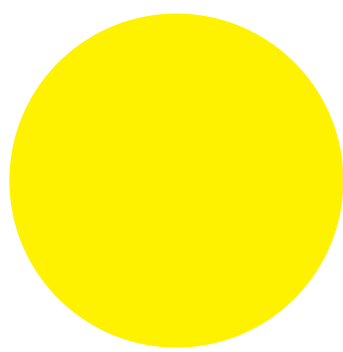


Qalibaf re-elected
as Parliament speaker
for 6th consecutive year

2 >



Iran Daily

Vol. 7843 • Wednesday, May 28, 2025 • Khordad 07, 1404 • Dhu al-Hijjah 01, 1446 • 100,000 rials • 8 pages



> irandaily.ir

| newspaper.irandaily.ir

| IranDailyWeb

FM spox says US cognizant of Iran's red lines on uranium enrichment

Baqaei: Tehran ready for compromises to reach agreement

2 >

Pezeshkian: Iran, Oman need to facilitate economic exchanges

Sultan Haitham highlights North-South corridor's great importance
Tehran, Muscat sign 18 cooperation documents



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (L) meets with Oman's Sultan Haitham bin Tariq Al Said at al-Alam Royal Palace in Muscat on May 27, 2025.
president.ir

Hope for 'maximum possible' in negotiations



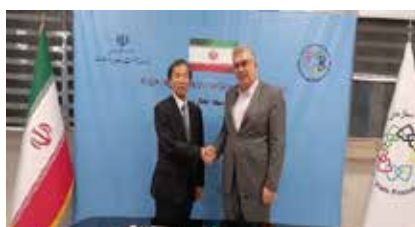
By **Abed Akbari**
Political analyst

O P I N I O N
E X C L U S I V E

In recent weeks, "negotiation" has become a key term in the everyday vocabulary of Iranian society. From public spaces to social media, everyone is talking about the Iran-US talks. While many details of these negotiations are unfolding under diplomatic silence, their reverberations in public opinion are vivid—at times even impassioned. Iranian society is following developments closely, with both attentiveness and hope, aware of the complexities on the ground. According to credible domestic surveys, over 60% of respondents have expressed trust in the country's negotiation team. This trust is not only the result of political slogans, but stems from a reasonable and

experience-based expectation of foreign policy processes. Contrary to the pessimistic outlook of some commentators, people are not demanding idealistic or maximalist results. Instead, they are focused on achieving the "maximum possible"—a realistic point at which national interests can be secured within the bounds of core principles, and a relative improvement in the country's economic and international standing becomes imaginable. On the other hand, some political analysts have a maximalist view of the negotiations, as if only a deal that fulfills all of Iran's historical demands in full would be acceptable. While this outlook may originate from national concerns, it is often detached from the political realities of the country, the global power balance, and the practical constraints of negotiation.

[Page 3 >](#)



Japan's trade organization to revise Iran strategy to upset sanctions

3 >



Qasempour defeats Rahmani to book world 86kg spot

6 >



Lines of faith, strokes of history in Iranian calligraphy at IRCICA

PERSPECTIVE
E X C L U S I V E

8 >

Iran's role in new global energy order

From producer to
regional facilitator

4 >

O P I N I O N
E X C L U S I V E



Pezeshkian: Iran, Oman need to facilitate economic exchanges

Sultan Haitham highlights North-South corridor's great importance
Tehran, Muscat sign 18 cooperation documents

International Desk

Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian on Tuesday stressed Iran's readiness to expand cooperation with Oman in all fields, underscoring the need to facilitate economic exchanges and remove trade barriers between the two Persian Gulf countries. Pezeshkian made the remarks in a meeting with Oman's Sultan Haitham bin Tariq Al Said in Muscat where high-ranking officials of the two countries signed 18 cooperation documents in the fields of law, economy, politics, culture, education, health, defense, media, technology, energy and mining. The Iranian president said Tehran is ready to step up cooperation with Oman in financial, scientific, educational, technological, and especially medical fields. Referring to limited oil and gas resources,

he said it is necessary that the merchants and industrialists of both countries look ahead, plan for future generations, and strengthen long-term economic foundations. Pezeshkian also appreciated Oman's mediation role in Tehran's nuclear talks with the United States, which has been underway since April. Iran and the US have so far held five rounds of negotiations in Oman and Italy to resolve a decades-old dispute over Tehran's nuclear program. The Iranian president expressed hope that the negotiations would "lead to positive outcomes." The Sultan of Oman, for his part, said Muscat is pursuing the negotiation process with seriousness and considers the success of Iran a success for the region. He also called for more support for energy

cooperation between the two countries. Oman's Sultan said Iranian and Omani ports should expand their relations, stressing that Iran's North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) is of great importance for Muscat. "Today, Oman, without relying on oil and gas and by focusing on boosting trade exchanges, is in a favorable position," he said. The Sultan of Oman stressed that if Tehran and Muscat facilitate the activities of their business people, the two countries will



witness a significant leap in their bilateral relations. The two presidents also stressed on expansion of security and military relations.

FM spox says US cognizant of Iran's red lines on uranium enrichment

Baqaei: Tehran ready for compromises to reach agreement

International Desk

Iran is open to compromises on its nuclear program in talks with the United States, but uranium enrichment remains non-negotiable, Tehran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson told CNN, indicating Washington understands this position. "If the intention is to make sure that Iran's nuclear program would not be weaponized, I think that's something that we could simply do," Esmail Baqaei, the spokesperson for Iran's Foreign Ministry, said in Tehran on Monday. Asked by CNN how a compromise can be reached in talks, Baqaei said, "So many ways" without specifying. However, he added that Iran's right to nuclear energy would have to be protected, echoing the long-standing Iranian position on talks. "If the (US) intention is to deprive Iranians of their right to peaceful nuclear energy, I think that would be very problematic to the extent that I think it would really challenge the whole process," he added. After US-Iran talks inched forward with the fifth round of negotiations in Rome on Friday, US President Donald Trump voiced optimism Sunday that progress was being made. "We had some very good talks with Iran yesterday and today, and let's see what happens. But I think we could have some good news on the Iran front," Trump told reporters in New Jersey as he was preparing to return to Washington. Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi called the talks "one of the most professional rounds of negotiations" yet but said the key issues were "too complicated to be resolved in two or three meetings."



The screengrab shows Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei speaking to CNN in Tehran on May 26, 2025.

