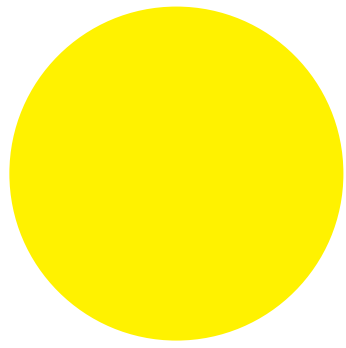


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Larijani voices Tehran's support for Beirut in cease-fire talks

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Easing tensions benefits both Iran, US



By **Diako Hosseini**
Strategic affairs analyst

OPINION EXCLUSIVE

As reported by an American media outlet, a meeting took place between Elon Musk, a close advisor to US President-elect Donald Trump, and Amir Saied Irvani, Iran's ambassador to the United Nations. Although American and Iranian officials have refrained from commenting on the meeting, neither side has denied it either. Such meetings are par for the course after US presidential elections and before the new administration takes office. In the previous term, Henry Kissinger managed and coordinated similar high-profile meetings when Trump was president. Therefore, Musk's meeting with the Iranian ambassador to the UN is not out of the ordinary. At the same time, Trump has shown in his public statements that he has no appetite for continued tensions and wars, and wants to eliminate the need for US intervention in unnecessary conflicts, redirecting energy spent on these non-strategic disputes to domestic issues. In other words, Trump has a motive to defuse tensions between Iran and the US. [Page 2 >](#)

Larijani: Defending national security beyond borders signifies Iran's strength

Iran promotes field preparation, active diplomacy as general policy

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Pezeshkian: Iran Ready to Resolve Nuclear 'Ambiguities' with IAEA

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International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Rafael Grossi (2nd-L), accompanied by spokesman for the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Behrouz Kamalvandi (R), poses for a photo before a visit to the Natanz nuclear facility in central Iran on November 15, 2024. **IRNA**

South Pars daily gas output surpasses 600 mcm: **CEO**

Iran's daily production of the 13 refineries processing the gas extracted from South Pars Gas Field exceeded 600 million cubic meters, as announced by the caretaker of South Pars Gas Company (SPGC). [2 >](#)



EXCLUSIVE

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Iranian economist Maryam Farboodi scoops 2024 research prize



Iranian economist Maryam Farboodi, an associate professor of finance at the MIT Sloan School of Management, received the 2024 Elaine Bennett Research Prize, ILNA reported. Established in 1998, the Elaine Bennett Research Prize recognizes and honors outstanding research studies in any fields of economics.

Farboodi completed her BS in Sharif University of Technology of Tehran.

The researcher will formally be conferred the prize at the Business Meeting and Award Ceremony of the American Economic Association (AEA) on January 4, 2025.

She is an Applied theorist whose research focuses on the economics of Big Data with applications to finance and macroeconomics. She also works on developing methodologies to estimate the value of data. Most recently, her research has focused on understanding the COVID-19 pandemic and associated policies. In her work, Farboodi identifies the key questions of our times and provides conceptual frameworks to address them.

She has made significant contributions to the understanding of how economic growth interacts with the evolving role of Big Data in the financial sector. Her influential paper with Laura Veldkamp, "Long-Run Growth of Financial Data Technology," published in the American Economic Review, demonstrates how improvement in Big Data technologies influences market dynamics and investor behavior.

In another paper with the same co-author, published in the Review of Financial Studies, Farboodi investigates how the accumulation of Big Data affects firms of different sizes. The findings show that while large publicly traded firms benefit disproportionately from enhanced data processing capabilities, smaller firms do not experience the same advantages—an observation with profound implications for capital allocation and firm dynamics.

This work addresses a pressing issue in macroeconomics, given the growing dominance of technology companies that have been accumulating vast amounts of data about households and businesses.

South Pars daily gas output surpasses 600 mcm: CEO



Economy Desk

Iran's daily production of the 13 refineries processing the gas extracted from South Pars Gas Field exceeded 600 million cubic meters, as announced by the caretaker of South Pars Gas Company (SPGC). Talking to Shana on Friday, Gholamabbas Hos-

seini presented a report on the SPGC since the beginning of the current Iranian year (March 20), including overhauling, stable production of gas and by-products, cooperation with new technology-based firms and the project to reduce flares in the thirteen South Pars refineries.

The company has played a strategic role in the country's economic growth by implementing innovative measures, collaboration with domestic companies, supplying natural gas to the national grid, supplying petrochemical feedstock as well as increasing exports, the official noted. "The project to reduce

flaring is one of the most important projects being implemented this year in the country's largest gas producing company," he added.

Hosseini went on to say that since the establishment of the SPGC (26 years ago), a sum of 2.126 trillion cubic meters of natural gas has been pu-

rified in the Pars South Gas Field refineries and injected into the national grid.

"Since the beginning of this year (March 20), thanks to the efforts of SPGC staff, more than 130 billion cubic meters of gas has been received from wells in the South Pars region and injected into

the refineries of the company," Hosseini said.

Referring to SPGC by-products, he explained that during March 20-November 15, more than 1.1 million tons of ethane, 139 million barrels of liquefied natural gas (LNG), 1.9 million tons of propane, and 370,000 tons of sulfur were produced in all the refineries of the company.

Since March 20, more than 2.2 million tons of feedstock have been delivered to petrochemical plants in the region and more than 100 million barrels of LNG have been delivered to Persian Gulf Star Refinery, he added.

In the overhaul operation conducted this year in all the refineries of South Pars, more than 22,000 sets of various fixed equipment, valves, electrical equipment, and precision control tools were inspected, repaired, and renovated over 189 days to increase the efficiency, the official said.

"By implementing short-term projects to reduce flare gas emissions by the end of this year (March 20, 2025), a total of about 1.2 billion cubic meters of flare gas will be saved annually," he stressed.

The company is currently collaborating extensively with more than 120 new technology-based firms (NTBFs). We hope that it will also take more steps this year in working with start-up companies, he concluded.

