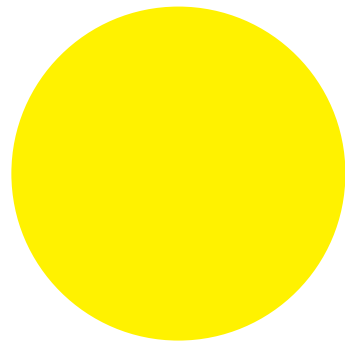


IAEA chief had 'very good' talks, plans to visit Iran

'No secret backchannel' between Tehran, Washington

2 >



Iran Daily

Vol. 7782 • Saturday, March 1, 2025 • Esfand 11, 1403 • Sha'ban 30, 1446 • 100,000 rials • 8 pages

irandaily.ir | newspaper.irandaily.ir | IranDailyWeb

Pezeshkian: Iran can now tap into 300m consumers of EAEU



3 >

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (c) visits a company supplying bolts and nuts required for petrochemical industry equipment in Parand Industrial Park of Tehran Province on February 27, 2025.

president.ir

A look at new Begin-Sadat center report, prospect of instability in South Caucasus:

Israel's growing footprint in Azerbaijan raises red alert

By Navid Kamali
Foreign policy expert

OPINION
EXCLUSIVE

The South Caucasus region has been undergoing rapid geopolitical transformations in recent years, altering the balance of power in this sensitive area. Among these changes, the Republic of Azerbaijan, as a key player, has attracted the attention of regional and extra-regional powers. The country's close and growing relationship with the Zionist regime of Israel has added new dimensions to the geopolitical complexities of the South Caucasus, raising concerns among neighboring countries, including our own. The recent publication of a special analytical report by the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies (BESA), one of the most important security think tanks in the occupied territories, titled "Azerbaijan: One of the Pillars of Israel's Regional Security System," sheds light on the depth and scope of Baku-Tel

Aviv relations. It specifically addresses why the Caucasus region, and Azerbaijan in particular, is important to Israel. Crucially, this report was prepared for presentation to the new Donald Trump administration, identifying Azerbaijan as a key pillar in the occupying regime's regional strategy. Therefore, it is essential for all politicians and experts involved in Iran's foreign policy and national security to examine this report and reflect on its key propositions. It should be noted that Azerbaijan, due to its geostrategic location as a bridge between Asia and Europe, its energy reserves, and its proximity to regional powers such as Iran, Russia, and Turkey, has always held special geopolitical significance. However, the events of recent years, especially the Second Karabakh War and its aftermath, have placed this country even more firmly at the center of regional and international attention. [Page 8 >](#)



Harmony of nature, nomadism in Ilam's springtime celebration

7 >



Minister: Cultural diplomacy to be strengthened through cultural weeks

8 >

Persian Gulf Pro League:

Persepolis completes derby double to close in on top two

6 >



From fuel station to museum

Story of Darvazeh Dowlat Gas Station

EXCLUSIVE

Gas stations have a rich history, serving as crucial providers of fuel for vehicles. Initially, gasoline was sold in pharmacies, with Bertha Benz famously fueling her car at one in 1888. The world's first dedicated gas station opened in 1905 in St. Louis, Missouri. In Tehran, the Darvazeh Dowlat Gas Station Museum, established in 1940 and operational until 1995, highlights this history. Built by the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company, it distributed various petroleum products and features traditional architecture with arched vaults and colorful tiles. After years of abandonment, it was repurposed as a museum in 2019 and recognized as a national heritage site in 2014, reflecting the cultural significance of gas stations in the evolution of transportation. [See pages 4-5 >](#)



IAEA chief had 'very good' talks, plans to visit Iran

'No secret backchannel' between Tehran, Washington

International Desk

Rafael Grossi, the director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), said that the level of dialogue and engagement with "Tehran and Iran's Foreign Minister (Seyed Abbas Araghchi) is very good," expressing willingness to visit the country.

In an interview with the Wall Street Journal, Grossi announced that the IAEA's comprehensive report on Iran would be released before June. "It would be a good idea to visit Iran before publishing this report," he added. Earlier, Reuters cited Grossi as saying that during their last conversation, Araghchi had invited the IAEA director general to visit Tehran again.

However, the director general expressed concern about "the lack of communication between Iran and the US".

Reacting to reports about the alleged exchanging of messages between Iran and the US through third-party countries, he said: "I have spoken seriously with others about this issue — there is no backchannel communication between Iran and the US".

The IAEA chief also reiterated his support for the US president's willingness to reach a new agreement with Iran, again stating: "I know that Iran wants an agreement."

While there are many beliefs regarding Iran's desires and aims, one thing is certain: The Leader of Iran's Islam-

ic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei has firmly rejected negotiations with the Trump administration as "unwise, unintelligent, and dishonorable."

"Negotiating with America... will not solve any of our problems. The reason? Experience!" Ayatollah Khamenei said. This official stance was reiterated by many other high-ranking officials in Tehran, including President Masoud Pezeshkian and his foreign minister.

When asked about the conditions of a potential deal between Iran and world powers — including broader IAEA access to sites not covered under the JCPOA — Grossi responded: "Different people have different conditions for an agreement. The next agreement will be different, but I am not aware of whether it will be broader."

US President Donald Trump recently revived his maximum pressure campaign against Iran, even though Iran had for a long time expressed its willingness to reach a new deal and adhered to all safeguard commitments.

Without acknowledging these nuances, the IAEA chief claimed: "The progress of Iran's nuclear program makes the problems bigger, not smaller."

Asked about Iran's implementation of Code 3.1, which obliges Iran to inform on plans/construction of new facilities, he dismissed it as mere "legal impatience". "It cannot be excluded," he stressed, that Iran has built new facilities.



Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (R) shakes hands with International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi before a meeting in Tehran on November 14, 2024.
● ATTA KENARE/AFP

Iran has repeatedly said that it is not seeking nuclear weapons, stressing its nuclear technology is solely for civil purposes. Ayatollah Khamenei even issued a Fatwa that bans any possession and use of weapons of mass destruction.

Once again, without addressing US obstructionism and its anti-Iran actions, including the imposition of illegal and unilateral sanctions, Grossi called for "engagement" between Washington and Tehran.

He stated: "Our failure to move toward

negotiations is problematic. We need to take action and move toward talks." Grossi admitted that he had not spoken with officials from the Trump administration or Trump himself but expressed hope that this would change in the near future.

Navy's flotilla makes port call in India

Iranian military expands arsenal with indigenous systems



Lavan landing ship, part of the Iranian Navy's 100th flotilla, is seen moored at Mumbai Port on the western coast of India on February 27, 2025.
● X

porters, tactical vehicles, and cutting-edge audio surveillance systems, all designed and developed by Iranian experts.

The newly inducted military equipment included semi-heavy, heavy, and super heavy military vehicles; super heavy strategic tank transporters; and armored vehicles in four different classes. Super heavy military vehicles are among the key components of enhanced mobility of the Iranian Army's Ground Force. The power of mobility constitutes a core element to build up military prowess.

Naval fleet grows

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Navy has also taken delivery of a range of domestically designed and manufactured military equipment, including Martyr Rais Ali Delvari warship and dozens of fast attack craft equipped with missile launching systems.

Speaking at the ceremony, IRGC Navy chief Rear Admiral Alireza Tangsiri said the new Iranian warship can carry three missile-launching vessels and a helicopter on board.

