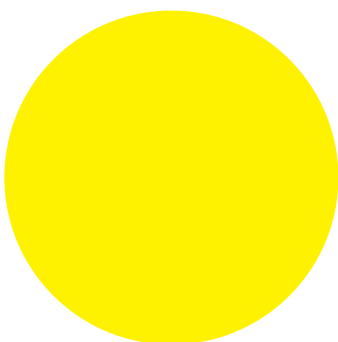


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# Iran Daily

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Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (R) meets with Qatar's Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani in Tehran on November 20, 2024. [president.ir](http://president.ir)

### Iran, Qatar Should Expedite Full Execution of Agreements: **Pezeshkian**

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### Ties that bond Iran to its northern neighbor

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### Internal cohesion to help secure interests in foreign policy

By Mohammadreza Bahonar  
Member of Iran's Expediency Council

PERSPECTIVE  
EXCLUSIVE

As a religious democracy, the Islamic Republic of Iran has seen diverse political viewpoints since the triumph of the Islamic Revolution in 1979. The changing of the guard in governments and parliaments over the past 45 years, with their varying political leanings, bears witness to this claim. However, to overcome certain challenges and make key national decisions, a consensus among political groups and prominent national figures is a must. In fact, forging such a consensus is a prerequisite for taking strides in development, ensuring that major decisions are both nationally backed and publicly acceptable. It appears that the current state of the nation calls for an alliance or consensus among political groups who are devoted to the Establishment and the people, allowing national convergence and cooperation to take center stage, rather than petty squabbles and factional bickering. This does not mean that all political entities must be on the same page, but rather, while acknowledging differences in opinion, focus on commonalities in key areas. Perhaps, this requires political groups to put national interests above their own minor concerns, for the greater good. [Page 7 >](#)



## Iran, Afghanistan discuss finalization of Khaf-Herat railway project

The CEO of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways said given the proximity of Iran, Afghanistan and China, the Khaf-Herat railway route is the only axis that can shorten transit time and reduce costs; thus, completing this railway according to a specific timeline has great importance. Jabbarali Zakeri made the remarks in a meeting with Deputy Minister of Public Works and Head of the Afghan Railway Administration Mawlawi Mohammad Is'haq Sahebzadeh and his delegation. He emphasized that the Iranian railway organization is determined to assist Afghanistan in this respect, IRNA wrote. Zakeri called for arranging a tripartite meeting among Iranian, Chinese, and Afghan authorities to pursue the implementation of the railway project, which was proposed by the Iranian railway officials. He added that many of the problems faced by the Iranian and Afghan railway consortium have been resolved, and currently, three trains are operating weekly on the designated route. The deputy minister also noted that in response to Afghanistan's request, a third training course for Afghan railway staff will soon be held, both in-person and, if desired, partly online. The construction of the Khaf-Herat railway, which links Khaf in eastern Iran with Herat in western Afghanistan, began back in 2007. For his part, Sahebzadeh thanked the Iranian railway organization for training programs for 96 Afghan railway employees. He added that following the successful completion of the first and second training courses, they are now looking forward to the third course. The Afghan official stated that the Khaf-Herat project symbolizes the friendship between the two countries, expressing hope that through joint cooperation, there will be an increase in the level of transit and cargo transport, resulting in the growth of trade between the two countries. He emphasized that based on studies, there is significant cargo capacity along the China-Afghanistan-Iran route, assuring that Afghanistan is fully prepared to take the necessary steps alongside Iran in this regard. The head of the Afghan Railway Administration also announced that engineering studies are underway for the construction of the Zaranj-Kandahar railway project, which, when connected to Zabul, will open a new chapter of cooperation and trade exchanges between the two countries.

# Exports of mining, mineral products top \$7.5b in seven months: **IMIDRO**

### Economy Desk

The Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) announced on Wednesday that Iran's exports of mining and mineral products surpassed \$7.5 billion from the start of the current Iranian year (March 20) to October 21. According to the report, Iran exported 36.596 million tons of various mining and mineral products valued at \$7.537 billion during the seven months. During the same period last year, exports stood at 35.94 million tons, worth \$7.43 billion, IRNA reported. A comparison of the two periods shows a 2% rise in weight terms and a 1% increase in export value this year.

The largest share of exports during this period came from the production chains of steel, aluminum, and copper, totaling 19.015 million tons and valued at \$5.81 billion. According to IMIDRO, the value of Iran's export of minerals in the previous Iranian year stood at \$13.7 billion, registering a nine-percent increase compared to a year earlier. The report added that \$7.3 billion worth of the mining and mineral products were imported into Iran from March 2023 to March 2024, showing a 35% rise compared to a year earlier. Iran is one of the top 10 mineral-rich countries in the world. With 15,000 mining areas, Iran has the sixth largest zinc, seventh largest copper, ninth



largest iron ore reserves, and fifth largest gypsum and barite reserves glob-

ally. It also has 3% of the world's total lead and zinc reserves, and huge

coal reserves. Other mineral products such as chromate, and

manganese are also found in different regions of Iran.

## Iran-Russia power grids connection to boost regional supplies: **Minister**

Iranian Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi said connecting the power grids of Russia and Iran would significantly increase the region's electricity supply capacity. Aliabadi made the remarks in a meeting with visiting Russian Energy Minister Sergei Tsivilev in Tehran on Tuesday, IRNA reported. The official described the meeting as crucial, noting that Russia is one of Iran's key neighbors. He stated that connecting the electrical networks of both countries could generate significant supplies of electricity for the countries of the region. Aliabadi went on to say that Iran and Russia have already been collaborating extensively in the electricity sector. Iran has established electrical connections with Turkey, Iraq, Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, Armenia, Turkmenistan, and Pakistan, he added. The construction of the Sirik power plant was also discussed during the meeting. The Sirik power plant which is under construction in Sirik county in the southern Iranian province of Hormuzgan will have a generation capacity of 1,400 megawatts. A contract for the Sirik power plant has been signed between Iran and Russia, Aliabadi said, adding that both sides are eager to implement it, with Russia being interested in partnering with Iranian companies. The Sirik project has an executive plan, and we are actively working to resolve any technical challenges in this regard, the minister further noted. For his part, the Russian energy minister expressed support for bolstering ties with Iran, noting that Russia is working on a plan for Iranian and Russian officials to meet



in Moscow in December. Tsivilev said Russia seeks to obtain Iranian technology for the design and manufacturing of gas turbines for its power plants. The Russian minister also held a meeting with Iranian First Vice President Mohammadreza Aref on Wednesday. Speaking at the meeting, Aref announced Tehran and Moscow's strong determination to strengthen bilateral relations to the maximum level. As there are considerable capacities in both countries for boosting cooperation, it is important that the two sides enhance trade exchange and implement the agreements on cooperation, Aref noted. It is an indication of the strong will of both sides to foster ties as they continue consultations, especially during the current global and regional situation, the vice president said. The Islamic Republic of Iran says that the all-out and long-term cooperation with Russia is of paramount importance, he added. For his part, the Russian minister said there are various grounds for deepening cooperation between his country and Iran. The exchange of meetings between the two sides' senior officials will facilitate the expansion of relations, he underlined. Tsivilev, who is also the Russian chairman of the Moscow-Tehran economic committee, stressed that the committee's activities are significant as it helps facilitate cooperation.

