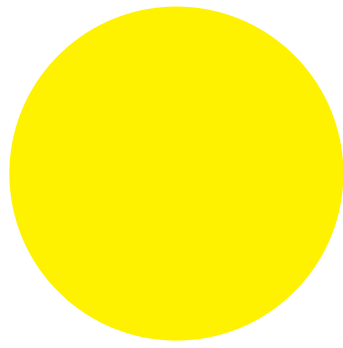


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Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian addresses a conference commemorating the Red Crescent Week in Tehran, Iran, on May 12, 2025.
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Venezuelan publisher hails Iran's 'exceptional' book culture at Tehran fair

**INTERVIEW
EXCLUSIVE**

Venezuela's pavilion manager at the 36th Tehran International Book Fair praised Iran's publishing industry and reading culture as "exceptional," highlighting the strong presence of both local and international publishers.

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President upbraids global silence on Israel's crimes in Gaza

International Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on Monday criticized the silence of international organizations on the crimes committed by the Israeli regime in the Gaza Strip where it has killed nearly 53,000 people since 2023.

"The world sees but is silent, the United Nations sees but still defends such a crime. This is the problem we have. When they are behind the podiums, they talk about freedom and peace, but in action, they are more ferocious than the most ferocious animals," the Iranian president said while addressing a conference com-

memorating the Red Crescent Week in Iran.

"How can those who talk about human rights and humanity accept that women, children, and the elderly are easily bombed?" Pezeshkian added. At least 52,862 Palestinians have been killed, mostly women and children, and another 119,648 individuals injured in the brutal Israeli military onslaught on Gaza since October 7, 2023.

Israel has also blocked all humanitarian assistance from reaching Palestinians in Gaza since March 2. UNRWA, the main UN agency for Palestinian refugees, estimates that up to 1.9 million people in Gaza have

been internally displaced – about 90% of the population of the Strip, estimated by the UN to be around 2.1 million people. The number of displaced people rose from 1.7 million since Israel launched its offensive on the southern city of Rafah in May.

The regime has also restricted Palestinians' access to 70 percent of Gaza, either by declaring large areas as no-go zones or issuing forced displacement orders, according to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

UNRWA has described the humanitarian situation in Gaza as a crisis

"beyond imagination."

"Air strikes, blockades, and starvation continue, with tens of thousands killed and injured," UNRWA said in a post on X.

"Displaced families face collapsing infrastructure, sewage overflows, and empty markets. The siege must be lifted to ensure vital humanitarian and commercial supplies reach Gaza," it said.

Israel launched its genocide in Gaza on October 7, 2023, after the Hamas resistance group carried out the historic Al-Aqsa Flood operation against the usurping entity in retaliation for its intensified atrocities against the Palestinian people.



AFP

Pezeshkian: Iran 'serious' in nuclear talks with US

Trump: Very good things happening with Iran

International Desk

Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Sunday that Tehran is "serious" in its nuclear negotiations with the United States and seeks to reach an agreement to put an end to decades of tensions on the issue.

Addressing a cabinet meeting, Pezeshkian assured that Iran has never pursued, is not pursuing, and will never pursue nuclear weapons.

Since April 12, the two countries have held four rounds of talks on Iran's nuclear program and removal of sanctions imposed on Iran. Both sides have described the negotiations mediated by Oman as "positive and constructive."

However, the US officials' recent demands for dismantlement of Iran's entire uranium enrichment infrastructure caused Iranian officials to raise an eyebrow and quickly react to the demands.

'Unacceptable' demand

The Iranian president clarified that the Islamic Republic found the demand for dismantlement of its entire nuclear infrastructure "unacceptable."

The US officials, including Washington's chief negotiator Steve Witkoff have called Iran's uranium enrichment a red line for the US. Witkoff said in a Friday interview

that Iran's "enrichment facilities have to be dismantled."

"That's our red line. No enrichment," he told US right-wing outlet Breitbart News, after initially suggesting flexibility on Tehran maintaining low-level enrichment of uranium for civilian purposes. Pezeshkian on Monday underscored that Iran would not give up its nuclear achievements, particularly in the realm of peaceful energy.

Iran is decisively following up its nuclear energy work since nuclear technology significantly benefited the nation, not just in terms of energy production, but as far as vital sectors such as medicine, agriculture, and environmental protection were concerned, he said.

Iran and the US wrapped up the fourth round of nuclear talks in Oman on Sunday.

US President Donald Trump, who is scheduled to travel to visit Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates this week, said on Monday that there are "very good things happening" with Iran.

Iranians 'talking intelligently'

"They can't have a nuclear weapon, but I think that they are talking intelligently," Trump said during a White House press conference.

"We're in the midst of talking to them, and they're right now acting

very intelligent."

"We want Iran to be wealthy and wonderful and happy and great, but they can't have a nuclear weapon," Trump said.

After the Sunday talks in Oman, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, who leads the Iran's delegation in negotiations, said that Tehran and Washington narrowed their differences and at the very least, the two sides reached a better understanding of each other's positions.

Araghchi described the latest round of negotiations as "more serious" and "more detailed" than previous meetings, adding that "more detailed issues" were discussed and that the negotiations were "moving forward."

The top Iranian diplomat also reaffirmed that the issue of uranium enrichment is absolutely non-negotiable. But he said that Iran may be open to limit the extent, level, or capacity of enrichment for the purpose of confidence-building over a specified period, similar to what has been experienced in the past.

Araghchi, who leads the Iranian delegation in the negotiations with the US, added that the primary objective of the negotiations is to get the sanctions lifted, and the issue has always been – and remains – one of the fundamental pillars of the talks.

Kurdish militant group PKK says disbanding, ending armed struggle



Head of the Kurdistan Workers' Party Murat Karayilan (c) announces the dissolution of the PKK party at an undisclosed location in northern Iraq on May 12, 2025. AFP

The Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) militant group, which has been locked in bloody conflict with Turkey for more than four decades, decided to disband and end its armed struggle, group members and Turkish leaders said on Monday.