He said that the military vessel is currently armed with missiles developed by the Iranian Defense Ministry with a range of 300 kilometers, noting that it could be furnished with missiles with a range of 750 kilometers.

the docking of Iranian vessels at Indian ports, saying: "Iran is a powerful country in the fight against piracy, and has managed to ensure the security of merchant vessels in the Gulf of Aden."

Iran unveils homegrown Masaf rifle

In a major military upgrade, Iran's domestically produced Masaf rifle has officially replaced the decades-old G3 as the standard-issue firearm for the Army's Ground Forces, marking a shift toward self-sufficiency in weaponry. Admiral Habibollah Sayyari, chief of staff and deputy coordinator of the Islamic Republic of Iran Army, noted that in 1974, the G3 rifle replaced the M1 Garand as the Army's official firearm, a standard that lasted 50 years.

Army expands arsenal

The Islamic Republic of Iran Army Ground Force has received a range of military hardware, including super heavy tank trans-

International Desk

The Iranian Navy's 100th flotilla of warships has docked at Mumbai Port on the western coast of India as the Islamic Republic is expanding its naval presence in international waters.

The flotilla, comprised of the Bushehr replenishment ship and the Lavan landing ship, arrived at the port on Thursday and was welcomed by officials from the Consulate General of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Mumbai as well as Indian naval commanders. The training voyage reportedly aims to convey the message of peace and friendship to the countries along the Indian Ocean, the Sea of Oman, and the Persian Gulf. It is also meant to educate and transfer expertise to the cadets of Imam Khomeini Naval University of Noshahr in northern Iran.

Rear Admiral Vidyadhar Harke, chief staff officer (of operations) at the Headquarters of India's Western Naval Command, welcomed

Iran condemns Israel's military threats

International Desk

Iran strongly condemned the military threats posed by Israel, denouncing the West's criticism of Iran's defense capabilities as outrageous and irrational.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei said on Thursday that the West Asia region is scourged by an occupying entity that is long addicted to aggression and lawless behavior.

Therefore, he added, it is both responsible and essential for Iran to maximize its defense capabilities.

His remarks came after Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar said military action is needed to halt Iran's nuclear program. Iran has consistently maintained that its nuclear program is purely peaceful, asserting that any act of aggression will be met with a decisive and unwavering response. Baqaei also censured the Israeli regime's new attacks targeting multiple locations in the Syrian capital Damascus and the southern part of the Arab country.

In another statement on Thursday, Baqaei

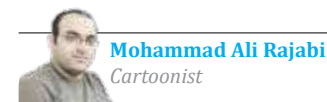


Esmail Baqaei
● IRNA

ei said the international community and Muslim countries should take a "firm" stance in condemnation of Israel's acts of aggression and end the regime's unlawful acts.

The comments come after Israeli warplanes conducted a series of airstrikes on military targets in southern Syria, including areas near Damascus and the Daraa province on Tuesday.

The Iranian spokesperson emphasized that the Tel Aviv regime has repeatedly violated the 1974 Agreement on Disengagement between Israel and Syria, which is a "blatant breach" of the principles of the United Nations Charter and international law.



Pezeshkian: Iran can now tap into 300m consumers of EAEU

Economy Desk

President Masoud Pezeshkian emphasized the economic benefits of Iran's accession to the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), stating that it opens access to a market of approximately 300 million people for Iranian producers of goods and services.

Speaking during a visit to Eslamshahr in Tehran Province on Thursday, the president described the move as a significant opportunity for economic growth and prosperity.

Pezeshkian addressed local business leaders, expressing hope for their success in the ongoing economic challenges and pledged government support to protect domestic production from external pressures, stating, "We believe the enemy is trying to disrupt our production cycle, and we must not allow this to happen."

The president also apologized for recurring electricity and gas shortages caused by energy imbalances, assuring that efforts are underway to resolve these issues.

He highlighted plans to install 30,000 megawatts of solar power capacity, with many buildings, including those in Eslamshahr, eligible for rooftop solar panels.

A task force involving the Energy Ministry, private sector representatives, and the National Development Fund has helped reduce the cost of solar equipment to \$165 per kilowatt, with installation costs dropping to \$265 per kilowatt.

The government aims to diversify energy production by expanding wind, thermal solar, and lithium battery-powered plants, the president stated.

Pezeshkian stressed the importance of economic stability for national security, noting that tax revenues are essential for funding security measures. He underscored the interdependence of the government, parliament, and judiciary on the prosperity of trade and industry, stating, "Without producers, traders, and industrialists, how can we run the country? You are the ones driving the economy forward."

The president reiterated the government's commitment to supporting businesses by removing obstacles and facilitating economic activities. "We are here to serve you and ensure you can operate faster, with higher quality and at better prices," he said.

Pezeshkian also called for energy efficiency, criticizing excessive consumption in households, vehicles, and government operations. He announced the formation of a team to address wasteful practices and urged the private sector to lead in optimizing resource management.

Unveiling 12 tech-based products

During his visit, Pezeshkian toured an exhibition of technology-based products at the Iranian Research Organization for Science and Technology (IROST) in Ahmadabad Mostofi, Eslamshahr.

He unveiled 12 new innovations, including a platelet processing kit, a smart video surveillance system, a national train control system, and advanced pharmaceutical compounds. Other products featured included carbon fiber wheelchairs, high-frequency secure transceivers, and graphene oxide materials.

Hossein Simayi-Sarraf, the minister of



science, research and technology and Alireza Ashouri, head of the IROST accompanied the president during the visit.

Tour of industrial companies

Later, Pezeshkian visited two manufacturing companies in the Parand Industrial Zone. The first, Rack Company, establishment in 2001, produces industrial retail shelving which has expanded into furniture manufactur-

ing and technology-based production. The company employs 240 people and produces 15,000 tons of products annually.

The second, Nikan Tak Iran, supplies bolts and nuts for petrochemical equipment, producing 4,000 tons annually and employing 400 people.

Pezeshkian concluded his trip by thanking economic figures and producers, pledging continued government support to address challenges

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian visits a company supplying bolts and nuts required for petrochemical industry equipment in Parand Industrial Park of Tehran Province on February 27, 8685. [president.ir](#)

and foster economic development. "We are here to serve you and ensure that no solvable obstacles hinder your progress," he said.

Monitoring system unveiled to help boost output at five oilfields

Iran unveiled a new monitoring system aimed at advancing development projects and increasing production at the Aban, Paydar Gharb, Cheshmeh Khosh, Dalpari, and Paydar Sharq oilfields.

The event was attended by Hamid Bovard, CEO of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC); Farokh Alikhani, NIOC's production supervision manager; Nasrollah Zarei, CEO of the Petroleum Engineering and Development Company (PEDEC); Alexey Dedov, Russia's ambassador to Iran; and Azamat Faritovich Ismagilov, CEO of ZN Vostok. The advanced system, equipped with unique capabilities, is expected to play a significant role in optimizing and enhancing oil production efficiency.

Speaking at the unveiling ceremony, NIOC Head Bovard thanked the Russian ambassador for his attendance and expressed appreciation for ZN Vostok's efforts in launching the monitoring system.

Bovard emphasized the importance of adopting new technologies and applying them to other oilfields across the country.

He also highlighted the need to ensure data security during internet-based transfers and expressed readiness to expand oil cooperation



with Russian companies. During the ceremony, Bovard remotely activated the downhole pump of Well No. 21 in the Aban oilfield using the new system.

Key features of the Monitoring System:

■ **24/7 monitoring of production wells:** The system provides real-time monitoring of production wells and downhole pumps, enabling instant reporting of malfunctions and rapid control, particularly in remote or border areas with limited access.