Araghchi calls on Iranian embassies to facilitate exports worldwide

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said the diplomatic apparatus had urged all Iranian Embassies to facilitate the export of Iranian products to their respected countries. On the sidelines of the 31st Iran International Handmade Carpet Exhibition in Tehran on Thursday, Araghchi said that his deputy for economic diplomacy has been mandated to work on exporting Iranian products, not least carpets, IRNA reported. While talking to merchants and businesspersons active in Iran's carpet industry, he said that all are obliged to help to develop the production, sale and export of Iranian carpets. The Foreign Ministry presents Iranian carpets to the



people of the world, but in my opinion, a general policy should be outlined and the role of each ministry and institution should be defined for the development of the global markets of handwoven carpets, Araghchi highlighted. The 31st Iran International Handmade Carpet

Exhibition was launched at the Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds on November 13. The International Exhibition of Handmade Carpets is the largest and most prestigious exhibition of handmade carpet in terms of the number of carpets supplied and showcased.

Iran, Armenia sign four agreements on Chabahar free zone



Chabahar Free Zone Organization in Iran signed four memoranda of understanding (MoUs) with Armenian economic sector to provide the necessary preparations and conditions for facilitating, accelerating, guiding, and supporting investment efforts in the strategic zone.

Deputy Minister of Economy of the Republic of Armenia Narek Hovakimyan and the accompanying delegation, consisting of private sector investors, traveled to Chabahar and met with Homeira Rigi, the CEO of Chabahar Industrial Free Trade Zone, on Thursday, IRNA reported. Rigi said the MoUs signed between

the two parties aim to expedite and simplify the process of registering a company for a second party, adding that the agreements also seek to prepare for obtaining and issuing business cards, as well as to establish the necessary conditions to facilitate, accelerate, guide, and support the investment actions of the second party with a focus on exports.

She underlined that Chabahar Free Zone Organization welcomes international collaboration and the expansion of cooperation in the areas of development and investment within the free trade zone in Chabahar.

Easing tensions benefits ...

In Iran, the new government, which has only been in office for a few months, has welcomed the reduction of tensions with the US and is working to create conditions for lifting sanctions imposed on itself. Both the Iranian government and the new US administration have motives to avoid escalating tensions and explore ways to alleviate or manage them. From this perspective, the meeting between the Iranian envoy to the UN and Musk, rep-

resenting Trump, could be a precursor to a path for the US and Iran to manage and control tensions, potentially leading to an agreement on outstanding issues. However, we should not be oblivious to the elephant in the room. While these meetings and statements aimed at reducing tensions and reaching an understanding between the two countries are necessary, they are not sufficient, as there are third-party spoilers that oppose this process. The Israeli lobby is

the most well-known opponent of negotiations between Iran and the US, although not the only one. Moreover, the incoming US administration does not appear to be a moderate one. In the relationship between Iran and the US, there have always been opportunities to either reduce or increase tensions, depending on the will of the two countries to seize opportunities to reduce tensions or create conditions for heightened tensions. Previously, President Masoud

Pezeshkian pointed out that Iran and the US inevitably have confrontations in the region and internationally, and it is better for the Iranian side to take charge of managing these confrontations. Pezeshkian's statement likely implies that the Iranian side wants to engage in direct dialogue with the American side. Trump's character also lends itself to direct talks.

Therefore, there are motives on both sides, Iran and the US, to reduce tensions, as their interests

are better served by doing so. However, this is not the whole story, and there are also opposing forces, both in Iran and the US, as well as third-party spoilers that do not welcome a rapprochement between Tehran and Washington. Nevertheless, there is room for optimism that both sides have learned from past experiences and are preparing for an agreement to reduce tensions. The meeting between Musk and Iravani could be a promising start.



Protecting Garmsar National Park's unique wildlife

Iranica Desk

The presence of rare animal species in Garmsar National Park is one of the significant attractions that have transformed this region into the "Africa of Iran" and one of the most pristine tourist destinations in Semnan Province. With regulated tourism and the involvement of hunters in the conservation of animal species, this natural and unspoiled attraction can be preserved for future generations.

Garmsar Desert National Park, in Semnan Province, is home to a diverse range of plant and animal life, featuring mild winters and hot summers. It is recognized as one of Iran's national parks, and by visiting this area, you can experience one of the most remarkable tourist attractions in the country up close. However, it is essential to remember that accessing the national park requires a permit from the Garmsar National Park Department or the Semnan Province's Department of Environment, IRNA wrote.

Located in the southwestern part of Semnan Province, Garmsar Desert National Park is known for its rich diversity of plant and animal species. It lies between the central Iranian desert and a salt lake, hosting 34 species of mammals, 155 species of birds, 34 species of reptiles, and 355 species of plants.

In the flat and semi-desert areas of the national park, mammals such as gazelles, cheetahs, and sand cats can be observed. In the

mountainous regions, characterized by steppe plant communities, there is a significant population of wildlife species, including urials, goats, and leopards.

Other important mammals in this region include foxes, hyenas, wolves, jackals, rabbits, porcupines, and various rodents. Notable bird species include the golden eagle, vultures, harriers, and various birds of prey, such as partridges, pheasants, owls, and several species of larks, as well as wagtails, crows, and different sparrows. Among the reptiles found in the national park are the horned viper, Echis, grass snake, and desert monitor lizard. The head of Kavir National Park

stated that the park covers an area of 442,000 hectares and has four ranger stations staffed by 12 personnel responsible for monitoring and overseeing this protected area.

Reza Shah-Hosseini emphasized that the presence of rare animal species, the diversity of vegetation, and several historical buildings have made this area a major tourist attraction.

He added that implementing a regulated tourism plan aimed at preserving animal habitats is a priority, allowing guided tours to explore the area with proper permits and the use of specialized guides approved by Semnan Province's Department of Envi-

ronmental Protection.

He noted that there are three access routes to the park, highlighting that a shortage of ranger personnel poses a significant challenge for this organization. Currently, one ranger station has been closed for five years due to a lack of staff.

Furthermore, he mentioned that efforts to preserve the animal habitat in Kavir National Park are being carried out through a "community-based conservation" plan, which utilizes the capabilities of hunters and local communities.

Shah-Hosseini stated that local communities and hunters have been organized through training

sessions conducted by the provincial Department of Environment, noting that 800 gazelles, 900 wild goats and sheep, and 600 rams and ewes inhabit this area.

He added that monitoring the water resources of the park is an important measure carried out more frequently during the summer and throughout the year. Emphasizing the significance of water resources for wildlife in the region, he noted that there are 30 springs and 90 watering holes in Kavir National Park, with continuous dredging and annual maintenance performed to ensure these vital resources remain accessible.