Since the PKK launched its insurgency in 1984 – originally with the aim of creating an independent Kurdish state – the conflict has killed more than 40,000 people, exerted a huge economic burden and fueled social tensions, Reuters reported.

The PKK's decision could boost NATO member Turkey's political and economic stability and encourage moves to ease tensions in neighboring Iraq and also in Syria, where Kurdish forces are allied with US forces.

While Ankara welcomed the decision to dissolve, it does not guarantee peace. Rather it paves the way for agreeing a tricky legal framework for securely disarming the PKK, which is designated a terrorist group by Turkey and its Western allies.

"The PKK 12th Congress decided to dissolve the PKK's organizational structure... and end the armed struggle," Firat news agency reported the group as saying in the closing declaration of a congress held last week in northern Iraq, where the group is based.

A PKK official separately confirmed the decision and said all military operations would cease "immediately," adding weapon handovers were contingent on Ankara's response and approach to Kurdish rights, and the fate of PKK fighters and leaders. Kurds make up some 20% of Turkey's 86 million population.

The PKK held the congress in response to a February call to disband from its jailed leader Abdullah Ocalan, who has been imprisoned on an island south of Istanbul since 1999. It said on Monday that he would manage the process.

However, it was not clear whether Ankara agreed to Ocalan's continued role, which polls suggest could be unpopular among Turks. Nor were details available on how the disarmament and breakup of the PKK would happen in practice.

It was also unclear how the process would affect the Kurdish YPG militia in Syria, if at all. YPG leads a US-allied force and is regarded by Turkey as a PKK affiliate.

YPG has previously said Ocalan's call did not apply to it, contradicting Ankara's view. It did not immediately comment on the PKK's announcement.

The disbanding will give President Tayyip Erdogan a chance to boost development in Turkey's mainly Kurdish southeast, where the insurgency has impaired the regional economy for decades.

The European Union called on "all parties to seize the moment" and begin "an inclusive process based on dialogue and reconciliation."

The president of Iraq's Kurdistan region, Nechirvan Barzani – who is a crucial powerbroker in Kurdish affairs and has close ties with Turkey – hailed the move as a boost for regional security.

The PKK decision "demonstrates political maturity and paves the way for a dialogue that promotes coexistence and stability in Turkey and the region," he said in a statement.

Hamas frees last American captive

Palestinian resistance group Hamas said on Monday it had freed an Israeli-American captive as fighting paused in Gaza on Monday.

Fighting stopped at midday in Gaza after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel would pause its operations to allow safe passage for the hostage release.

Hamas said in a statement it had freed Alexander, the last American it held, and a source familiar with the matter said Edan Alexander had been handed to the Red Cross, Reuters reported.

"The (Ezzedine) Al-Qassam Brigades have just released the Zionist soldier and American citizen Edan Alexander, following contacts with the US administration, as part of the efforts undertaken by mediators to achieve a cease-fire," Hamas said.



The release, after four-way talks between Hamas, the United States, Egypt and Qatar, could open the way to freeing the remaining 59 hostages held in the Gaza Strip, 19 months after Hamas' attack on Israel on October 7, 2023.

Qatar and Egypt said Alexander's release was an encouraging step towards new truce talks. Israel will

send a delegation to Qatar on Thursday to discuss a new proposal aimed at securing further hostage releases, Netanyahu's office said.

Netanyahu has insisted that Israel's planning for an expanded military campaign in Gaza will continue, as one of his coalition partners, national security minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, said the war on Hamas must not end and aid should not be let in to the territory.

Gaza health authorities said an Israeli strike killed at least 15 people sheltering at a school on Monday before fighting paused.

The global hunger monitor, the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) reported on Monday that half a million people in the Gaza Strip face starvation and there is a critical risk of famine by September.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



VP: Gov’t not to allow obstacles to hold back producers

Economy Desk

Iran’s Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref emphasized that supporting the private sector is a top priority for the government, stating that its task is to remove obstacles from the path of producers.

“For development programs to endure and succeed, the private sector must take the lead and assume responsibility, while the government acts as a facilitator,” Aref said at the launch ceremony of phase one of the Azarbaijan fruit plain agro-industrial complex in East Azarbaijan Province. Earlier in his remarks, Aref described the launch of phase one as aligning with the Vision Document, the Seventh Development Plan, national policies, and the theme of the current year. “With this phase becoming operational, a vital regional project is now realized,” he said, as reported by ISNA.

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, in his felicitation message on the occasion of Nowruz on March 20, called for “Investments for Production.”

Notably, phase one of the Azarbaijan fruit plain agro-industrial complex — developed through private sector investment — was inaugurated with Aref in attendance. It will directly employ 300 individuals and create 1,000 indirect jobs.

The vice president also noted that past experience has shown government-led execution imposes limited growth capacity due to bureaucratic constraints, whereas public-driven initiatives unlock limitless potential.

“The history of the Islamic Revolution demonstrates that wherever the people have actively participated, capacities became boundless, and we achieved our goals entirely. This outlook aligns with the Fourteenth Government’s strategy,” he said.

“The government’s task is to remove obstacles — or, in industrialists’ terms, to avoid creating new barriers. Under this administration, we will not permit hurdles to be placed before producers,” Aref added.

“We are pursuing self-sufficiency and resilience in industry and agriculture despite water shortages and declining rainfall.”

Stressing that production serves employment, meeting public needs, and wealth generation, Aref stated, “Production here relates to our shared civilizational sphere, home to a 300-million-strong population bound by cultural, historical, and civilizational commonalities.”

Referencing the strategy of agriculture and strategic goods production to meet domestic needs across development plans, he acknowledged, “In some years, we exceeded 120 million tons of agricultural output, but post-harvest losses and intermediary exploitation remained critical issues. Short-term profit motives have historically blocked processing industries from gaining traction.”

