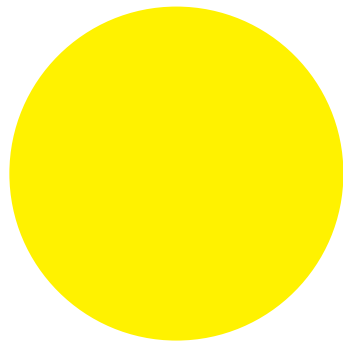


Government
proposes
Madanizadeh
as new
economy
minister



Iran warns against 'political exploitation' of UN atomic agency



'Stop genocide, break with Israel now'

Several European countries host mass anti-Israel rallies

Demonstrators lie on the ground covered with white sheets as they take part in a protest performance in support of the Palestinian people of Gaza, under the slogan "Stop genocide, break with Israel now!" in the Spanish Basque city of San Sebastian, on June 1, 2025.
● ANDER GILLENIA/AFP

IAEA playing into hands of Iran's adversaries



By Mansour Haghighatpour
Foreign policy expert

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

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has issued a report on Iran's nuclear program, which Tehran says has been shaped by fabricated information provided by Israel and aligns with the agenda of Western powers.

This is not the first time that the IAEA has danced to the rival's tune. The agency has consistently fallen in line with powers opposed to Iran, releasing reports based on allegations, without being able to even offer evidence to support them.

While the IAEA is theoretically supposed to operate within a legal and regulatory international framework, in practice, it has played the game on the opponent's pitch. The agency, time and again, has acted as a tool of political leverage for the United States and Israel. In the end, they simply say, "It was a report, and we had to follow up," washing their hands of any political fallout their actions may cause. Yet their approach creates a toxic political atmosphere that might destroy any chance of genuine and justice-based cooperation. Regrettably, not just the IAEA, but other international organizations, such as human rights bodies, have been reduced to pawns in the geopolitical games of the US, Israel, and certain other players. They are carrying water for these powers, and they toe the line set by them. Sadly, this biased mechanism runs even deeper, rearing its head in the United Nations itself – a body that has fallen short of upholding truth, justice, and reality. A clear example of that is the genocide in the Gaza Strip. More than nineteen months have passed since the war on Gaza began, and yet the UN Security Council has failed to take meaningful action against the Israeli regime that has caused uproar for targeting tens of thousands of civilians, including children.

The IAEA's latest report was released at a sensitive time, just as the three European signatories of the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, namely Britain, France, and Germany are threatening to trigger the snapback of sanctions against Iran. This timing is no coincidence. It is a deliberate attempt to whip up pressure and shape public opinion against the Islamic Republic, portraying it as aggressive and lawless. Such moves are far from legitimate diplomacy, and runs counter to international norms.

Despite all those attempts, Iran will never be cowed by these false and provocative reports. The country remains steadfast in its peaceful nuclear activities that are under strict inspections by the IAEA. The Islamic Republic is standing its ground, will not back down from its principles, and has made its stance crystal-clear: uranium enrichment is Iran's sovereign right, and it will go ahead with it accordingly.

Over 1.5 million patients in Iran need radiopharmaceuticals that must be produced at Tehran's research facilities – an effort that necessitates enriched uranium. Since no foreign suppliers provide this fuel, Iran must make it domestically. The Islamic Republic at the same time has stated unequivocally that it does not pursue nuclear weapons and has no intention of doing so. The production and use of such weapons has no place in Iran's defense doctrine, as they are banned based on a religious decree (fatwa) issued by Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

Iran's foreign policy and nuclear program remain fully transparent and well-defined. It will press ahead undeterred by media hype or orchestrated political drama. Iran is committed to asserting its national will and it will persist until that will is recognized and respected.

Iran never gives in to zero enrichment proposal

EDITORIAL A US proposal on Iran's nuclear program, drawn up by President Donald Trump's special envoy Steve Witkoff and handed over by Omani Foreign Minister Badr al-Busaidi to his Iranian counterpart Abbas Araghchi on Saturday, is the first official draft Washington presented to Tehran since talks started in early April. Araghchi wrote on X that the US proposal "will be appropriately responded to in line with the principles, national interests and rights of the people of Iran." According to sources cited by The New York Times and Axios, the document lays out a set of key points and conditions but stops short of being a full-fledged agreement. The most significant US demand is a complete halt to uranium enrichment in Iran. The proposal also floats the idea of setting up a regional consortium for producing nuclear materials, with members including Iran, Saudi Arabia, other Arab states, and the US. American officials say their aim is to hammer out a basic agreement that would set out the principles of a nuclear deal. Should such a deal be reached, technical teams from both sides would dig into the details. White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt, while saying that the proposal was "de-tailed and acceptable," added that "it would be in Iran's 'best interest to accept it.'"

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Iran warns against 'political exploitation' of UN atomic agency

International Desk

Iran warned of consequences of "political exploitation" of the UN nuclear watchdog by certain countries after the release of a "politically-motivated" report by the agency about Tehran's nuclear program.

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi in a phone call with International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director-General Rafael Grossi urged him to reflect the realities about Iran's peaceful nuclear energy program and prevent political exploitation of its coverage of the country's nuclear activities.

Araghchi reaffirmed the country's continued cooperation with the IAEA, noting that all of its nuclear activities were under the agency's supervision and conducted in line with the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement. The agreement allows the IAEA to verify that all nuclear materials in a country are used only for peaceful purposes, and are not diverted towards production of nuclear weapons. The top Iranian diplomat, meanwhile, emphasized that there had been no deviation concerning either nuclear ma-

terials or activities at any stage of the nation's nuclear program.

Araghchi urged Grossi to ensure the agency's reports accurately reflected these facts to prevent certain actors from using the IAEA as a political tool against Iran.

He also called on Grossi to underscore Iran's cooperation with the IAEA at the upcoming IAEA Board of Governors' meeting and to caution against politically-driven actions against the country, particularly by European states.

Araghchi warned that Iran would respond appropriately to any "unjustified move". The remarks concerned under-way efforts by the UK, France, and Germany – the United States allies in a 2015 nuclear deal with Iran – to return the UN's sanctions against Iran by resorting to the so-called "snapback" mechanism. Araghchi's phone conversation with Grossi came after Iran's Foreign Ministry and the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) in a joint statement on Saturday strongly criticized the IAEA's recent quarterly report, which had accused Iran of stepping up its production of highly enriched uranium.

The IAEA also claimed that Iran has failed to report its nuclear activities at three undeclared locations.

Denouncing the report as "political and unbalanced," the statement said that the document had been drafted under pressure from European states and failed to reflect Tehran's comprehensive cooperation with the agency.

The statement dismissed as baseless the IAEA's expression of alleged concern and repeated accusations against the Islamic Republic, asserting that the allegations lacked credible evidence and were being used for political maneuvering.

Meanwhile, Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs Kazem Gharibabadi on Sunday rejected the report as "politically-motivated," warning of appropriate response if certain states "abuse its patience."

He said the report is based on "a series of fabricated data provided by the Zionist regime" dating back to more than two decades ago.

All accusations about Iran's past nuclear activities were terminated under United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231, which formally endorsed the 2015



IAEA headquarters in Vienna, Austria

Iran nuclear deal, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), he added.

The IAEA Board of Governors is set to review Iran's nuclear activities in its

upcoming quarterly meeting in Vienna starting June 9.

Iran has denied seeking nuclear arms and says it needs the uranium for civilian power production.