## Tehran-Tbilisi trade registers 12% rise in six months

By Sadeq Dehqan & Reza Abesh Ahmadlou  
Staff writers

Trade between Iran and Georgia reached approximately \$150 million in the first half of 2024, as announced by Arash Nikpey, the head of the Trade and Marketing Commission at the Iran-Georgia Joint Chamber of Commerce. Speaking to Iran Daily, he said trade between Tehran and Tbilisi grew by more than 12 percent in the first half of 2024 and totaled about \$149.5 million, an increase of \$16.5 million compared to the same period last year. Nikpey emphasized that Iran and Georgia have significant potential for economic collaboration due to geographical, economic, and cultural advantages. "A shared political commitment to developing economic relations could substantially boost bilateral trade," he stated. According to Nikpey, Iranian exports to Georgia in the first six months of this year included construction steel (such as rebar and pipes), building materials (like tiles and ceramics), petrochemical products, and agricultural goods. Highlighting key areas for trade development, he said agricultural and food products in particular are promising. Georgia can serve as a strong market for Iranian produce, vegetables, and dried fruits, while the import of meat and livestock products from Georgia is attractive for Iran. The trader added that petrochemical and chemical industries also play a key role in expanding trade volume, with Georgia's demand for petrochemicals and plastic products providing an opportunity for increased Iranian exports. Additionally, with Georgia's construction boom, the demand for



building materials like tiles, ceramics, and metal supplies remains high. Nikpey emphasized the importance of developing transportation and transit infrastructure to facilitate trade, noting that Iran and Georgia could leverage their strategic geographical positions for transport and transit cooperation between Asia and Europe. He also pointed to tourism as a significant area of economic collaboration, stating that Georgia is a popular destination for Iranian tourists and suggested that developing tourism infrastructure and increasing direct flights between the two countries could generate economic benefits for both nations. Nikpey referred to banking challenges and sanctions as obstacles to trade growth, suggesting alternative solutions like bilateral financial agreements. He highlighted the establishment of financial mechanisms such as currency swaps and using national currencies to bypass sanctions, as well as enhancing cooperation between Iranian and Georgian banks to streamline financial exchanges and payments. Easing customs procedures and negotiating new agreements could further

strengthen trade relations. He proposed various measures to boost trade, including creating new transportation routes (land, sea, and air) and expanding Iran's port capacities while utilizing regional transit corridors like the International North-South Transit Corridor (INSTC). Additionally, he recommended developing preferential or free trade agreements to reduce tariffs and signing economic memoranda of understanding to ease imports and exports. Diversifying exports and focusing on products with higher added value, such as petrochemicals, pharmaceuticals, and industrial goods, could help Iran gain a larger share of the Georgian market, Nikpey noted. He added that Iranian traders should meet Georgia's demand for imports, including raw food materials and dairy products. Talking on joint investment opportunities, Nikpey highlighted that both nations could collaborate in sectors like food industries, construction materials, and petrochemicals. He suggested setting up joint manufacturing plants in economic free zones or near the borders to reduce production and transportation costs. Furthermore, he emphasized Iran's potential to provide techno-engineering services to Georgia, especially in construction, energy, and technology, as a means of strengthening bilateral trade.



# Rich history of Yaghmaei House in Shahroud

The Yaghmaei House is one of the notable attractions in Shahroud, Semnan Province, with a history that spans over a century. Constructed in 1926, this historic residence was built during the early Pahlavi era under the guidance of Master Mahdi Heydarian, the architect who designed the house in a style typical of Yazd. The architectural principles employed in the Yaghmaei House are particularly suited for Iran's desert climate, making it a priority for tourists who enjoy exploring historical residences during their visit to Shahroud. Key features of the Yaghmaei House include its impressive windcatcher (badgir) and the pool room

(howzkhaneh). The structure is organized around a central courtyard, with the entrance leading into it via a hallway. The windcatcher is not only a decorative element but also serves a functional purpose, standing taller and sturdier than those found in other local buildings. Another notable feature is the pool room, which is strategically placed beneath the windcatcher. A small pool sits at the center of this room, allowing incoming air from the windcatcher to cool as it passes over the water, effectively filtering out dust before entering the house. The windcatcher is prominently positioned above the main entrance, making it visible from the end of the alley.



### History

The history of the Yaghmaei House is deeply intertwined with the legacy of its original owner, Yaghmaei, a prominent merchant of Shahroud. His affection for the city of Yazd inspired him to commission the construction of the house in the architectural style characteristic of Yazd's historical residences. Following his passing, the heirs of this esteemed merchant entrusted the house to the cultural heritage department of the city, choosing to focus on their trade instead. Although the Yaghmaei House was constructed during the Pahlavi era, its design is predominantly influenced by the architectural characteristics of the Qajar era, making it a quintessential example of Qajar architecture.

### Architecture

The Yaghmaei House exemplifies architectural styles that are well-suited for desert climates. The presence of windcatchers, which serve to cool the air, is a defining feature that distinguishes this building from others in Shahroud. The architecture is organized around a central courtyard, with rooms arranged around it. At the heart of the courtyard lies a water pool adorned with turquoise tiles,

surrounded by small gardens that infuse life and vitality into the space. In the western section of the courtyard, visitors will find guest rooms, a water reservoir, a veranda, and the only windcatcher in the city. The building also features light wells, a pool house, brick decorations around the courtyard, and a symmetrical layout that enhances the aesthetic appeal of the house. Upon entering through the front door, one is greeted by a small hallway that leads to the central courtyard, where stairs once provided access to the rooftop, although this access is no longer available. To the left of the entrance, on the western side of the building, lies the pool house, along with guest rooms and the water reservoir. The winter rooms are located on the northern side of the courtyard, providing a cozy retreat during the colder months. In spring, the lush gardens of the Yaghmaei House, with the central pool, significantly enhance the beauty and charm of the space.

### Nearby attractions

The Yaghmaei House is not the only captivating attraction in Shahroud; there are several other interesting places nearby that are well worth a visit.



### Archaeology and Anthropology Museum

The Archaeology and Anthropology Museum of Shahroud is located on Ferdowsi Street and was established in 1927, originally serving as the municipality of the city. This

historical museum houses over 800 artifacts and approximately 1,222 manuscripts and old books. Among its oldest items are bone and stone tools that date back more than 1,000 years, collected from the Sang-e Chakhmaq Hill of Bastam. The museum covers an area of 468 square meters and consists of two floors, designed in the architectural styles of late Qajar and early Pahlavi periods. The exterior is adorned with decorative bricks, while the surrounding area is paved with stone. The ceiling of the first floor features archways and domes, constructed with bricks, providing an elegant touch to the interior.