Aref also criticized the “predatory pricing of horticultural products by brokers in the northwest,” reaffirming that successive governments have prioritized strengthening processing industries. “These industries address national needs, create jobs, and elevate living standards, particularly for marginalized communities.”

On water scarcity, he stressed the urgency of coordinated ac-



Iran’s Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref (1) inaugurates the Azarbaijan fruit plain agro-industrial complex in East Azarbaijan Province on May 12, 2025.
● ALI HAMED HAQDOUST /IRNA

tion, “Public cooperation can rationalize consumption, while the government must secure water through supply projects and inter-basin transfers.”

Aras River water transfer project
In the northwestern province

of East Azarbaijan, he noted, the Aras River water transfer project — allocating 180 million cubic meters — will supply Tabriz, Jolfa, Marand, Shabestar, and surrounding villages. “The government is fully prepared to resolve the project’s core challenges. Contractors

have pledged to complete it a year ahead of schedule,” he said.

Aref further highlighted that the Seventh Development Plan targets 8% annual growth to drive economic progress. “An 8% growth rate necessitates investment in production.”

CBI: Removal of four zeros from national currency on agenda

Economy Desk

The Governor of the Central Bank of Iran stated that the removal of four zeros from the national currency is among the Central Bank’s priorities for this year.

Mohammad Reza Farzin made these remarks on Monday during the analytical meeting on enhancing monetary and banking governance, investment for production, and the policies of the Central Bank, Mehr reported.

“One of this year’s key priorities is the removal of zeros from the national currency unit. We are pursuing this measure, as many countries have implemented zero removal. We can establish a reconfigured structure for the rial, which will materialize if executed at an appropriate time,” he emphasized.

The long-delayed redenomination

of the national currency will strike four zeros from the rial and formally replace it with the toman in a bid to simplify transactions.

The CBI head further noted that national GDP growth has experienced significant fluctuations in recent years. “After 2019, the economy transitioned from negative to positive growth, with 2023 recording the highest annual growth rate of 5.3% in recent years. However, this declined to 3.7% during the first nine months of the past year (began on March 20, 2024). Sustained high growth rates are essential to achieving increased per capita income,” he stated.

“Since 2023, when inflation rates peaked, the point-to-point inflation rate reached 62%, but began declining monthly. By March 2024, it had fallen to 39.7%,” the Central Bank governor said.

US, China reach deal to temporarily slash tariffs, easing slump fears

The United States and China have agreed to temporarily slash reciprocal tariffs in a deal that surpassed expectations as the world’s two biggest economies seek to end a damaging trade war that has stoked fears of recession and roiled financial markets.

The US will cut extra tariffs it imposed on Chinese imports in April this year to 30% from 145% and Chinese duties on US imports will fall to 10% from 125%, the two sides said on Monday. The new measures are effective for 90 days, Reuters reported.

The dollar rose and stock markets lifted following the news, which helped allay concerns about a downturn triggered last month by US President Donald Trump’s escalation of tariff measures aimed at narrowing the US trade deficit.

“Both countries represented their national interest very well,” US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent

said after talks with Chinese officials in Geneva. “We both have an interest in balanced trade, the US will continue moving towards that.”

Striking a conciliatory tone towards China, Bessent was speaking alongside US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer after the weekend talks in Switzerland in which both sides hailed progress on narrowing differences.

“The consensus from both delegations this weekend is neither side wants a decoupling,” Bessent said. “And what had occurred with these very high tariffs ... was the equivalent of an embargo, and neither side wants that. We do want trade.”

The tariff dispute had brought nearly \$600 billion in two-way trade to a standstill, disrupting supply chains, sparking fears of stagflation and triggering some layoffs.

The Geneva meetings were the first

face-to-face interactions between senior US and Chinese economic officials since Trump returned to power and launched a global tariff blitz, imposing particularly hefty duties on China.

Bessent said the deal did not include sector-specific tariffs and that the US would continue strategic rebalancing in areas including medicines, semiconductors and steel where it had identified supply chain vulnerabilities.

Since taking office in January, Trump had hiked the tariffs paid by US importers for goods from China to 145%, in addition to those he imposed on many Chinese goods during his first term and the duties levied by the Biden administration. China hit back by putting export curbs on some rare earth elements, vital for US manufacturers of weapons and electronic consumer goods, and raising tariffs on US goods to 125%.

Iran, Qatar launch ‘Green Customs Corridor’ to boost trade

Economy Desk

Iran and Qatar established a “Green Customs Corridor” to facilitate and expand trade and transit between the two countries, marking the first time a bilateral customs cooperation agreement of this scope.

The initiative was formalized on Sunday evening, with the signing of a customs cooperation protocol between Head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) Foroud Asgari and Chairman of the General Authority of Customs Ahmed bin Abdullah Al-Jamal, ISNA reported.

This marks the first time a bilateral customs cooperation agreement of this scope has been signed between the two nations. Qatar aims to increase its share of Iran’s foreign trade and transit, similar to the role played by the

United Arab Emirates.

During bilateral negotiations in Tehran, the customs chiefs agreed on key measures to enhance customs relations, implement the World Customs Organization’s (WCO) framework for security and trade facilitation standards, and provide trade-friendly incentives.

The agreement includes streamlining trade processes and accelerating customs procedures for export-import goods, harmonizing customs standards, eliminating redundant regulations, and creating “Green Customs Corridor” for authorized commercial goods.

Additionally, both sides will enhance trade security through data-sharing mechanisms, particularly for high-risk goods, and combat smuggling via advanced technologies such as smart systems and X-ray scanners for cargo inspection.