Gholam Abbas Khaksar, the head of the Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Department of Garmsar, stated that, on average, 3,500 domestic and foreign tourists visit the natural and historical attractions of Kavir National Park each year.

He explained that tourists traveling to this park can be divided into three categories: the first category includes ecotourists who come to explore the area's natural attractions, wildlife, and biodiversity. The second category comprises visitors who come to see historical sites, such as Bahram Castle, while the third category sees the desert as a transit point on their way to other destinations.

Garmsar, with a population of approximately 100,000, is located in the western part of Semnan Province.



Milad Tower; an icon of architectural brilliance in Tehran

Milad Tower stands as an architectural marvel and a testament to Tehran's modernization ambitions. Known as the Tehran Tower, it is the tallest structure and telecommunication tower in Iran. Its iconic status and unique design have made it a must-visit destination among Tehran's tourist attractions.

Construction

Milad Tower's construction began in 1997 and was completed in 2007. The project architect was Mohammadreza Hafezi, who designed other projects such as the Parsian Tower in Tehran and other complexes in Mazandaran

Province.

The tower consists of five main parts: the foundation, the transition (lobby) structure, the shaft, the head structure, and the antenna mast. The main structure, which is the most prominent part, is 315 meters tall. The an-

tenna is 120 meters tall. The complex includes 12 floors and houses various facilities, destinationiran.com wrote.

Architectural features

Observation deck: This popular attraction offers stunning panoramic views of Tehran, especially during sunset.

Revolving restaurant: Located in the head structure, the revolving restaurant affords diners a unique 360-degree dining experience.

Exhibition spaces: Multiple exhibition areas host cultural and commercial events, showcasing Iranian art and innovation.

Telecommunication hub: Milad Tower is outfitted with advanced communication technology, play-

ing a vital role in Tehran's telecommunication infrastructure.

Entertainment and recreational facilities

Milad Tower serves as a cultural and entertainment center that includes a shopping mall, a five-star hotel, a convention center, and an IT park, making it a vibrant hub for recreational activities.

Shopping mall: Features an array of shops, from high-end boutiques to local artisanal vendors, perfect for retail therapy.

Cultural center: Hosts art exhibitions, performances, and cultural events, promoting Iranian arts and culture.

Conference facilities: Modern venues accommodate large gath-

erings, conferences, and exhibitions, appealing to both local and international events.

Cultural impact

Milad Tower has emerged as a significant cultural landmark in Tehran. It frequently hosts cultural events, including art exhibitions, music concerts, and festivals, fostering a vibrant space for cultural exchange and artistic expression. The tower also serves as a platform for local artists, enhancing the visibility of Iranian art and culture.

Furthermore, the observation deck and revolving restaurant have become favored spots for both locals and tourists, offering a spectacular view of Tehran's skyline and promoting a sense

of community and pride among residents. Notably, Milad Tower is often featured in establishing shots that identify Tehran in films and media.

Milad Tower symbolizes Tehran's aspirations and advancements in the modern era, representing contemporary Iranian architecture. Whether you're interested in breathtaking views, shopping, dining hundreds of meters above the city, or participating in cultural events, Milad Tower offers something for everyone.

If you're planning a visit to Tehran, whether through an Iran tour package or on your own, make sure to add Milad Tower to your itinerary for an unforgettable experience at Iran's tallest tower.



Larijani: Defending national security beyond borders signifies Iran's strength

Iran promotes field preparation, active diplomacy as general policy

International Desk

INTERVIEW

the Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council, Speaker of the Iranian Parliament for three terms, advisor to the Supreme Leader, and member of the Expediency Discernment Council.

"We live for peace, not for war." These are the words of Ali Larijani, a statesman with a remarkable record, including serving as

Larijani has recently spoken to Khabaronline journalists in two separate interviews about regional developments, including the escalating tensions between Iran and Israel, Iran's relations with the West, particularly with the US, the JCPOA (Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action), and the lifting of anti-Iran sanctions, as well as domestic issues.

He said that defending national security beyond borders is not a

sign of weakness, but a demonstration of strength. According to him, the country's stance on regional developments is rooted in its commitment to defending national security and interests. To achieve this, Iran must be fully prepared on the field and utilize its diplomatic capacities effectively.

In this section, the most important parts of these two interviews and the key responses are presented:



The mistake Israel makes is thinking that by eliminating a few figures, the problem will be solved. Those who are currently fighting in Gaza are not all [Yahya] Sinwar or [Ismail] Haniyeh; they are the youths who continue the holy struggle.

KHABARONLINE: The Leader [Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei] has made two key statements in recent weeks, coinciding with the escalation of tensions in the region and specifically between Iran and Israel: "Neither should we be sluggish nor hasty", "Neither should we underestimate nor overstate". Given your experience in both diplomacy and on the field, how do you interpret and analyze these two statements by the Leader?

LARIJANI: Everyone must acknowledge that we live for peace, not for war. War is a phenomenon that may be necessary at times, but everyone strives to minimize wars and avoid them whenever possible, instead opting for diplomatic solutions. This doesn't mean we compromise on our beliefs, but rather that we prioritize peace over war.

Reason dictates that we should take the path with the lowest cost. If that fails, we may resort to other methods. In the current situation, it's crucial to acknowledge that the Americans and Israelis have orchestrated this venture. In the recent aggression against Iran [October 26], it has become clear that the Americans have provided intelligence and equipment to the Israelis. Therefore, our opponent is the Americans, who openly claim to be standing alongside Israel. We have faced off against the Americans in the past, but the nature of this confrontation is different now.

The second point is that the developments unfolding in the region ultimately boil down to brutality. In Gaza, 50,000 people are killed. The world makes a fuss, but political leaders fail to take concrete action to contain the situation. We are faced with a malevolent force that seeks to fundamentally alter the regional landscape. Some say that Israel is at odds with the Arabs, so why should we get involved?"

We mustn't make this mistake because we are pursuing our own national interests. Of course, we also take into account Islamic and

humanitarian values, but national interests are the top priority. If someone thinks that these dangerous entities, which are currently causing chaos, won't eventually set their sights on other places, they have a misguided understanding of the situation. Even now, some Arab countries that usually criticize us and have different ideologies are worried about Israel, saying that once Israel finishes its work in one place, it will move on to another.