### Historical bazaar of Shahroud

The historical bazaar of Shahroud is an enclosed market that dates back to the Qajar period. This vibrant bazaar comprises several caravanserais, a mosque, a bathhouse, and a loading dock. Upon entering the bazaar, visitors will encounter two main aisles (rastehs), where specific products and goods are sold. Accessing the historical bazaar is convenient; simply head to the Republic Square, and the route from there is straightforward and easily navigable.

### Aqa Mosque

The Aqa Mosque, built during the Qajar period, is another significant historical site located near the bazaar. This mosque is adjacent to the old tekiyehs, which served as gathering places for Shia Muslims during religious ceremonies. The Aqa Mosque features an entrance porch, a shabestan (prayer hall), a cistern, a courtyard, a veranda, and various rooms. It includes two prayer halls designed for winter and summer use, each with symmetrical alcoves and mihrabs flanking the entrance porch. The proximity of the Aqa Mosque to the historical bazaar allows visitors to easily explore both sites during their visit.

### Best time to visit

If you are planning to travel to Shahroud, the best time to visit is in the spring. The city also enjoys pleasant weather in late summer, making it suitable for exploring its attractions. Therefore, the ideal months to visit the Yaghmaei House are May and June. During these months, the weather in Shahroud is delightful, and the surroundings of the Yaghmaei House are beautifully green, enhancing the overall experience of this historical gem.



## Explore mysteries of Hemmatabad Desert

The deserts of Iran are renowned worldwide and have long been a key destination for tourism in the country. The serene landscapes and endless vistas captivate visitors, while unexpected wonders like diverse vegetation and wildlife continually attract adventurers. One of the stunning destinations in eastern Iran is the Hemmatabad Desert, a vast and breathtaking area in South Khorasan Province, celebrated for its rich ecosystem. Until recently, it was known primarily to locals, but it has now gained attention as a potential tourist site. The desert takes its name from the nearby Hemmatabad village, located 150 kilometers from Qaen and 65 kilometers from Rizkuh, close to the Afghanistan border



and the famous Petregan Playa. This region has been referenced in ancient travel writings and was part of the historic land of Ghahestan, adding to its significance as a historical site.

Hemmatabad is home to Pleske's ground jay, an endemic bird species found nowhere else in the world. Other avian residents include bustards, partridges, and see-see partridges,



while mammals such as sand cats, Rüppell's foxes, hyenas, wolves, and rabbits can also be spotted. The best time to visit Hemmatabad Desert is from late autumn

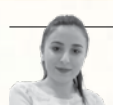
to early spring, with March and April being the ideal months when spring begins and lasts until May. Autumn is preferable for those who enjoy cooler weather.



One of the highlights of Hemmatabad is the grand Hajiabad Dam, which features a large sluice and offers recreational opportunities along its shores. The lake behind the dam attracts migratory birds, providing excellent opportunities for ornithologists during the autumn and winter months. Visitors can also enjoy safari and desert tours, camel riding, and local products like saffron and barberry. A trip to Hemmatabad Desert can be completed with a visit to Tajnud village, known for its waterfall and river, as well as the tomb of Bozorgmehr, the ancient castle of Qaen, and Qaem Jaame Mosque, all contributing to a memorable travel experience.



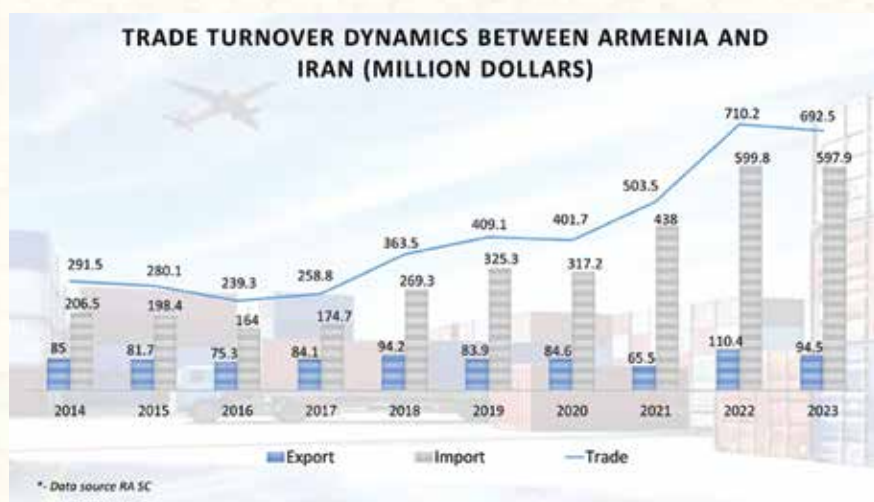
# Beyond borders Impressive trade, economic ties between Armenia, Iran



By Eliza  
Matevosyan  
Economist

**PERSPECTIVE  
EXCLUSIVE**

*The historically positive relations between the Republic of Armenia and the Islamic Republic of Iran have consistently emphasized economic development, aiming at mutually beneficial cooperation and strengthening ties between the two countries. Being an important player in a number of fields of the Armenian economy, Iran has its unique role, especially in the field of trade as one of the main trade partners of Armenia. As such, the existing trade and economic ties between Armenia and Iran are important not only for the two countries but also for the entire region.*



According to data from the Armenian Statistical Committee (SC), Iran ranked Armenia's 4th largest trade and economic partner in 2023, with a trade turnover of over \$692 million. However, a decrease of 2.5% was recorded compared to the previous year. Data from the first eight months of the current year indicate that although the trade turnover with Iran increased by 0.9% compared to the previous year, Iran's share in Armenia's total mutual trade turnover was 2.1% compared to 3.7% in the same period of 2023. It is noteworthy that in 2023, the Islamic Republic of Iran became Armenia's fourth-largest import partner by country of origin (accounting for 4.9% of Armenia's total imports), following Russia, China, and the United States. And in the same period, Iran ranked as Armenia's 8th largest export partner with a share of 1.1%.

It should be noted that Armenia's trade turnover with Iran has a negative balance. The volume of Iranian goods imported into Armenia exceeds that of Armenian goods exported to Iran. As the chart shows, it has consistently remained negative over the past 10 years under review. Additionally, the presented statistical data clearly indicate that over the past 10 years, a significant increase in the volume of imports from Iran was recorded in 2019, and import activity rose even further in 2021 and remained high in subsequent years. Such a situation is primarily due to the embargo imposed by the Armenian government on numerous Turkish products in 2021, which led to the replacement of certain Turkish goods in the Armenian market with Iranian products, giving trade and economic relations with Iran a new direction and momentum.