While the Trump administration has been insisting on its demand that Tehran end all uranium enrichment, Baqaei said US negotiators' behavior in talks suggests a softer approach. "The fact that so far we have continued our talks means that we understand there is a certain level of understanding that Iran cannot under any circumstances give up its right to peaceful nuclear energy," he said. Baqaei was optimistic about the chances of a US-Iranian accord, foreseeing a "win-win" for both sides. "If really there is a will, there's ways," he said. "There is not only one way, there are so many ways." Multiple American officials told CNN last week that the US has obtained new intelligence suggesting that Israel is preparing to strike Iranian nuclear facilities even as the Trump administration pursues a diplomatic deal with Tehran. Baqaei said Iran was resolute before the threat of unilateral Israeli mili-

tary strikes on Iran. "Iranians would not be bowing to any sort of pressure," he said. "When it comes to using that language, Iranians will come with one voice, and we will certainly defend our national security." Iran has promised to respond forcefully to any Israeli attack, and accused Israel's prime minister of working to undermine US diplomacy. United States Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem has said she delivered a message from Trump to Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu that the two countries should be aligned on how to approach Iran. "President Trump specifically sent me here to have a conversation with the prime minister about how those negotiations are going and how important it is that we stay united and let this process play out," she said after a visit to Israel on Monday. Noem said Trumps wants Netanyahu "to be on the same page with him."

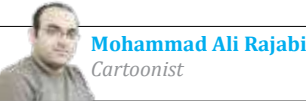
Iran, Pakistan bent on eradicating terrorism: Top general



International Desk

Chief of Staff of Iran's Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Baqeri said on Tuesday that military forces of Iran and Pakistan are committed to eliminating terrorism on both sides of their shared border. In a meeting with Pakistan's army chief General Asim Munir, Baqeri said the Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei views Pakistan as a strategic neighbor, adding that the level of coordination between Tehran and Islamabad regarding border control is effective and should be strengthened, as reported

by IRNA. The Iranian general expressed hope that the two countries' military forces would maintain defense cooperation at all levels. Munir also said that Iranian military forces have valuable experience in various areas and expressed Pakistan's interest in expanding security and defense cooperation with Iran, particularly in the fight against terrorism.



Qalibaf re-elected as Parliament speaker for 6th consecutive year

National Desk

Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf on Tuesday was re-elected as Iran's Parliament speaker for the sixth consecutive year after lawmakers voted to choose members of the legislature's presiding board. Qalibaf managed to secure 219 out of 276 votes cast by the lawmakers. His challenger, Ahmad Rastineh, received 53 votes, while four ballots were declared

void. The final lineup for the speakership included only Qalibaf and Rastineh after Hadi Ghavami withdrew his candidacy moments before the vote, prompting a strong objection from Rastineh. Earlier in the day, candidates Ahmad Arya-aeinejad and Ahmad Beigdeli had also stepped aside in favor of Qalibaf. According to parliamentary procedures, the presiding board consists of the speaker,



er, two deputy speakers, six secretaries, and three observers.



Japan’s trade organization to revise Iran strategy to upset sanctions

Economy Desk

The special representative of Japan’s External Trade Organization (JETRO), during a meeting with the head of the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran (TPO), highlighted Tokyo’s interest in investing in Iran and announced plans to revise its operational approach to yield productive outcomes in the face of anti-Iran sanctions.

On Tuesday, marking the 96th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Tehran and Tokyo, Mohammad Ali Dehqan Dehnavi, the TPO chief, met with JETRO’s Special Representative Maekawa Nobutaka, as reported by IRNA.

In the meeting, Maekawa stated, “Sanctions have weakened our trade relations, and we deeply regret this. As a result, we intend to revise and adjust our operational methods in Iran to achieve promising results.” Emphasizing Japan’s unwavering investment interest, he added, “Japanese enthusiasm for investing in

Iran remains unchanged.” Both sides reiterated their mutual commitment to expanding commercial ties. Maekawa further noted, “JETRO’s presence in Iran will continue to facilitate Japanese companies wishing to operate here, ensuring they can sustain their activities.”

Iran seeks collaboration with JETRO

Dehqan Dehnavi affirmed the constructive impact of TPO-JETRO cooperation, stating, “We aim to leverage Japan’s expertise in trade, particularly in promoting domestically produced goods and adopting supportive measures.” Highlighting Iranian appreciation for Japanese product quality, the deputy minister of Industry, Mining and Trade added, “Iran welcomes hosting JETRO’s technical experts to learn from their experience.” Amir Roshanbash, the deputy for international business promotion at the TPO,

underscored the potential for technical and engineering services collaboration, saying, “Significant capacity has been established in these sectors through learning from Japanese firms.” He emphasized, “Training and technology transfer fall outside sanction restrictions, enabling us to maintain and consolidate these opportunities.” JETRO is a Japanese government-related organization that promotes mutually beneficial trade and investment relations. Originally focused on promoting Japanese exports, JETRO now also promotes foreign direct investment. This suggests JETRO plays a key role in international trade and investment initiatives.



As reported by IRNA, with over 80 offices in 60 countries, JETRO focuses on marketing Japanese products, inviting buyer delegations, gathering trade data, fostering international market engagement, encouraging foreign investment in Japan, and analyzing global economic and technological trends.

Rupee, yen symbols ‘currently activated’ in Iran’s forex market: ICE

Economy Desk

The spokesperson for Iran Center for Exchange of Currency & Gold (ICE) announced on Tuesday that, “The trading platform for the Indian rupee and Japanese yen symbols are currently activated within the commercial forex system of ICE,” as reported by IRNA.

“Previously, five currency symbols were active on the trading board of the commercial forex market, with transactions conducted across all of them. Currently, the euro, dollar, dirham, yuan, rouble, yen, and rupee symbols are operational, enabling merchants to buy and sell these currencies,” Asghar Balesini stated.



Balesini emphasized that activating the Indian rupee symbol will “significantly facilitate trade exchanges between the two countries.” He elaborated, “Customs data for 1403 (last Iranian calendar year, began on

March 20, 2024) shows approximately 152 million tons of non-oil exports valued at \$57.8 billion, while imports totaled \$72.4 billion. India was a major destination for Iran’s non-oil exports last year, accounting for \$1.9 billion, with \$1.7 billion in goods imported from India.” Although Iran’s imports from Japan in 1403 stood at around \$104 million, he added, the strategic importance of imported goods — primarily medical, healthcare, and industrial products — prompted the activation of this symbol in the commercial forex market.

The spokesperson noted that high-volume currency symbols are

actively traded in the commercial forex market, saying, “Total transactions in this market from the start of the [Iranian] year (March 20, 2025) until May 21 reached \$4.5 billion. Broken down by currency, trade volumes in the first two months of this year included 5.6 billion dirhams, \$2.4 billion, 2 billion yuan, 249 million euros, and 515 million roubles.” Balesini concluded, “From the launch of the commercial forex market until May 21, total transactions at ICE exceeded \$11.5 billion in USD terms. By currency, this breaks down to 15.6 billion dirhams, \$5.4 billion, 8.9 billion yuan, 531 million euros, and 1.7 billion roubles.”

Iran’s EAG delegation tasked with networking to normalize FATF case

Economy Desk

The Iranian deputy economy minister and head of Iran’s Financial Intelligence Unit (IRIFIU) said that the country’s participation in the 42nd meeting of the Eurasian Group (EAG) holds significant importance, citing “networking to normalize Iran’s case within the Financial Action Task Force (FATF)” as a key mission for the delegation.