■ **Real-time monitoring of wastewater disposal wells:** It tracks the status of wastewater disposal wells in real time, offering reports to plan remedial operations and improve injection efficiency.

■ **Pipeline pressure monitoring:** The system detects and controls

pressure fluctuations, malfunctions, and potential issues in oil transmission pipelines in minimal time.

■ **Processing status monitoring:** It examines processing conditions in real time, reporting fluctuations, issues, and malfunctions, while facilitating timely planning for reconstruction and repair operations.

■ **Comprehensive oil production overview:** The system provides a continuous and holistic view of the oil production process, identifying problems and obstacles to streamline planning for their resolution. The oilfields are located in the southwestern part of Ilam Province. With the launch of this system, Iran's oil industry has taken a significant step toward increasing productivity, reducing costs, and improving production management.

China's imports of Russian, Iranian crude set to rebound

China's imports of Russian Far East crude and Iranian oil are set to rebound in March as non-sanctioned tankers, drawn by lucrative payoffs, joined the trade replacing vessels under US embargo, trade sources and analysts said.

Washington has imposed multiple rounds of sanctions on ships and entities dealing with oil from Iran and Russia since October, disrupting trade with major importers China and India, according to Reuters.

China's Iranian oil imports rebounded to 1.4 million bpd in the period February 1-20, after falling close to a two-year low below 800,000 bpd in January, Vortexa data showed. Shandong-bound Iranian volumes surpassed 1.1 million bpd and exceeded the 2024 average, the data showed.

Kpler data showed Iranian crude arrivals in China rose to 771,000 bpd in February, up from 692,000 bpd in January.

Data from the two groups varies as they use different methodologies to track the so-called shadow fleet.

Since late January, at least eight Very Large Crude Carriers (VLCCs), either recently added to the dark fleet or idled since early 2024, have surfaced to facilitate Malaysia-to-China ship-to-ship transfers, Vortexa analyst Emma Li said.

According to Reuters, a three-fold jump in freight rates for tankers



to load ESPO crude from Russia's Far East port of Kozmino to China for the week-long journey drew at least 17 non-sanctioned tankers on the route between January 11 and February 20, Vortexa's Li said. The ships were either diverted from other sanctioned crude routes especially in the Baltics or were previously carrying oil products, Li said. LSEG data showed 11 non-US sanctioned tankers newly joined the Russia-China deliver route, including Serena and Naxos which previously shipped Russian oil to India.

"Surging freight rates after the sanctions have drawn clean vessels to join the Russian oil trade ... Shipowners bought more vessels to cash in the business," said a China-based trader with a Russian supplier, who declined to be named because he is not authorized to speak to the press.

Tanker rates from Russia's Far East to north China last stood around \$4 million-\$4.5 million,

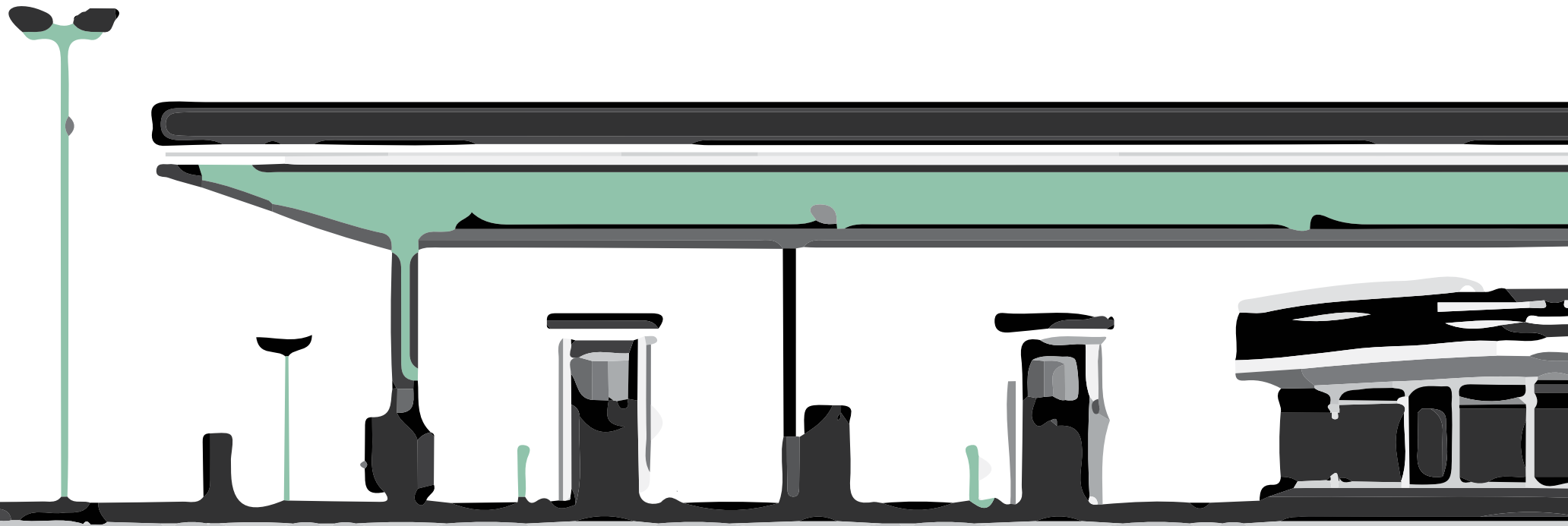
traders said.

Vortexa's Li said these ships lifted February ESPO crude loadings back at 2024's average of 920,000 barrels per day (bpd), up from 860,000 bpd in January. The rebound comes after ESPO deliveries to China in February were set to fall to 780,000 bpd. Total Russian crude arrivals in February are the lowest since December 2022, Li said.

Separately, ship-to-ship (STS) transfers emerged at Nakhodka Bay near Russian Far East port for Sokol crude produced in Sakhalin.

VLCC Daban loaded about 2 million barrels of the oil from three smaller tankers in early February, according to traders and Kpler data. Daban, previously used to deliver Iranian oil to China, was last seen heading to Yantai.

To facilitate discharge, newer terminals including at Shandong's Dongying and east China's Zhoushan stepped in to receive sanctioned oil tankers, Reuters has reported.



From fuel station to museum

Story of Darvazeh Dowlat Gas Station

By Sadeq Dehqan
and Leila Imeni
Staff writers

INTERVIEW EXCLUSIVE

The emergence of gas stations, as places that supply fuel and lubricants for vehicles, has a long history in many countries. Today, gas station museums are a staple of the cultural and heritage centers in most of these countries.

Interestingly, the initial supply of gasoline was done in certain parts of the world by pharmacies. For instance, Bertha Benz, the business partner and wife of Karl Benz, the German inventor of the automobile, filled her car's tank for the first time in 1888 at the first gasoline seller, a pharmacy in the city of Wiesloch, Germany. She

was the first person to drive a motor vehicle with an internal combustion engine over a long distance. Later, the first fuel station in the world was built in 1905 in St. Louis, Missouri, USA.