Several European countries host mass anti-Israel rallies

International Desk

Thousands of people once again took to the streets in several European capitals to protest against the Israeli genocidal war in the Gaza Strip as the regime's strikes continue to claim the lives of innocent people in the Palestinian territory.

In the Spanish Basque city of San Sebastian, hundreds of people covered with white sheets lay on the ground to symbolize Palestinians killed during nearly 20 months of Israel's onslaught on the Gaza Strip. The protesters called for an end to Israel's genocide in Gaza and called on their government to sever its relations with the regime. Since the beginning of war in Gaza on 2023, Spain has been an outspoken critic of Israel's actions in the Gaza Strip and has recognized the Palestinian state in a show of support for Palestinians.

Protesters also held a rally in Britain's major city of Manchester where they called for an arms embargo on the regime. They also urged their government to shut down Israel's arms factories in the UK. Stockholm and Athens were also the scene of protests against the Israeli regime which has claimed the lives of more than 54,000 Palestinians – most of them women and children – since October 2023.

On Sunday, at least 31 people were killed and over 170 were wounded while on their way to receive food in



A Palestinian girl stands in a heavily damaged building in the central Gaza Strip, following Israeli fire near an aid distribution center, on June 1, 2025.
• EYAD BABA/AFP

the Gaza Strip, according to health officials and multiple witnesses. The witnesses said Israeli forces fired on crowds around a kilometer from an aid site run by an Israeli-backed foundation. Residents and medics said Israeli soldiers fired from the ground at a crane nearby that overlooks the area, and a tank opened fire at thousands of people who were en route to get aid from the site in Rafah.

The Gaza government media office said Israel was using aid as a weapon, "employed to exploit starving civilians and forcibly gather them at exposed killing zones, which are managed and monitored by the Israeli military".

The head of the UN Palestinian refugee agency (UNRWA), Philippe Lazzarini, condemned the deaths on Sunday, say-

ing in a statement on X that "aid distribution has become a death trap." He said aid distribution should be "only through the United Nations, including UNRWA."

The incident in Rafah in the south of the enclave was the latest in a series underscoring the insecurity around aid delivery to Gaza, following the easing of an almost three-month Israeli blockade last month. Hamas resistance group called for an independent UN investigation into the incident.

Israel has faced growing condemnation over the humanitarian crisis in the war-ravaged Gaza Strip, where the United Nations has warned the entire population faces famine after no aid had been allowed to enter for more than two months.

Iranian FM begins two-leg visit to Egypt, Lebanon

International Desk

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi is scheduled to visit Egypt and Lebanon on Monday and Tuesday to discuss "bilateral relations and regional crises" with the countries' officials.

Iran's Foreign Ministry's spokesman Esmaeil Baqaei on Sunday told reporters that Araghchi's visit to Egypt and Lebanon "is aimed at discussing bilateral relations, consulting on the latest situation in the region, especially developments in Palestine, and consulting on international developments." According to Mohammad Hossein Soltani-Fard, head of Iran's Interests Section in Cairo, Araghchi is scheduled to meet with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty, and prominent political and economic figures.

He said Araghchi's visit to Cairo takes place at the invitation of his Egyptian counterpart. Highlighting the "clear objectives" of the visit, the envoy emphasized that ongoing regional crises—including the Gaza war, Israeli military aggression, and the conflicts in Sudan and Libya—call for dialogue and negotiations among "influential and impactful" nations.

Regarding Tehran-Cairo relations, he noted that progress has been steady, with regular consultations and intensive discussions between the foreign ministers of the two countries. Soltani-Fard said he hopes Iran



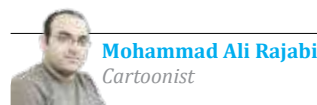
Abbas Araghchi
• IRNA

and Egypt will take the "final steps" toward enhancing relations in the very near future. Iran and Egypt, two influential Muslim-majority countries, have experienced strained relations since the 1979 Islamic Revolution. A key source of tension was Egypt's decision to grant asylum to the deposed West-backed Iranian dictator, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, as well as recognition of the Israeli regime through the 1978 Camp David Accords.

Relations between the two countries saw a marked improvement after the ouster of longtime Egyptian dictator Hosni Mubarak during the 2011 Arab Spring.

"Iran has supported Egypt's stance against the forced migration of Gaza's people and its efforts to secure a ceasefire. Egypt plays a crucial role in this regard," he added.

Talks are also underway to finalize arrangements for direct flights between the two countries. The top Iranian diplomat will later travel to Lebanon for talks with Lebanese officials.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

Iran never gives ...

One of the main sticking points in the Iran-US talks is the dispute over uranium enrichment. The US is pushing for a total shutdown of enrichment in Iran, while Iran insists this is its inalienable right and refuses to give ground. This impasse led the fifth round of talks, held in Rome on May 23—which Araghchi described as "one of the most professional sessions"—to end in stalemate, with no date set for a sixth round.

Iranian officials have repeatedly driven home in recent weeks that they will not agree to even an hour's suspension of enrichment, making it clear that insisting on zero enrichment in Iran would steer the talks toward failure. The Iranian foreign minister has previously posted on X that Iran is ready for a diplomatic solution, but any deal must bring about the full lifting of sanctions and safeguard Iran's nuclear rights, including enrichment. While the US's insistence on zero enrichment appears to have boxed in both Tehran and Washington, Iran's suggested ap-

proach—focusing on the specifics of enrichment and exploring various oversight mechanisms—could help break the deadlock. The Iran-US talks have reached a critical juncture. The uncertainty over the timing and location of the sixth round only underscores the complexity of the diplomatic path ahead. The political, security, and economic fallout of a failed negotiation for all parties in the Middle East, Europe, and the US has spurred them into round-the-clock efforts to ensure diplomacy wins out over other options. Oman's Foreign Minister Busaidi, after the fifth round of talks in Rome, wrote on X about ongoing efforts to help Tehran and Washington strike a "sustainable and honorable" agreement. The key to such a deal is a win-win solution, where Tehran reaps the benefits of effective sanctions relief, and Trump can tout a deal distinct from the JCPOA. In such a roadmap, a dogged insistence on zero enrichment in Iran—clearly declared as a non-negotiable red line—will only drag out the talks and play into the hands of those seeking to sabotage diplomacy.