The EAG is a FATF-style regional body comprising Belarus, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, India, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. It focuses on combating money laundering and financing of terrorism.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the meeting in Moscow, Hadi Khani noted, “This session is critical for Iran in multiple ways. First, it fosters knowledge-sharing, collaboration, and operational alignment with other nations. Most importantly, it provides Iran an opportunity to present its efforts in combating money laundering and ter-

rorism financing.” The deputy economy minister said, “Iran began presenting reports on its initiatives and programs from the first day of the meeting (Monday),” adding, “During the main session on Thursday and Friday, Iran will outline its anti-money laundering measures and decisions.”

The head of Iran’s delegation also affirmed, “On the sidelines of this meeting, we will hold discussions with anti-money laundering chiefs of BRICS member states.” He further highlighted, “At Iran’s proposal, a working group focused on combating money laundering and drug trafficking among Caspian littoral states was formed during the previous session. This group will convene again here.”

He noted, “At the previous EAG meeting in India, we secured a resolution from the plenary session, with member states unanimously agreeing to assist Iran in exiting FATF’s list of high-risk

and non-cooperative jurisdictions.” “This issue was revisited during Sunday’s meeting with the chair and deputies of the 42nd EAG plenary session,” he continued.

Khani stated, “With the Expediency Council’s ratification of the Palermo Convention and the ongoing review of the CFT Convention, there is renewed optimism and motivation within the EAG secretariat and member states to expedite resolution of Iran’s FATF case and restore normalcy.” Referring to bilateral meetings with other delegations, he added, “We will leverage the expertise of EAG member states that are also FATF members — such as India, Turkey, China, and observer countries like Japan — to build networks. Their support will help mitigate FATF’s restrictive countermeasures against Iranian nationals in global financial transactions.”

The 42nd EAG meeting commenced on Monday, in Moscow, with Iran attending as an observer. Over 200 represen-



tatives from more than 15 Eurasian, Middle Eastern, African, and Southeast Asian countries, alongside 20 international organizations, are participating.

Iran’s delegation, led by Khani, includes representatives from the Foreign Ministry, Economic Security Police, and Financial Intelligence Center.

Hope for ‘maximum ...

At its best, diplomacy seeks the “maximum possible,” not the “maximum desirable.” Recognizing this distinction is essential for understanding diplomatic success or failure.

A review of the five rounds of talks between Abbas Araghchi and Richard Nephew in Oman, Geneva, and Rome reinforces this point. Though largely held

behind closed doors, reports from think tanks such as the International Crisis Group and the Stimson Center suggest that, despite key differences, the two sides have reached preliminary understandings on some operational scenarios.

In the latest round of talks, even American sources acknowledged that Iran’s new proposals were “technically rational” and worthy of discussion at higher

levels.

Along these lines, assessments from Western institutions such as the Brookings Institution and the European Council on Foreign Relations indicate a moderation in the American side’s expectations. Stepping back from demands like a complete halt to enrichment or fully intrusive inspections shows signs of a more realistic posture. In response, Iran—while

holding firm to its principles—has put forward proposals such as “phased reciprocal return to commitments,” which many experts interpret as “smart flexibility.”

In essence, if one were to summarize why the public remains hopeful about the negotiations, the answer is clear: because Iranians have come to understand that, in today’s tumultuous world, foreign policy

is not a realm of dreams but a domain of realism. With a strong sense of historical memory and past experience, Iranian society believes that diplomacy—if guided by dignity and pragmatism—can relieve some of the burdens of daily life. This hope, though quiet and gradual, is rooted in a wise, national, and responsible perspective. And that, indeed, is the greatest asset for continuing the path of dialogue.

Iran's role in new global energy order

From producer to regional facilitator



By Kamran Yeganegi
Foreign policy expert

OPINION
EXCLUSIVE

The shifting dynamics of global geopolitics — most notably after the Russia-Ukraine war — alongside the accelerating global energy transition, have given rise to a new global energy order. In this evolving framework, the value of countries is no longer solely measured by the volume of energy they produce or export. Instead, roles such as transit facilitation, energy diplomacy, regional integration, and technological adaptability are gaining strategic significance. In this context, the Islamic Republic of Iran, endowed with abundant hydrocarbon reserves and a highly strategic geographic position, holds the potential to evolve from a traditional energy exporter into a regional energy facilitator. Realizing this role requires strategic reforms in energy governance, stronger regional partnerships, and the deployment of smart and future-oriented energy strategies.

Iran: a dormant giant

With the second-largest natural gas reserves and the fourth-largest crude oil reserves globally, Iran has long held a critical place in the global energy hierarchy. However, a combination of international sanctions, political constraints, regional rivalries, and underinvestment has limited the realization of this potential.

At the same time, growing energy demand in developing economies, Europe's urgent need to diversify away from Russian gas, and China's and India's energy security ambitions are reshaping the geography of global energy trade. These trends offer Iran a rare opportunity — not just to export more hydrocarbons but to reshape its role as a regional energy connector, stabilizer, and decision-shaper.