As you can see, the Islamic Republic of Iran plays a significant role in Armenia's economy, particularly in terms of imports. Let us first examine the structure of imports from Iran to Armenia. However, it is important to note that imports from the Islamic Republic of Iran are significantly more diversified than exports from the Islamic Republic of Armenia to Iran. Based on 2023 data, 732 product groups (under the four-digit FEA PN classification) were imported to Armenia from Iran, and in comparison, during the same period, Armenia exported to Iran only 196 products under the same classification of the FEA PN. According to the data published by the Armenian State Revenue Committee (SRC), the largest share in the volume of imports from the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Republic of Armenia in 2023 consisted of mineral fuel, oil, and oil refining products, amounting to 24.5%. Of this product group, the largest imports were petroleum gases and other gaseous hydrocarbons (\$60.8 million), oil and petroleum products (over \$44.1 million), and petroleum bitumen (\$39.5 million). The second-largest product group in the volume of imports from Iran to Armenia is ferrous metals, with a share of 23.2% in 2023. In this product group, the most imported items were iron or non-alloy steel bars without further processing (\$72.5 million), iron and non-alloy steel flat rolls (over \$24.7 million), and hot-rolled bars (\$16 million). Other products with relatively high customs import values from Iran include molybdenum ores and concentrates (\$18.9 million) and ethylene polymers in primary forms (\$17.8 million). The analysis of export structure from Ar-

menia to Iran by product groups reveals that electricity is the primary export, comprising 63.5% of exports to Iran in 2023, with a value of \$60.9 million. It is important to note that since 2009, Armenia and Iran have been cooperating under the "Gas for Electricity" program. Based on that program, Armenia supplies Iran with 3kWh of electricity for every 1 cubic meter of gas, directly benefiting the economic and energy cooperation between the two countries.

The second largest item exported during the same period is copper ores and concentrates with a customs value of \$10.9 million. Other export items with relatively high customs value include semi-finished products of iron or non-alloy steel (\$4.4 million), fresh or frozen mutton or goat meat (\$4.1 million), cigars (\$2.4 million), live sheep and goats (\$1.8 million), and unprocessed aluminum (\$1.1 million).

Thus, as we can see, the main part of the trade turnover between Armenia and Iran falls on industrial products, food industry goods, energy, and agriculture, which reflect the economic interests of both countries and their potential for cooperation. To elevate the economic relations between the two countries to a higher level, it is essential to promote increased investments, particularly in infrastructure improvement and the implementation of joint projects. And since the diversification of trade partners is one of the economic priorities of the Republic of Armenia, in that regard, Iran plays an important role, especially from the point of view that the latter, as a neighboring country, allows the Republic of Armenia to enter larger markets.



The Islamic Republic of Iran plays a significant role in Armenia's economy, particularly in terms of imports. It is important to note that imports from the Islamic Republic of Iran are significantly more diversified than exports from the Islamic Republic of Armenia to Iran.







# At workshop on Armenia-Iran cooperation, future perspectives: Regional revisionist policies 'directed against' Tehran, Yerevan

## REPORT EXCLUSIVE

On November 7, a workshop, titled "Armenia-Iran: Cooperation and Perspectives," was held in the town of Kapan, Syunik region, Armenia. Experts and scholars from leading analytical centers and scientific institutions in Armenia and Iran participated in the event. The workshop was organized by the Orbeli Analytical Center of Armenia and featured three panels with 18 presentations.

It addressed the prospects for cooperation in political, trade-economic, infrastructure, transit, cultural, and other spheres, as well as existing challenges and potential solutions. Both sides emphasized the importance of increasing mutual recognition and ensuring the continuity of such contacts.

of expanding cooperation in the industrial and mining sectors, improving infrastructure for goods transit, activating and strengthening border markets, and fostering provincial cooperation.

"The only border crossing between Iran and Armenia, the Nurdz border terminal, along with the border market in this region and the Nurdz customs in East Azarbaijan province, plays a crucial role in the trade process between the two countries. Any decision to increase trade volume between Iran and Armenia requires special attention to this border terminal, including allocating credit and budgets, strengthening the workforce, and improving administrative, technical, service, and health staff. Equipping customs facilities will help facilitate and streamline the customs procedures for cargoes. With these improvements, the trade process between Iran and Armenia will become faster," he stated.

Alireza Nazif, the head of the Iran-Armenia Friendship Association in northwest Iran, emphasized the importance of passing the North-South and Persian Gulf-Black Sea corridors through Armenia. He also stressed the need to improve Armenia's infrastructure to support these projects. Considering the development of India's relations with both Iran and Armenia, Nazif suggested that the cities of Tabriz and Kapan could host an international tripartite conference involving India, Iran, and Armenia.

In the cultural panel, Hasmik Kirakosyan, researcher at the Geghard Foundation pointed out that since the early Middle Ages, Armenian culture and education have been situated in the "unique cultural crucible of the Middle East," and as a result, their development occurred in "a context of non-isolated cultural conditions". "Among these, Armenian-Iranian historical and cultural interactions are particularly noticeable, especially since the pre-Christian period, when these historically subordinate peoples first

interacted, he said, adding that it can be said that the historical contacts between these two peoples took place within the same cultural world.

"It is no coincidence that Armenian sources on the history and culture of Iran provide information that is not found in Iranian sources. For example, the Armenian language has preserved many Iranian words, terms, and names from the Middle Iranian period that modern Persian has either lost or replaced with Arabic borrowings. It should be noted with confidence that Armenian-Iranian exchanges extended beyond the political and economic realms, significantly shaping cultural spheres as well." Zohreh Khanmohammadi, a lecturer at Islamic Azad University, emphasized that the cultural ties between Iran and Armenia should not be seen merely as a component that strengthens the relationship between the two nations. Instead, they should also serve to reinforce relations between the governments, particularly in the political arena. Cultural exchanges, she argued, can extend beyond the cultural sphere and positively influence politics and other areas of cooperation between the two countries.

Iranian experts also visited the Zangezur Copper-Molybdenum Combine mining company in Syunik. The delegation toured the entire industrial cycle of the combine, visiting the open-pit mine and the large ore-crushing site to observe the high technical and safety standards of the mine's operations. They also visited the Kajaran-Agarak road section, which is part of the North-South International Corridor and is being constructed by Iranian companies. The delegation observed the ongoing work on this vital infrastructure project. Before departing for Syunik, the Iranian delegation also met with high-ranking Armenian officials in Yerevan, where they discussed various issues of mutual interest.



"Iran's clear stance on the so-called Zangezur Corridor and its political will to protect its interests are the main obstacles to the implementation of revisionist projects by Baku and Ankara. In this sense, the alignment of positions between Yerevan and Tehran regarding the corridor acts as a stabilizing deterrent factor in the region." — Sergei Melkonyan



Participants pose for a photo during a workshop, titled "Armenia-Iran: Cooperation and Perspectives," held in Kapan, Armenia.  
● IRAN DAILY

In the political panel, Armen Petrosyan, an expert at the Orbeli Analytical Center, emphasized that Iran occupies a special place in Armenia's foreign policy. He stated that the Zangezur Corridor and the "Western and Southern Azerbaijan" thesis are false but have strategically motivated Turkic plans, which are driven by clear territorial ambitions in the region. He added that joint counter-measures to these plans make closer cooperation between Armenia and Iran even more crucial.