Government proposes Madanizadeh as new economy minister

Economy Desk

Ali Madanizadeh was on Sunday introduced to the Iranian Parliament by the government as the proposed Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance, said the spokesperson for the Presiding Board of the Parliament. "Ali Madanizadeh has been introduced to the Parliament as the government's proposed candidate for the ministry; the letter of introduction will be acknowledged as received during the open session next Sunday," Abbas Goudarzi said. "Following the acknowledgment of receipt, the specialized commission will have one week to review the programs of the proposed minister, and its report will be read during the vote of confidence session. Should the specialized commission submit its report ahead of schedule, naturally, the qualification review and vote of confidence session will be held sooner," he added. Goudarzi also stated, "Based on

the Constitution and considering the end of the three-month period, starting tomorrow (Monday), the signature of the acting minister of economy will lack legal validity, unless with the permission of the Leader." Born in 1982, Madanizadeh, is an economist and Associate Professor of Economics at Sharif University of Technology. He currently heads the Faculty of Management and Economics at the prestigious university. The winner of the global bronze medal in mathematics, he is among the young economists and experts in theoretical and academic fields who began his activities as a professor at Sharif University of Technology in 2013. Madanizadeh graduated with a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Electrical Engineering from Sharif University of Technology, then continued his academic path by receiving a Master's in Computational Mathematics from Stanford University in the United States. He ultimately obtained his Ph.D. in

Economics from the University of Chicago in 2013 and subsequently returned to Iran. He is recognized as one of the country's scientific elites as in the year 2000, he won the bronze medal at the International Mathematical Olympiad, and in 2002, he achieved third place in the International Mathematics Competition for University Students. Madanizadeh's introduction to Parliament comes as the country is grappling with numerous structural economic problems, including an imbalance in the banking system; weak performance of insurance institutions and the capital market; economic sanctions; budget deficits; currency fluctuations; inflation; and low economic growth. The announcement follows the impeachment of former Economy minister Abdolnasser Hemmati on March 2, 2024, which passed with 182 votes in favor of removing and 89 against the motion. Rahmatollah Akrami



Ali Madanizadeh

was subsequently appointed as acting minister. Iranian lawmakers voted to remove Hemmati from office

over persistent economic woes and the sharp devaluation of the national currency. On the free market at the time, rial

was trading at 820,000 against the US dollar, compared with approximately 580,000 in mid-2024.

Pezeshkian's Oman visit set \$20b trade goal: Chamber head

Omani rial accounts opened for economic stakeholders

Economy Desk

The head of the Iran-Oman Joint Chamber of Commerce stated that a bilateral trade target of \$20 billion annually was set during President Masoud Pezeshkian's recent visit to Muscat. Speaking to IRNA on Sunday, Jamal Razeqi Jahromi said a delegation comprising 90 Iranian private sector representatives accompanied the president on the visit on May 26-27. Razeqi Jahromi, while acknowledging the deep-rooted political relations between the two countries, criticized the weakness in trade ties, stating, "Despite 40 to 60 percent trade growth over the past three years, Iran-Oman trade volume still falls short of \$3 billion – equivalent to one-eighth of Iran's trade with some Persian Gulf littoral states." According to Iran's Chamber of Commerce, the bilateral trade has surpassed \$2 billion in recent years.

Direct Chabahar-Oman shipping line

Meanwhile, Sistan and Baluchestan Province Governor General Mansour Bijar, referencing discussions with the president about the visit's outcomes for the province, announced on his X social media platform, "The 'Chabahar-Muscat' shipping line has been

launched."

In an interview with IRNA, Razeqi Jahromi listed practical measures to facilitate bilateral trade, including establishing a joint financial institution in Oman within the next month to resolve money transfer issues and ease banking transactions; launching a direct shipping line between Chabahar and Oman in cooperation with the Chabahar Free Zone and Oman Chamber of Commerce; allocating one thousand square meters of workspace in Oman for Iranian knowledge-based companies; and reducing preferential tariffs between the two countries.

As reported by IRNA, practical steps to facilitate economic exchanges were taken during Pezeshkian's visit to Oman, which saw broad private sector participation. 18 commercial memoranda and agreements were signed by the parties during the visit. Ninety private sector economic actors from Tehran – active in technical engineering services, food industries, mining, knowledge-based and AI companies, petrochemicals, medical/pharmaceutical equipment, and tourism – participated in the visit, holding three commercially-focused programs with Omani economic actors. An agreement was reached to exchange 700 commodity items under preferential currency tariffs during



the visit, paving the way for expanded trade relations. Furthermore, to develop regional cooperation in vocational training and enhance specialized human resource collaboration, an executive program for technical and vocational cooperation was signed in Muscat. The executive program was formulated after intensive expert consultations between the two countries, based on shared perspectives regarding the necessity of "sustainable human capital development" and strengthening economic ties through skills training. It is hoped to open new horizons in educational, technical, and international cooperation. Organizing joint trainer empowerment courses, exchanging specialized delegations, designing innovative labor-market-driven educational models, and developing skills training programs for target groups are among the mission areas Iran's Technical and Vocational Training Organization will undertake under the memorandum.

Four-point agenda set for Tehran-Moscow private sector collaboration

Economy Desk

The Iran Chamber of Commerce officially outlined through an issued statement on Sunday four main areas of cooperation between the private sectors of Iran and Russia. The dispatch of an Iranian trade delegation to Russia in mid-May paved the way for presenting a list of mutual capacities to develop cooperation between the two countries' private sectors. According to ISNA, following the visit of the Islamic Republic of Iran's trade delegation to the Russian Federation led by Samad Hassanzadeh – head of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture – a statement was released by the Chamber. The statement details the proposed areas put forward by the Russian side for developing private sector cooperation between Iran and Russia. The statement introduced four main areas for joint cooperation, including cooperation in agriculture focusing on modern technologies and offshore farming; large-scale modernization of elevators in Russia involving five million units; participation in enhancing the productivity of livestock farming in Russia; and development of Iranian technical and engineering services exports to Russia.



Increasing economic interactions

According to the latest published reports (from the first half of the current Iranian calendar year month of Ordibehesht [April-May 2024]), in 2024, the volume of trade exchanges between Iran and Russia increased by 16.2 percent, reaching \$4.8 billion. As stated by the Russian energy minister during the concluding sessions of the 18th meeting of the Iran-Russia Joint Economic Commission in Moscow, "This indicates that the cooperation between the two countries is accompanied by positive momentum in trade." Meanwhile, the two countries also initiated cooperation in the field of information and communication technology (ICT). A specialized trade delegation comprising representatives of Iranian knowledge-based companies participated in the specialized Iran-Russia ICT event in Moscow. At the event, companies from both sides introduced their products and services and expressed enthusiasm for developing trade exchanges, particularly in the ICT sector.

Solar power operates at Industry Ministry headquarters

Economy Desk

The Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade is among the first government bodies implementing the Iranian president's order to supply part of its electricity through solar panels. Following President Masoud Pezeshkian's order to supply electricity for government buildings through solar power, the solar power generation

facilities at the central building of the ministry became among the first executive bodies to implement Pezeshkian's directive by connecting to the grid, IRNA reported. Iran's vice presidency for Science, Technology, and Knowledge-Based Economy also last month launched a 40-kilowatt solar power plant on the rooftop of its main building, aligning with the government's mandate for executive bodies

to transition toward electrical self-sufficiency and promote renewable and clean energy adoption. Government offices have been required to source at least 20% of their electricity from renewable energy, with Pezeshkian having issued a two-month compliance period for government agencies to install solar panels, effective June 21. "Iran's geography provides the

opportunity to utilize solar energy for most of the year," Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade Mohammad Ataabak said during the Sunday inauguration ceremony. "Through short-term and medium-term solutions to meet energy requirements and by involving industries in solar energy production cycles, I hope the current energy shortage will be partially reduced," he added.



Iran-Saudi energy cooperation

From traditional rivalry to economic opportunity?



By Kamran Yeganegi

Foreign policy expert

OPINION EXCLUSIVE

In a region long shaped by geopolitical rivalry and sectarian fault lines, the recent diplomatic rapprochement between Iran and Saudi Arabia opens a window of opportunity — particularly in the critical energy sector. The normalization of relations in 2023, facilitated by China, offers both nations a rare strategic inflection point and the chance to redefine their economic engagement through pragmatic cooperation. As two of the world's foremost energy powers, Tehran and Riyadh stand to gain significantly by shifting from confrontation to coordination.