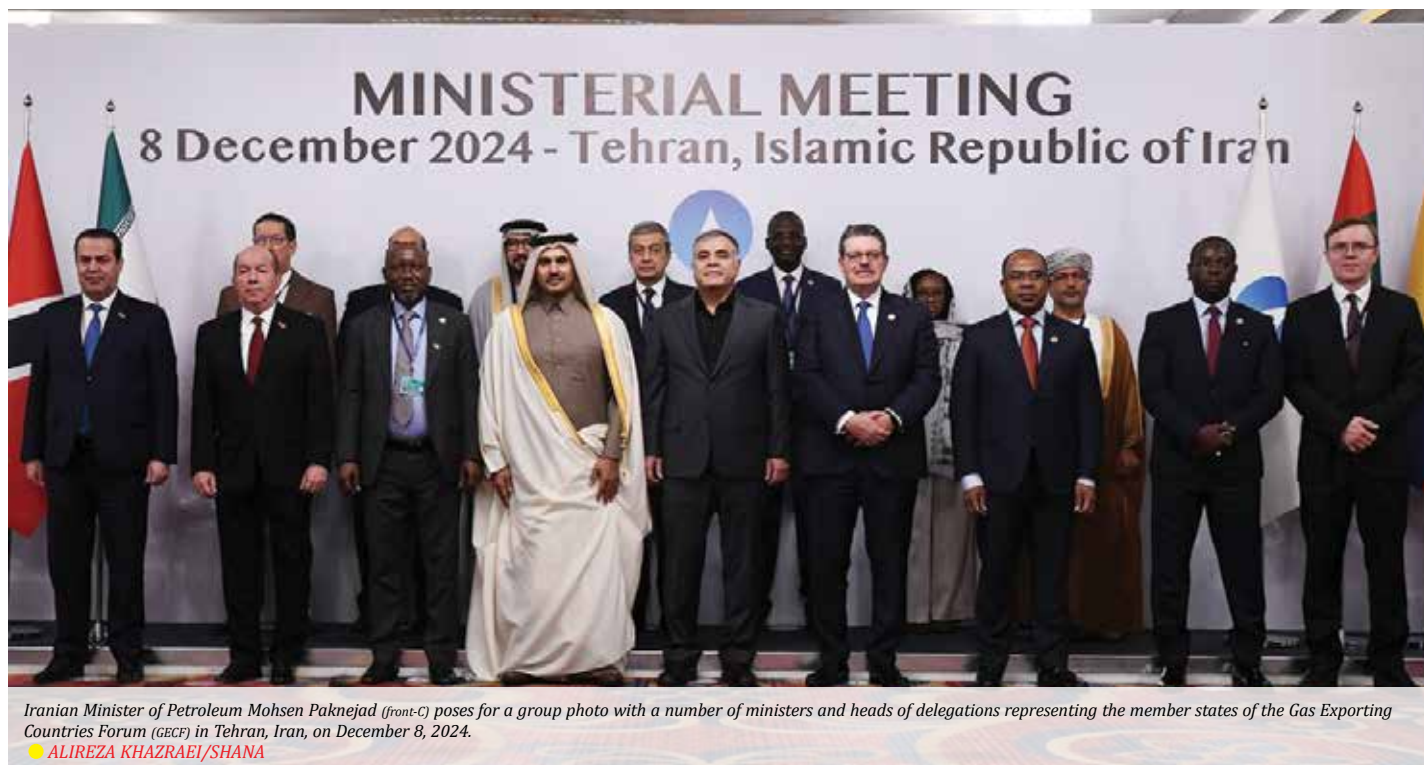
From exporter to facilitator

The concept of an “energy facilitator” refers to countries that play a pivotal role in connecting supply and demand across regions, stabilizing transit routes, coordinating infrastructure, and even influencing pricing mechanisms and regulatory norms. For Iran, ascending to this role involves several strategic steps:

1. Reviving key regional pipeline projects like the Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) pipeline and securing long-term contracts with neighboring countries such as Iraq and Turkey.
2. Developing southern energy hubs in Assaluyeh, Jask, and Makoran for refined product exports and LNG processing.
3. Strengthening multilateral ener-



Flags of Iran wave at Isfahan Oil Refinery in Isfahan, central Iran, in November 2023.
● MOJTABA MOHAMMADGHOLO/SHANA



Iranian Minister of Petroleum Mohsen Paknejad (front-C) poses for a group photo with a number of ministers and heads of delegations representing the member states of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF) in Tehran, Iran, on December 8, 2024.
● ALIREZA KHAZRAEI/SHANA

gy engagement with organizations like the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), the Eurasian Economic Union, and OPEC+.

4. Co-investing with regional actors in cross-border energy storage, refining, and conversion projects.

5. Building digital infrastructure for smart energy governance and boosting domestic energy efficiency.

Toward new model of energy governance

To enable this transformation, Iran must reimagine its energy governance model. The current structure, marked by fragmentation and opacity, needs to be replaced

by an integrated, transparent, and responsive policy framework that bridges various sectors and stakeholders.

Academic institutions and research centers should play a greater role in policy formulation. Private-sector engagement across the energy value chain must be enhanced. Above all, technology-driven tools such as artificial intelligence, real-time data systems, and predictive analytics should be integrated into both upstream and downstream operations.

On the diplomatic front, Iran's energy diplomacy should move beyond bilateral export agreements. It must focus on regional integration, conflict de-escalation through

energy cooperation, and establishing new institutional mechanisms for collective governance and dispute resolution in energy trade.

Strategic opportunity for geopolitical reinvention

The global energy landscape is undergoing a historic shift. Countries that cling to legacy roles face diminishing returns. Those that adapt, evolve, and facilitate become central actors in shaping the new order.

Iran stands uniquely positioned — with vast reserves, geographic centrality, and historical expertise — to play a transformative role. But this requires political will, strategic clarity, and institu-

tional reform. It calls for a shift in mindset: from reactive to proactive, from resource-driven to strategy-led.

Becoming a regional energy facilitator would not only strengthen Iran's economic resilience and reduce its vulnerability to sanctions but also enhance its geopolitical bargaining power. It would allow the country to shape, rather than merely react to, regional and global energy developments.

Now is the time for Iran to redefine its energy identity — not just as a producer or exporter but as a smart connector, integrator, and governance leader in the emerging energy world.



The global energy landscape is undergoing a historic shift. Countries that cling to legacy roles face diminishing returns. Those that adapt, evolve, and facilitate become central actors in shaping the new order. Iran stands uniquely positioned — with vast reserves, geographic centrality, and historical expertise — to play a transformative role.

Marking anniversary of oil discovery in Iran

Iran's black gold from discovery to export



The painting captures the moment oil gushed from the ground at Masjed Soleyman, Khuzestan Province, southwestern Iran, on May 26, 1908.

● SHANA



The photo shows the site of Well No. 1 in Masjed Soleyman, Iran, with a sign marking its completion on May 26, 1908. The plaque notes a depth of 1,179 feet and a production of 8,000 barrels per day.

● SHANA



A wooden oil derrick rises above Well No. 12, surrounded by clusters of canvas tents where British workers lived and worked in Masjed Soleyman's early oil fields.

● SHANA

PERSPECTIVE

Every year on May 26, Iran marks a pivotal day that kicked off a new chapter in its economy — the discovery of black gold.

At the dawn of the 20th century, while Iran was caught up in geopolitical isolation and the erosion of its ancient civilization, the first spark of awakening broke out deep beneath the earth. On May 28, 1901, William Knox D'Arcy, an ambitious English businessman, struck a deal with the Qajar court, securing exclusive rights to explore and exploit oil across a vast swath of Iranian soil. This contract was not merely an economic agreement but the starting point of one of the Middle East's greatest geopolitical shifts — where politics, technology, economy, and colonial ambitions all came into play simultaneously.

D'Arcy dreamed of uncovering black gold, but realizing this dream required more than capital; It demanded someone who could tap into the silent language of the earth. Thus, George Bernard Reynolds, an experienced geologist and engineer, was tasked with exploration and drilling in Iran. Familiar with harsh and rugged lands, he was sent to Khuzestan — a quiet land with scorching winds, tired soil, and a secret thousands of years old.

In the harsh winter of 1907, drilling operations got underway in Masjed Soleyman. The earth played hard to get with the drill bits, seemingly unwilling to reveal its secrets easily. Repeatedly, drilling came up empty, hopes slowly faded away, and investors grew discouraged. D'Arcy ordered a halt to operations, but Reynolds, relying on his expertise and the

local workforce in the Zagros Mountains, stood his ground and pressed on.