Ali Beman Eghbali Zarch, head of the Eurasia Department at the Institute for Political and International Studies (IPIS) of Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, emphasized, "Regarding the creation of the imaginary Zangezur Corridor, some countries, including Azerbaijan, Russia, and Turkey, are pursuing goals and interests that are not, and will not be, in the long-term interest of the region's security." He added that "any changes to the region's geography, borders, or geostrategy are not acceptable to the Islamic Republic of Iran as one of the key principles of Iran's foreign policy is maintaining the integrity of the borders of countries and not altering the geostrategy of different regions." He further noted that the South Caucasus, in particular, plays a crucial role in regional peace and stability.

Sergei Melkonyan, an expert at the APRI Armenia Center, maintained that the absence of a peace treaty between Armenia and Azerbaijan, Baku's promotion of territorial claims, Azerbaijan's push for revisionist projects — which are supported by Turkey (such as the Zangezur Corridor) — and the creation of projects like "Western Azerbaijan," all demonstrate the following. "First, Baku and Ankara are conducting revisionist policies in the region, which have become factors of instability. Second, Baku's geopolitical maximalism persists with no political will to maintain a balance of power, supported by external actors on various issues. Third, these projects are directed against Armenia and Iran." He continued, "Iran's clear stance on

the so-called Zangezur Corridor and its political will to protect its interests are the main obstacles to the implementation of revisionist projects by Baku and Ankara. In this sense, the alignment of positions between Yerevan and Tehran regarding the corridor acts as a stabilizing deterrent factor in the region."

Artyom Tonoyan, a lecturer at Yerevan State University, emphasized that Israel views Azerbaijan as a base of strategic and tactical importance in the context of potential aggression against Iran. "At the regional level, Azerbaijan-Israel relations are also significant for Turkey, which earns substantial revenue from the transit of Azerbaijani oil and gas to Israel. In addition, Turkey uses these relations to prevent Iran from strengthening its ties with Azerbaijan or from promoting a stronger Shia identity among Azerbaijani society, as well as to curb the rise of pro-Iranian sentiments." Tonoyan concluded that the stable development of Azerbaijan-Israel relations and its use as a front in the anti-Iran struggle aligns with Turkey's interests.

Georgi Mirzabekyan, a researcher at the National Academy of Sciences of Armenia, noted that there is significant potential for sustainable cooperation in the field of media, and much work remains to be done. "For example, despite Armenia and Iran being neighboring countries, friendly states, and connected by various strategic interests, there is an impression that the societies of both countries are not very well informed about each other. In other words, there is a lack of mutual understanding," he added. In this regard, Mirzabekyan considers the role of the media irreplaceable as it can "serve as a bridge for exchanging perspectives". The issue of mutual recognition, he stressed, spans various spheres, from news and economic matters to important geopolitical issues.

The economic panel focused on bilateral trade, cooperation in infrastructure, and transit projects. Habibullah Malakutifar, the head of the Publishing Department at IPIS, highlighted the importance



Iranian experts visit various industrial sites in Armenia before heading to Kapan to attend the workshop.  
● IRAN DAILY



# Iran 'unprofessional', but has one foot in World Cup finals

## Sports Desk

Iranian striker Sardar Azmoun lamented his side's lack of "professional mentality" despite a 3-2 away win against Kyrgyzstan in the World Cup Asian qualifiers.

The hard-fought victory was still enough to see Iran retain the top spot in the Group A table with 16 points – three clear of Uzbekistan and, more significantly, six above third-placed United Arab Emirates.

With a top-two finish in each of the three groups securing direct qualification for the finals, Team Melli is all but guaranteed a place in the 2026 showpiece – cohosted by the United States, Mexico, and Canada – with four games to spare in the third round of the Asian preliminaries.

Mahdi Taremi gave Iran a 12th-minute lead, when Saied Ezzatollahi's header from a corner kick was saved by Erzhan Tokotaev, only for the Inter striker to find the net on the rebound.

The visiting side doubled the advantage on the break in the 33rd minute, with Azmoun releasing Saleh Hardani, before the Sepahan fullback slotted home past Tokotaev.

The second-half proceedings, however, were reminiscent of Iran's unconvincing performance last Thursday, when Amir Qalenoee's men led by three goals at halftime but struggled with North Korea's surge after the break, ultimately winning 3-2.

Kyrgyz talisman Joel Kojo pulled one back for the host with a well-placed header in the 52nd minute and then sent Iranian keeper Alireza Beiranvand the wrong way from the spot for the equalizer 12 minutes later. Pushed by the jam-packed

crowd in Bishkek's Dolen Omurzakov Stadium, Kyrgyzstan looked more likely to bag a third goal, but it was Iran which found the winner against the run of play through Azmoun's thumping header with 14 minutes left on the clock.

Azmoun still rued the complacency within the squad after Iran again came close to missing out on maximum points despite a commanding halftime cushion.

"Unfortunately, we are yet to reach a professional level of mentality," said the Iranian, adding: "We think the game is over every time we are up by two goals. That is a big issue for us and I just hope we can solve it before the World Cup finals."

"Iran definitely deserves to be where it is in the group. We might make a hard work of winning matches, but that's the beauty of this game, and, at the end of day, three points are all that matters," added the prolific striker.

Qalenoee, meanwhile, was delighted with the final outcome of a thrilling contest, though he acknowledged that his team's defensive woes need to be addressed before the next international break.

"We managed to get a good win on a difficult day," said the Iranian head coach. "I think it was a match that made the audience happy with five goals."

"In the second half, we conceded with two mistakes. Considering the travelling conditions we had, we have to praise our players who immediately fought back and scored the winning goal and created many chances. I thank each and every one of my players."

"We are happy that we got 16 points from six games. I am thrilled that we've become an attacking team. In our defen-



sive structure, we have a series of problems that we need to fix in the three months we have."

Iran will be back in the Asian qualifiers with a double header against the UAE and Uzbekistan in late March.

Elsewhere in the group on Tuesday, Uzbekistan secured a 1-0 win over North Korea in Vientiane with Abbosbek Fayzullaev's deflected 44th-minute shot giving his side the lead before Umarbek Eshmuradov was sent off and Utkir Yusupov saved Jong Il Gwan's late penalty.

The UAE thrashed Qatar 5-0 in Abu Dhabi, with Brazil-born striker Fabio Lima scoring four, including two from the penalty spot, as Paulo Bento's team

took sole possession of the third place ahead of the reigning Asian champion.

## Saudis stunned

In other groups, Japan moved to the cusp of qualifying for the finals as a 3-1 win over host China coupled with Australia's 2-2 draw in Bahrain took Hajime Moriyasu's side nine points clear in the Group C table.

Koki Ogawa's double in Xiamen earned Japan a fifth win in six games and allowed the Blue Samurais to extend the lead over the chasing pack as Australia and Saudi Arabia both faltered. Kusini Yengi's stoppage-time goal salvaged a point for the Socceroos in Riffa while the Saudis fell to a surprise 2-0 loss

against Indonesia in Jakarta.