Israel's goal is to exert a profound influence over the region, which, if achieved, would leave little room for maneuver for other countries. This would be detrimental to both the region and our own interests.

Defending your national security outside your own territory is not a sign of weakness; it's a sign of strength. Of course, it has its consequences.

Now, with all this being said, what needs to be done? In my opinion, the Leader's words, that the recent incident [Israel's attack on Iran's military targets on Oct. 26] should neither be downplayed nor exaggerated as others do, hit the nail on the head. The military officials will provide their explanations in due time, though. Now, how should we navigate this path given the circumstances?

In my view, we need to be adequately prepared in the field, and we must also utilize our diplomatic capabilities effectively. The diplomacy that needs to be employed cannot be just a show; it needs to be strategic diplomacy.

This crisis will eventually come to an end. It is crucial that the essence of the matter is understood correctly and that the people are informed accurately, so they don't get the impression that the Islamic Republic is eager for a confrontation. The Islamic Republic is not interested in conflict, but it is prepared to defend itself.

In the trend we've witnessed over the past year and a half, and especially in recent

months, a large number of key commanders and important figures from Hamas and Hezbollah, as well as key advisors from the Quds Force of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), have been targeted. Do you think the elimination of these individuals through assassination, bombing, and other means will deal a blow to the existing structure?

It will certainly have a temporary impact, but we need to differentiate between two levels. In the short term, it causes damage. There's no doubt about it. And for some individuals, the damage will be long-term as well.

The mistake Israel makes is thinking that by eliminating a few figures, the problem will be solved. Those who are currently fighting in Gaza are not all [Yahya] Sinwar or [Ismail] Haniyeh; they are the youths who continue the holy struggle. There's a point that Westerners and Israelis often overlook.

The struggle we refer to as resistance - what does it mean? For us, resistance means that its core element is the holy struggle. The holy struggle is linked to the religious emotions and sentiments of the people. The question is, when you assassinate these figures, do these emotions disappear or intensify? They intensify. As has been the case throughout history. The same applies to Hezbollah.

Iran's delay in responding to the assassination of Haniyeh on its soil was due to the cease-fire that official authorities also con-



The flag of Iran is seen in front of the building of the IAEA Headquarters in Vienna, Austria, on May 24, 2021.

FLORIAN SCHROETTER/AP



The European Union's political director Helga Schmid (C-L) and Iran's deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (C-R) wait for a bilateral meeting as part of the closed-door nuclear talks with Iran in Vienna, Austria, on Feb. 2 020.
● ROLAND ZAK/AP

firmed, but the cease-fire did not happen, and we saw what followed. From your words, it can be inferred that a cease-fire is still a viable option for the Islamic Republic. Or, after the events of the past few weeks, has a cease-fire been ruled out?

A cease-fire is not something that can be easily dismissed. After all, the less costly the solution, the better it is for Muslims and the oppressed. We, who are sitting here, must consider that they [Gazans] are under bombardment, and we should try to defend women, men, and others, both on the battlefield and through diplomacy.

Therefore, a cease-fire is certainly something we think about and find beneficial. Our foreign minister, who has traveled to various countries, has also made efforts to prevent the situation from escalating. But we must be prepared in every way. However, the priority is to resolve the issue through simpler means.

How seriously do you consider the issue of infiltration in Iran, Lebanon, and the entire Resistance Axis in recent events?

Generally, the issue of infiltration in Iran has been serious in recent years. In my opinion, some oversights have occurred in the past few years, and although the country's security agencies have dealt with some of them, they have not been able to prevent all of them. Nevertheless, it is an important point that they are still pursuing and thinking of ways to address it.

Do we have infiltration in the country's political and security structure, or in the military?

I can't say which sector, but I do know that there have been incidents

like assassinations, both of nuclear scientists and others, that show they have infiltrated. Uncovering this is very important, both in terms of quantity and quality. Therefore, we need to be sensitive to this issue and find the clues, and this sensitivity has now been created.

Do you think the outcome of the US presidential election will have an impact on the recent tensions in the region?

Apparently, it will. I mean, some of the trends in the US are more radical, and overall, Americans play a key role in this issue. But some of them are even more radical. I don't know how much impact it will have, since they are already operating at full speed in the region.

The situation is at its most chaotic. I doubt that the next generation of Americans who come to power can take it further than this. They have already provided all the military and non-military support they can. What else can they add? But perhaps the circumstances will bring them to their senses and they will show more balanced behavior.

As we approach the 45th anniversary of the takeover of the US embassy in Tehran, how effective do you think that event was in shaping the eternal breakup between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the US.

No one has said [it has been an] "eternal breakup". Imam Khomeini and the Leader (Ayatollah Khamenei) have both stated that we never say that our issues with the US can never be resolved, but rather that the US needs to change its behavior. There is no doubt that the Americans are causing a lot of problems under the current circumstances. My understanding is that right now, in the combat we are in, the United

States is standing against us. Israel is an instrument of action. Recently, I saw that a Russian official at the UN Security Council said that the Americans have even shared Iranian military intelligence with Israel. So, this is how it works: they are openly taking Israel's side, pretending to be looking for a cease-fire, but in reality, they are backing Israel. Therefore, I think we need to be realistic about this.

Don't you think that the takeover of the US embassy on November 4, 1979, played a role in turning the Iran-US relationship into a red line for the Islamic Republic?

Let's consider that in the world of politics, countries like the US are pragmatic and follow their own interests. Take a look at how the Americans have dealt with Iran since that date. It is not the case that there is a red line; at certain times, negotiations have taken place with the Americans. For example, negotiations were held with the US regarding Iraq. The same goes for the JCPOA...

But it was never official.
It was official.

So, did the presidents of Iran at the time have direct negotiations with the presidents of the US?

Not at the presidential level, but officials at lower levels did negotiate.

Nevertheless, a bilateral relationship with other countries has a clear definition.

tion.

Yes, because in some cases, they didn't treat Iran fairly. After the JCPOA, incidents occurred that changed their approach. Mr. Trump, after all those negotiations, tore it apart. And after that, he committed a crime in the case of General Qasem Soleimani. We need to look at all these events in one context.

So, you mean that if the embassy hadn't been taken over, the same incidents would have occurred between Iran and the US?