At dawn on May 26, 1908, well number one at a depth of 360 meters suddenly blew out. Oil surged like a pulsing blood vein from the earth to the sky. That moment marked not just the birth of an industry but the dawn of a new era in Iran and the region. Masjed Soleyman, once an unknown and silent city, turned into a bubbling energy hub, its name etched into Middle Eastern history. Black gold swiftly moved beyond a mere economic commodity to become a strategic tool for Iran. Global powers set their sights on this land, which, influenced by oil developments and state modernization, had even changed its name from "Persia" to "Iran". Before nationalization, Iranian oil was under foreign company control, fueling Western industrial machines and fanning the flames of imperial ambitions. From this well, not only oil but a new order in international relations emerged.

Oil's footprint in ancient Iranian history

The earliest signs of oil in Iran date back to antiquity. According to limited studies, as far back as the Sumerian period (5,000 to 6,000 years ago) in ancient Susa, bitumen was used as mortar between stones and bricks in buildings and to waterproof ships and pottery. The Avesta mentions the word "oil" as mineral oil, indicating the term's ancient roots in Iranian history. Some historical sources note that during the Achaemenid era, oil was used for lighting and medicinal purposes. The great Greek historian Herodotus wrote: "About 22 kilometers from Susa, there are wells

where oil, bitumen, and salt are drawn up by a wheel and stored in tanks. After some time, bitumen and salt settle, and oil remains liquid." He also reported the use of bitumen in battles between the Achaemenids and Greeks.

In the 14th century, Ibn Battuta mentioned oil and bitumen in his travelogue, referring to regions in Mesopotamia and southwestern Iran.

Foreign involvement despite ancient roots

In the 19th century, English geologist William Kennett Loftus, the first explorer of the ancient site of Susa, picked up on the presence of oil in southwestern Iran, opening the door for Westerners to seek concessions from the Qajar kings.

In the late 19th century, a French delegation led by De Morgan was sent to Chia Sorkh near Kerman-shah. Their report, published in a French magazine, put the spotlight on Iranian oil and paved the way for D'Arcy's team and the subsequent contract.

The first exploration team, led by engineer Reynolds from the Indian Public Works Department, was dispatched to Chia Sorkh. Although drilling continued over 259,000 hectares until November 1904 and two wells produced oil, the quantity was insufficient, and the distance to the Persian Gulf coast made transport problematic. Consequently, D'Arcy decided to pull out of Chia Sorkh and focus on exploration in the south.

Drilling sound that shook up Iran's history

At the start of the 20th century, in 1905, D'Arcy's group began drilling in Mamatin, Khuzestan, a site recommended by geologists.

Reynolds personally arrived with about 20 British and Canadian drillers. Despite wells reaching depths of 661 and 591 meters, no oil was found. In 1907, Reynolds' team shifted gears and started drilling at the Naftun field.

By late 1907, the Indian government sent a small force of soldiers from the 18th Bengal Lancers, commanded by Arnold Wilson, to support the drillers until oil was found or operations ceased. In 1908, the Burma Oil Company inspected the area and reported that continuing exploration was futile. By the end of April, Reynolds received a telegram from London ordering a halt to operations and the dismissal of staff.

Oil flows from Khuzestan's parched soil

Believing in oil's presence at Masjed Soleyman, Reynolds decided to turn a blind eye to the telegram, refusing to dismantle the rigs until a written order arrived. But before the official notice came from Burma Oil, the drilling sound struck a chord in history. Early on May 26, 1908, well number one at Masjed Soleyman burst forth with a 15-meter oil gusher at 360 meters depth, marking one of modern history's greatest events.

Reynolds' first move was to round up the oil that was spilling wastefully. He dug a large pit about 60 meters from the camp to channel the oil and then began installing valves on the well.

According to Samson, the project's geologist, well number one struck oil at 1,179 feet depth. Ten days later, well two erupted at 307 meters, firmly establishing Masjed Soleyman as the cradle of Middle Eastern oil. Over time, oil fields were discovered in Haftkel, Naft Sefid, Aghajari, Pazanan,

Gachsaran, and Lali, heralding the start of Iran's industrial age.

Birth of oil industry

From that auspicious day, Iran's oil industry took off, spawning specialized sectors in the extraction, development, production, transportation, and distribution of oil and gas. Since then, experts and explorers in hydrocarbon discovery have carried out their work with unique technical and engineering knowledge in geology, geophysics, petroleum engineering, and risky exploratory drilling. As the upstream mother industry, they have driven forward extraction, production, and distribution.

Iran's oil explorers and the National Iranian Oil Company's exploration management have, since inception, uncovered over 200 billion barrels of proven crude oil reserves and vast gas reserves, playing a crucial role in the country's economic and industrial development.

Today, while global discoveries of large hydrocarbon reserves have dwindled and new finds are more complex despite advanced techniques, Iran is no exception. However, massive conventional and unconventional oil and gas reserves exist in deeper horizons and complex reservoirs. Thanks to the dedicated efforts of exploration teams, ongoing studies and geophysical data processing are pinpointing new discoveries that will soon come onstream.

Iran's discovered oil now powers many world markets, overcoming all challenges to keep the wheels turning of industrial nations and holding a significant place in the global energy landscape.

The article first appeared in Persian on IRNA.



Masjed Soleyman, once an unknown and silent city, turned into a bubbling energy hub, its name etched into Middle Eastern history. Global powers set their sights on this land, which, influenced by oil developments and state modernization, had even changed its name from "Persia" to "Iran". Before nationalization, Iranian oil was under foreign company control, fueling Western industrial machines and fanning the flames of imperial ambitions. From this well, not only oil but a new order in international relations emerged.

Workers assemble heavy metal pipes under the sun, bolting together sections of the historic Masjed Soleyman-Abadan oil pipeline.

● SHANA



Volleyball Nations League:

Iran names 16-man squad for Week 1



Iranian national team players are pictured in a training session in Tehran, Iran, on May 21, 2025.
● SEPIDE ABDOLHAY/volleyball.ir

Sports Desk

Italian head coach Roberto Piazza announced Iran's 16-man squad for the first week of action at the 2025 Volleyball Men's Nations League – starting June 11 in Rio de Janeiro.

Having signed a two-year contract – with the option for a two-year extension – with the Iranian Volleyball Federation, the Italian coach arrived in Tehran last week to embark on what he described as “a new project”, with the ultimate goal of qualifying for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics. Having enjoyed an impressive 12 months with Foolad Sirjan, opposite-spiker Ali Hajipour is the surprise absentee in Piazza's list as the Iranian Premier League MVP was named in the country's Team B for the upcoming CAVA Men's Nations League, which will kick off in Fergana, Uzbekistan, on Thursday.

Opposite-spiker Amin Esmailnejad, who had a prolific season with Skra Belchatow in the Polish PlusLiga, will again be the man to watch in the rejuvenated Iranian squad, while setter and team captain Javad Karimi and outside-hitter Pouria Hosseinkhanzadeh are also expected to play a essential role after impressive seasons with Brazil's Minas Tênis Clube and Lube in the Italian Serie A, respectively.