Australia needed a late equalizer to claim a point having seen Mahdi Abduljabbar score in the 75th and 77th minutes – the first from 40 yards – to cancel out Portsmouth striker Yengi's first-minute opener for Tony Popovic's side.

The Socceroos remain second in the standings, one point ahead of Indonesia, which pulled itself into contention in the group with the stunning home victory. Marselino Ferdinand scored twice to give the Indonesians their first win of the campaign, which moves them level on six points with the Saudis, Bahrain and China.

Meanwhile, Group B leader South Korea was frustrated in



Sardar Azmoun (20) heads home Iran's third goal in a 3-2 victory over Kyrgyzstan in the World Cup Asian qualifiers in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, on November 19, 2024.

● FARSHAD ABBASI/varzesh3.com

Amman as Hong Myung-bo's side was held to a 1-1 draw by Palestine.

South Korea failed to win for the first time in five matches, needing Son Heung-min's 16th-minute strike to cancel out an early Zeid Qunbar opener.

Iraq downed Oman 1-0 in Muscat thanks to Youssef Amyn's 36th-minute goal to move onto 11 points, with Jordan in third on nine after a 1-1 draw with host Kuwait.

## Guardiola agrees new one-year deal with Man City

THE GUARDIAN – Pep Guardiola has agreed a new one-year contract with Manchester City in a huge boost for the Premier League champions, the new terms taking his tenure to the summer of 2026. Following City's 2-1 FA Cup final defeat to Manchester United in May, Guardiola took time over the summer to consider his future, with the Guardian reporting then he was minded to take any decision sometime this winter.

The manager's last two contract extensions were agreed in November when travelling to Abu Dhabi, the home nation of the club's owner, Sheikh Mansour. Before City's 2-1 loss at Brighton on 9 November, their last game before the international break, Guardiola was asked if he had any plans to go there again during the international break.

He said: "No. I said many times, I won't talk about it [a new contract]. When it happens, it will happen. We're in touch regularly."

City have lost their past four matches, the first time Guardiola has overseen such a run in his 15-year managerial career. They are second in the league with 23 points from the opening 11 match-

es, five points behind the leaders, Liverpool.

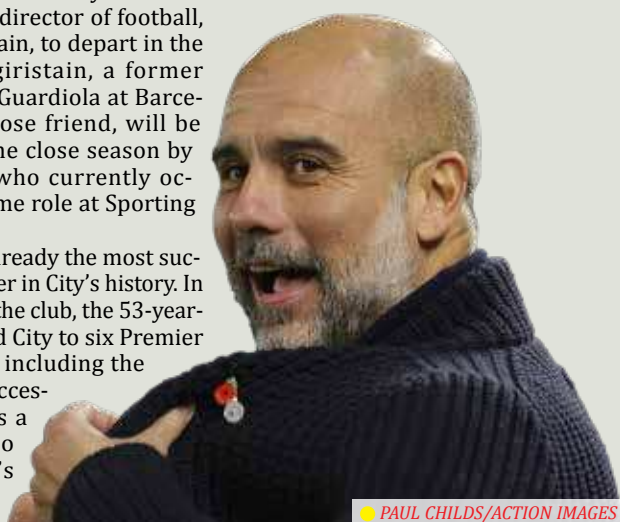
The club is also defending itself at an independent commission against the more than 100 charges of alleged financial wrongdoing brought against it by the Premier League. City deny all of the charges and Guardiola's decision indicates a renewed energy and desire to bring more success to the club he took over in summer of 2016.

It also suggests that Guardiola has not been influenced by the decision of City's director of football, Txiki Begiristain, to depart in the summer. Begiristain, a former teammate of Guardiola at Barcelona and a close friend, will be replaced in the close season by Hugo Viana who currently occupies the same role at Sporting Lisbon.

Guardiola is already the most successful manager in City's history. In eight years at the club, the 53-year-old has guided City to six Premier League titles, including the last four in succession, which is a record. He also claimed City's first Champi-

ons League in 2023, plus two FA Cups and four League Cups.

On Saturday Guardiola aims to arrest the four-game losing sequence when Tottenham visit the Etihad Stadium for the 5.30pm kick-off. After the 4-1 defeat at Sporting in the Champions League, the third City loss in the run, Guardiola said: "It will be a tough season – we knew that from the start. But this is what it is. I like it, I love it, I want to face it and lift my players and try it."



● PAUL CHILDS/ACTION IMAGES

## Verstappen poised for fourth successive F1 title

REUTERS – Max Verstappen will be Formula One world champion for the fourth year in a row if he beats Lando Norris in Las Vegas this weekend.

McLaren's Norris must score three points more than his Red Bull rival – requiring at least a top eight finish even if Verstappen draws a blank – to delay the inevitable for one more week and continue the title 'battle' to Qatar.

Verstappen has a 62-point lead with 60 to be won after Las Vegas, meaning the Dutch driver can lose two points to Norris and still secure the title on wins given he has eight to the Briton's three.

The reigning champion won on the gaudy, floodlit Strip last season, despite a five-second penalty and later collision, to complete a U.S. triple, while Norris hit the wall on lap three and retired.

"This is the final push for everyone," said Verstappen, who would be only the sixth driver to win at



● AMANDA PEROBELLI/REUTERS

least four titles, going into the season's last run of three races on successive weekends.

"We performed well here last year and it is a really fast circuit, with long straights and a lot of opportunities to overtake and go racing."

Norris, sixth in Brazil on Nov. 3 despite starting on pole position in a race won by Verstappen from 17th on the grid, also has the constructors' championship to think about with McLaren 36 points clear of Ferrari at the top.

That battle, with McLaren

chasing a first constructors' championship since 1998 and Ferrari their first since 2008, could go down to the wire in Abu Dhabi with Red Bull not out of the running either. The defending champions are 49 points behind McLaren after ending a 10-race losing streak.

Verstappen's Mexican team mate Sergio Perez, who had appeared to be in danger of not seeing out the season after his home race in October, is still searching for form but looks safe for the last three.



# Iran, Qatar should expedite full execution of agreements: *Pezeshkian*

***Qatar's FM:*** Doha will always be a strong, reliable ally for Tehran

## International Desk

Iranian president said that Iran and Qatar should accelerate the full implementation of the agreements reached between the two countries during his recent visit to Doha, expressing hope the Arab country would follow up the issue with more seriousness. Masoud Pezeshkian made the remarks in a meeting with visiting Qatar's Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani in Tehran on Wednesday. Pezeshkian also placed a premi-

um on deeper relations with the "friendly and neighboring country of Qatar," saying that Iran is committed to the agreements signed with other countries. Back in October, both countries signed six cooperation agreements on the fields of economy, trade, energy, culture, education, and sports during a visit by the Iranian president to the Persian Gulf country. The Iranian president said that the Islamic republic is interested in having close relations with Muslim countries in order to show the world that Muslim countries can live in peace.

