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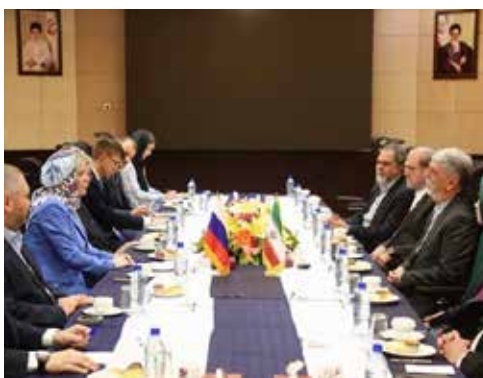
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Araghchi: Any move against Iran at IAEA will be met with 'appropriate response'

International Desk

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi warned on Tuesday that any "unwise and destructive decision" at the UN nuclear agency against Iran will be met with an "appropriate response" from Tehran.

The Iranian foreign minister in a phone call with his Japanese counterpart Takeshi Iwaya said that the responsibility for the consequences of such move at the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) falls on those who instrumentalize the UN agency for their political purposes. There are reports that the United States, Britain, France and Germany plan to submit a draft resolution to the 35-member board on Thursday, creating a window to trigger the snapback of all UN sanctions on Tehran under the 2015 nuclear deal before the mechanism expires in October.

The resolution, which Iran views as a politically motivated step, would accuse Iran of failing to meet its obliga-

tions under the agreement.

Referring to Iran's principled position on safeguarding the "legitimate interests and undeniable rights" of the Iranian people to benefit from peaceful nuclear energy, Araghchi criticized the "provocative move" by the US and the three European countries in putting forward the anti-Iran resolution amid ongoing nuclear negotiations between Tehran and Washington.

Araghchi reiterated that Iran will never move toward production of nuclear weapons and will not back down from its rights to peaceful nuclear energy. Pointing to Japan's balanced positions in its foreign policy, Iran's top diplomat expressed hope that Japan and other IAEA member states would take appropriate stances and measures to strengthen the path of dialogue and engagement.

The spokesman for the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Behrouz Kamalvandi also warned on Monday that Iran will take retaliatory measures if the IAEA adopts the resolution.



Abbas Araghchi

Kamalvandi said Iran has warned in previous resolutions, but they did not pay attention, and the result was that we increased the production of 60 percent enrichment by 7 times, launched 20 chains, and installed advanced 13th-generation machines. The Japan's foreign minister welcomed the continuation of Iran-US talks and emphasized Iran's legitimate right to peaceful nuclear energy.



Takeshi Iwaya

The IAEA Board of Governors has started its regular June meeting at the Agency's headquarters in Vienna. Representatives from the 35 member countries of the IAEA Board of Governors are participating in the crucial quarterly meeting which began on Monday and will last until Friday.

IAEA Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi delivered an introductory statement to the meeting on Monday, during

which he called on Iran to fully cooperate with the agency after he claimed that the agency has found man-made uranium particles at three undeclared locations in Iran.

"Unless and until Iran assists the Agency in resolving the outstanding safeguards issues, the Agency will not be in a position to provide assurance that Iran's nuclear program is exclusively peaceful", Grossi said.

Intelligence Ministry: Iran deals 'crushing blow' to Israel over secret documents



Israel's Dimona nuclear facility

International Desk

Iran's Intelligence Ministry said on Tuesday that the country dealt a "crushing blow" to Israel after it managed to obtain the regime's secret documents in an "unprecedented and complicated operation".

The ministry said in a statement that the "historic mission" — designed to access the regime's most sensitive, strategic, and highly classified documents — was successfully concluded despite strict security measures put in place by the regime.

Iran's Intelligence Minister Esmail Khatib said on Sunday that the country has obtained thousands of secret Israeli documents in an "extensive and complicated operation".

Khatib called the documents a trove of "strategic, operational, and scientific information".

The minister added that the documents are related to the regime's nuclear facilities, its relations with the United States, Europe and some other countries as well as information that will help Iran enhance its offensive capabilities.

The ministry in its statement said that the documents hold strategic, practical, research, and scientific value. They contain a wide range of information, part of which are related to Israel's "illegal and covert nuclear weapons programs" as well as ties with American and European institutions, covering the regime's

current and future nuclear plans. The documents also include information about Israel's military and missile programs, scientific and technical projects, as well as the names, profiles, photos and addresses of the managers, officials, and scientists involved in the projects.