Shared interests, divergent approaches

Despite their shared status as energy giants, Iran and Saudi Arabia have pursued markedly different strategies in global oil markets. Saudi Arabia, as a leading member of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and a longtime US ally, has consistently prioritized market stability through leadership in OPEC and, more recently, OPEC+. Iran, by contrast, has been constrained by decades of sanctions, limiting its output and diplomatic leverage.

Yet beneath these differences lies a convergence of long-term interests. Both countries rely heavily on oil revenues and face similar pressures: market volatility, energy transition policies in the West, and growing calls for carbon reduction. Amid these structural shifts, cooperation offers a buffer against external shocks and a platform for mutual gain.

OPEC+ as strategic platform

The OPEC+ framework, which includes both OPEC members and allies like Russia, remains the most viable platform for structured dialogue between Tehran and Riyadh. While Iran is an official member of OPEC, its participation in quota-setting has often been muted due to sanctions-related exemptions. Renewed political ties present an opportunity for more active, informal alignment with Saudi Arabia within this coalition. Saudi Arabia's recent moves — such as production cuts to stabilize prices amid inflationary pressures and the fallout from the Ukraine war — underscore the need for broader collaboration. A tacit understanding between Iran and Saudi Arabia on production strategies, export behavior, and messaging could enhance OPEC+ cohesion and increase their collective bargaining power in global energy markets.

Investment, technology transfer as pragmatic path

One of the most tangible dividends of restored ties could emerge in the domain of energy investment and technological exchange. Iran's upstream oil and gas infrastructure is in urgent need of modernization, while Saudi Arabia, through entities like Aramco and its sov-



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (R) greets the Saudi delegation headed by Prince Khalid bin Salman Al Saud (L) during their meeting in Tehran, Iran, on April 20, 2025.

president.ir

ereign wealth fund, has both the financial clout and technical expertise to engage in joint projects.

While direct Saudi investment in Iran's energy sector remains politically sensitive and legally complex, intermediary channels — such as neutral joint ventures in refining, petrochemicals, or LNG — could serve as confidence-building measures. Conversely, Iranian engineers and energy experts could find new opportunities in Persian Gulf markets, provided institutional trust is rebuilt over time.

Regional energy security, power grid integration

Beyond hydrocarbons, there is growing scope for collaboration in regional energy security and electricity grid integration. Both nations are increasingly concerned with the resilience of energy infrastructure against cyber threats, environmental shocks, and geopolitical instability. Ideas once seen as unrealistic — such as linking power grids across the Middle East — are gaining traction. Iraq already serves as a key intersection for Iranian, Saudi, and Turkish energy diplomacy.

A regional energy forum involving Iran, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and the UAE could facilitate crisis coordination, renewable energy dialogue, and joint planning for sustainable development. Iran's leadership in electricity exports and Saudi Arabia's investments in renewables are complementary assets that, if combined strategically, could elevate the region's energy profile.

Role of China: catalyst or constraint?

China's pivotal role in mediating Iran-Saudi reconciliation cannot be ignored. As the world's largest energy importer and an increasingly assertive geopolitical actor in the Middle East, Beijing has a vested interest in regional stability and energy flow continuity. Chinese firms already have significant footprints in both countries and could play a bridging role in co-financed energy ventures.

However, over-reliance on third-party mediation poses its own risks. For a sustainable partnership to emerge, Tehran and Riyadh must develop bilateral institutional mechanisms that go beyond diplomatic symbolism — ones grounded in mu-

tual respect, commercial viability, and strategic foresight.

Strategic challenges, political realities

Any movement toward energy cooperation must navigate complex political terrain. Deep-seated mistrust, diverging regional agendas (in places like Syria, Lebanon, and Yemen), and differing global alliances could act as brakes on collaboration. Moreover, domestic political currents in both nations may resist engagement for ideological or security-related reasons.

Nonetheless, historical experience shows that economic pragmatism can sometimes succeed where ideological rigidity fails. Incremental cooperation, especially in technically focused and commercially viable energy projects, can serve as a catalyst for broader regional dialogue.

Strategic imperative; not diplomatic luxury

Energy cooperation between Iran and Saudi Arabia is no longer a utopian vision — it is increasingly a strategic necessity. The evolving energy landscape, characterized by decarbonization imperatives, shifting global

demand, and technological disruption, demands that producers find new ways to collaborate rather than compete destructively.

If Tehran and Riyadh seize this moment, they can initiate a gradual yet meaningful process of engagement — starting with OPEC+ coordination, extending to investment facilitation, and culminating in regional energy integration. Such a partnership could set a new precedent in the geopolitics of energy — one where economic interdependence acts as a stabilizer, not a casualty, of regional politics.

In the long run, energy can become not just a driver of revenue, but a pillar of regional architecture — anchored in shared interests, informed by strategic patience, and propelled by a recognition that the path to Middle East stability runs, in part, through energy diplomacy. Iran and Saudi Arabia have the assets, incentives, and increasingly, the diplomatic space to embark on this journey. What remains is the will to move from symbolic reconciliation to substantive cooperation.

The stakes are high, but so are the rewards — for both nations and for the region at large.



While direct Saudi investment in Iran's energy sector remains politically sensitive and legally complex, intermediary channels — such as neutral joint ventures in refining, petrochemicals, or LNG — could serve as confidence-building measures. Conversely, Iranian engineers and energy experts could find new opportunities in Persian Gulf markets, provided institutional trust is rebuilt over time.



Iran's then-minister of economy Abdolnaser Hemmati (2nd-R) discusses financing for Iranian contractors in international projects with Abdulhamid Alkhalifa (2nd-L), the head of the OPEC Fund, during a meeting on the sidelines of an annual conference in AlUla, Saudi Arabia, on February 16, 2025.

SHANA

Redefining Iran’s global role

Economic diplomacy turns tide

OPINION

As US sanctions continue to bear down on Iran’s economy, mounting evidence shows that the current Iranian government, by leaning into economic diplomacy, has not only carved out ways to survive but has also mapped out paths for recovery and expansion of Iran’s economic ties with the world. The success of this approach, especially through regional agreements and the warm welcome of other countries to cooperation, has dealt a blow to certain aspects of US sanction policies.

Achievements of modern economic diplomacy

A key pillar of the government’s new strategy is a shift from “mere resistance” to “constructive engagement” in the international economic arena. By zeroing in on economic capacities and finding ways around sanctions, the government has set out to strengthen ties with neighboring countries and economic blocs such as ECO, Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, and more recently, BRICS. Ramping up non-oil exports, bolstering trade infrastructure, joint investment contracts, and pursuing barter policies are among the main achievements. In 2024, the value of Iran’s non-oil exports to some regional countries hit the highest mark in the last decade. Long-term deals with major players like China and Russia, especially in energy and infrastructure, hold out the promise of a new future based on win-win partnerships.

Changing playing field

Another major shift is also evident in the current Iranian government’s policies: It is sending clear signals that it prefers economic diplomacy over political brinkmanship. This positive outlook is not only reflected in high-level documents but also in the performance of the country’s diplomatic apparatus and the Ministry of Industry, Mine, and Trade. The adoption of the following strategies marks a fundamental rethink, moving away from traditional economic resistance and embracing constructive economic interaction:

- Focusing on new and knowledge-based exports,
- Activating economic figures in embassy missions,
- And passing policies to facilitate foreign investment.