Pezeshkian also invited the Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani to visit Iran. Qatar's top diplomat, for his part, expressed his country's interest in expanding relations with Iran. The Qatari minister pointed to the changes in the country's cabinet in which the new position of minister of foreign trade has been introduced. He said that one of the minister's priorities is the implementation of agreements with Iran. Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani underlined that Qatar will always be

a strong and reliable ally for Iran, saying that the Emir of Qatar has always emphasized the expansion of relations with Tehran. Earlier on the day, the Qatari foreign minister also held talks with his Iranian counterpart Abbas Araghchi. Both sides emphasized the need to end the genocide in Gaza and stop the aggression of the Israeli regime against Lebanon, increase consultations and mobilize regional and international capacities to prevent the spread of insecurity across the region.



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (R) shakes hands with Qatar's Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani in Tehran on November 20, 2024.  
president.ir

## Iran warns of 'proportionate' response to IAEA resolution

French FM calls for revival of nuclear talks with Iran

## International Desk

Iran's top diplomat Abbas Araghchi warned on Wednesday of a "proportionate" response from Tehran if a Western-backed resolution against Iran were passed at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Araghchi said in a phone conversation with the IAEA's chief Rafael Grossi that if the parties "ignore Iran's goodwill and interactive approach and put non-constructive measures on the agenda in the Board of Governors meeting through the issuance of a resolution, Iran will respond in a proportionate and appropriate manner." In a separate conversation with his French counterpart Jean-Noel Barrot, Araghchi said the push from France, Germany and Britain to submit a resolution against Tehran would "complicate matters" and contradict the "positive atmosphere created between Iran and the IAEA." During the conversation that took place on Tuesday, Barrot told Araghchi that Iran must fully cooperate with the IAEA to enable it to confirm the "exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear activities." France, along with its German and

British partners, is continuing its efforts to bring about a return to negotiations with Iran with a view to a diplomatic solution, the French minister added. According to AFP, France, Britain, Germany and the United States on Wednesday submitted a resolution censuring Iran for what they claim to be Tehran's poor cooperation with the UN nuclear watchdog. The resolution is expected to come to a vote on Thursday, the diplomatic sources said. The tabled resolution follows a visit by Grossi to Iran, where he also toured the country's major enrichment sites in Fordo and Natanz. Iran viewed the trip as positive.

## 'Concrete step in right direction'

The agency has said that Iran has taken steps towards halting the expansion of its stockpile of enriched uranium up to 60%, according to a confidential report by the IAEA seen by AFP on Tuesday. UN atomic watchdog chief Rafael Grossi on Wednesday welcomed Iran's "concrete step" on the issue. "I think this is ... a concrete step in the right direction - we have a fact which has been verified by us," Grossi told reporters in Vienna.



Rafael Grossi  
AFP

"I attach importance to the fact that for the first time... since the distancing of Iran from its past obligations, they are taking a different direction," he said. However, Grossi said "a lot" of work still needed to be done, while urging countries to "avoid unnecessary escalations, in particular, in a region that has suffered too much." In 2015, Iran proved the peaceful nature of its nuclear program to the world by signing the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) with six world powers. 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.

## Tehran summons UK, Hungary envoys over anti-Iran sanctions

## International Desk

Iran's Foreign Ministry summoned the ambassador of Hungary, which holds the rotating presidency of the European Union, and the British chargé d'affaires to protest new sanctions imposed against Iran. The EU and Britain on Monday imposed sanctions on the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines (IRISL) and several other entities and individuals over accusations of supplying ballistic missiles

to Russia to be used in the Ukraine war. Iran's Foreign Ministry told the UK chargé d'affaires that Iran would respond to these irrational behaviors. Iran's legitimate and legal cooperation with other countries in the fields of defense and security is not against any third party and that the illegal interference of certain European countries, including the UK, in Iran's defense cooperation with other countries is not acceptable in any way, the Foreign Ministry said.

The Foreign Ministry called the British move contrary to international law and in breach of the principle of freedom of navigation and maritime trade. Iran has repeatedly rejected Western accusations that it has transferred missiles or drones to Moscow for use against Kiev. Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi condemned the measure, calling it against international law, and also a violation of the freedom of navigation and maritime trade.

## Internal cohesion to ...

Under such circumstances, the influence of radical groups, who thrive on factional feuds and gauge national interests against their own group's interests, will be blunted.

An alliance or consensus among political groups is a national imperative to overcome challenges and drive Iran's development forward. Iranian society has not been spared from internal

conflicts and factional and political disputes. Now that an opportunity has arisen, with the new government emphasizing national cohesion, it should be taken as a positive sign, and internal unity should

be strengthened. This internal unity can serve as a robust backbone for the government and the Islamic Republic of Iran to advance its foreign policy agenda and secure national interests.

## President urges Pope to help stop Israeli atrocities in Gaza, Lebanon

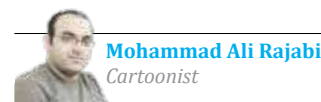


## International Desk

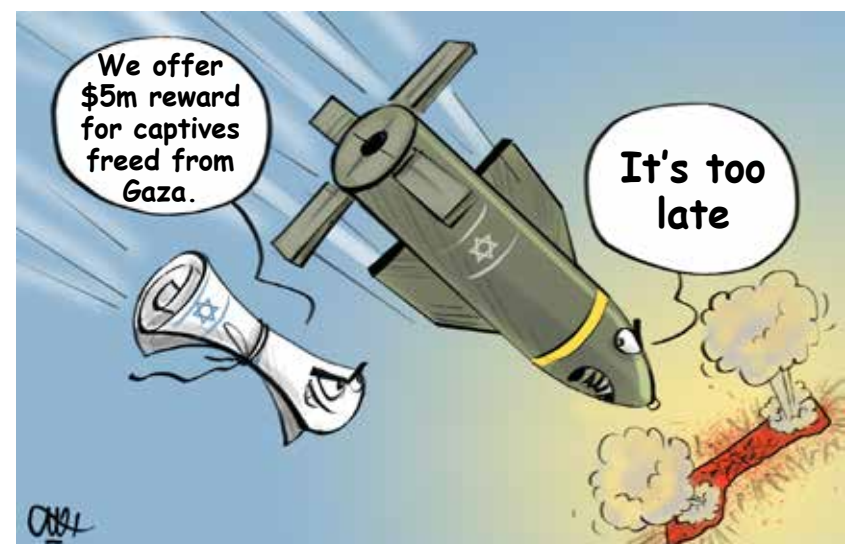
Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian called on Pope Francis in a letter on Wednesday to help bring an end to Israel's inhumane aggression against Gaza and Lebanon. "Encourage world leaders, especially Christian governments, to prevent the continuation of aggression launched by the criminal Israeli regime," Pezeshkian said. The message was delivered by an Iranian delegation participating in a religious event held in the Vatican, Iran's government website said. .... Pezeshkian also called for efforts to establish a cease-fire and to create opportunities for humanitarian aid to be sent to the victims. Referring to the crimes of Israel in Gaza and their extension to Lebanon

over the past year, the Iranian president said, "These barbaric attacks are ongoing with no regard for international rights and norms." "Genocide and widespread destruction of urban and medical infrastructure are occurring, with a significant portion of martyrs and injured being women, children and civilians." Pezeshkian said Iran has been striving to bring about a cease-fire and prevent the escalation of war, as manifested by its delay to respond to Israel's assassination of Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran in late July. "Due to persistent messages from Western leaders warning that our actions could jeopardize efforts for establishing a cease-fire, we delayed our response," Pezeshkian said.