In the world of politics, countries pursue their own interests, with or without an embassy. I'm not saying it had no impact, but I'm saying that if they wanted to have a reasonable relationship with Iran, they could have acted in a way that would have resolved the embassy issue, but they didn't. As soon as an incident occurred in Iran, they would take advantage of it to weaken Iran.

What was your opinion about the embassy takeover at the time, and what is it now?

At the time, the Imam said it was a "second revolution" and everyone supported it. I don't think anyone was opposed to it at the time, at least not openly. But now the question is, given

the situation we're in, what should we do? I think that with the crisis created by Israel and the US, we need to think logically and reasonably about this issue. Especially you, as a media outlet, sometimes create an unjustified infatuation in society about the US, which lacks a reasonable basis. You should be pursuing Iran's national interests. If our interests are secured with China or Russia one day, we should negotiate with them. If our national interests are met with the West, we should negotiate with the West. We don't want to be one-dimensional; our national interests should be the basis. If the Americans did something wrong, we should say so and take our business elsewhere. We might work with the Chinese. The point is that our national interests should be the priority.

The full interview was published first by the Persian-language Khabaronline news agency.



Missiles launched from Iran towards Israel streak across the night sky as seen from Deir al-Balah, Gaza Strip, on Oct. 1, 2024.
● ABDEL KAREEM HANA/AP



A cease-fire is not something that can be easily dismissed. After all, the less costly the solution, the better it is for Muslims and the oppressed.



World Cup Asian qualifiers: Iran 'fortunate to avoid punishment,' Qalenoeei says after North Korea win

Sports Desk

Iran head coach Amir Qalenoeei said his team was lucky not to be punished after surviving a late scare to secure a 3-2 victory over North Korea in a World Cup qualifier in Vientiane, Laos, on Thursday.

It was a game of two halves in an eventful evening at the Lao National Stadium KM16, as Iran took a commanding 3-0 lead at halftime but went down to 10 men after the break before North Korea found the net twice in the space of three minutes.

Mahdi Qayedi gave Team Melli a well-deserved lead on the half-hour mark, when Iranian skipper Mahdi Taremi sent him through to slot home past North Korean goalkeeper Kang Ju-hyok. Taremi was again the provider in the 41st minute, playing a one-two with Mohammad Mohebbi, who smashed the ball into top corner.

Mohebbi bagged his second of the night four minutes later, thanks to another assist by Taremi, who teed up the Rostov winger on the edge of the box before his strike found the bottom corner.

The Asian powerhouse looked to be cruising to a comfortable victory but the game turned on its head seven minutes after the restart, as Iran center-back Shoja Khalilzadeh was shown his marching orders for a last-man foul on Ri Jo-guk.

North Koreans pulled one back four minutes later, with Taremi inadvertently steering Kang Kuk-chol's cross past Iranian keeper Alireza Beiranvand, and then the margin was reduced to one, when Jang Kuk-chol's header across the goal was bundled in by Kim Yu-song.

Taremi had the chance to squash North Korea's revival hopes with a VAR-given penalty in the 65th minute, only to see his effort from the spot cleared by Kang. North Korea went close to completing

the comeback on a couple of occasions, with Ri hitting the crossbar in the 75th minute, but Iran held out to collect all points.

"Today's game taught us a very important lesson, we had two totally different halves," Qalenoeei said after the game.

"We were fantastic in the first half, scored three goals and didn't give North Korea any opportunities, but in the second half, we didn't have a good game after losing one of our players and control of the match.

"During the break, we reminded the players to treat the score as if it was level because North Korea is a dangerous team, and their past performances have shown they cannot be underestimated. We were fortunate to hold on for the three points in the second half.

"We managed to control the game through our substitutions, though we were fortunate that football spared us today and didn't punish our mistakes. We needed to be more focused in situations where we fell short, and that is something I take seriously as a coach. Nevertheless,

less, I am extremely grateful to my players," added the Iranian coach, whose team will be back in action on Tuesday against Kyrgyzstan in Bishkek, with a win seeing Team Melli take a huge stride towards a place in the 2026 finals in the United States, Mexico, and Canada.

"We have to be happy we got the three

points today and from tomorrow we must be focused for the next match against Kyrgyz Republic," Qalenoeei said. The hard-fought victory sent Iran three points clear on top of the table in Group A as the Asian qualifiers reached the halfway point.

The top two finishers in each of Asia's

three qualifying groups advance automatically to the 2026 finals in North America while the third and fourth placed nations progress to another phase of preliminaries.

In Doha, Lucas Mendes scored 12 minutes into stoppage time to secure a 3-2 win for Qatar over Uzbekistan after Abbasbek Fayzullaev scored twice to cancel out Alimoez Ali's first-half brace for the host.

Despite the last-gasp heartbreak, Uzbekistan is second in the group with 10 points, but is now only three points ahead of both Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, which handed Kyrgyzstan a 3-0 defeat in Abu Dhabi.

In other groups, Branko Ivankovic's China reignited its qualification hopes with a 1-0 win over Bahrain in Riffa thanks to a Zhang Yuning's 91st-minute strike, while French coach Herve Renard marked his return to the Saudi Arabia dugout with a 0-0 draw against Australia in Melbourne.

The Chinese moved to six points from five matches, level with second-placed Australians and Saudis in Group C, with Bahrain fifth on five points.

In Group B, Son Heung-min scored his 50th international goal to help South Korea cement its hold on the top spot with a 3-1 away win against Kuwait.

Jordan and Iraq are second and third in the table with eight points – five adrift of South Korea – following a goalless stalemate in Basra and fourth-placed Oman had a late Muhsen al-Ghassani strike to thank for a 1-0 win over Palestine.



Iranian players celebrate a goal during a 3-2 victory over North Korea in the World Cup Asian qualifiers in Vientiane, Laos, on November 14, 2024.
● MOHSEN DAVOUDI/FFIRI

Asian Men's Club League Handball Championship: Iran's San'at Mes routs Oman's Ahli Sidab for first win

Sports Desk

Iran's San'at Mes Kerman celebrated a first win at the Asian Men's Club League Handball Championship in Doha, Qatar, defeating Ahli Sidab Club of Oman 33-19 in Group B.

Aref Taei and Allahkaram Esteki scored five goals apiece, while Reza Shojaei delivered a man-of-the-match performance with three, as the Iranian club bounced back from a first-day 31-22 loss to defending champion Khaleej Club of Saudi Arabia.