Even many critical economists have come around to acknowledge the necessity of this shift. As Farhad Mehri, professor of international economics, puts it: “The first and most vital step in getting past the sanctions crisis was redefining the government’s role from a political actor to an economic player in foreign policy. The results of this shift are clear in export figures and foreign investment volumes.”

Expanding Iran’s economic cooperation

The uptick in negotiations, official economic visits, and the signing of MOUs with Asian, African, and even European countries points to a shared eagerness for partnership. Over the past two years, by inking multilateral agreements in energy, transport, and financial exchanges, the government has worked to reposition Iran from an



THE CRADLE

isolated nation to a driving force. Joint meetings with OPEC members in Tehran and high-level economic talks have fueled optimism for boosting regional trade. Iran’s show of strength in international forums, experts say, is not just symbolic but also carries real weight in the decisions of economic partners.

Iran’s economic cooperation despite ongoing sanctions

Perhaps the biggest challenge is keeping economic cooperation afloat amid tightening sanctions. Yet, recent years have shown that pulling this off is possible through creativity and economic logic. The main strategies include:

- Using cryptocurrency, barter, and bilateral currency agreements,
- Tapping into the potential of private and knowledge-based companies to break into regional markets,
- And forming consortia with target countries for joint production and sidestepping some banking restrictions.

Exports of engineering services as well as agricultural and industrial products to Central Asia, the Caucasus, and North Africa have also been key drivers in maintaining relative economic growth.

Trump’s sanctions policy falters

The Trump administration’s “maximum pressure” campaign failed to push Iran to the sidelines. Smart management of relations with Russia, China, Turkey, and India, and the willingness of emerging economies to work with Iran, paved the way for the

gradual defeat of this policy. Statistics show that, despite Western political pressure, many international organizations and experts still see Iran as an attractive and capable economy. The shift in export structures, participation in Central Asian energy projects, and a role in the North-South Corridor — even amid constraints — underscore this active engagement.

Iran’s role in global economic relations, OPEC

Iran’s active presence in OPEC, as a key player in quota and price-setting, sends a powerful message to global markets. Despite sanctions, Iran has drawn on its technology and negotiation skills to maintain its role in balancing the energy market. Furthermore, joining emerging economic coalitions like BRICS+ and regional agreements has set the stage for Iran to become the “hinge connecting East and West”.

Int’l summits undermine US maximum pressure

Recent summits, including the latest OPEC meeting in Tehran, have not only fostered expert exchanges but also boosted the legitimacy of working with Iran and chipped away at its economic isolation. These gatherings shield not only Iran but also other members from the effects of US economic unipolarity. According to experts, the presence of numerous foreign delegations and the signing of major multilateral MOUs have struck a major blow to efforts to “isolate” Iran in the global market.

Rebuilding, reviving Iran’s economic standing

For Iran to win back its rightful

regional and global status, three broad strategies must be carried out:

1. **Diversifying exchanges:** Moving away from a single-product economy and shining a spotlight on technology-driven and service exports.
 2. **Training and empowering the private sector:** Genuine support for knowledge-based firms, entrepreneurs, and export players.
 3. **Building trust in the investment climate:** Stepping up transparency and regulatory stability, a bigger role in global value chains, and improving financial infrastructure.
- Farhad Mehri, the international economics expert, maintained: “We believe that, despite serious constraints, Iran’s economy has vast hidden capacities, especially in skilled labor and regional markets. If the government can keep up economic diplomacy, Iran can not only maintain its independence but also regain and even boost its share in global relations. The world’s changing view of US policies shows that Iran’s period of economic isolation is coming to a close.”
- He adds that, although foreign sanctions still pose serious challenges, the reality is that by shifting gears from passivity to active economic diplomacy, Iran has managed to bring about the failure of maximum pressure and is now on the road to rebuilding its position regionally and globally. The importance of sticking to this path and completing the development roadmap will be decisive in getting over the hump of sanctions and making a comeback to a rightful place in the global economic system.

The economist stresses that, all in all, what Iran’s economy has gone through in recent years is a rare example of resilience in the face of extreme pressure and shifting policy paradigms. Mere resistance was no longer enough, and under the weight of Trump’s ramped-up sanctions, the government had no choice but to come to terms with the need to redefine Iran’s economic role. The result: the birth of an active — not passive — economic diplomacy that breathed new life into the economy and opened up new opportunities.

Transformative experience in economic diplomacy

As Mehri notes, the Pezeshkian government, by moving past mere politicization and drawing on the country’s economic capacities, has made economic diplomacy the mainstay of foreign engagement. Strengthening regional and global trade, supporting high-value exports, bringing in foreign companies, and attracting investment are all products of this new outlook. The reality is that if this course is followed through, Iran can, even under sanctions, gradually win back its share of the regional and global economy.

Mehri further points out that expanding Iran’s economic cooperation with both neighboring and distant countries during sanctions has always had its ups and downs. These partnerships have faced Western resistance and heavy pressure, but the remarkable dynamism of the private sector, creative financing, non-oil exports, and barter policies have helped Iran break out of the recession trap. Today, Iran’s target markets extend well beyond Iraq, Turkey, and Afghanistan to Central Asia, China, Russia, and new partners in Africa. This shows Iran’s economy is breaking down old barriers and building up a diverse cooperation system.

This economist observes that cooperation with various countries — especially non-Western powers like China, Russia, and India — and reliance on innovations such as barter and bilateral currency agreements have provided a practical way to blunt the impact of sanctions. Importantly, a significant portion of the global economy is still willing to work with Iran, provided the legal framework and infrastructure are in place. By setting up trade centers, business offices, and joint banks, Iran has tapped into previously overlooked capacities and kept the wheels of trade turning.

Did Trump’s sanctions policy really fail?

Ultimately, visible evidence and expert analysis confirm the relative failure of America’s maximum pressure policy against Iran. Iran’s foreign trade statistics, growth of non-oil exports, and continued activity in the global energy market show that this policy fell short of America’s hopes. The willingness of regional and some global powers to continue practical cooperation with Iran highlights both the flexibility of the Iranian market and its policymakers. By pulling out all the stops, Iranian economic officials have not only fended off maximum pressure but have even raised the cost for some Western parties. Iran has managed, even under sanctions, to hold onto its role as a key OPEC member and influential player in the global oil market.

Iran’s insistence on active participation in meetings and technical negotiations sends a clear message to countries and markets: isolating Tehran is a pipe dream. Joining extra-regional economic pacts like BRICS means expanding influence and cutting back on dependence on Western mechanisms.

Recent meetings in Tehran — especially OPEC workshops and other regional forums — have shown that, beyond symbolism, tangible results like MOUs, new trade links, and closer ties with independent countries have followed. These events have shone the international spotlight on Iran, and, intentionally or not, have shown that the dream of isolating Iran has not come true.

To keep up this momentum and further elevate Iran’s standing, structural reforms, greater transparency, tech-driven export development, support for entrepreneurs, market diversification, and modernization of the financial and banking system must be pursued relentlessly. Temporary or reactive programs are no longer enough. Iran’s economic future depends on its ability to break through structural barriers and sustain reforms. Success on this path requires national resolve, public engagement, and support for the private sector.

“Today’s Iran — with its skilled workforce, geopolitical position, energy resources, and human capital but also the hard-won experience of sanctions and crisis — has reached a stage of maturity that allows it to be an influential regional and international player. This success hinges on continued economic diplomacy, structural reform, and targeted foreign policy engagement. If Iran stays the course of engagement and innovation, the outlook is hopeful and expanding.”