Iran will begin its VNL campaign with formidable tests against volleyball heavyweights Brazil and USA.

Piazza's men will take on the host on June 11 and then face the United States at the Maracanãzinho venue the following day.

A third game for Iran in Rio de Janeiro will come against last year's semi-finalist Slovenia on June 13.

Iran will conclude the first week of the preliminaries against debutant Ukraine on June 15, before heading to Belgrade for Week 2.

The top eight of the 16-team table after three weeks will progress to the VNL Finals – starting with the quarterfinals on July 30 in the Chinese city of Ningbo. The following is Iran's full squad for the VNL Week 1:

Setters: Javad Karimi (captain), Arshia Behnejad

Opposite spikers: Amin Esmailnejad, Bardia Sa'adat, Pouya Aryakhah

Outside hitters: Morteza Sharifi, Amirhossein Esfandiar, Ehsan Danehdoust, Ali Haqqarast, Pouria Hosseinkhanzadeh

Middle blockers: Mohammad Valizadeh, Yousef Kazemi, Seyyed Issa Naseri, Matin Ahmadi

Liberos: Mohammadreza Hazratpour, Arman Salehi

Sports Desk

Freestyle wrestler Kamran Qasempour secured the 86kg spot in the Iranian 10-man squad for September's World Championships in Zagreb, thanks to a 3-1 victory over Abolfazl Rahmani at Tehran's Ebrahim Hadi Hall on Tuesday.

An early passivity point was followed by Qasempour's trademark single-leg take-down 10 seconds before the interval as the two-time world champion took a 3-0 lead at the break.

A world under-20 bronze medalist last year, Rahmani desperately pushed to reduce the deficit in the second period but only settled for a single passivity point in the closing stages of the contest.

Qasempour had been ruled out of the International Takhti Cup earlier in May – part of the Iranian world trials – with a positive coronavirus test, but was given a second chance by the Iranian Wrestling Federation in Tuesday's domestic head-to-head against the

Takhti Cup gold medalist.

Once the dominant force of the 92kg class with back-to-back world golds in 2021 and 2022, Qasempour moved up to the Olympic 97kg category ahead of last summer's Paris Games, but ultimately missed out on a spot in the Iranian freestyle team in the French capital.

Qasempour switched weight class again in a bid to compete in the 86kg contests at the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics.

The 28-year-old Iranian is the sixth freestyle wrestler to book a ticket of Croatian capital.

Reigning world champion and Olympic silver medalist Amirhossein Zare' (125kg) and Ali Mo'meni (57kg) won the gold medal in their respective events at the Takhti Cup to secure the world spot, joining Ahmad Mohammadnejad-Javan, Rahman Amouzad, and Amirhossein Firouzpour. Mohammadnejad-Javan will be the Iranian 61kg wrestler, thanks to a gold-winning run at February's Zagreb Open, as well as an

Asian bronze in March. Olympic silver winner Amouzad will chase a second world 65kg gold after domestic rivals Yassin Rezaei and Ali Khorramdel had below-par runs at the Ranking Series season-opener in the Croatian capital, while Firouzpour's gold-winning runs at the Asian Championships and Zagreb Open, convinced the Iranian coaching staff to pick him for the world 92kg contests.

The 70kg, 74kg, 79kg, and 97kg slots remain up for grabs and will be decided through the international events and the domestic trials in the coming months, starting with the third Ranking Series event of the year, which kicks off in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, on Thursday.



Iranian freestyle 86kg wrestler Kamran Qasempour (L) has his hand raised as the winner after beating Abolfazl Rahmani in a World Championships trial in Tehran, Iran, on May 27, 2025.

● IAWFIR

Qasempour defeats Rahmani to book world 86kg spot



● iranathletics.ir

Asian Athletics Championships:

Iran's Taftian into men's 100m semifinals

Sports Desk

The second day of the Asian Athletics Championships saw Iranian sprinter Hassan Taftian progress to the men's 100m semifinals in Gumi, South Korea. An Asian gold medalist in 2017, Taftian clocked 10.47 seconds to finish third in Tuesday's qualification race – behind Oman's Malham Al Balushi and China's Wang Shengjie, with fourth-place Malaysian Jonathan Nyepa also advancing to the next round.

Taftian – also a 2023 bronze winner at the competition – will continue his quest for a third Asian medal in today's semifinal race at the Gumi Civic Stadium.

Meanwhile, Iran's Ali Amirian and Seyyed Amir Zamanpour secured a place in the men's 1500 final, thanks to third-place finishes in their respective semifinal races. Amirian crossed the finish line in 3:51.73 minutes, following the host's Jaeung Lee (3:50.33) and Japanese Kazuto Iizawa (3:50.35), while Zamanpour registered a time of 3:47.97 minutes to finish

behind Nanami Arai (3:46.92) of Japan and Indian Yoonus Shah (3:46.96).

The Iranian duo will compete in the final showdown today.

Melika Norouzi was the only Iranian girl in action on Tuesday and settled for a ninth-place finish in the hammer throw final with a 59.18 effort.

China's Ji Li grabbed the gold with a best throw of 72.98m, with her compatriot Li Jiangyan (69.13) and Ya Chien Yu (64.25) of the Chinese Taipei winning the silver and bronze medals.

Strategies for revitalizing Iran's tourism sector to overcome challenges

Iranica Desk

Iran, a land of astonishing cultural, historical, and natural diversity, has the potential to become an unparalleled tourism gem of the world. The time has now come for this hidden treasure to shine and attract global attention, unlocking significant economic and cultural opportunities for the country.

The tourism industry is one of the most lucrative sectors worldwide and plays a crucial role in driving economic growth, development, and employment. For this reason, many countries have recently invested heavily in developing infrastructure, improving conditions, and enhancing facilities to attract foreign visitors.

Challenges

Although Iran recognizes its immense potential and capacity, it appears that the necessary conditions to attract foreign tourists have not yet been fully established, and more fundamental measures are needed.

Considering this issue and the importance of exploring solutions for industry development, IRNA conducted an interview with Mahdiah Shahrabi Farahani, Ph.D. in Tourism and head of the Soft Technology and Cultural Industries Park Department for International Cooperation.

Referring to the reasons behind the declining interest of foreign tourists in Iran, she said, "There was a period when the influx of foreign tourists experienced a significant surge and growth, during which private sectors and industry stakeholders undertook many activities, and the government also implemented relatively good initiatives."

She noted that perhaps the most crucial reason is the lack of tourism as a strategic priority and a major national goal for Iran. The tourism industry has yet to be considered a concern or priority at the national level.

Impact of COVID-19

Other reasons have also been identified in recent years. One major factor is that, following the COVID-19 outbreak, countries worldwide faced a sharp decline in tourist arrivals, forcing nations to focus on revitalizing their tourism sectors to

recover the industry.