Envoy: Iran seeks to enhance ties with Russia in automotive, auto parts industries

Economy Desk

Iran aims to broaden its collaboration with Russia in various sectors, including the automotive and auto parts industries, Iran’s Ambassador to Moscow Kazem Jalali stated. The remarks were made on Monday during the opening ceremony of the 29th international trade fair for automotive production, aftermarket and service industry in Moscow, IRNA reported.

Jalali highlighted the strategic comprehensive treaty signed between the two countries on January 17 and the implementation of the free trade agreement between Iran and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), effective from May 15, describing the outlook for Iran-Russia relations in 2025 as “promising and expanding.”

Noting that representatives of Iran’s automotive and auto parts industries are participating for the fourth consecutive year in a unified pavilion at the Automobility exhibition, he emphasized, “Iran’s annual auto-

mobile production stands at approximately 1.2 million units, though production capacity has been higher in certain years.”

“Iran has made significant advancements in auto parts manufacturing, with over 1,850 active auto parts companies operating in the country today,” Jalali further remarked, “My presence at the opening of this international exhibition sends a clear message: We are prepared to deepen cooperation, particularly in the auto parts sector.”

The international exhibition, titled MIMS Automobility Moscow 2025, commenced on Monday, and will run for four days. According to organizers, 15 Iranian companies are participating in this global event, showcasing their expertise in automotive components, services, and technologies.

The exhibition is recognized as the largest annual automotive industry event in Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). Key sectors featured include spare parts, vehicle maintenance,



Iran’s Ambassador to Moscow Kazem Jalali (2nd L) visits the pavilion of an Iranian company after the inauguration of the national pavilion of the Islamic Republic of Iran at MIMS Automobility Moscow 2025 on May 12, 2025.
● IRNA

electronic equipment, oils and chemicals, digital solutions, electric vehicles, and autonomous technologies.

This edition of the exhibition hosts 1,920 companies from 20 countries, including Iran, Italy, China, Hungary, India, South Korea, and Singapore.

Tehran’s museum treasures, architectural wonders

By Sadeq Dehqan and
Leila Imeni
Staff writers

Tehran is often referred to as the “City of Museums,” housing the highest number of museums in Iran and offering unparalleled diversity in its collections. A significant portion of these museums is situated within the historical fabric of Tehran, particularly in its central neighborhoods such as Oudlajan and Sangelaj. According to municipal officials, approximately 80% of the city’s museums are found in this area, making it essential for nearly 70% of those looking to explore Tehran’s museums to enter this region. These museums hold particular importance due to their architectural significance and the priceless artifacts they contain. If you’re on the hunt for hidden treasures in the heart of the city’s museums, be sure to continue reading this report:

National Museum of Iran



epiciran.com

The National Museum of Iran, also known as the Museum of Ancient Iran, boasts over 80 years of history. It is not only the largest archaeological and historical museum in Iran but is also considered one of the largest museums in the world regarding the volume, diversity, and quality of its artifacts. Located at the beginning of Si Tir Street, the museum occupies a floor area of 2,744 square meters and, due to the antiquity of its collections, is regarded as one of the world’s premier museums, having been inaugurated in 1937. The building was designed by French architect André Godard, with its exterior inspired by Taq Kasra.

The museum houses a wide range of artifacts dating from the 6th millennium BCE through various Islamic periods, displayed over two floors. In the museum, items are categorized into prehistoric, pre-Islamic, and Islamic periods, showcasing unique artifacts for which no monetary value can be assigned. Among the notable artifacts displayed in this museum are items from the Elamite civilization found in Chogha Zanbil, including a bull sculpture, inscriptions, clay tablets, and glass tubes. Additionally, significant works from the Achaemenid and Sassanid periods stand out as some of the most important artifacts of these eras.

Glass and Pottery Museum

The Glass and Pottery Museum is housed in a historic building from the Qajar period, situated on Si Tir Street in Tehran. This site was registered on Iran’s National Heritage List on May 7, 1998, and it ranks among the most visited museums in Tehran, attracting over two million visitors annually. The museum’s octagonal structure is set within a 7,000-square-meter garden, featuring exquisite doors and windows that reflect the elegance of Seljuk architecture. Spanning two floors, the museum comprises

five halls: two on the first floor dedicated to glass and pottery from the pre-Islamic period, and three on the second floor showcasing artifacts from the Islamic period. A notable feature of the museum’s interior is its display cases, which draw inspiration from the columns of Persepolis, the ceremonial capital of the Achaemenid Empire, in Fars Province and occasionally the Zoroastrian Fire Temple in Naqsh-e Rostam, an ancient archeological site and necropolis located about 13km northwest of Persepolis.

These unique designs enhance the overall aesthetic of the exhibits. Among the highlights are some of the oldest glass pieces, known as glass cylinders, which were discovered at Chogha Zanbil, an ancient Elamite complex in the Khuzestan Province, and date back to the second millennium BCE. The first floor also features prehistoric artifacts, including the oldest handmade pottery from the Parthian period, dating back to the first millennium BCE.



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Post and Telegraph Museum



JRINA

The Post and Telegraph Museum opened its doors in January 1991. Housed in one of the oldest and most elegant government buildings, the museum features two floors filled with various halls and booths, making it an ideal destination for enthusiasts seeking to explore historical and ancient artifacts. Established in one of the oldest and most elegant government buildings, it is an ideal destination for enthusiasts of historical artifacts. Constructed in 1928 CE during the tenure of former post ministers Soor Esrafil and Nezam al-Din Hekmat, the museum covers an area of 15,000 square meters on Imam Khomeini Street. The building features columns in the neo-Achaemenid style, which were so successful that they

were later adopted in a grander form for the Nezmiyah building. Nestled in the cultural and historical area of Mashq Square, the museum is surrounded by structures dating from the Qajar period to the early Pahlavi era. Construction materials used in the museum mirrored those found at the entrance of the National Garden and in other buildings around Mashq Square. The museum comprises eight booths spread across two floors. The first floor houses ceremonial or ministerial booths that showcase portraits of post, telegraph, and telephone ministers, from the first minister, Ali Quli Khan Mokhber al-Dowleh, to the current minister. A highlight of the first floor is the domestic stamp hall, featuring 1,100 series of

stamps from the Qajar, Pahlavi, and contemporary periods. This area includes two display cases showcasing stamp plates related to Thomas Edison and Ahmad Shah Qajar. At the end of the hall, you can find a model of a Qajar postman and a depiction of a post street. The second floor features the international stamp hall, which displays stamps issued by 130 member countries of the Universal Postal Union. Additionally, there are horizontal display cases featuring stamps donated by various personalities and envelopes sent from different countries. The postal objects booth offers a fascinating collection of old postal scales and sample mailboxes from various countries, including Brazil, Egypt, Canada, Germany, Mexico, and Sweden.