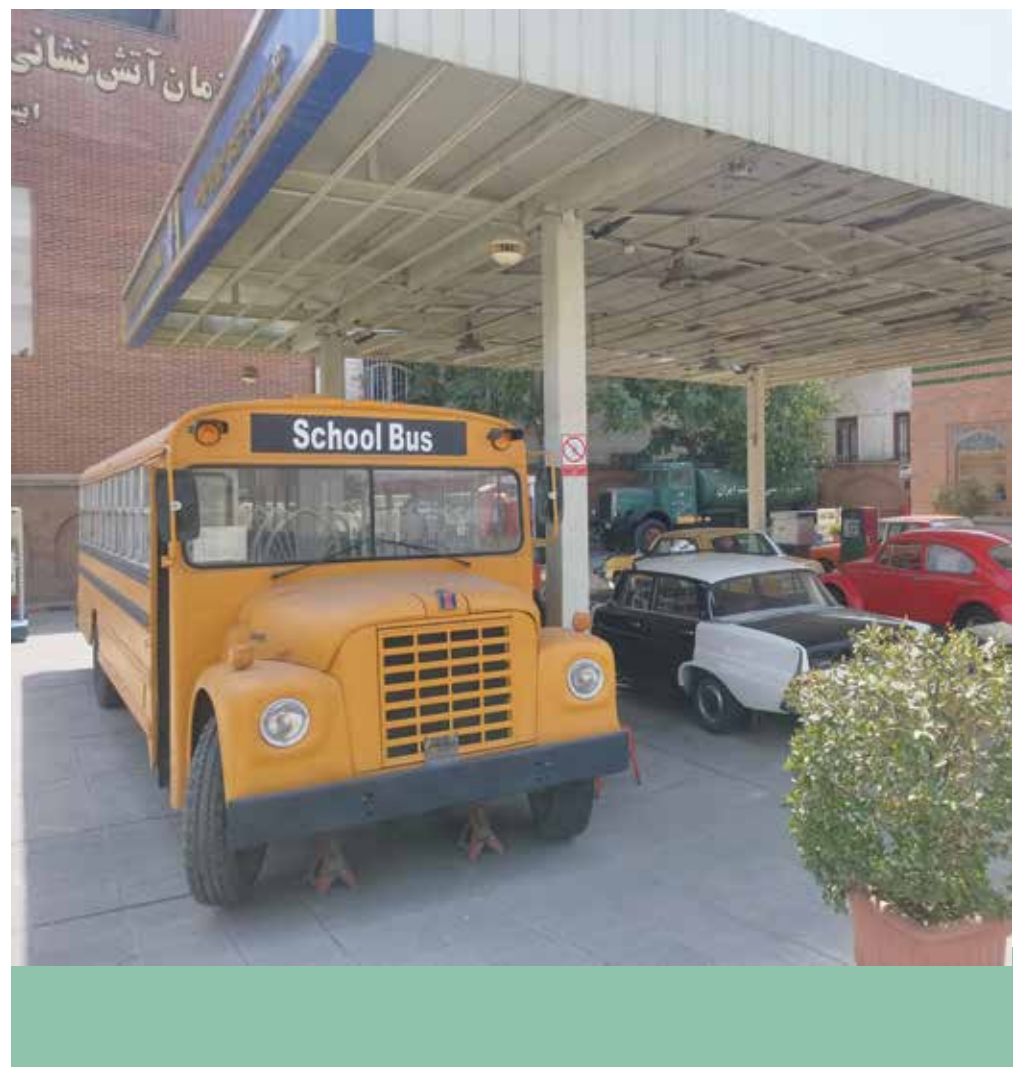
The Darvazeh Dowlat Gas Station Museum is the first such museum in Tehran, located at the entrance of Sa'di Street. The original building of this facility was constructed in 1938 and it began operations in 1940. This site was active until 1995, after which it was closed due to the passage of the metro line beneath it.

The gas station museum is situated right behind the entrance of a metro station, on a dead-end alley named Fiat, which remains memorable due to its unusual name. Fuel Station No. 6, or the Darvazeh

Dowlat Gas Station, was built in the late 1930s by the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company for the distribution of petroleum products such as kerosene, gasoline, and oils. This historical complex retains its traditional architecture, arched vaults, and colorful tiles from ancient times. In August 2014, it was registered as a national heritage site by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts.

The building of this gas station, which had been abandoned for years, has been utilized as a museum since 2019.

In an interview with Iran Daily, Maryam Esmaeili, the director of the Darvazeh Dowlat Gas Station Museum, discussed the history of fuel stations in Tehran and the establishment of the museum.



History

Esmaeili said that this gas station is, in fact, the third oldest fueling facility in Tehran and the only remaining one from that generation of old gas stations, dating back to the rule of first Pahlavi government.

She continued, stating that in 1937, the land of this establishment was purchased from the son of Arbab Keykhosrow, whose father was a well-known contemporary political figure. Just a year later, the energy station was built and opened. It was constructed near the site of the former Darvazeh Dowlat (Dowlat Gate). In 1930, in an effort to expand Tehran, several of the city's old gates were demolished, including the historic Darvazeh Dowlat.

She mentioned that in a section of a book published by Armed Forces Geographical Organization in 1951, for the first time, 13 old fueling facilities in Tehran were in-

troduced as gas sales shops. In this list, although Darvazeh Dowlat Gas Station is considered the third built in Tehran, it is referred to as the sixth gas sales shop.

She added that the first gas station in the capital was established in Amirieh neighborhood, located at the Gomrok Square. The second one was situated on Enghelab Street at the intersection with Vusal Shirazi Street.

Esmaeili said that the structures of all the old gas stations of Tehran mentioned in the book have been destroyed, and only the one at Darvazeh Dowlat neighborhood remains. However, the structure of the fourth gas station of Tehran, located on 15 Khordad Street, is also intact, but since it has not been well restored, its structure has deviated from its original form.

She pointed out that since 2014,

the oil industry museums and documentation centers have gradually been established. At that time, it was decided in the Oil Ministry to utilize places and structures related to the oil industry in various cities for this purpose. One of these places is the current location of the Darvazeh Dowlat Gas Station Museum.

"When the idea of establishing the museum took shape, I personally began working as its executive supervisor. My colleagues and I wrote various content scenarios regarding the restoration of the structure, its layout, lighting, and so on. The original building was preserved as it was, and only some of the tiles on the façade of the building were restored. Ultimately, the museum was inaugurated in July 2019, and I continued to work as the museum director," she continued.

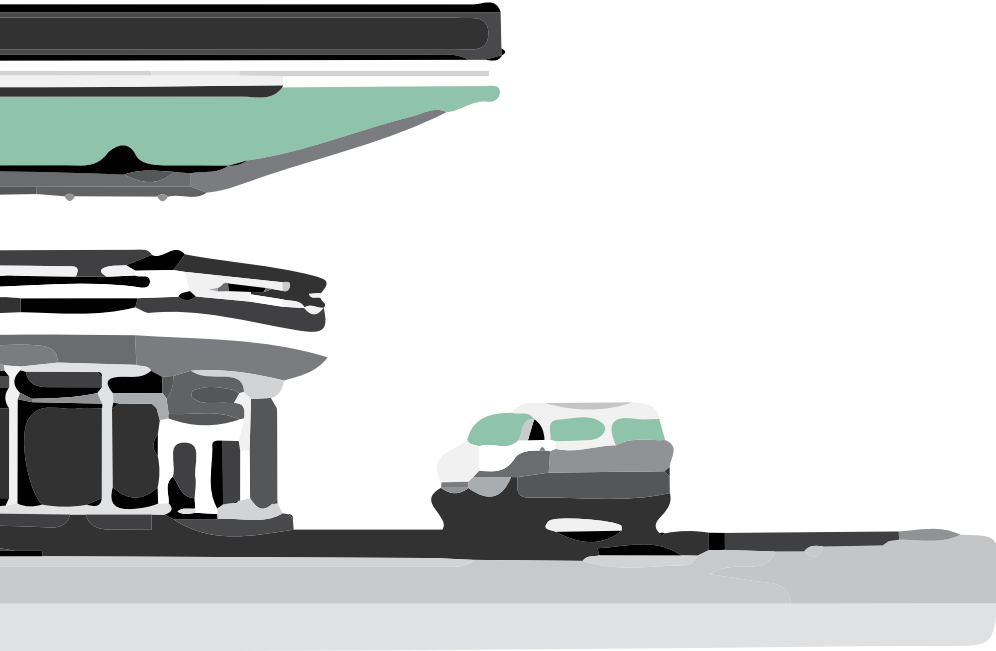
Sections

The museum features both open-air and covered areas. Given that the museum was built on the site of a gas station, the open space served as the location for vehicles waiting to refuel, while the covered area housed the administrative and auditing offices of the gas station.