The victory left San'at in the third place of the group's five-team table with two points, with Khaleej Club on top with four points thanks to a superior goal difference over the host's Al Duhail.

San'at will be back in action today against Kazma SC of Kuwait, before taking on Al Duhail on Sunday.

The winner of the nine-team tournament will secure qualification for the 18th IHF Handball Club World Championship – to be hosted by New Administrative Capital, Egypt, in October 2025.



● ASIANHANDBALL.ORG

Medvedev targets improvement after '6.5/10' year

REUTERS – Daniil Medvedev said he needs to "build a better version" of himself after Thursday's ATP Finals defeat to Jannik Sinner ensured the Russian will end the season without a title for the first time since 2017.

Former U.S. Open champion Medvedev was beaten 6-3 6-4 by world number one Sinner in his final group match, leaving him no chance of reaching the last four in the season-ending tournament in Turin.

"I want to be number one in the world, but I didn't play well enough this year, by far. Jannik is playing much better. He proved it many times," Medvedev told reporters.

"But I'm number four in the big tennis world. I'm super proud about that because, as I said, especially in the end of the year, I struggled throughout the whole year. Every practice, every match was a struggle for me.

"Before I would feel I had the edge on the opponent and win it easy. Now I needed to win three sets, tie-breaks, breaks in the end of the set. I would put it (season) somewhere on six and a half out of 10."

Medvedev, who opted to skip ATP 250 events and only play in bigger tournaments this year, reached the final of the Australian Open and In-



Russia's Daniil Medvedev hits a serve during his singles group stage match against Italy's Jannik Sinner at the ATP Finals in Turin, Italy, on November 14, 2024.
● GUGLIELMO MANGIAPANE/REUTERS

dian Wells.

Asked about his plans for the pre-season, Medvedev said: "We're going to try to really build something a little bit new. I see right now that it's not good enough, especially against guys like Jannik and Carlos (Alcaraz).

"If we talk purely tactics, I feel like I played fine. It's just execution... That's what we're going to work on a lot in pre-season, to build a little bit better version of myself, which is not

easy when you're 28 years old. "About titles, I'm not that concerned. I could have gotten some different tournaments. I basically played three 500s this year and all the rest was Masters and Grand Slams."

Larijani voices Tehran's support for Beirut in cease-fire talks

International Desk

Ali Larijani, a senior advisor to the Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution, said on Friday that Tehran will support any decision taken by the Lebanese government and the country's resistance movement Hezbollah in current talks on a potential cease-fire deal with Israel. "We do not intend to obstruct anything. We are after a solution to the problems," Larijani said after meeting Lebanese caretaker Prime Minister Najib Mikati and Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri. Larijani, referring to Lebanon's Hezbollah, said the Islamic Republic would support the resistance front under all circumstances. "We support the resistance under all circumstances," he added, noting that his ongoing trip to Lebanon was meant to convey this message.

The official also said he had conveyed a message from Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei to Berri, but did not provide any information on its content. Larijani commented on an announcement made by the Lebanese prime minister earlier in the day, in which he said Lebanon "prioritized" implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1701. Adopted to end Israel's 2006 war on Lebanon, the resolution has trusted preservation of security in southern Lebanese areas with UN peacekeepers. "We support whatever important issue that is accepted by the Lebanese authorities and resistance," Larijani said. Diplomacy aimed at securing a cease-fire in Lebanon showed tentative signs of progress on Thursday as Israel pounded the north-

ern county, including heavy airstrikes on the stronghold of the Hezbollah resistance movement near Beirut, Reuters reported. Pressing its offensive against the group, Israel hit Beirut's southern suburbs, carrying out intense attacks there for a third consecutive day. Plumes of smoke rose over Dahiyeh, where Israeli strikes destroyed five buildings, sources familiar with the damage said. In addition, Israeli strikes in the eastern city of Baalbek killed at least 20 people while 11 died in an Israeli aerial bombardment of towns in southern Lebanon, authorities and Lebanon's National News Agency (NNA) said.

Draft truce proposal

Meanwhile, the US ambassador to Lebanon on Thursday submitted a draft truce proposal to Berri, two



Senior advisor to Iran's Leader, Ali Larijani (L) meets Lebanese Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri in Beirut, Lebanon, on November 15, 2024.

● IRNA

senior Lebanese political sources told Reuters, without providing details. Israel insists on retaining the right to target Hezbollah in Lebanon even after an agreement, a condition Lebanon firmly rejects. The Israeli regime also struck the upscale Mazzeh district of Damascus on Friday, the second such attack in as many days to hit the neighborhood home to embassies, security headquarters and United Nations offices, Syrian state-run media said. "Israeli aggression targets Mazzeh area in Damascus," SANA said, after reporting a deadly Israeli strike on the district a day earlier.



The attacks coincided with the presence of Larijani in Syria, and his meetings with President Bashar al-Assad and other Syrian officials on Thursday. The two sides discussed further solidification of bilateral relations amid heightened escalation in the region as they underscored the need

for putting an end to Israel's atrocious onslaught on the besieged Gaza Strip and Lebanon. Larijani stressed the Islamic Republic's standing by Syria and its willingness to provide all forms of support for it, hailing the pivotal role of Damascus in the region. Assad, for his part, underlined

his country's adherence to the Palestinian historic rights and support for the struggle of the Lebanese and Palestinian people with all means. The Syrian president also called for stopping Israel's massacres and an end to the occupying regime's mass genocidal crimes.

