikes but also sets a new standard for deterrence across the Middle East, where military posturing frequently leads to real confrontations.

Red lines of engagement

Iran's approach to "deterrence" is not mere rhetoric. It has defined and enforced red lines, and the consequences of crossing them are swift and strategically calculated. The True Promise operations serve as clear markers of these boundaries. When the Zionist entity targeted Iranian consulate, Iran responded not only with precision but with an unwavering commitment to punish the aggressor. For Iran, actions against its interests in Syria and the broader region are met with reciprocal measures that underscore its capability to confront any threat, thereby establishing a new pattern of engagement.

The assassinations of figures closely associated with Iran's allies, such as Ismail Haniyeh and Hassan Nasrallah, further highlight Iran's strategy, which extends

beyond physical retaliation to addressing political and symbolic challenges to its regional influence. Iran has demonstrated that even such provocations will not go unanswered and that it possesses the military means to reshape the strategic landscape if its interests or allies are endangered.

The evolution of Iran's defensive capabilities has significant implications that reach beyond its borders. Middle Eastern states have long been shaped by regional power struggles, with alliances and rivalries defining much of the geopolitical landscape. Iran's proactive deterrence posture complicates these relationships, as regional powers that have long relied on Western military support may need to reconsider their security frameworks and possibly align more closely with Tehran rather than Washington. For the United States, traditionally a dominant military presence in the region, Iran's fortified position presents a challenge. Iran's capability to protect its borders against advanced technologies limits the operational flexibility of the United States and its allies and signals a shift in the regional balance of power, potentially forcing other players to reassess

their alliances.

Iran's recent military developments demonstrate its ability not only to defend its territory but also to engage in offensive maneuvers that could alter regional dynamics. Through a series of carefully calibrated operations, Iran has asserted a deterrence policy that complicates its adversaries' strategies. These developments have positioned Iran as a critical power broker in the Middle East, one that regional and global actors must contend with in the coming years.

The coming years will undoubtedly require a delicate balance as Iran's military posture and the reactions it provokes shape the future of the region. Iran's continued enhancement of its defensive and offensive capabilities may establish a model of deterrence that other nations might look to adopt or learn from.

In this intricate landscape, Iran's emergence as a formidable military power is compelling the international community to reconsider long-held assumptions about power and security in the Middle East. The next phase will likely determine not only Iran's role in the region but also the future alignment of regional alliances.

Preserving a timeless heritage

Impacts of Iran's dastgahi music in UNESCO listing



By Neda Sijani
Guest contributor

In a celebration of Iran's rich cultural heritage, the Roudaki Hall recently played host to a gathering of guests who convened to commemorate the official registration of Iranian dastgahi music as an Intangible Cultural Heritage by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). This milestone achievement not only underscores the significant contributions of Iranian music to the world's cultural tapestry but also highlights the country's commitment to preserving and promoting its treasured musical traditions, dating back nearly two centuries to the Qajar court, where radif (meter) of Iranian music was first formalized by legendary musicians such as Ali Akbar Khan Farahani and his sons, Mirza Abdollah and Aqa Hossein Qoli.

Evolution of Iranian dastgahi music

The origins of this precious heritage date back to the early years of Iranian arts and culture, nearly two centuries ago. The formation of the *radif* of Iranian music is attributed to Ali Akbar Khan Farahani and his sons, Mirza Abdollah and Aqa Hossein Qoli, musicians of the Qajar court. The *radif* is a collection of traditional Iranian melodies, narrated in various instrumental and vocal renditions, organized in a specific order within the framework of different *dastgahs* and *avaz* (sub-*dastgah*).

Both *dastgah* and *avaz* include *gushehs*. But the difference between *dastgah* and *avaz* is the number of *gusheh*.

This collection has gained a significant place in the world, earning its registration as an Intangible Cultural Heritage in UNESCO. Examples of instrumental *radifs* include those of Mirza Abdollah and Aqa Hossein Qoli, while vocal *radifs* include the Davami *radif* and the Taherzadeh *radif*. It is worth noting that the first person to notate the *radif* was Ali Naqi Vaziri, and the first person to introduce it to the public was Darvish Khan. *Dastgah* is the standard musical system in Persian art music, standardized in the 19th century following the transition of Persian music from the Maqam modal system. A *dastgah* consists of a collection of musical melodies, *gushehs*.

Day dedicated to radif

Babak Khazraei, the head of the Music Faculty at the Tehran University of Art, spoke to Iran Persian Newspaper about the registration of Iranian *dastgahi* music in UNESCO, stating, "This event took place in 2009, and prior to that, a ceremony was held in its honor. However, the organization of this ceremony in mid-October this year was a pretext to dedicate a day in the calendar to *radif dastgahi* music. Many countries have done the same, such as Tajikistan's 'Day of the Six Maqams.' I suggested to my friends that September 30 be named 'Radif Day' or 'Dastgahi Music Day,' and I had previously proposed this idea at the House of Music, similar to 'Hafez Day' or 'Saadi Day.' From now on, we will gather on this day, celebrate, and hold a ceremony to commemorate this valuable heritage. I hope this event will be repeated every year."

Showcase for introducing Iran's artistic achievements

Khazraei spoke about the impact of this event on promoting the status of *radif dastgahi* music worldwide, stating, "The registration of Iranian *dastgahi* music is a showcase for introducing our country's artistic achievements. It can serve as a comprehensive resource for those interested in this topic or a group of intellectuals worldwide, making them aware of this valuable heritage. This event is a platform for familiarizing these individuals with our artistic achievements, similar to the registration of Chogan, Nowruz, or Yalda, so that the world becomes aware of the programs and activities taking place in our country."