Currently, the open space is dedicated to interesting museum sections, showcasing nostalgic stories and environments, including the oil distribution system from years past, classic cars, and a treasure trove of products that provided warmth to many homes until just a few

decades ago, illuminating areas without electricity.

In one part of the museum, a line of statues stands alongside containers, reminiscent of the old days when people had to wait in long queues for subsidized oil to heat their homes during the cold winter days and nights.



Classic cars

In another section of the museum, at the vehicle refueling area, several vintage cars are on display, including an old Volkswagen, which structurally differs from all other cars, as its engine is located at the rear and the fuel tank is under the front hood. Next to it is a Benz 190, whose color recalls the old taxis in the capital, which were originally black and white when taxi services were first established in Tehran. Later, the color of taxis in Tehran changed to orange and is now yellow. Another vehicle displayed alongside these cars is a Peugeot 504 belonging to Mohammad Javad Tondgouyan, the first Iranian oil minister after the victory of the Islamic Revolution. In November 1979, at the beginning of the Iran-Iraq War, he was captured by Iraqi forces while visiting the Abadan refinery on the road from Mahshahr to Abadan. After an unknown period of torture, he was martyred. "We found the car during a trip in 2019 with some officials from the oil industry to Abadan. Since we wanted to have a symbol of the former oil minister in the museum, we transferred it to Tehran," Esmaeili explained. She also mentioned an old school bus in the museum and said, "During this trip, we visited three old buses in Abadan that were used in the past to transport the children of oil industry personnel between their homes and schools. We brought one of these buses to the museum. This old bus, which has an interesting design, particular-

ly attracts the attention of students visiting the museum." Additionally, there is a very old fuel tanker with the Leyland brand in the museum, located in a corner of the open space next to the drainage pond. Ismaili noted: "At that time, Iran was one of the shareholders of this reputable automotive company, and most of our old tankers are from this brand. This fuel tanker dates back to 1948 and is one of the last surviving fuel tankers that were used to transport products to gas stations during those years." This museum features triple tanks for kerosene, gasoline, and diesel, displayed with ground showcases, illustrating the fuel transfer path to the tanks and from the tanks to the platforms. In the Health and Safety Executive station (HSE), devices and equipment such as explosion-proof phones, handheld extinguishers, buckets filled with sand, alarm bells, and vapor discharge pipes are showcased. Another section of the museum displays a diverse collection of the oldest to the most modern pumps, highlighting the evolution of fuel pumps for visitors. According to Esmaeili, the oldest item in the museum is located in this section: A red French pump, manufactured in 1920, which is about 100 years old. The pumping operation of these pumps was done manually, which is why people who worked at fuel station were referred to as pump operators at that time.



Three rooms

The main and historic building of the gas station consists of three rooms, each dedicated to specific topics. In Room One, documents related to the history of the Darvazeh Dowlat neighborhood, the land purchased for the oil company known as Anglo-Iranian Oil Company, the formation and operation of the gas station, along with photographs, maps, and historical films of this station are displayed. In Room Two, the world events chronicle and the Iran events chronicle (related to the history of gasoline and fuel stations) feature a display board of fuel ra-

tioning documents and coupons in Iran, as well as showcases of regular and super gasoline, diesel, black oil, kerosene, motor oil, and insecticides for visitors to see. Room Three showcases how gas pumps work and their components. This section includes tools and equipment such as a dual-sided gas pump, its disassembled parts, a cutaway of a nozzle device, various types of these devices, and display cases featuring manuals for gas pump devices, motorcycle and car fuel tanks, various gasoline gauges, and more.



Activities and events

Esmaeili also explained the activities of the museum and said although it is not very large in terms of size, it is considered a dynamic museum. It has been selected several times as one of the top museums in various fields. As you know, there are about 180 museums in Tehran, whether under the supervision of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Tourism or other organizations.

Last year, Darvazeh Dowlat Gas Station Museum ranked first among small state museums in terms of creativity and innovation. Additionally, 11,000 visitors visited the museum during the 11 days of the Nowruz holidays last year, which is considered a record, and the museum was also commended for this.



Persian Gulf Pro League: Persepolis completes derby double to close in on top two

Sports Desk

Ali Alipour scored a 71st winner as Persepolis defeated Esteghlal 2-1 at the Azadi Stadium on Thursday, completing a first Tehran Derby double in a decade in the Persian Gulf Pro League. The massive victory helped third-placed Persepolis close the gap on Tractor and Sepahan to four and three points, respectively, following the goalless stalemate between the top two in the table in Tabriz's Yadegar-e Imam Stadium earlier in the day.

There wasn't much to separate the Tehran archrivals in the first half but the Capital Reds still managed to take the lead from the spot right before the interval. Alipour was released behind the Blues backline by skipper Omid A'lishah's long ball and burst into the box before being brought down by Esteghlal goalkeeper Seyyed Hossein Hosseini.

Serdar Dursun had his effort saved by Hosseini, but luck was on his side as the spot kick was repeated after a VAR review showed Esteghlal keeper off the goal line when the Turkish striker struck the ball.

Center-back Hossein Kan'anizadegan, who scored the winner from the spot late in September's reverse fixture, stepped in to take responsibility for the



Persepolis striker Ali Alipour celebrates after scoring the winner during a 2-1 victory over Esteghlal in the Persian Gulf Pro League at the Azadi Stadium, Tehran, Iran, on Feb. 27, 2025.
● SOHEIL SAADATMANDI/FFIRI

second attempt and put the Reds in front in the fourth minute of first-half added time.

It took Esteghlal 10 minutes after the restart to find the equalizer, with substi-

tute Alireza Koushki heading home Ramin Rezaeian's cross for his third goal in as many games.

Unbeaten in the Tehran derby since March 2018 – barring a couple of

shootout setbacks in the Hazfi Cup – Persepolis restored the lead 16 minutes later.

Soroush Rafiei's pinpoint free-kick found Alipour unmarked in the Blues box,

before his deft touch went past Hosseini – a ninth league goal for the striker this term, and fifth in the history of the fixture.

Esteghlal desperately pushed for a second goal,

but Persepolis held off the pressure and could have even doubled the advantage through Issa Alekasir, who was denied by Hosseini in a one-on-one situation deep into stoppage time.

A derby triumph was perhaps what Persepolis head coach Ismail Kartal needed, after his team had managed only a single win in six outings across all competitions since the Turkish boss took the helm in January, crashing out of the domestic cup and AFC Champions League Elite in the process.

"We dominated the ball possession throughout the 90 minutes and kept Esteghlal at bay, as all they could do was sending long balls from the right flank. We're now back in the title race and will give it our all to win the league again," said the Turkish coach, who gave special praise to Rafiei and Alipour, tipping the duo to receive an international call-up for March's World Cup qualifiers.