Iran, too, suffered greatly across various sectors — including tourism — after COVID-19. Many professionals in the tourism sector left the industry, and numerous tourism businesses that had laid off staff adapted by operating with reduced manpower, which consequently affected service quality.

Key tourist demographics and segments

"Another significant reason is that a large portion of inbound tourists come from neighboring countries. Iran fits this pattern well, as it is a destination for cultural, historical, religious, and natural tourism, covering almost all main types of tourism. Among tourists from neighboring countries, religious travelers constitute a large demographic, with very high numbers. There are also cultural-historical tourists, some of whom are Europeans, and others from neighboring nations. Understanding these tourist segments can help us develop targeted strategies."

"When the world shifted towards viewing tourism as a science, we did not adopt this perspective. We entered the tourism field very late and lacked a scientific approach and expert insight. Meanwhile, we are among the top ten countries in terms of tourism resources and are one of the oldest civilizations globally. However, in terms of physical infrastructure and media coverage, our performance has been quite weak."

She noted that, "Perhaps the most significant area where we still have weaknesses is the media. Many destinations worldwide may have just one main attraction or site, but they do countless activities to promote and develop it. Unfortunately, we have not performed as well as we should in this domain."

Role of media and social networks

A large part of Iran's activities as a tourist destination depends on the government. However, in recent years, the situation has slightly improved due to the growing activity of social media platforms, which are among the primary sources tourists consult."

She added, "Another factor is regional and domestic developments, along with external media activities, which have contributed to a decline in our country's tourism market. We have done little in this area. Social media networks, which are widely used in our consumer society, are industries that heavily rely on media. From a sociological perspective, we haven't utilized these platforms effectively, even though they are crucial tools for advertising and promotion in the tourism industry."

Many tourist destinations continue to benefit positively from media presence despite facing numerous challenges and tourist dissatisfaction. Media can play a decisive role in shaping either a negative or positive image of a tourism destination.

"Neglecting the tourism sector has many repercussions. One consequence is that other countries' destinations are replacing us. For example, in certain cultural fields — such as crafts, arts, ceremonies, and festivals — other nations are competing against us and effectively taking our place. This is very problematic because gradually restoring our true position will take a long time. In such a situation, many jobs are lost. Meanwhile, the tourism industry could even replace sectors like oil. We see that in countries lacking oil resources but with a strong tourism sector, they perform well economically."

She added, "Therefore, we are slowly losing our position in tourism as well. Countries that lack as much historical richness as ours are taking our place. In this scenario, we will also lose many other assets that have grown and developed thanks to tourism — such as handicrafts, the clothing industry, jewelry, arts, calligraphy, miniature painting, the carpet industry, and food industries. Even the revival and preservation of cultural heritage and artifacts — elements that could have been promoted through tourism — are at risk of disappearing."

Targeted strategies

Shahrabi Farahani stated, "Foreign tourists coming to Iran come from various groups and

sectors. One segment is religious tourists, who represent a very large and significant market. Another includes Chinese tourists, along with travelers from neighboring countries, and European tourists who view Iran as a cultural and historical destination. Strategies must be tailored to each of these groups."

She also emphasized that for certain events — such as Nowruz celebrations, ancient festivals, religious ceremonies, or Yalda Night — organized programs could attract international tourists eager to experience these traditions.

"Before COVID-19, many successful events were organized in certain tourism destinations, and we hope to see them continue. The private sector has been particularly effective in this area. Currently, these events rank among the most important programs, generating substantial economic benefits in some countries and even elevating these destinations to highly visited tourist spots."

"Considering that in ancient Iran we had traditional and religious festivals, we can organize events centered on national themes and, through international organizations and collaborations, even develop joint programs. This can serve as a gateway to attract more tourists to Iran. Planning for complementary destinations is also very beneficial."

Another aspect of expanding domestic tourism involves introducing lesser-known destinations to broaden potential markets. Each of these initiatives requires careful, separate planning at different times, in accordance with sustainable tourism principles.

She continued, "These long-term plans are effective. Unfortunately, many times we start an event and then abandon it due to reasons like management changes or other issues. But if these events are sustained and continuous, they can significantly boost tourism. Ultimately, tourism must become a major priority for us. If tourism is recognized as a cultural and national pride, we will undoubtedly succeed in this field and be able to establish and promote Iran's rightful position in the world, as it truly deserves."



tasnimnews.com



yjc.ir



incredibleiran.com



incredibleiran.com



incredibleiran.com

● License Holder
● ICPI CEO
● Editor-in-chief
● Int'l & National Desk
● Economy Desk
● Sports Desk
● Iranica Desk
● Arts & Culture Desk
● Language Editor

Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA)
Ali Motaghian
Mostafa Shirmohammadi
Javad Mohammad Ali, Amir Mollae Mozaffari
Zohreh Qanadi, Sadeq Dehqan
Amirhadi Arsalanpour
Leila Imeni
Hamideh Hosseini
Mehdi Ebrahim

● Editorial Dept. Tel
● Address
● ICPI Publisher
● Advertising Dept. Tel/Email
● Website
● Email
● Printing House

+98 21 84711411
208, Khorramshahr Ave., Tehran, Iran
+98 21 88548892-5
+98 21 88500601/irandaily@iranagahiha.com
www.irandaily.ir/newspaper.irandaily.ir
irandaily@icpi.ir
Iran Cultural & Press Institute



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

Vol. 7843 ● Wednesday, May 28, 2025 ● 100,000 rials ● 8 pages

Photo exhibit to showcase Shiraz tourism in Islamabad

Arts & Culture Desk

A photo exhibition highlighting the cultural and historical landmarks of Shiraz, Iran, opened on May 26 in Islamabad, organized by the Cultural Section of the Iranian Embassy in Pakistan. The week-long event, running until June 1 at the Sir Syed Memorial Society, was launched in collaboration with Shiraz Municipality and the Silk Road Cultural Center. The exhibit features 42 images of Shiraz's iconic attractions, including Persepolis, the Nasir al-Mulk Mosque, Eram Garden and the Tomb of Hafez, IRNA reported. Former Pakistani Minister for Culture and National Heritage Jamal Shah headlined the event. He praised Iran's efforts to promote tourism and called for closer ties between the two countries, especially through private-sector partnerships.

Nabi Shirazi, Deputy Ambassador of Iran, told attendees that Shiraz is rich with historic sites that require dedicated time to explore. "From Persepolis to Hafezieh, the city offers a full journey through Persian history," he said. Majid Moshki, Cultural attaché at the Iranian Embassy, described Shiraz as one of Iran's premier tourist destinations. He underscored the city's unique role in the development of Persian civilization and highlighted its potential to draw regional tourists. "This exhibition is a window into the depth and beauty of Shiraz," Moshki said. "We hope it helps foster greater cultural understanding and encourages more Pakistanis to visit Iran." Visitors to the exhibit showed strong interest in the images, many stopping to ask questions or take photos. Organizers said the event aims to deepen cultural exchange and strengthen people-to-people connections between Iran and Pakistan.