Malek National Library and Museum

The Malek National Library and Museum is a significant scientific and cultural center affiliated with the Astan Quds Razavi Foundation, located in the National Garden area on Mashq Square. It houses valuable items, some of which are unique worldwide. The center spans over 5,000 square meters of land, with a built area of approximately 9,000 square

meters, combining traditional architecture with Islamic-Iranian art crafted by artists from the Astan Quds. The museum was founded and endowed by the late Haj Hossein Aqa Malek, son of Haj Mohammad Kazem Malek al-Tojjar. The original building, which served as Malek’s private residence, is situated in the Beyn al-Haram-eyn Bazaar in Tehran. This single-story structure, dating back to the late Qajar era, features two sections: inner and outer. Haj Aqa Malek converted it into a museum in 1937. The museum displays exquisite handwritten books and various artifacts collected by Malek throughout his lifetime, including rare books, coins, stamp collections, paintings by Kamal al-Molk, carpets, and more.

The museum displays exquisite handwritten books and various artifacts collected by Malek throughout his lifetime, including rare books, coins, stamp collections, paintings by Kamal al-Molk, carpets, and more.



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Coin Museum

Established in 1963, the Coin Museum is located on Imam Khomeini Street. It showcases a diverse collection of coins from various periods of Iranian history, ranging from the coinage of central Iran during the Achaemenid era to the present day. Notably, the museum features an impressive

display of coins from the Sassanid period, alongside a complete array of coins from the Safavid era, struck in various cities across Iran. In addition to Iranian coins, the museum houses foreign currency, including commemorative coins from the Montreal Olympic Games

in Canada and the Asian Games held in Tehran in 1974. Among the collection are also gifts received from Bank Sepah, as well as a copy of Ferdowsi's Shahnameh inscribed by Amir Toman, accompanied by his rifle used during the Azarbaijan unrest and the struggle against the Russians.



● chtn.ir

National Jewelry Museum



● alibaba.ir

The National Jewelry Museum of Iran is located in Tehran, on Ferdowsi Street, directly across from the Turkish Embassy. Operational before the Victory of the Islamic Revolution, the museum was closed for a time but reopened to the public in 1990. Among the museum's most significant treasures are the Darya-e Noor Diamond, the Takht-e Tavous (the throne of Fat'hali Shah) and the Naderi Throne (a gemmed and enameled throne made during the Qajar era). It features a

remarkable display of royal jewels from various Iranian dynasties, including the Safavid, Afsharid, Qajar, and Pahlavi periods. This unparalleled collection represents only a fraction of Iran's vast jewel heritage, which has remained intact and unlooted. The gems showcased are considered unmatched worldwide, and the collection holds unique artistic and historical significance. Even expert scholars have found it challenging to estimate its true value.

National Arts Museum

The National Arts Museum is located in Tehran at Baharestan Square, Kamal al-Molk Street, within the building of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance. Established in 1930 through the efforts of the esteemed Hossein Taherzadeh Behzad — an artist, painter, and designer of carpets and miniatures — the museum showcases a rich collection of Iran's artistic heritage. In the time of Fat'hali Shah, the current site was home to a large garden

extending from the north at Hedayat Street to the south at Baharestan Square. Today, the only remnants of that garden and palace are the pond house (*howzkhaneh*), which now houses the National Arts Museum. This structure dates back to the Qajar era and was built in the southernmost part of the Negarestan Garden. The museum takes its name from this historic garden. The pond house features a unique design, complete with four *shahne-*

shins, the luxurious halls, that open into the garden. Its domed roof is supported by four stone columns. The museum's collection highlights the best of Iran's national arts, including miniatures, gilding, inlay-working, tile-working, carpet and textile weaving, velvet embroidery, enamel-working, engraving, and marquetry. The National Arts Museum was officially registered as a National Heritage Site on February 17, 1991.



● itto.org

Ali Akbar San'ati Museum



● itto.org

The Ali Akbar San'ati Museum was established in 1946 to showcase the works of the renowned painter and sculptor, Ali Akbar San'ati. Housed in a building dating back to the Qajar period, the museum is located in Imam Khomeini Square. One of the most striking features of this small, historic museum is a monumental sculpture depicting a group of political prisoners from the Pahlavi era, prominently displayed in the center of the museum. In addition to this compelling piece, the museum features notable statues of key figures, including Ferdowsi, Sa'di, Dehkhoda, Kamal al-Molk, Karim Khan Zand, Jawaharlal Nehru, Mahatma Gandhi, Louis Pasteur, Malek al-Shoara Bahar, Shah Abbas, and Nader Shah Afshar.



The museums which are situated within the historical fabric of Tehran hold particular importance due to their architectural significance and the priceless artifacts they contain.