Pezeshkian: Iran ready to resolve nuclear 'ambiguities' with IAEA

International Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said in his meeting with the visiting head of the UN nuclear agency that his country is willing to resolve "ambiguities and doubts" about its nuclear program. "As we have repeatedly demonstrated our goodwill in the past, we express our readiness to cooperate and align with this international body to resolve any ambiguities and allegations concerning the peaceful nature of our nuclear activities," Pezeshkian said in a meeting with International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) chief Rafael Grossi in Tehran on Thursday. The president stressed the peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear program, citing Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei's religious decree which prohibits the manufacturing of nuclear

weapons. Pezeshkian also said Iran does not seek war but will strongly respond to any aggression. Grossi, for his part, praised Pezeshkian's peace-oriented and consensus-driven approach during this meeting, expressing gratitude for the diligent cooperation of the officials of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with the IAEA. He said in Tehran on Thursday that achieving "results" in talks with Iran is vital to avoid a war, AFP reported. "It is indispensable to get, at this point in time, to some concrete, tangible, visible results that will indicate that this joint work is improving the situation... and in a general sense is moving us away from conflict and ultimately war," Grossi told a joint news conference with Iran's nuclear chief



Mohammad Eslami. The UN nuclear chief toured two Iranian uranium enrichment plants that have been the focus of Western concern on Friday. He visited the Natanz and Fordo enrichment plants in central Iran, IRNA reported. Grossi was accompanied by the AEOI spokesman, Behrouz Kamalvandi, and Kazem Gharibabadi, Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs. In 2015, Iran proved the peaceful nature of its nuclear program to the world by signing the JCPOA with six world pow-



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (R) meets the International Atomic Energy Agency chief Rafael Grossi in Tehran, Iran, on November 14, 2024.

● president.ir

ers. However, Washington's unilateral withdrawal in 2018 and its subsequent re-imposition of sanctions against Tehran left the future of the deal in limbo. In 2019, Iran started to roll back the limits it had accepted under the JCPOA after the other parties failed to live up to their commitments.

Musk, Iran's UN ambassador discuss de-escalation with US: Report

Tech billionaire Elon Musk, who is also a top adviser to the US President-elect Donald Trump, was reported to have discussed ways to ease tensions between Iran and the United States.

Musk met with Iran's ambassador to the United Nations on Monday in New York in a session that two Iranian officials described as a discussion on how to defuse tensions between Tehran and Washington, New York Times reported.

The Iranian officials said the meeting between Musk and Ambassador Amir Saeid Iravani lasted more than an hour and was held at a secret location. The officials, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss policy publicly, described the meeting as "positive" and "good news." Asked about whether there was such a session, Steven Cheung, Trump's communications director, said, "We do not comment on reports of private meetings that did or did not occur." Musk did not respond to a request for comment. Karoline Leavitt, the transition spokeswoman for the incoming Trump-Vance administration, said in a statement, "The American people re-elected President Trump because they trust him to lead our country and restore peace through strength around the world. When he returns to the White House, he will take the



● ERIC LEE/THE NEW YORK TIMES

necessary action to do just that." Iran also seeks to ease tensions with the US with President Masoud Pezeshkian saying, "Whether we like it or not, we will eventually come face to face with this country in the regional and international arenas, and it is better to manage this issue ourselves." Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi also has called for the implementation of relevant management strategies to reduce the cost of Iran's standing differences with the United States. "We have to implement [relevant] management [strategies] so that the cost of Iran's differences with the United States [can] be reduced," the top diplomat said on the sidelines of a cabinet meeting on Wednesday. He said the channels of communication between the two countries are constantly there.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

NGOs decry Israel's presence at COP29 in Baku



Displaced Palestinians make their way after fleeing the northern part of Gaza amid an Israeli military offensive in Gaza City, on November 12, 2024.

● DAWOUD ABU ALKAS/REUTERS

Dozens of Iran's non-governmental human rights organizations and NGOs condemned in a joint statement the presence of Israel at the COP29 climate change conference in Azerbaijan's capital Baku. The NGOs called for international pressure on Israel to adhere to climate justice principles in Palestine and to cease humanitarian and environmental violations. The statement, issued by a coalition of civil society groups,

highlighted Israel's environmental and human rights violations, particularly in the occupied Palestinian territories and Lebanon. The organizations argue that Israel's actions contradict the fundamental goals of COP29, which aim to address the global climate crisis and uphold environmental justice. A joint declaration by 21 Iranian NGOs has highlighted three key areas of concern regarding Israel's actions in Palestinian and Lebanese territories, including environmental damage caused

by Israeli military operations, violating international environmental law and the ongoing Gaza blockade, which have created severe environmental and humanitarian crises, breaching international humanitarian law.

They also stressed the need for climate justice for Palestinians, who must have access to natural resources and participate in environmental decision-making processes, with Israel responsible for upholding these rights as the occupying power. The NGOs call on COP29 and international human rights bodies to hold Israel accountable and take immediate action to stop its destructive practices, emphasizing that global climate justice cannot be achieved without addressing these pressing violations.



Reading, awareness help people find 'common perspective': *President*

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian emphasized the importance of reading and knowledge in bridging differences and fostering understanding among people, saying "reading and awareness lead us to a common language and perspective, and keep us away from conflict."

President Pezeshkian made the remarks at a national ceremony marking the National Day of Book, Reading and Librarianship (November 14), where he praised the efforts of all those involved in promoting book-reading culture in the country.

In celebration of the 32nd edition of the Iran Book Week, the Iran Public Libraries Foundation arranged various programs.

"Reading for Empathy" is the motto of this year's festival, which will run through November 20.

Pezeshkian referred to the direct connection between knowledge and

awareness and today's human life, saying, "God has linked the life of the earth to man, the life of man to science, the life of science to action, and the life of action to sincerity, which shows the importance of science. If a society reaches such a belief and faith, will it suffer from backwardness, poverty and trouble?" Pezeshkian also emphasized the significance of promoting book-reading among all walks of life, particularly the younger generation.

The president noted that if people want to create a world that is worthy of themselves and future generations, they must turn to books and make reading a part of their lives.

Iran's Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance, Abbas Salehi, also spoke at the ceremony, emphasizing the importance of libraries in the Islamic civilization's scientific progress.

He noted that the Qur'an's first verses refer to the book, and that the path to civilization-building in Islam has been through knowledge and science.



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (R) visits renowned Iranian writer and literary figure Mohammad-Ali Movahed on the second day of Iran Book Week in Tehran, Iran, on November 15, 2024. ● president.ir



Salehi pointed out that libraries have been the driving force behind the Islamic civilization's scientific progress, and that they serve as a means of extending the scientific life of individuals beyond their natural lifespan.

He also highlighted the importance of overcoming the limitations of formal education and the need for a lifelong pursuit of knowledge.

Salehi also touched on the topic of the societal and civilizational impact of reading and libraries. He emphasized that if people want to create a society that values knowledge and awareness, they need to prioritize reading and libraries.

Mehdi Ramezani, the Director-General of the Iran Public Libraries Foundation,

announced that Iran's public library network has grown to 3,800 units with 7,500 cultural workers, ranking first in the region.