Iran's Treasury of National Jewels to reopen May 31

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's Treasury of National Jewels will reopen its doors to the public on Friday, May 31, the Central Bank of Iran said in a statement published by the state-run IRNA news agency. The vault, home to some of the most valuable jewels in the world, will be open weekly from Saturdays to Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to noon, except on public holidays. The reopened treasury offers visitors a rare look at Iran's royal past—reflected in an unmatched collection of crown jewels, ornaments, and historic gemstones that span centuries of Persian history. More than just their glitter, officials

say the pieces "tell stories" of conquest, rule, and artistry. The vault will remain closed Wednesdays through Fridays and on national holidays. Described by curators as a "one-of-a-kind" collection, the treasury holds artifacts that once symbolized power and prestige—from royal triumphs to regime downfalls. "Every gem carries a chapter of Iran's history," one official said. The collection also showcases the intricate craftsmanship and "creative genius" of Iranian artisans across the ages. The treasury had been closed for an extended period, with no public access during recent years.

Archaeologists in Iran find signs of early maritime activity

Social Desk

Iranian archaeologists uncovered what may be Paleolithic-era fishing and seafaring tools during recent excavations at the ancient site of Kopal in Dashtiari County, Sistan and Baluchestan province, according to Morteza Hesari, head of the excavation team. The find could push back the timeline for early human use of marine resources along Iran's Makoran coast, ISNA wrote. Researchers unearthed a flat, perforated cobble — possibly a fishing net weight or small anchor — alongside two stone implements linked to known Paleolithic technologies. "This kind of close association," Hesari noted, between the pierced stone and tools produced using hard hammer percussion, "raises key questions"

about when coastal communities first began navigating and exploiting the sea. While the stone tools show deep desert polish typical of ancient artifacts, the cobble itself shows different erosion patterns, suggesting it may not be from the same period. Further analysis, including wear-trace studies and sediment dating, is under way. Multiple interpretations remain on the table. The items may reflect real Paleolithic-era coastal activity — perhaps fishing by hunter-gatherer groups. But evidence from a nearby trench shows the site was used for millennia, including pottery from the fourth millennium BCE. "There's a chance we're seeing remnants from several distinct periods," Hesari said. With rescue excavations wrapping



up, the team is focused on careful lab work. Despite the uncertainties, Hesari stressed that Kopal holds "rich evidence" of prehistoric maritime activity. More targeted research may soon clarify the site's role in early seafaring along the Makoran coast.

Lines of faith, strokes of history in Iranian calligraphy at IRCICA



By Hossein Norouzi
Calligrapher

PERSPECTIVE
EXCLUSIVE

In the middle of the 21st century, when speed and technology dominate nearly every artistic sphere, Islamic calligraphy remains rooted in elegance and meaning. It stands not just as a decorative form, but as a spiritual language—a fusion of beauty and history that continues to speak across time. Among the few international stages that still honor and elevate this art is the IRCICA International Calligraphy Competition, held every three years in Turkey. It is a rare and significant platform where the classical soul of Islamic calligraphy finds renewed voice in a global context. IRCICA, the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture, operates under the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the second-largest intergovernmental organization after the United Nations. With 57 member states, the OIC carries political, economic, and cultural responsibilities across the Muslim world. Within

this structure, IRCICA serves as the cultural and artistic engine—tasked with preserving, promoting, and revitalizing the shared artistic heritage of the Islamic world. Its international calligraphy competition, first launched in the 1980s, has grown into one of the most authoritative events in the field, attracting masters and rising talents from across continents. Held in Turkey, a country steeped in the traditions of Ottoman calligraphy, the competition draws participants from every corner of the Islamic world—Iran, Egypt, Morocco, Malaysia, and beyond. It is not simply a contest of skill; it is a gathering of calligraphic languages. Persian *Nast'aliq*, Ottoman *Diwani*, Arabic *Thuluth* and *Naskh*—each tradition is represented, each style entering into conversation with the others. This dynamic exchange gives the event a cultural depth that transcends national boundaries and makes it a rare visual dialogue across civilizations. Iran's role in this year's competition is especially notable. Mohammad Shahbazi, a master calligrapher, historian of Safavid art, and leading figure in the promotion of Shi'a calligraphy, has

been appointed chief judge for the *Nast'aliq* category. His presence not only lends weight to the event but reaffirms Iran's central place in the story of Islamic calligraphy. With decades of research and practice behind him, Shahbazi brings both scholarly insight and deep artistic sensitivity to the judging panel. His appointment is a recognition of *Nast'aliq*'s importance and a testament to Iran's continued influence in shaping the identity of this art form. For Iranian artists, IRCICA represents a rare and valuable opportunity. They inherit a tradition that has produced some of the most refined and poetic expressions in the history of Islamic calligraphy. Competing at IRCICA is more than seeking recognition—it is an act of reclaiming cultural space. In direct engagement with Turkish, Arab, and Central Asian works, Iranian calligraphers expand their own artistic horizons, finding inspiration and kinship in styles both familiar and foreign. Participation also opens the door to wider international exposure, as Turkey's geographic and cultural position places it at a crossroads of global art markets and collectors. For artists

working under financial and institutional constraints at home, this event offers a stage where only the quality of their work speaks—free from external interference or local limitations. More than a contest, the Iranian presence at IRCICA is a form of cultural diplomacy. Every stroke of *Nast'aliq* carries with it echoes of Iranian literature, philosophy, and spirituality. In a world marked by division and distraction, calligraphy can still act as a quiet but powerful bridge. It does not shout or demand attention; it draws the viewer in through balance, restraint, and grace. Its message is one of continuity—between past and present, faith and form, nation and world. In Istanbul, where East meets West and tradition meets innovation, IRCICA stands as proof that Islamic calligraphy is not a relic of the past. It is a living tradition that still commands relevance and reverence. And Iran, with its unmatched *Nast'aliq* heritage, remains firmly at the center of this artistic journey—guiding it forward with the same delicate strength that has shaped its history for centuries.

Iranian artwork on environment, peace to go on display in Bucharest

Arts & Culture Desk

Twenty-six paintings by Iranian children will go on display in Bucharest, as part of an art exhibition titled 'One World, Many Colors,' the Iranian Embassy said. The exhibition, organized by the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Romania in cooperation with the Dimitrie Gusti National Village Museum, will open to mark International Children's Day. It runs from May 30 through June 1 in the Romanian capital, IRNA reported. The works, created by members of Iran's Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults, focus on themes of peace and the environment. Romania's Ministry of Culture backed the event alongside the Iranian cultural institute, which has supported several similar youth programs in recent years. The Iranian embassy encouraged local visitors and the Iranian diaspora to attend the show. The exhibit is being hosted in one of the museum's open-air sections, inviting families to engage with the children's visions of a peaceful and greener world.