Qolizadeh scores stunner to give Lech Poznań title momentum

Sports Desk

Ali Qolizadeh scored a sensational goal as Lech Poznań secured a massive 1-0 victory at Legia Warszawa to move atop the Polish Ekstraklasa table with two rounds of fixtures left to play. The Iranian wizard winger showed magnificent footwork to go past his marker before his left-footed curling effort from the edge of the box found the top corner 13 minutes from normal time at the Polish Army Stadium. The victory left Lech Poznań on top of the Polish league table with 66 points – one point clear of Raków Częstochowa, which fell to a 2-1 defeat against third-placed Jagiellonia Białystok at home on the preceding night. Lech Poznań will play away to GKS Katowice next Sunday before hosting Piast Gliwice on the final day of the season. Raków, meanwhile, will be next in action at Korona Kielce, followed by a

home game against Widzew Łódź on May 24. Sunday's strike – Qolizadeh's fifth in eight games – took the Iranian international's tally to eight goals and six assists in 31 league outings. Having joined from the Belgian top-flight club Royal Charleroi for a club-record €1.80m fee in July 2023, Qolizadeh missed the best part of last season with two lengthy injury spells, raising doubts over his future at the club. His contribution was often limited to cameo appearances in the early stages of the ongoing season, before he found his way into the starting XI in late October and went on to play a pivotal part in the club's title run-in.



Lech Poznań's Ali Qolizadeh scores the winner during a 1-0 victory over Legia Warszawa in the Ekstraklasa league in Warszawa, Poland, on May 11, 2025.
● lechpoznan.pl



FIBA West Asia Super League:

Lemon writes history, powers Tabiat past Qadsia in Final 8 debut



Tabiat winger Stedmon Lemon dunks the ball during a victory over Qadsia at the FIBA WASL Final 8 in Zouk Mikael, Lebanon, on May 11, 2025.
● FIBA

FIBA – Stedmon Lemon rewrote the FIBA WASL Final 8 history books in leading Iran's Tabiat past Qadsia of Kuwait, 112-85, for a stupendous start to their campaign Sunday night at the Stade Nouhad Naufal in Zouk Mikael, Lebanon. The American winger erupted for 45 points, resetting the competition's record for most points in a game which was previously held by Markell Johnson when he had 42 to lead Astana past Manama, 122-117, last year. He broke the record with a jumper off an Ivan Buva dime with 3:43 left to play, and then capped off his performance with a jam during the closing moments to help his side get

the early lead in Group B. Lemon was also pivotal in their third-quarter breakaway, scoring 10 in the Iran Basketball League outfit's decisive 17-2 run to turn a narrow three-point lead to a wide 80-64 advantage to close the said chapter. All in all, the 32-year-old shot an excellent 17-of-22 from the floor, including a 4-of-6 clip from three, and also collected 6 rebounds, 8 assists, and 4 steals to finish with an efficiency of 52 – a record in itself. He was 10 rungs clear of the old mark set twice last year as well, first by Johnson in that same game mentioned above and then by Clint Chapman when he led Kazma to a 102-

96 win over Tamil Nadu. "Glory to god," said Lemon. "My teammates trusted me, and I just made shots."

It wasn't just him who made a record, though, as Tabiat as a whole wrote an accomplishment as well. They finished with a total of 30 assists, which is now the most by any team in a single game in the Final 8. "The players got their chemistry better and we made a lot of shots," offered head coach Mehran Shahintab. "And, we controlled the fastbreak. We were sharing the ball, that's why the second half was easier for us." The team also drew a stellar showing from lead playmak-

er Sina Vahedi, who registered 31 points on 11-of-17 shooting from the floor, 5 rebounds, and 10 assists, plus a steal to net an efficiency of 40. Vahedi shot five treys as he and Lemon accounted for nine of Tabiat's 12 shots from deep. It was practically the same tandem that joined hands in putting together the third-quarter surge to capture control. Ivan Buva was the only other double-digit scorer with 14 points in the triumph. Tabiat will look to finish the group stage unbeaten – and more importantly reach the Semi-Finals – when they take on Shabab Al Ahli on Thursday.

Iranian weightlifters lined up for world event, Islamic Solidarity Games

Sports Desk

Iran head coach Behdad Salimi named a 14-man weightlifting squad ahead of preparations for this year's IWF World Championship and Islamic Solidarity Games. The world event will be staged in Førde, Norway, from October 1-10, followed by the sixth edition of the Islamic Solidarity Games, which will kick off on November 7 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Former Olympic silver medalist Ali Davoudi headlines the list and is joined by Ayat Sharifi in the superheavyweight category. Iranian prodigy Alireza Alireza, who beat Davoudi to the world clean & jerk title last year, missed the call-up as he has yet to recover

from knee surgery. Alireza Nasiri, Abolfazl Zare', Amirhossein Sepah, and Iliya Salehipour received a seniors' callout after they bagged 10 medals – including four golds – between them to lead the country to the men's junior crown at the IWF World Youth & Junior Championships in Lima, Peru, last week. Alireza Moeini and Ali A'lipour will also be aiming high at the World Championships, following their medal-winning 96kg campaign at the competition in Manama last December. Also on the list are 2023 Asian champion Hossein Soltani, Mahdi Karami, Reza Hassanpour, four-time world medalist Reza Dehdar, Abdollah Beiranvand, and Asian junior gold med-

alist Mehrab Davasari. A superheavyweight gold medalist at London 2012 Olympics and a winner of four world titles, new coach Salimi took over from Navvab Nasir-Shalal in January. Nasir-Shalal led his team to a runner-up finish behind China in December's world event in Manama, Bahrain, though his squad managed to win a single gold across 10 weight classes through Yousefi.