Iran’s economy is undergoing a pivotal transition. It is not merely relying on oil or resistance; By combining active diplomacy, structural reform, and maximizing new opportunities, it is laying the groundwork for a fitting return to the global economic stage. What is now described as “the model for overcoming sanctions and reclaiming a global role” could well serve as a blueprint for other pressured and developing nations.

The article first appeared in Persian on Mehr news agency.



An African representative bows to Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (standing 5th R) during the Third Iran-Africa Economic Cooperation Conference, held in Tehran on April 27, 2025.

IRNA

UWW Ranking Series:

Emami beats Yazdani,
seals Iranian 74kg spot in Zagreb

Sports Desk

Younes Emami defeated Amirmohammad Yazdani in an all-Iranian final at the Ulaanbaatar Open to settle the debate on the country's freestyle 74kg slot for September's Wrestling World Championships in Zagreb. The two wrestlers were joined by Hossein Abouzari in representing Iran at the third Ranking Series event of the season, with the Zagreb ticket on the line, according to the selection path unveiled by the national governing body of the sport prior to the tournament in the Mongolian capital. While Abouzari suffered a fall defeat against Indian Jaideep Jaideep in the quarterfinals, Emami and Yazdani, who have four world medals between them, made it to Saturday's showdown – a repeat of the final showpiece at the International Takhti Cup in Isfahan earlier in May, which Yazdani had won 7-4. Iranian head coach Pejman Dorostkar refused to sit in any corner and his assistants did not give any instructions throughout the contest, the case in most

bouts which involves qualification for a national team. It was hardly a spectacular bout, lacking big moves and crafty scrambles. Emami took a 1-0 passivity lead at the break before executing a well-drilled defensive gameplan in the second period to secure a 4-3 victory. While Emami did not celebrate the triumph, Yazdani failed to hold his tears back on the podium as he was awarded the silver medal. "Amirmohammad is my friend and brother," Emami said. "We train together a lot, so we're pretty familiar with each other's wrestling style. That's why this match was a bit tough." "I had thought about it [defense] during practice and even throughout the day trying to fix my weaknesses," he said. "I used to give away points too easily, but I had improved a bit here, and I hope I can keep getting better from this point on," added the two-time world bronze medalist. Emami is the sixth Iranian freestyle wrestler to book a place in the world event. Kamaran Qasempour defeated Abolfazl Rahmani in a domestic head-to-head in Tehran last week to se-

cure the 86kg slot, while reigning world champion Amirhossein Zare' (125kg) and Ali Mo'meni (57kg) won the Takhti Cup golds to punch the Zagreb ticket, 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 February, while Firouzpour's dominant campaigns at the Asian Championships and the Zagreb Open, convinced the Iranian coaching staff to pick him for the world 92kg contests.



Iranian wrestlers Younes Emami (R) and Amirmohammad Yazdani go head-to-head in the freestyle 74kg final at the Ulaanbaatar Open in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, on May 31, 2025.
● UWW



WTT Youth Contender:

Iranian young guns leave Tashkent
with nine trophies

Sports Desk

Iranian table tennis prodigies stole the show on the final day of the WTT Youth Contender event in Tashkent, claiming five trophies. Saturday's results took Iran's haul to nine trophies across different age classes in the four-day event. An all-Iranian final saw Mobin Amiri come from behind to beat Arshia Lo-

restani 3-2 (11-13, 8-11, 14-12, 11-7, 11-8) in a thrilling boys' under-15 showdown at the Humo Arena. This was Lorestani's second runner-up trophy in the Uzbek capital, after he had suffered a four-game defeat against fellow-Iranian Benjamin Faraji in the under-17 final on Thursday. Faraji, meanwhile, finished his campaign with a runner-up trophy in the

U19 boys' singles contests following a 3-2 (11-3, 11-9, 10-12, 5-11, 15-13) loss to Alan Kurmangaliyev of Kazakhstan. Mohammadreza Neshati was the other Iranian contestant in the age group, who settled for a third-place after he lost in straight games (11-9, 11-6, 11-10) to Kurmangaliyev in the semifinals. In the girls' competitions, Setayesh Illoukhani over-

came opponents from the refugees' team and Azerbaijan to reach the semifinals, before a 3-2 (11-4, 13-11, 10-12, 8-11, 11-7) defeat against the host's Arujan Kamalova saw the Iranian girl take the third-place trophy. This was Illoukhani's second defeat against the Uzbek opponent, who had also beaten the Iranian in straight games in the girls' under-17 final.



● irtfjr

'Always in my heart': Luis Enrique pays
tribute to late daughter after PSG triumph

THE GUARDIAN – As Paris Saint-Germain clinched their first Champions League title, Luis Enrique's thoughts turned to his late daughter. Six years ago Xana died of osteosarcoma, a rare form of bone cancer. She was nine. And at the moment when he scaled the peak of his coaching career, Luis Enrique paid tribute to the child who he said was "always in my heart". At full-time the Paris fans unveiled a tifo depicting Luis and Xana, recreating the moment when he planted a flag in the pitch alongside her after winning the Champions League with Barcelona

in 2015. "It was very emotional with the banner from the fans for my family," Luis Enrique said. "But I always think about my daughter." As for his history-making side, Luis Enrique could reflect on a mission spectacularly accomplished, after a 5-0 win over Inter that PSG dominated from start to finish. "Since day one, I said I wanted to win important trophies," he said. "Paris had never won the Champions League. We did it for the first time. It's a great feeling to make many people happy." PSG scored two goals inside 20 minutes and completed the rout in the second half,

with the winger Désiré Doué scoring the first and third. "We had a great start to the game, dominating from the beginning," said Luis Enrique. "But I wanted them to keep pushing, scoring, to ensure we won the game." Doué, 19, was still processing a game that has elevated him into the very elite of world football. "I can't believe what happened tonight," he said. "We made history for the club, in French football, in European football. We're a great team, and we showed it." Inter's manager, Simone Inzaghi, tried to put a brave face on his side's humilia-

tion. "This hurts," he said. "Of course the game wasn't good enough on our part." But he also insisted: "We can come out stronger from this defeat, like we did in 2023 [after losing the final to Manchester City] and then won the league the following season."

Deadly celebrations

More than 500 people were arrested by police during the celebrations in France, and two people were reported dead and 192 injured, the interior ministry said on Sunday, Reuters reported. Wild celebrations erupted across the French capital and beyond on Saturday



night, although skirmishes with police later threatened to spoil the party. The interior ministry's provisional assessment as of Sunday morning was that 559 people had been arrested, including 491 in Paris, which led to 320 people be-

ing placed in police custody, 254 of them in Paris. The interior ministry on Sunday reported hundreds of fires, including more than 200 vehicles burned. Some 22 members of the security forces and seven firefighters were harmed.



PSG fans display a banner showing the manager, Luis Enrique, and his late daughter, Xana, after the final whistle in the UEFA Champions League final at the Allianz Arena, Munich, Germany, on May 31, 2025.
● KIRILL KUDRYAVTSEV/AFP

West Azarbaijan Province; land of untapped tourism investment opportunities

St. Thaddeus Church
● [iranica.news](#)

Iranica Desk

West Azarbaijan Province, with its pristine nature, ancient history, cultural richness, and climatic diversity, is recognized as one of the key tourism destinations in the country. However, its investment capacities have yet to be fully realized. This province, boasting attractions such as Lake Urmia, the Khoshaku Ski Resort, the historic Bazaar of Maku, St. Thaddeus Church, wetlands, hot springs, and eco-lodges, provides a solid foundation for developing tourism infrastructure.