The documents clearly reveal how the United States and certain European countries have played — and continue to play — a supporting role in advancing the weapons programs of the Israeli regime, while accusing Iran of pursuing non-peaceful activities, the ministry's statement said.

The Chief Commander of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Major General Hossein Salami said the Islamic Republic will be able to strike potential Israeli targets "more precisely" now after it managed to obtain the secret documents of the regime.

Iran: New round of nuclear talks with US planned for Sunday

Trump calls Iranians good negotiators but tough

International Desk

Iran's Foreign Ministry said a new round of nuclear talks with the United States is being planned for Sunday, after US President Donald Trump said it was expected on Thursday.

"The next round of Iran-US indirect talks is being planned for next Sunday in Muscat," Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei said in a statement Tuesday.

Iran and the United States have held five rounds of talks since April to thrash out a new nuclear deal to replace the 2015 accord with major powers that Trump abandoned during his first term in 2018.

On May 31, after the fifth round of talks, Iran said it had received "elements" of a US proposal for a nuclear deal, with Araghchi later saying the text contained "ambiguities".

Iran said on Monday the US proposal was "lacking elements" reflective of the previous negotiations and that it would present a "reasonable, logical and balanced" counter-proposal to the United States through mediator Oman.

Trump said on Monday that the next round of the talks could clarify if a nuclear deal is possible or not. He made clear that the two sides remained at odds over Iran's uranium enrichment.

"We're doing a lot of work on Iran right now," Trump said at an economic event at the White House.

"They are good negotiators, but they're tough. Sometimes they can be too tough, that's the problem," Trump added.

Esmail Baqaei
IRNA

"They're just asking for things that you can't do. They don't want to give up what they have to give up," Trump told reporters at the White House. "They seek enrichment. We can't have enrichment."

Iran and the United States have recently been locked in a diplomatic standoff over Iran's uranium enrichment, with Tehran defending it as a "non-negotiable" right and Washington calling it as a "red line".

On Monday, Baqaei criticized the US proposal as "lacking elements" reflective of the previous rounds of negotiations, without providing further details.

"The US's proposal is [simply] the US's proposal; naturally, any negotiating party can make proposals on their own part, but this proposal has not considered any of the issues raised by Iran," Baqaei added.

"We will soon submit our own proposed plan to the other side through (mediator) Oman once it is finalized," Baqaei told a weekly press briefing. "It is a proposal that is reasonable, logical, and balanced, and we strongly recommend that the American side value this opportunity."

UK foreign ministry staff warn of 'complicity' in Gaza

International Desk

More than 300 civil servants at Britain's foreign ministry have written to Foreign Secretary David Lammy expressing concerns about Israel's conduct of the war in Gaza, the BBC reported Tuesday.

The officials warned of potential UK "complicity" in what they called "Israel's violations of international humanitarian law" during the conflict in the Palestinian territory.

The letter dated May 16 questioned the continuation of some UK arms sales to the country, according to the broadcaster.

"In July 2024, staff expressed concern about Israel's violations of international humanitarian law and potential UK government complicity," the staff wrote, according to excerpts cited by the BBC.

"In the intervening period, the reality of Israel's disregard for international law has become more stark," they added, citing the killing of humanitarian workers, restrictions on international aid and violence by Israeli settlers in the West Bank.

The letter added the UK government had contributed to "the erosion of global norms", including through weapons exports, the broadcaster reported.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer's Labour government suspended some 30 of 350 arms export licenses to Israel in September 2024, citing a "risk" they could be used in violations of international law.



AP

London has also sanctioned settlers in the West Bank and suspended negotiations on a free trade agreement with Israel.

But it continues to supply components for F-35 fighter jets to a global pool that Israel is able to access.

"Since day one, this government has rigorously applied international law in relation to the war in Gaza," a Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) spokesperson said in a statement sent to AFP.

The BBC reported that the two most senior officials in the FCDO replied to the letter by saying the signatories could "resign" if they disagreed with government policy.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Pezeshkian: Enemies’ attempts to impede Iran’s progress nothing but ‘pipe dream’

Economy Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian commended on Tuesday the country’s remarkable progress in various scientific and industrial fields, not least in medicine, underlining that attempts by the Islamic Republic’s enemies to deter such achievements is nothing but a “pipe dream.”

Pezeshkian, himself a seasoned cardiac surgeon, made the remark in a visit to the 26th International Exhibition of Medical, Dental, Laboratory and Pharmaceutical Equipment (Iran Health 2025) in the capital Tehran on Tuesday.