Meanwhile, Kartal's Montenegrin opposite number Miodrag Bozovic, who was only appointed to the job on the eve of the derby, was given a reality check of the task on his hands ahead of Monday's home game against Saudi heavyweight Al Nassr in the Asian Champions League last 16.

UWW Ranking Series:

Qassempour buries ghosts of past to win gold in Tirana

UWW – "Today when I was standing on the podium, I remembered it."

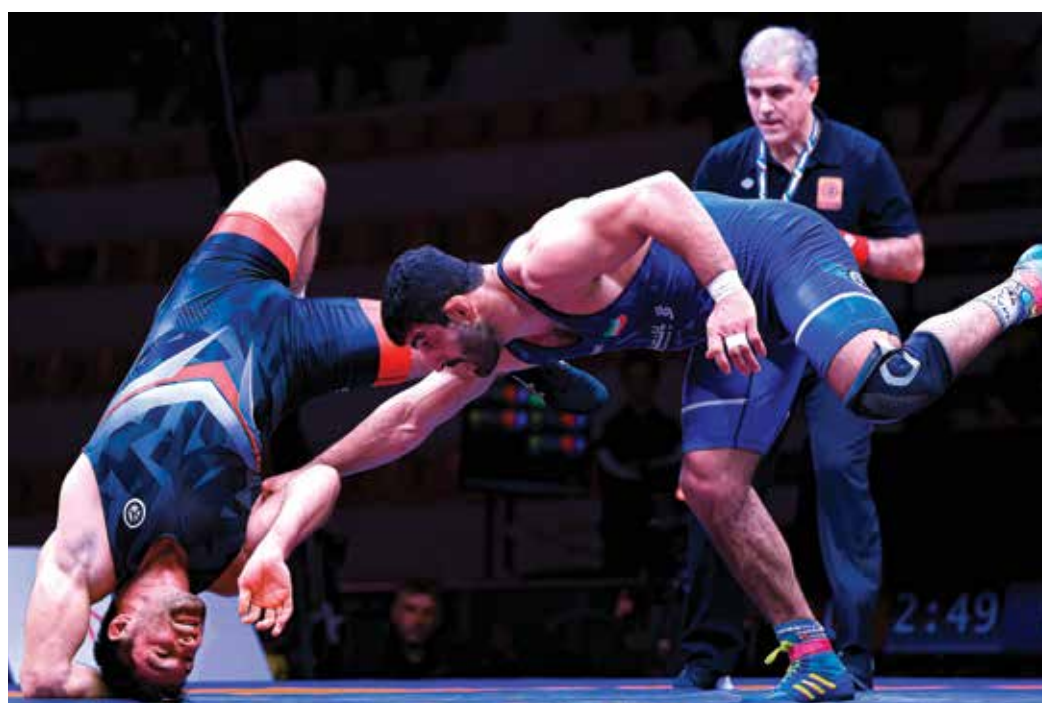
Kamran Qassempour replays the match in his mind as he speaks. He remembers the move and the loss clearly.

At the World Championships in October last year, Qassempour was four seconds away from upsetting Abdulrashid Sadulaev but the latter pulled off an incredible move to beat the Iranian in the semifinal. While the Russian won the gold, Qassempour returned empty-handed after losing his bronze-medal bout to American David Taylor.

Qassempour may not be able to completely erase the memories of that loss with the freestyle gold medal he won at the Muhamet Malo Ranking Series event on Thursday, but he says it will help him move on.

"Last year, in this very hall, it was a very bad scene for me," Qassempour said. "Even today when I was standing on the podium, I remembered it. I should have finished on the top podium [at the World Championships]. The regret remained. But well, it's wrestling, and that's part of the sports. I tried to forget it and continue on my path."

On Thursday, Qassempour returned to Tirana at 92kg and showed once again why he is one



Iranian wrestler Kamran Qassempour (R) is seen in action against Russian Alan Bagaev in the freestyle 92kg final at the Muhamet Malo Ranking Series event in Tirana, Albania, on Feb. 27, 2025.
● KADIR CALISKAN/UWW

of the best in the world in his favorite weight class. Wrestling in three bouts, he did not give up a single point (28-0), and scored two technical superiority wins including the final.

"The competition went well," he said. "I was able to wrestle with three good opponents in this tournament and fortunately, I managed to achieve first place. The wrestler [in the final] was a

good competitor. I had watched his matches beforehand and planned well. My goal was to put on a good performance, and thankfully, I succeeded."

In his first bout against Georgian world silver medalist Miriani Maisuradze, Qassempour ran to an 8-0 lead before moving to defense. He then gut-wrenched Feyzulla Akturk of Turkey and in the final, he broke Russian Alan

Bagaev with ease to win with two minutes remaining.

"I've been wrestling in the 92kg weight class for several years," he said. "Despite that unfortunate result [last year], this arena was a good field for me. I'm trying to increase my readiness and participate in the next competitions."

Paris Olympic silver medalist Amirhossein Zare' added a second gold medal to Iran's haul on Thursday as he defeated Zelimkhan Khizriev in the 125kg final.

Leading up to the final Zare', who had his elbow tapped, looked shaky in his movements on the mat but, come the final, he made sure Khizriev wasn't much of a problem, easing to a 10-0 triumph.

A third Iranian could have won gold medal but Japan's Arash Yoshida Erfan Alizadeh in the 97kg final.

Yoshida led 1-1 on criteria at the break and then got the point for Alizadeh's passivity and scored a stepout to lead 3-1 with 90 seconds left on the clock.

Alizadeh managed to score a stepout with seven seconds on the clock but Yoshida closed it out to win 3-2.

Thursday's results came after the Iranians had collected three medals, including double golds, on the preceding night in the Al-

banian capital.

Rahman Amouzad, also an Olympic silver medalist last year, made it to the 65kg final as expected, before a 5-1 victory over former world bronze winner Taiyrbek Zhumashbek Uulu of Kyrgyzstan saw the Iranian, a world champion in 2022, walk away with the ultimate prize.

Ali Mo'meni, who was in Tirana last year for the U23 World Championships and won a bronze medal, grabbed the 57kg gold, thanks to fall victory over Aiaal Belolyubskii of Tajikistan.

The young Iranian was down 2-1 at the break but never looked worried and a half whip-over from Mo'meni in the second period caught Belolyubskii unbalanced and the Iranian was quick to hold him on the mat to seal the victory.

Mo'meni's gold more or less confirms his place in April's Asian Championships as he also defeated fellow-Iranian Hadi Rezaei in the first round to make a claim for the spot in Amman.

In the 74kg contests, two-time world bronze medalist Younes Emami bounced back from a last-four 8-3 setback against the host's Chermen Valiev to beat Kyrgyzstan's Orozobek Toktomambetov 6-1 and share the third podium with Hungary's Murad Kuramagomedov.

Harmony of nature, nomadism in Ilam's springtime celebration



● safiremelat.ir



● IRNA



● chtn.ir

Iranica Desk

The land of the Zagros dwellers adorns itself with a fresh garment of nature's softness each spring. This region, rich in culture and authentic Iranian symbols, welcomes travelers who experience Nowruz not only amidst flowers and greenery but also at the heart of the untouched life of the nomads.

This time, the black tents (known in Persian as *siah chador*) — these warm nomadic homes birthed from nature — have been re-erected to serve as a bridge between the modern world and a past that still stands with dignity, IRNA wrote.