"Nevertheless, despite our restraint, the occupying Israeli regime continued its blatant violations of the sovereign rights of regional countries by launching extensive attacks on Lebanon that are still ongoing." Last week, Pope Francis suggested that the international community should study whether Israel's military campaign in Gaza constituted a genocide of the Palestinian people, in some of his most explicit criticism of Israel's conduct in its year-long war. The 87-year-old pontiff, leader of the 1.4 billion-member Catholic Church, is usually careful not to take sides in international conflicts, and to stress de-escalation. But he has stepped up his rebuke of Israel's actions and its genocidal war in the Gaza Strip.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist





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#### Arts & Culture Desk

Iran made significant strides towards developing sustainable tourism, with a focus on reducing carbon emissions and promoting eco-friendly practices.

According to Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Reza Salehi Amiri, the country has allocated funds for the development of renewable energy sources, such as solar power, and has implemented measures to reduce water consumption in tourism facilities, ILNA reported.

Speaking at the first-ever ministerial meeting on climate action in tourism, held on the sidelines of the "COP29" conference in Baku, Salehi Amiri emphasized the importance of sustainable tourism development in the face of growing concerns over climate change.

He noted that tourism is one of the largest consumers of energy in the transportation and accommodation sectors, and that developing sustainable tourism practices is crucial for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Salehi Amiri highlighted several initiatives aimed at promoting sustainable tourism, including the establishment of 6,000 eco-resorts across the country, which are designed to meet new environmental standards. These resorts use local materials, serve local food, and showcase cultural symbols. The minister also mentioned the introduction of "fast-track" projects that prioritize sustainability in tourism policy-making, as well as the selection of Mashhad and Shiraz as model cities for sustainable tourism. These cities have implemented measures to reduce energy consumption and promote environmental protection, and will serve as models for other cities in Iran.

In addition, Iran has implemented measures to manage wastewater and reduce water consumption in tourism facilities, including the launch of a pilot project in five hotels. The country has also introduced a new program to promote eco-tourism,

## Minister: Iran committed to sustainable tourism development



which includes the development of small-scale solar power plants in tourist sites and the promotion of environmentally-friendly accommodations.

Salehi Amiri also emphasized the importance of raising awareness about environmental issues among young people and the general public.

He announced that Iran has held three workshops on sustainable tourism this year, and has introduced a new award, the "Iranian Green Tourism Award", to recognize individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to sustainable tourism.

Furthermore, Iran has nominated 90 villages for the United Nations World Tourism Organization's (UNWTO) Best Tourism Villages project, with a focus on creating employment opportunities for young people and women. The country has also introduced new regulations to promote the use of environmental standards in tourism development, and has provided financial support to non-governmental organizations to strengthen the sustainable tourism chain. He emphasized the importance of continued efforts to develop sustainable tourism practices and reduce the industry's impact on the environment.

## Iran's IIDCYA activities goes global

#### Arts & Culture Desk

The Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (IIDCYA) has made a mark on the world stage with its activities during World Space Week, which were registered on the official website of the event.

According to ISNA, the Director-General of Education and Research at IIDCYA, Saiedeh Azizian, announced that this year was the first time the institute participated in World Space Week, alongside the Iranian Space Agency, with a focus on the theme "Space and Climate Change".

Azizian stated that one of the main activities was the national festival of space-themed music videos, which was held in collaboration with the Iranian Space Agency. The festival aimed to educate partici-

pants on space-related topics and encourage them to produce scientific content. The event included workshops, judging, and selection of winners.

Another program was a specialized seminar on "Climate Change and Dust" held in collaboration with the Iranian Space Agency and the Atmospheric Science and Meteorological Research Center (ASMERC). Over 500 participants, including teachers and young members of IIDCYA, attended the seminar via online platforms.

Azizian also mentioned that an international citizen science project, "Observing Messier Objects", was held in 20 provinces across Iran, in collaboration with NASA's NASE program and the Saeqeb Astronomy Association in Gilan. Over 1,000 participants took part in nighttime observations, resulting in over 400

submissions of artwork, photography, and writings.

Furthermore, scientific programs were held in 21 provinces, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, with over 10,000 members of IIDCYA and students attending 193 centers during World Space Week.

Azizian also mentioned that special programs were held at IIDCYA centers, combining the theme of World Space Week with the institute's 60th anniversary activities. These programs included stargazing nights, astronomy workshops in rural areas, book readings, book introductions, crafts, and creative performances related to space.

During World Space Week, IIDCYA centers hosted over 10,000 children and young adults interested in space-related activities across the country.

## Persian book makes IBBY's 2025 cut

#### Arts & Culture Desk

A tactile book by Souda Azadi titled 'Auntie Knits, I Wear', was selected for the biennial list of IBBY Collection for Young People with Disabilities for 2025.

The International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) is a non-profit organization which represents an international network of people from all over the world who are committed to bringing books and children together.

The book's unique feature is its storytelling through the perspective of a blind child. The book's construction incorporates diverse textures, making it appealing to children with visual impairments. The execution's delicacy and variety of textures are particularly engaging for children with visual disabilities, ISNA reported.

Last year, the Children's Book Council nominated eight Iranian books for the IBBY 2025 list. The committee consisted of judges Marzieh Shahkarami, Soudeh Karimi, Mar-

jan Reyhanian, Mandana Razavizadeh, Mitra Mo'adab, Fariba Keyhani, and Tahereh Bashir. Masoud Taherian, a member of the council served as an advisor.

IBBY publishes a biennial list of books suitable for children with special needs to promote reading pleasure, encourage publishers, and develop such products. The final selection will be made in Toronto, Canada, and the chosen books will be published in the biennial list of books for children with special needs and showcased at the 2025 Bologna Children's Book Fair.



## Iranian music maestro Behrouzinia to hold masterclass in US

#### Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian composer and tar player Hamid Behrouzinia is set to hold a masterclass in the United States.

According to Behrouzinia, he is currently preparing for the upcoming workshop, which is scheduled to take place in Los Angeles and Orange County, California, in November, IRNA reported.

The masterclass, aimed at tar and setar players, as well as music enthusiasts, will cater to all age groups and skill levels, from beginners to ad-

vanced.

Behrouzinia explained that the workshop will focus on identifying and addressing the technical weaknesses of each participant, including technique, rhythm, and improvisation in various Iranian musical modes.

Behrouzinia, who has toured extensively in the US, Canada, and Europe, noted that he has met numerous music enthusiasts and students during his concerts, many of whom have requested a workshop. However, due to the demanding nature of his tour schedule, he had to postpone the plan.