Former Olympic silver medalist Ali Davoudi has been named in the Iranian weightlifting squad for the upcoming two major events.
● [MAHMOUD KHAKBAZ/IRNA](http://MAHMOUD_KHAKBAZ/IRNA)



Artistic soul of Gevarzin village on Qeshm Island



● IRNA



● media.freena.ir



● IRNA



● chn.ir

Iranica Desk

In Iran, handicrafts have played a significant role in shaping the country's culture and economy from ancient times to the present day. Many of these arts have evolved under the influence of various historical eras, from the Achaemenids and Sassanids to Islamic periods and the Safavids. A journalist named Hamid Almasinia noted that the handicrafts of Gevarzin village on Qeshm Island are likely shaped by this rich historical trajectory and inspired by the region's unique nature, culture, and needs, ultimately reaching their current form. Every piece of needlework, basket weaving, or traditional jewelry from Gevarzin is more than a souvenir; it is a fragment of the island's very soul. Each handcrafted item tells a story — from nature-inspired motifs to colors that reflect the radiant sunlight of southern Iran. Visitors to Gevarzin have the opportunity to do more than just observe these works. They can touch them, feel the craftsmanship with their own hands, and become part of the region's enduring cultural tapestry, chn.ir wrote. Visiting the workshops of women artisans in Gevarzin offers a vibrant, immersive experience — an authentic encounter with art,

tradition, and human connection. Every item embodies years of experience, passed down through generations, and reflects a deep love for indigenous roots. From colorful needlework to woven palm leaf baskets, Gevarzin's handicrafts are more than mere products — they are enduring memories of travel and ways to truly feel the essence of the south. The village, located at Iran's southernmost point on Qeshm Island, is renowned not only for its pristine natural environment but also for its lively, vibrant culture. A salient aspect of this culture is the hand-made crafts created by the women of Gevarzin — works that narrate stories of identity, history, and authenticity of a community that has lived in harmony with nature for centuries, seamlessly weaving art into everyday life. Using local materials such as palm leaves, shells, traditional fabrics, and natural dyes, women in Gevarzin create items that are both functional and evocative of the region's cultural memory. From woven baskets to native dolls, each piece carries a message rooted in the past and a hopeful gaze toward the future. These handicrafts are not just commodities; they are living records of history, nature, and the roots of a community that has thrived through art and authen-

ticity. Preserving this heritage is an obligation that extends beyond the village itself — it's a collective responsibility to safeguard the cultural legacy of this land, which speaks in silence through the skilled hands of women. In recent years, a dedicated center was established in Gevarzin for training, production, and the sale of handicraft products. This initiative aims to generate employment and preserve the traditional arts. Collaborating with the Qeshm Free Zone Organization, the center offers various training courses in different handicraft techniques for local women. These programs have significantly improved skills and enhanced the quality of their products, helping to sustain the craftsmanship that defines the village. With the growth of tourism in Qeshm, arts such as khus-duzi (traditional embroidery) have become vital tools for introducing and promoting local culture. Nevertheless, this potential requires further support in education, marketing, and connecting artisans to broader markets to ensure such delicate crafts do not fade away amidst the noise of modernity. Despite high cultural and economic potential, Gevarzin women artists face challenges such as the lack of digital sales infrastructure, limited governmental support, and restricted access to

larger markets. Yet, hope remains resilient within these women's hearts — hope that is conveyed through every knot and stitch, resonating with viewers. Their optimism is reflected in ongoing efforts to boost visibility and sustainability. These women participate in national and regional exhibitions, showcase their art, and have won awards—testaments to their talent and perseverance. Tourism continues to have a profound impact on the prosperity of Gevarzin's handicrafts. This symbiotic relationship helps preserve indigenous culture while creating new economic opportunities. Tourists seeking authentic and unique handicrafts help increase local artisans' income, motivating them to preserve and innovate traditional techniques further. In summary, Gevarzin's handicrafts embody more than local culture and art; they are tools for empowering women and strengthening community resilience economically and socially. With continued support, infrastructural development, and increased recognition at national and international levels, these exquisite crafts have the potential to flourish even further, securing their place as treasures of Iran's southern heritage.

New insights into southeastern Iran's ancient civilizations

Iranica Desk

Archaeologists, during the initial season of their archaeological and exploratory investigations in Mahan, Kerman Province, identified sites dating back to the Paleolithic and Chalcolithic periods, with particular emphasis on metal melting and casting technologies. The research also uncovered evidence of nomadic settlements and ancient tools. This project was carried out with official permission from the Research Institute of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts, and Tourism Organization, aiming

to examine artifacts, archaeological sites, and historic areas, as well as to identify bio-centers within this region of Mahan. Amin Mahani, head of the archaeological team and director of the Gohar Riz Qanat World Heritage Site, explained that this phase of the project concentrated on the Mahan section, with the goal of studying the evidence of human presence across the central Kerman. The findings reveal a continuous sequence of human activity spanning from the Paleolithic to modern times, ISNA wrote. He further remarked that besides identifying ancient sites,

the investigation also focused on understanding the spatial distribution of settlements and the influence of underground water sources, such as qanats, on settlement patterns. In addition, particular attention was paid to the process of qanat formation and the development of waterworks in the region, emphasizing their significance in shaping human habitation. The archaeologist noted that the Mahan Plain is situated between two prominent elevations — Palvar and Jupar mountains — both reaching approximately 4,000 meters. The region lies roughly 35 kilome-

ters from the provincial capital, Kerman. Mahan functions as a cultural crossroads, connecting the cultures of the Shahdad Desert, Tall-e Eblis in Bardsir Plain, and northern Kerman, as well as those of Bam and Jiroft. This strategic location bears witness to the rise and decline of southeastern civilizations over various historical periods. He explained that the area hosts two primary types of historical settlements — nomadic and sedentary — that, given its water resources and favorable climate, made it an ideal environment for human habitation and cultural

development. Throughout history, it has also absorbed influences from neighboring cultures. Notable Islamic-era monuments in the region include the Shah Nematollah Vali Garden complex and the Shahzadeh Garden. Mahani highlighted that key archaeological discoveries from this research include the identification of Paleolithic sites, Chalcolithic settlements with a focus on metal melting and casting techniques, the study of water management structures, and the discovery of nomadic encampments alongside ancient hand-curved structures.