Stories and traditions within the tents

Inside these black tents, stories come to life, infused with the aroma of fresh bread baked in a local clay oven, the scent of stews seasoned with wild spices, and the warmth of hand-made crafts that reflect the artistry of nomadic women. Together, these elements showcase a remarkable harmony between humans and nature. The black tents are not just a refuge for Nowruz (Iranian new year) tourists; they also host traditions, local music, and stories that have emerged over generations from the dust of creation. The heights of Ilam, with the spring breeze and the echo of



● chtn.ir

nomadic flutes inviting tranquility to its evenings, find new meaning within these tents. Mohammad Javad Khanzadi, director general of Ilam Province's General Governorate's Nomad Affairs' Office, stated that holding these events is not only a way to preserve the cultural heritage of the region but also offers a unique and memorable experience for Nowruz travelers.

In these black tents, life flows in all its authenticity. This year, the peak of the valley in Ilam, the historic city of Seimare, and other tourist attractions in the province will host exhibitions of crafts and

traditional nomadic products. These exhibitions will showcase the art of men and women who not only understand nature but also create beauty from it, featuring colorful handwoven items and the taste of warm bread from clay ovens, allowing tourists to closely experience the rhythm of nomadic life.

A cultural fusion of Nowruz and Ramadan

Khanzadi also mentioned the coincidence of the holy month of Ramadan with Nowruz and announced plans for special cultural programs, stating that these black tents will narrate



● chtn.ir

the lifestyle and art of the nomads while providing venues for spiritual and ceremonial events fitting the atmosphere of Ramadan.

Through this event, Ilam once again presents the authenticity and cultural richness of the nomads to travelers with a fresh perspective, transforming the black tents into more than just places for rest or recreation. These tents reflect the vibrant spirit of the Zagros people, and every visitor, upon entering them, will not only become acquainted with nomadic achievements but will also engrave a part of the history and identity

of these hospitable people in their memory.

Khanzadi pointed out the establishment of a nomadic element at Ilam Airport to showcase the achievements of the province's nomads, emphasizing that holding various cultural programs in the erected black tents, especially given the coincidence of the holy month of Ramadan and Nowruz, is one of the most important initiatives for nomadic affairs during this time.

Undoubtedly, with the presence of black tents and nomadic elements along the route to Ilam Airport, travelers will encounter the symbol of nomadic life

before embarking on their Nowruz journeys.

From this point onward into the heart of Ilam's nature, tourists will flow along the river of the region's culture, as the black tents serve as a window into the history of the indigenous people who have intertwined their lives with simplicity and beauty for centuries beneath the steadfast mountains and within the embrace of nature.

Embracing authenticity

In the upcoming Nowruz, Ilam will not only serve as a passage for travelers but also as a destination where they can experience the pure essence of Iranian life. Amidst the traditional bustle, travelers will not merely be spectators; they will become part of a poetic coexistence with nature, especially when they hear the cooing of doves or the song of a nearby cuckoo. Perhaps for the first time during their journey, they will truly feel the authentic meaning of life.

With the offering of its nomadic black tents for Nowruz, Ilam not only spreads a table of services and beauties for its guests but also provides a rare opportunity to get acquainted with a part of Iran's national culture.

Here, every tent has a story, every sound brings an experience, and every gaze is a return to a forgotten authenticity that has faded in the corners of modern life.



● IRNA

Qalieh mahi, a southern Iranian delight

The local and traditional foods of southern regions of Iran have a crucial position in Iranian food culture and many of these foods constitute the routine meal of them. There are many different foods relevant to the warm and humid conditions in the southern regions of Iran.

Living in the unbearable warm and highly humid areas needs particular healthy meals to compensate the harmful consequences of the weather in which fish is a highly beneficial food-stuff. The warm water in the south is a good source of providing fresh fishes for cooking delicious foods. *Qalieh mahi* is one of the most famous traditional

yummy and highly nutrient food the which is greatly popular in the south; It is cooked by the same method anywhere in Iran. In fact, *qalieh mahi* is a kind of spicy *khoresh* (stew) in which fish has an important role. In order to prepare a good *qalieh*, we can use mackerel or any other fishes in the southern region of Iran with little bones along with vegetables such as, coriander and fenugreek, onion, pepper, turmeric, garlic, oil and tomato paste.

Tamarind is also added in order to make a sour taste. *Qalieh mahi* is usually served with rice; however, you can eat with some bread. The *qalieh mahi* delicious

taste, aromatic smell and good appearance arise from the vegetable and garlic.

In addition to *qalieh mahi*, the southern regions of Iran are known for other delicious dishes that showcase the local ingredients and culinary techniques. The emphasis on seafood, particularly in coastal areas, reflects the rich maritime culture of the south, where fishing is not just a livelihood but also a way of life. Overall, the foods of southern Iran are a vibrant testament to the region's history, climate, and the ingenuity of its people in creating meals that are both satisfying and deeply rooted in tradition.

● License Holder Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA)
 ● ICPI CEO Ali Motaghian
 ● Editor-in-chief Mostafa Shirmohammadi
 ● Int'l & National Desk Javad Mohammad Ali, Zohreh Qanadi, Amir Mollae Mozaffari
 ● Economy Desk Reza Abesh Ahmadlou, Sadeq Dehqan
 ● Sports Desk Amirhadi Arsalanpour
 ● Iranica Desk Leila Imeni
 ● Arts & Culture Desk Hamideh Hosseini
 ● Language Editor Mehdi Ebrahim

● Editorial Dept. Tel +98 21 84711411
 ● Address 208, Khorramshahr Ave., Tehran, Iran
 ● ICPI Publisher +98 21 88548892-5
 ● Advertising Dept. Tel/Email +98 21 88500601/irandaily@iranagahiha.com
 ● Website www.irandaily.ir/newspaper.irandaily.ir
 ● Email irandaily@icpi.ir
 ● Printing House Iran Cultural & Press Institute



6260737900044 > irandaily.ir | newspaper.irandaily.ir | IranDailyWeb

Vol. 7782 ● Saturday, March. 1, 2025 ● 100,000 rials ● 8 pages

Minister: Cultural diplomacy to be strengthened through cultural weeks

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance, Abbas Salehi, said that cultural weeks and similar events represent a renewed effort to strengthen cultural diplomacy and foster meaningful connections among artists, intellectuals, and scholars across nations. During a meeting with Iranian expatriates in Qatar, Salehi emphasized the importance of these initiatives for enhancing cultural ties, IRNA reported. He added that the Qatar Cultural Week, running from February 26 to 28, serves as a key opportunity for activating various cultural capacities. He pointed out that growth in cultural, media, and economic sectors requires innovation, creativity, and active participation from the youth, which can play a crucial role in advancing the cultural economy. Salehi outlined his discussions around

three main areas: Cultural diplomacy, cultural economy, and the role of Iranians abroad. He underscored the cultural week in Qatar as a significant opportunity to showcase Iran's rich heritage and artistic spirit to the world. He called for a concerted effort to present the country's valuable capacities while stressing the necessity of preserving national identity for all Iranians. The minister also highlighted the importance of international communications, particularly with neighboring countries, expressing optimism that enhanced collaboration in cultural, artistic, and media diplomacy could effectively portray Iran's true image on the global stage. In a bid to deepen cultural ties, Salehi proposed the formation of a joint working group, comprising representatives from the Iranian embassy, cultural cen-

ters, and Qatar's Ministry of Culture, to streamline cooperation in literary and artistic sectors. During the visit, Salehi met with Qatar's Culture Minister to discuss expanding cultural exchanges between the two nations. They both acknowledged the shared deep cultural ties and recognized the friendly relations as a valuable opportunity for collaboration. The discussions also touched on the importance of social media in cultural interactions, with proposals to strengthen online engagement between Iranian and Qatari users during significant cultural events, enhancing mutual cultural understanding. Salehi reiterated the significance of the Persian language in cultural exchanges and proposed joint efforts in Persian language education as a valuable opportunity to boost interactions between the two countries.