He also pointed out that libraries serve as a "third home" for people, providing a space for mothers and children, youth, and the elderly to access information, learn, and socialize.

Ramezani called on the president to prioritize the development of mobile libraries, complete unfinished projects, and establish libraries in cities that lack them.

He also requested that the president address the issue of librarians' livelihoods, which he described as a pressing concern.

Iran, Russia advised to learn from past to create better future



Russian professor Semenyuk Alexander Grigoryevich (R) addresses the audience during the Iran-Russia joint meeting titled 'Iranian and Russian Cultural Dialogue' in Tehran on November 13. ● MOBINA ABDOLLAHPOUR/IRAN DAILY



By Sadeq Dehqan
Staff writer

Iranian and Russian scholars and experts emphasized the need for their countries to learn from their shared history and cultural heritage in order to create a better future, during a joint meeting titled 'Iranian and Russian Cultural Dialogue' being held in Tehran. Mohammad Reza Vahidzadeh, head of the Resistance Literature Faculty at Soore University and secretary of the joint meeting, told Iran Daily reporter "This meeting is part of a knowledge-enhancement program called 'Journey to Iranian Civilization and Art' hosted by the Research Institute for Islamic Culture and Thought."

A total of 11 researchers and academics from various Russian universities were invited to participate in this 8-day program, which includes 3 days in Isfahan and 5 days in Tehran. Vahidzadeh explained that the participants were selected from 40 applicants based on their scientific and experiential background. "We have been hosting these individuals for 8 days, and during this period, we will hold courses on Iranian philosophy, history, art,

literature, and architecture for the Russian participants."

'Iranian and Russian Cultural Dialogue' included a joint meeting between Soore University professors and students and the Russian guests discussed potential collaborations and exchanges.

Vahidzadeh added that the joint session featured speeches on topics such as "Russia's Interaction with Modernity in the 19th and 20th Centuries," "The Impact of Cinema on Public Awareness," "Carpet in Contemporary Islamic Art," and "Codicology and Historical Documentation in Persian Sources."

Semenyuk Alexander Grigoryevich, a professor at the Moscow Film School and a Russian producer, critic, and programmer, spoke about the influence of cinema on public awareness: "Cinema is not just a form of entertainment; it has the power to shape public opinion, making it a more influential art form than others."

Grigoryevich highlighted the cultural similarities between Iran and Russia, emphasizing the need for both nations to rely on their own cultures and resist Western cultural influence. "Unfortunately, authentic Iranian and Russian

cultural elements are disappearing from our films, and it's essential for our filmmakers to return to their roots. Collaboration between Iranian and Russian filmmakers is crucial in this regard."

Shahriar Zarshenas, a professor at Soore University, discussed modernity in Iran and Russia, "Both countries share similarities in their approach to modernity. In Russia, the 19th century was a critical period, with two opposing currents: Western modernism and a return to authentic Russian culture. Peter the Great was a key figure in introducing modernism to Russia, while Fyodor Dostoevsky represented the opposing current."

Zarshenas continued, "In the second half of the 19th century, the Western-oriented modernist movement gained power in Russia, leading to the Bolshevik Revolution. Similarly, in Iran, we experienced a pseudo-modernism that ultimately led to the Islamic Revolution. After the Soviet collapse, Russia began to return to its authentic culture, and we must learn from our past and work together to create a better future for our countries."

Olga Mikhailovna Yastrebova, a manuscript expert and researcher at the National Library of Russia in St. Petersburg, spoke about codicology, "Manuscript studies reveal a country's culture, historical heritage, and national characteristics."

Yastrebova explained that, until the 15th century, all European books were handwritten, but with the invention of the printing press, printed books became widespread. "In Europe, the transition from handwritten to printed books happened relatively quickly, but in Islamic countries, including Iran, the adoption of printed books was slower due to the prevalence of calligraphy and the respect for handwritten manuscripts."

Yastrebova added that, as a result, many Islamic art and cultural works were presented in handwritten form until the early 20th century. "For example, the 'Shahnameh' of Ferdowsi was first published in India using lithography, and the text was based on 17 handwritten manuscripts. This printed version was discovered by Italian scholars in 1987."

Yastrebova also noted that the scope of Persian manuscript publication extends beyond Iran's current borders, with many Persian manuscripts written in Central Asia, modern-day Turkey, India, Kashmir, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, and Iraq.

Polia Liubimova, another Russian cultural researcher, discussed the topic of carpet in contemporary Islamic art, "Carpet is an element that connects different cultures, as it contains elements of each nation's culture and art. In Islamic countries, carpets feature Islamic and folkloric elements." Liubimova noted that the history of carpet is closely tied to Iran, and from the mid-20th century, carpets began to be recognized as artistic and museum-worthy, rather than just functional items.

Iran scores double victory in cultural heritage recognition



Arts & Culture Desk

Iran has scored a double victory in the field of cultural heritage, with Esfahak village in South Khorasan Province being registered as one of the world's best tourist villages by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), and the traditional Isfahan dish, Khorosht-e Mast (a stew made from yogurt), receiving international recognition from the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), a subsidiary of UNESCO.

"We are proud to announce that Esfahak village, which was severely damaged in the 1978 Tabas earthquake, has been recognized as one of the world's best tourist villages," said Reza Salehi Amiri, Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, adding that the village was selected from among 150 villages worldwide.

This achievement follows the registration of Kandovan village in East Azarbaijan Province last year, bringing the total number of Iranian villages

registered with the UNWTO to two.

Meanwhile, the traditional Isfahan dish, Khorosht-e Mast, has also been registered globally. According to Mojgan Izadi, head of the Tourism and Handicrafts Commission of the Isfahan Chamber of Commerce's, the dish has received an international geographical indication from WIPO, a subsidiary of UNESCO.

"Khorosht-e Mast is one of Isfahan's culinary attractions, and tourists visiting the city are eager to try it," said Izadi, emphasizing the importance of registering traditional foods as intangible cultural heritage. The registration of Khorosht-e Mast and Esfahak village is expected to boost Iran's tourism industry, with Izadi stressing that food is an integral part of a region's cultural identity and can be a major tourist draw. "Food is a significant part of our cultural heritage, and registering our intangible cultural assets can revitalize tourism," she said.