Commitment to preserving valuable heritage

According to Khazraei, "Registering our traditional music in UNESCO is a reflection of our musical capacity in the world, especially for the educated class, so they can understand and know that there is a valuable cultural phenomenon and heritage in our country and realize its antiquity."

He commented on the commitment and responsibility of artists or officials in promoting and preserving this cultural heritage: "Registering a work is to preserve it from the risk of destruction or oblivion."

Therefore, one of the commitments of registering in UNESCO is to provide authentic documents and evidence of the existence of this phenomenon in that country. Another point is to commit to preserving and promoting it in education. Regarding Iran's *radif*, many festivals, concerts, and educational programs have been held, and this shows attention to this valuable heritage. We must commit to preserving and protecting this great cultural and artistic heritage and not abandon it."

Outcome of registering an artistic achievement

Mir Alireza Mirali Naqi, a researcher of Iranian music, shared his thoughts on the registration of Iranian *dastgahi* music, stating, "In my opinion, registering an achievement is not a significant event in and of itself; it is merely a title. Registration is a contract on paper that may not have practical consequences. My question to my friends is, what impact has this

event had on our country's music, from education to performance? I believe that all the registrations that have taken place over the years have been more of a publicity stunt, and we have not achieved any positive results. Simply documenting something without taking further action is, in my opinion, more of a show than a genuine effort."

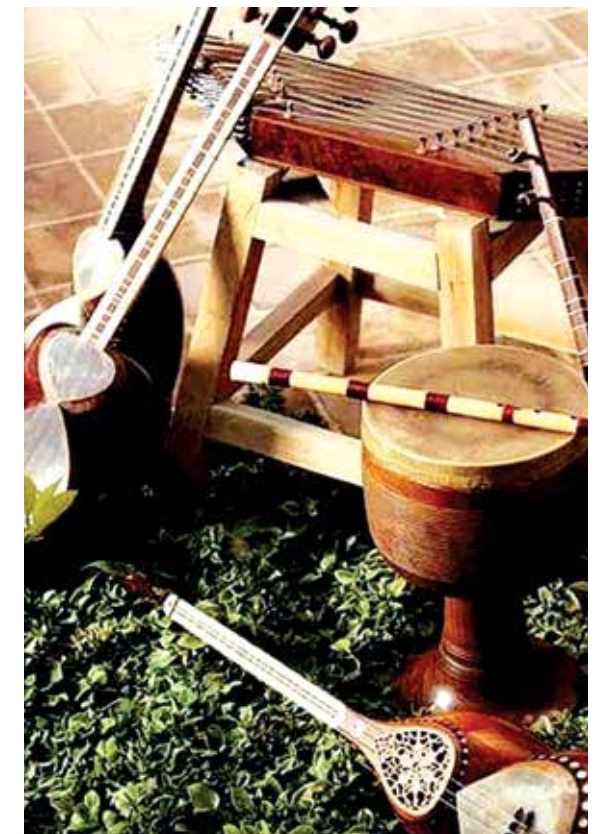
Fate of radif research institute

Mirali Naqi continued, "The registration of Iranian *dastgahi* music dates back to the past, and according to Hooman As'adi, it was supposed to lead to the establishment of a research institute dedicated to *radif* and supporting individuals with research ideas in this field. If this had happened at the time, we would undoubtedly have achieved remarkable results in this field by now. However, nothing happened, and the research institute was not established. Even many of our music education insti-

tutions are not as scientifically advanced as they were 20 years ago. In my opinion, registration is more of a show, but the significant event that took place at the Roudaki Hall a few nights ago, even if it was held under the pretext of registration, was the presence and performance of brilliant musical talents who shone on stage. The variety of narratives performed and the insight of the younger generation into technique and sonority were remarkable achievements."

Attention to culture as a comprehensive entity

Mirali Naqi evaluated the impact of this event on the world, stating, "In my opinion, it will not have a significant impact, as cultural interaction requires creating a suitable platform and context, which has never been adequately provided. A flow of events, the establishment of productive institutions, the appointment of competent management, the compilation of guidebooks, and the creation of short-term workshops are all necessary. We have never considered culture as a comprehensive entity, instead focusing on a single aspect. The growth of a culture depends on a collection of factors interacting with each other."



UNESCO recognition boosts global status of Iranian music

The *radif* of Iranian *dastgahi* music is a gift from Iranian culture to human culture, and its registration as an Intangible Cultural Heritage in UNESCO, in addition to introducing it globally, means that the world recognizes the importance of preserving it. This not only demonstrates the influence of Iranian culture worldwide but also facilitates interaction with other cultures and promotes Iran's cultural

status globally, secretary-general of the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO said. According to Hassan Fartoosi, The Iranian National Commission for UNESCO is proud to have contributed to the registration of the *dastgahs*, *avaz*, melodies, and *gushehs* of traditional Iranian music in the form of *radifs*, which was achieved through the efforts of the UNESCO Music Committee, established over 14 years

ago, with the participation of renowned musicians. However, it is essential to note that registration is not enough; from UNESCO's perspective, promotional and educational activities are crucial. I hope that this timeless treasure, passed down to us over the centuries, will be preserved, protected, and passed on to future generations by the efforts of you, the guardians of music.