Iran's Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance, Abbas Salehi (C), looks at carpets on the sidelines of the Qatar Cultural Week in Doha on February 28, 2025. ● IRNA

He expressed Iran's readiness to collaborate in areas that resonate with the people of Qatar or meet the needs of its

government, indicating a willingness to deepen cultural and economic ties moving forward.

Iran, Iraq forge cultural ties to promote non-violence, counter Western influences on youth



Arts & Culture Desk

Iraqi officials visited Iran's Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (IID-

CYA), signaling a commitment to collaborate on initiatives aimed at fostering creativity and non-violent messages among youth. During the visit, Tamir Muhammad Mukhlis, Deputy of the Iraqi Children's Institute, expressed readiness to deepen cultural and artistic cooperation with Iran. He was joined by a delegation that included notable figures such as Amir Alireza, head of the Theater and Music Department, and Bassam, a children's book translator, among others, Mehr News Agency reported.

The group toured various facilities, including the reference library and cinematographic workshops at the Iranian institute. Mohammad Reza Karimi Saremi, the Deputy for Production at the Iranian institute, outlined its long-standing mission to promote reading among children. Established over six decades ago, the institute now operates 1,040 cultural centers across the country, offering around 60 activities such as storytelling, painting, and filmmaking. To date, it has produced more than 3,000 titles of children's literature and boasts a collection

of 12 million books. He further elaborated on the institute's cinematic achievements, revealing that it has created over 600 films—including shorts, features, and animations—garnering more than 3,000 awards in both domestic and international arenas. "Our theater division has produced over 500 plays, winning numerous accolades," he said. Highlighting the institute's unique position, Karimi Saremi noted the absence of a similar organization in Iran. He mentioned the Language Institute,

which offers courses in nine languages and serves over 400,000 students each academic year. Revenue is generated through this center, film sales, and government support. The cultural exchange also included discussions on potential joint productions, leveraging the shared heritage between Iran and Iraq. "We believe that children across the globe, due to their innocence, deserve access to joyful stories," Karimi Saremi added, emphasizing the importance of making their stories available to Iraqi children.

Israel's growing footprint ...

Baku from Tel Aviv's perspective

In addition to the above, the prominent role of the Zionist regime in the developments of the South Caucasus, particularly in Azerbaijan, has become a decisive factor in shaping new power dynamics in the region. Through extensive investments in Azerbaijan's military, economic, and intelligence sectors, and backed by widespread lobbying in the United States, especially by Zionist lobbies and the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), Israel has increased its influence in this country and uses it as a platform to advance its regional goals. The recent BESA report, authored by Captain (res.) Alexander Grinberg, a former intelligence officer in the Israeli army, explicitly identifies Azerbaijan as one of the "pillars of Israel's regional security" and cites several reasons for the country's strategic importance. He emphasizes that Azerbaijan's proximity to Iran and Russia makes it a potential base for intelligence and military operations against these two countries. The BESA report, citing various sources, including Foreign Policy, points to the widespread presence of Israeli intelligence agents in Azerbaijan. For instance, it notes: "In February 2012, the Associated Press noted that Azerbaijan has become an important base for Israeli intelligence services!" Beyond its proximity, Alexander Grinberg claims that the presence of a large

Azeri-speaking population in Iran is another attractive factor for Israel. He explicitly claims that Israel can use this leverage to incite ethnic discontent and destabilize Iran. Furthermore, a significant portion of the regime's oil consumption is supplied by Azerbaijan, and this is vitally important to the Zionist regime, especially in times of crisis. He emphasizes, citing Israeli officials, that Azerbaijan is the largest supplier of energy resources to the Zionist regime and, during the Gaza war, increased its oil exports to Israel by 155%. The BESA report notes that Azerbaijan is one of the largest importers of Israeli military products, stating that 60-69% of Azerbaijan's military imports in the 2010s came from Israel, and new contracts have also been signed. The noteworthy point is that the BESA Center explicitly acknowledges the presence of Israeli intelligence agents on Azerbaijani soil and claims that the "Iranian threat" is the unifying factor between Baku and Tel Aviv. In addition to the above, the BESA report addresses Azerbaijan's role in mediating between Turkey and Israel, citing Israeli and Azerbaijani sources to emphasize that the President of Azerbaijan is trying to improve Turkish-Israeli relations. In the second report, published shortly after the first one at the BESA Center, suggestions were made for Azerbaijan's participation in the reconstruction of

Gaza and the revival of shared religious sites, indicating the Zionist regime's efforts to utilize Azerbaijan's capacity as a cultural and economic tool in Islamic societies. For this reason, the recent report specifically states: "Azerbaijan should be included in the 'Abraham Accords club.'" As is evident, what has been published in this think tank reveals the Zionists' special view of the South Caucasus. Furthermore, the simultaneous publication of this report with the start of the Trump administration's regional activities and the possibility of adopting new policies towards Russia reinforces the proposition that we may soon witness new intrigues in the region. It should be noted that Trump could pave the way for a new chapter of geopolitical developments in the South Caucasus, because given Trump's history of supporting Israel, an increase in Israel's influence in the Caucasus region, especially in Azerbaijan, is not unexpected. This could lead to increased competition, renewed agitation regarding the Zangezur corridor, and increased security threats against Iran. Notably, the second BESA report mentions the need to repeal "Section 907," which is an obstacle to the development of US-Azerbaijani relations. This legal provision was enacted under the Freedom Support Act of 1992 due to the military conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia over the Nagorno-Karabakh region

and has been renewed annually to this day, preventing extensive US economic and military support for Baku. Under such circumstances, Iran, to safeguard its national interests and prevent future enemy machinations, should not stand idly by as the regime consolidates its position on our northern borders. Therefore, all political groups in the country, with a deep understanding of the potential threats, must prioritize national interests and adopt a comprehensive approach to counter these threats. This approach should include strengthening active diplomacy with regional countries, especially Armenia and Russia. The country's intelligence and security agencies must closely monitor developments and identify any suspicious activity. Strengthening the country's defense capabilities on the northwestern borders, particularly in air and missile defense, and developing drone and electronic warfare capabilities can create the necessary deterrence. But most importantly, maintaining national unity and cohesion, which the enemy has a particular interest in undermining, is crucial.

Strategy of 'cooperation and vigilance'

Iranian decision-makers, from all spectra and factions, must pursue national interests in the long term, understanding the geopolitical realities of the region. These interests are not secured

through confrontation with neighbors, but through cooperation and constructive engagement with them. Iran must help resolve conflicts peacefully and create a stable security system in the South Caucasus by strengthening economic, cultural, and political relations with regional countries, especially Armenia, and by using its diplomatic capabilities. This cooperation could include joint economic projects, development of transportation infrastructure, cultural cooperation, and information exchange. At the same time, Iran must vigilantly monitor the movements of the Zionist regime and its allies and take necessary measures to prevent the infiltration and expansion of this regime's presence on our borders. The report discussed shows that Israel views Azerbaijan as a pawn in its geopolitical great game. Given this reality, Iran must review its policies towards the South Caucasus and adopt a comprehensive and multi-faceted approach that both helps protect our national interests and contributes to regional stability. This approach must be based on active diplomacy, economic cooperation, strengthening defense capabilities, and security vigilance, because the future of the South Caucasus depends on cooperation and constructive engagement among the countries of the region, and Iran can play an active role in creating a stable security system based on common interests.