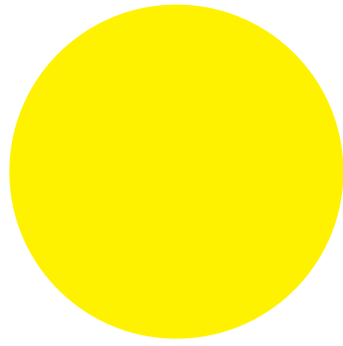


China to marvel at 'Glory of Ancient Persia' exhibition: *Iran FM spox*



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# Iran Daily

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> [irandaily.ir](http://irandaily.ir)

| [newspaper.irandaily.ir](http://newspaper.irandaily.ir)

| [IranDailyWeb](http://IranDailyWeb)

*Araghchi to Iran Daily:*

## No Regional Country Safe From Syria Crisis Spillover

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Iran, Russia, Turkey agree on dialogue between Damascus, opposition groups



Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (R), his Turkish counterpart Hakan Fidan (C) and Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov (L) hold a meeting on Syria in the Qatari capital, Doha, on December 7, 2024. *AFP*

### Syria's future and Iran's strategic options

By **Navid Kamali**  
Senior expert in strategic affairs and foreign policy

**OPINION EXCLUSIVE**

The rapid developments in Syria over the past two weeks, marked by the unexpected advance of opposition forces led by Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) that resulted in the fall of Aleppo, Hama, and other Syrian cities, have fundamentally altered regional equations and shrouded the country's future in uncertainty. These developments, occurring at an unprecedented pace, have not only shifted the balance of power in Syria but could have profound strategic implications for all regional actors, including the Islamic Republic of Iran. Recent events in Syria demonstrate the fragility of the apparent stability following the 2020 ceasefire agreement, highlighting the urgent need for regional powers to reassess their policies.

The swift and unexpected collapse of Syrian army defensive lines in Aleppo and Hama, which surprised even opposition leaders, reveals deep structural weaknesses within government forces. This weakness can be analyzed from several perspectives. First, Russia's significant reduction in military support due to its involvement in Ukraine has severely limited Moscow's ability to support its longtime ally in Syria. Second, Hezbollah's weakened presence in Syria due to the recent Lebanon war has created a notable military vacuum on the frontlines. Third, the gradual erosion of Syria's military and administrative structure has intensified in recent years due to international sanctions' economic impact and the failure to modernize governance practices in line with current conditions.

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At the regional level, the continued advance of Syrian armed opposition could shift the power balance in Turkey's favor.



On Student Day

### Pezeshkian urges youth to stay, make Iran strong, influential

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Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian shakes hands with a student during a ceremony marking Student Day at Sharif University of Technology in Tehran, Iran, on December 7, 2024. *president.ir*



### Hemmati: Iran plans to organize not curb cryptocurrencies

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### Saipa crowned freestyle champion in Iranian Premier Wrestling League

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### Impact of FATF membership on Iran's economy

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### Beauty and diversity of Helen Protected Area

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