● ISNA





Iran, Uzbekistan eye joint museum exhibits, cultural cooperation

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran is ready to team up with Uzbekistan to stage joint museum exhibitions and work on shared heritage projects, according to IRNA. Deputy Minister of Cultural Heritage Ali Darabi told Uzbekistan's First Deputy of the Cultural Heritage Agency, Tursunali Kuziev, that the two nations enjoy "deep-rooted cultural ties" that could pave the way for closer collaboration. Darabi said Iran is prepared to join forces on "world heritage nominations, museum displays, and restoration projects." He pointed to the success of the Glory of Iran exhibition in China, which drew more than 50 million visitors and featured 216

artifacts. He called the event a model for potential shows in Tashkent or Samarkand. Darabi also offered Iran's expertise in artifact restoration and cultural training. "We have strong capacity in education, restoration, and exhibition," he said, highlighting opportunities to boost cultural exchange. The official underscored the historical role of the Persian language across the region, noting it once served as the administrative language of Uzbekistan. He described this linguistic heritage as a "cultural asset" that could support stronger ties. He also mentioned the symbolic importance of Samarkand and Bukhara for Iranians, calling them cities of "love, culture,

and historic identity." Kuziev, in turn, welcomed the talks and noted striking similarities between Iranian and Uzbek museum pieces. "Many of our artifacts share artistic and spiritual traits," he said. He cited examples of Persian poetry and Iranian architects featured in historic Uzbek sites. "On a 200-year-old minaret, the architect's name is engraved in Persian," Kuziev noted, adding that verses by Hafez also adorn several mosques. Uzbekistan, he said, hopes to tap into Iranian expertise to help preserve shared cultural heritage. "Scientific and practical cooperation with Iran could play a key role in protecting our common legacy," he stated.



Iran's Deputy Minister of Cultural Heritage Ali Darabi (R) shakes hands with Uzbekistan's First Deputy of the Cultural Heritage Agency, Tursunali Kuziev, following a meeting at the Ministry of Cultural Heritage in Tehran, Iran, May 12, 2025.

● IRNA

Tehran launches first Publishing Fellowship Program



Head of the 36th Tehran International Book Fair, Mohsen Javadi, addresses the audience during the opening ceremony of the first Tehran Publishing Fellowship in Tehran, Iran, May 12, 2025.

● IRNA

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran launched its first Tehran Publishing Fellowship on May 12, marking a new chapter in the country's cultural diplomacy, organizers told state news agency IRNA. The event took place on the sixth day of the Tehran International Book Fair, drawing 31 guests from 20 countries to the western wing of the fairground. Mohsen Javadi, head of the 36th TIBF, called the fellowship "part of Iran's cultural identity" and traced its roots back to the translation of classical works by scholars such as Avicenna. "His works were taught in Paris academies less than a decade

after being translated," he said. Javadi praised the choice of children's literature as the focus for the inaugural round. "When children grow up with books, interaction becomes rooted in their minds," he said. Ali Reza Nourizadeh, head of the new fellowship, said the program began with 129 applicants, from which 20 were selected. "We've taken input from Istanbul's fellowship and the children's literature community here," he said. Selected books will receive support through a national translation grant. Acknowledging early-stage challenges, Nourizadeh called the effort a "first experience," urging participants to see any

shortcomings as part of the learning curve. Mohammad Aqirakcha, director of the Introtema Literary Agency, noted that this marks the first formal step by Iranian publishing toward rights exchange. "Until now, it's been a one-way street," he said. Citing a decade of experience with fellowships in Turkey, Aqirakcha said the initiative helps move books across borders. "We're here to show the literary value of Iran," he added. "Standing against injustice is not just Iran's duty, it's a global one." He described publishers as more than just cultural figures. "Each one is an envoy for

peace." Fathollah Foroughi, head of the Iranian Association of Children's Book Publishers, emphasized the long road ahead. "We want to see these books enter global markets. It takes patience and persistence," he said. He added that Iran could become a regional hub for publishing fellowships. "Through this path, we aim to expand Iranian literature, strengthen the fair's capacity, and support translation and rights exchange." Saba Literary Agency's director, Maryam Ronagh, voiced hope that both domestic and international publishers would make the most of the opportunity.

Venezuelan publisher hails ...



By Sadeq Dehqan
Staff writer

Omar Rangel Espinoza told Iran Daily that the number of exhibitors and the fair's large scale this year show how deeply Iranians value books. "There's a remarkable interest in literature and reading," he said, noting that many visitors were especially drawn to Venezuelan literature and Spanish-language works. Venezuela has taken part in several past editions of the Tehran fair. Espinoza said this kind of cultural exchange helps strength-

en ties between Iran and Venezuela. "These events bring our countries closer," he said. This year, Venezuela is showcasing around 90 Spanish-language titles, mainly covering Venezuelan and South American history, literature, poetry, and novels. Espinoza explained that much of Venezuela's literary output stems from its historical experiences. "Events from different eras have shaped our literature," he said, adding that many core values born of those events are reflected in both adult and children's books.

He cited Doña Bárbara by Rómulo Gallegos as one of Venezuela's most important literary contributions. "It's a psychological portrait of the Venezuelan plains," he said. The novel remains widely read and is considered a major work in Latin American fiction. Turning to Persian literature, Espinoza acknowledged that Venezuelans know little about it. "Few Iranian literary or historical works have been translated into Spanish," he said. However, he expressed hope for future joint efforts. "Through cooperation, we can help our peoples better understand

each other's culture." He stressed that translation is the most effective way to boost mutual awareness. Talks between Iranian and Venezuelan publishers have already begun. "We're hoping for positive outcomes soon," he said. The 36th Tehran International Book Fair opened on May 7 at Imam Khomeini Mosalla and runs through May 17. Over 2,300 publishers have registered to take part. The fair's theme this year: Let's Read for Iran.



● IRNA