Eco-lodging

The presence of mountainous areas, forests, waterfalls, and wetlands — particularly in the cities of Sardasht, Piranshahr, and Naqadeh — offers a unique opportunity for establishing ecolodges, nature tours, and mountain camping sites. Investors can capitalize on local human resources and traditional lifestyles to initiate sustainable and profitable tourism projects, ISNA wrote.

Historical, cultural tourism

The presence of UNESCO-registered sites such as St. Thaddeus Church, Sassanid petroglyphs in Bukan, and the historic fabric of Urmia makes this province one of the richest regions in historical tourism. Investment in conservation, restoration, and converting historic buildings into accommodations or cultural centers can be both economically beneficial and instrumental in preserving cultural heritage.

Health tourism

Mineral hot springs in areas like Chal-

doran, Khoy, and Shuht possess significant potential for developing spa complexes, massage therapy centers, and traditional medicine clinics. Due to the increasing domestic and regional demand for natural healthcare services, investment in this sector can yield good returns.

Sports tourism

The Khoshaku Ski Resort near Urmia, with ongoing development of accommodation, training, and recreational infrastructure, has the potential to become the winter tourism hub of the northwest region of the country. Building mid-range hotels, sporting equipment shops, and expanding transportation lines represent promising investment opportunities.

Investment

The Director General of the Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Organization of West Azarbaijan Province highlighted the extensive and diverse tourism capacities of the region, stating, “West Azerbaijan Province, as one of the unique tourism destinations in the country, possesses remarkable potential to attract investors.” Morteza Safari, in an interview with ISNA, emphasized that the province hosts five UNESCO World Heritage sites— including St. Thaddeus Church (Qara Kelisa), Takht-e Soleyman, Chapel of Dzordzo, and Shah Abbasi Caravanserai of Khoy— as well as more than 1,800 nationally registered sites. This rich collection offers unparalleled potential for developing the tourism industry in the area. He described West Azarbaijan Province as “the paradise of Iran” and “the rainbow of ethnicities,” stating,

“More than 80% of the country’s natural attractions, including waterfalls, springs, hot springs, mountains, dams, lakes, and even deserts, are located in this province.” The southern part of the province, with attractions such as Shalmash Waterfall, Kani Gravan Spring, Sardasht Dam, and Zab River, is recognized as a major eco-tourism hub.

Emphasizing that the diversity of ethnicities and religions enriches the cultural fabric, he added, “This variety in customs, local foods, and traditions is very attractive and noteworthy for tourists.” Safari regarded the tourism industry as an interdisciplinary sector and stated, “Achieving tourism development requires comprehensive cooperation among all institutions and strengthening infrastructure such as access roads, rail, and air transportation. Unfortunately, some sectors face weaknesses that need serious attention.”

According to him, currently more than 200 accommodation units with a capacity of around 7,000 people operate in the province, and efforts are underway to increase this capacity through attracting further investment. He identified health tourism as a significant investment opportunity, noting, “Using hot springs and mineral springs, along with providing advanced medical services through equipped clinics and hospitals with skilled doctors, is highly attractive to foreign patients. The province has more than 50 active springs, many of which already have tourism infrastructure.”

Safari also referred to the province’s potential in winter tourism, citing Silvaneh region and Khoshaku Ski Resort as key destinations during

the cold season. He pointed out that bureaucratic delays and lengthy permit processes remain major obstacles to attracting investments. He expressed hope that, with the spirit of the current year’s slogan and the government’s efforts to streamline procedures, conditions for investors will improve.

A promising future

He also highlighted the multiple capacities of the province in agricultural tourism, rural tourism, historical, religious, aquatic, and cross-border market shopping tourism. “Tourism routes and information about attractions, accommodation, and recreational centers in the province are accessible to tourists through internet websites,” he noted.

Safari emphasized the vital role of the private sector in advancing the tourism industry, stating, “The government’s duty is oversight and support, but the engine of development operates through the active involvement of the private sector. Fortunately, investor interest in entering the tourism sector is growing, and the future of this industry in West Azerbaijan appears bright and promising.”

Given its unique geographical position, climatic diversity, rich historical and cultural background, and proximity to international borders, West Azarbaijan Province stands out as one of Iran’s most promising regions for tourism investment. Smart utilization of these opportunities can not only contribute to the province’s economic development but also play a crucial role in reinforcing its cultural and environmental identity.



Sardasht
● [IRNA](#)



Hot Spring of Shuht
● [khabarmaku.ir](#)



Khoshaku Ski Resort
● [borna.news](#)

Evolution of Qoli Darvish Hill from ancient to modern times

Qoli Darvish Hill is situated southwest of the city of Qom and is near the Jamkaran complex. It is one of the few archaeological mounds that have been explored in the central region of Iran. Prior to its excavation, only Sialk Hill in Kashan and Cheshmeh Ali in Rey had been thoroughly investigated. The archaeological excavations at Qoli Darvish began in 2003. These excavations revealed that both Qoli Darvish and Shadqoli Khan Hill, located within the urban fabric of Qom, date back roughly six to seven thousand years. It is noteworthy that after these ancient periods, the site of Qoli Darvish remained unoccupied for over a thousand years before experiencing a resurgence and regaining its historical significance, visitiran.ir wrote.



● [IRNA](#)

Historically, the site once covered an area of about one hundred hectares and reached heights of twenty meters. However, due to significant destruction over the centuries, the current extent of the hill is approximately fifty

hectares. This expansive area preserves multiple layers of human occupation, reflecting cultures from the New Bronze Age, the transitional period between the Bronze Age and Iron Age, and a portion of the Iron Age.



● [wikimedia.org](#)

The discovery of relics from an ancient worship house, dating from roughly 3800 to 3000 years ago and associated with religious functions, has provided valuable insights into social classes of the time and has prompted further

anthropological studies related to these historical periods. Following layered excavations from the Bronze Age, several indicators of early urbanization were uncovered. These include the separation of residential ar-

chaeological studies related to these historical periods. Following layered excavations from the Bronze Age, several indicators of early urbanization were uncovered. These include the separation of residential areas from industrial zones, ritual memorial structures, structures associated with trade and commerce outside the city, military organization frameworks, and various types of pottery. An especially important find was a clay pot discovered in the floor of a small room within Qoli Darvish, offering evidence of burial practices used during the Bronze Age across the Iranian plateau. Additional significant finds include architectural structures such as cylinders, pot seals, tokens or counting units, and fragments of pottery. In recent years, it has become possible for the public to visit Qoli Darvish Hill. Tourists can access this archaeological site by taking the road towards Jamkaran, which begins at the historic Qom-Kashan route.



Leader endorses new biography of Imam Khomeini



Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei endorsed a newly released book about the life of founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, calling it a "powerful" and "truthful" portrayal of the late revolutionary leader. The endorsement was unveiled during a ceremony in Tehran for Ruhollah, a biography by Iranian author Hadi Hakimian, published by Shahrestan Adab Publishing House, khamenei.ir reported. In a handwritten message dated Mordad 1403 in the Iranian calendar (July–August 2024), Ayatollah Khamenei wrote that the book draws "a close-to-reality image" of Khomeini, describing him as a leader with "pure faith," "unmatched courage," and "iron will." The book, Ayatollah Khamenei noted, reflects Khomeini's "deep belief" in his mission and people, saying this trust "makes up half the weight" of his leadership. Ayatollah Khamenei, who succeeded Khomeini as Leader in 1989, also stressed the book's value for young Iranians. "Reading this book is highly beneficial for our youth," he wrote. The book 'Ruhollah' comes as Iran prepares to mark the 36th anniversary of Ayatollah Khomeini's death on June 3.

City Theater Festival returns after eight-year hiatus



Arts & Culture Desk

Tehran's long-paused City Theater Festival will return this year after an eight-year break, the city's top cultural official said June 1, marking a renewed push to spotlight the capital's layered identity. Mehrdad Bagheri, head of Tehran's Cultural and Artistic Organization, confirmed the seventh City Theater Festival will be held in 2025. The last edition ran in the early 2010s before falling silent, IRNA reported. "We're coming back with a fresh approach," Bagheri said, pointing to changes in both execution and themes. This year's edition will focus on "the many layers of Tehran," from the city's storied past to its evolving future. The event aims to "build social cohesion" and rekindle a sense of belonging, especially among the younger generation. Organizers also hope to highlight old Tehran traditions like Pahlavani (heroism), chivalry, faith, and community spirit. Between 2010 and 2016, the festival ran six successful editions and helped launch a "new wave" of young, creative performers into the national spotlight, Bagheri noted. A policy committee meeting is scheduled soon to finalize the framework.

Foreign Ministry's spokesman says Persian seen as 'unique bridge' in diplomacy

Scholars urge global efforts to preserve, promote Iran's rich heritage

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's Foreign Ministry's spokesman Esmail Baqaei said on Sunday that the Persian language holds a "unique" role in diplomatic dialogue and remains a living legacy of a civilization that once stretched from India to the Balkans. Speaking at the 11th annual gathering of Persian language educators and institutions, hosted on June 1 by the Saadi Foundation in Tehran, Baqaei stressed that Persian is more than a language — it's a carrier of "thought, wisdom, and history." He called Iranian diplomats "ambassadors" not only of the Islamic Republic, but of Persian culture. "We believe Persian can still play a remarkable role in international diplomacy," he told a hall packed with university officials, diplomats, and cultural experts. Baqaei cited long-standing cooperation between the foreign ministry, the Saadi Foundation, and the ministry of science as key to advancing Persian instruction abroad, despite what he called "tight budgets and limitations" in

some countries. He closed his remarks with couplets from 13th-century poet Rumi, urging listeners to "speak Persian" and not let the language fade into silence. Gholam-Ali Haddad-Adel, head of the Saadi Foundation and a former speaker of Iran's parliament, echoed the call for deeper investment in language education. "We must build the infrastructure," he said, "and help every institution that wants to teach Persian." Tracing the foundation's roots to a small program launched at Allameh Tabataba'i University four decades ago, Haddad-Adel said the aim has always been to train teachers and produce textbooks designed for non-native speakers. "We started with zero," he noted. "Today we're nearing 100 published books." Still, he warned that Persian needs a standardized certification system like TOEFL or IELTS. Without such benchmarks, global learners may hesitate. "Our burden is heavy," he said. "But we cannot afford to fall behind." Saeed Habiba, deputy science



minister and head of Iran's student affairs organization, called Persian the "second great classical language" after Greek and said it must evolve into a modern scientific tool. "Diplomatic science begins with language," he said. "If we lose that, we lose our voice." The conference also featured panels on artificial intelli-

gence, educational technology, and student recruitment. A cooperation agreement between Iran University of Medical Sciences and the Saadi Foundation was signed on the sidelines. Haddad-Adel wrapped up the event with a nod to the growing interest in Persian around the world. "Even if we lose



Iran's Foreign Ministry's spokesman Esmail Baqaei speaks at the 11th annual gathering of Persian language educators and institutions in Tehran on June 1, 2025.
● IRNA

motivation," he said, "there are still people out there eager to learn our language."

50 years of Iranology in Japan

Japanese scholar stresses need to preserve Persian heritage



Arts & Culture Desk

Hashem Rajabzadeh, a leading scholar of Persian language and literature at Osaka University of Foreign Studies, offered what he called a "clear picture" of the past, present and future of Iranian studies in Japan during a symposium at the Iranology Foundation in Tehran. Rajabzadeh, who has spent more than five decades bridging cultures, said efforts to introduce Iranian heritage to Japanese audiences remain "unfinished business." The event, attended by researchers, professors and students, centered on his life's work in promoting Iranian culture and literature in Japan.

"Few have walked this road," he said, reflecting on his journey since 1973, when he moved to Japan and immersed himself in cultural and linguistic research. He emphasized the need to preserve and publicize neglected Persian texts. Among his major contributions is the compilation and translation of Japanese travelogues about Iran, including the 19th-century "Sheila," penned by the first Japanese diplomatic mission to Qajar-era Iran. He noted the book's detailed account of Iran's political and cultural fabric, but pointed out the need for a more polished edition for today's readers. Rajabzadeh also discussed the publication of Fazlollah Hamedani's



Hashem Rajabzadeh (L), a leading scholar of Persian language and literature at Osaka University of Foreign Studies addresses a symposium at the Iranology Foundation in Tehran on June 1, 2025.
● IRNA

theological treatises, a project completed in collaboration with Gholam-Ali Haddad-Adel, head of Iran's Academy of Persian Language and Literature. He cited his regular research column "Cheshmeh-ye Khorshid" in journals such as Kelk and Bukhara, now slated for release as a book series. Though the first volume was printed ten years ago, half the thousand-copy run remains in storage due to distribution and paper shortages. Still, follow-up volumes are ready for press. He pointed to long-standing Japanese-Iranian cooperation in archaeology, recalling projects at Persepolis and studies in the village of Khey-rabad. Rajabzadeh praised the late Japanese Iranologist Uno for choosing Khey-rabad as a base for field research, producing 'Khey-rabadnameh,' a work now regarded as a benchmark in Iranian rural studies. "Fifty years of research show how Marvdasht grew from a small village into a major city," he said, adding that a Persian edition of those findings will soon be published.

When asked about Japanese readers' familiarity with Persian classics, Rajabzadeh singled out Omar Khayyam as an exception. "No other Iranian poet has achieved that level of recognition in Japan," he said. He noted Japanese translations of 'Shahnameh' (under the title "Oshu"), as well as selections from Hafez and Rumi, though he admitted they were adapted to Japanese literary tastes rather than Persian ones. "Still, they're valuable," he said. Rajabzadeh drew a line between art and literature, saying Japanese audiences have connected more deeply with Iranian visual arts — especially calligraphy and painting. He mentioned students who had written theses on Persian calligraphy and highlighted the photo archive of Japanese photographer Banri Namikawa, whose images of Isfahan are now housed in a museum named after him in Japan. On the institutional front, Rajabzadeh named the University of Tokyo of Foreign Studies and Osaka University as Japan's leading centers for Iranology. Both schools have supported research and offered Persian language programs for decades. Addressing a question about the influence of European thought on Japanese Iranology, he argued that while early scholars were "inspired" by Western models, the field has matured into a uniquely Eastern approach to Eastern studies.