“The measures taken by the US and some European countries to halt Iran’s development will not succeed. The Iranian nation, especially those who rely on domestic capabilities, will certainly remain steadfast on their path of progress,” Pezeshkian said.

“Today, as evidenced by the achievements presented at this exhibition and in many other fields, from nuclear technology to other scientific and industrial domains, valuable achievements have been made,” he added. “The enemies’ attempts to prevent



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (c), a heart surgeon, laughs during a visit to an exhibition putting on display domestically-made medical equipment and medicine in Tehran, Iran on June 10, 2025. ● president.ir

this trend are nothing more than a pipe dream.”

Pointing to the unparalleled capacities of Iranians inside and outside the country, the president said, “Iranians lack nothing compared to others in terms of intellect, capability, and technology. However, we must admit that in some cases, we have not provided the necessary ground

for the growth of these beloved ones, or sufficient ground has not been prepared for the flourishing of their talents.”

Underlining that wherever there has been a will and suitable conditions have been provided, Iranians have been able to overcome crises with honor and dignity, Pezeshkian said, “The measures currently being taken

by domestic elites and activists are testament to this capacity and are a source of pride.”

Emphasizing that the government’s determination is to support innovators, the president said, “We will strive to pave the way for these individuals, both within the country and in international arenas, so that they can become the pillar of devel-

opment for Iran and the region.”

Pezeshkian said the government would fully support stakeholders and would provide the ground for their more effective presence in domestic and foreign markets

The 26th International Iran Health Expo is taking place from June 8-11, 2025, at the Tehran International Permanent Fair-ground.

Presidential support for ‘Family Physician’ plan

In another development on Tuesday, Pezeshkian held separate meetings with members of the Iranian Parliament’s Health Committee and Environment Committee.

The president stressed that his administration is dedicated to reforming the country’s health system, enhancing services, and reducing treatment costs, particularly for underprivileged groups.

Pezeshkian said the implementation of the “Family Physician” plan would enable individuals seeking health and treatment services to incur the lowest possible costs.

The president called for the effective utilization of resources,

highlighting the importance of correctly implementing the patient referral system to enhance satisfaction. He noted that there are numerous healthcare infrastructures across the country that must be appropriately utilized to help reduce treatment expenses.

Pezeshkian reiterated his administration’s commitment to improving Iran’s health system, asserting that the proper execution of the plan will promote justice for both patients and healthcare staff.

During his meeting with members of the Environment Committee, the president stressed that environmental preservation is more critical than developmental plans.

Pezeshkian called on authorities to develop a comprehensive strategy for protecting the environment and addressing the country’s environmental needs in collaboration with university professors, experts, and activists.

The president also cautioned that the improper establishment of population centers, particularly in Tehran and Karaj, is severely damaging the environment in those regions.

Tehran, Caracas to finalize free trade deal in coming days

Economy Desk

A senior Iranian government official said the draft document for a long-anticipated free trade agreement between Iran and Venezuela would be finalized within the next two days.

Mohammad Ali Dehghan Dehnavi, head of Iran’s Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), made the announcement after a meeting with Venezuela’s Deputy Minister of Commerce Johann Alvarez to discuss expanding bilateral trade and finalizing the free trade deal.

Praising Tehran-Caracas relations as “historic and friendly,” Dehnavi emphasized the importance of leveraging bilateral ties to enhance economic cooperation.

“The agreement reflects a balanced and friendly approach. We want to see Venezuelan exports to Iran grow. Both

countries have the potential to serve as trade gateways for one another in their respective continents,” the TPO chief said.

“Iran and Venezuela can become trade bases for each other in Asia and South America.”

The finalized agreement is to cover rules of origin, sanitary and safety requirements, and lists of goods in agriculture, fisheries, and industry. The deal is expected to be signed by the countries’ trade ministers once the final text is agreed upon.

Dehnavi tied the success of the trade deal to broader goals, such as developing transport and logistics chains, attracting mutual investments, and initiating joint production.

Calling Venezuela a market rich in new opportunities, Dehnavi said, “Venezuela’s rich resources have created investment opportunities in

various sectors, and Iran can have an effective presence in many projects in the country.”

Alvarez, for his part, stated that current trade volumes between the two countries do not reflect the strength of their political relationship.

“This agreement is just the first step. Iranian and Venezuelan business communities need to engage directly to increase trade,” he said, adding that joint trade exhibitions and forums will be crucial in achieving the stated goal.

The deputy minister also invited Iranian investors to participate in projects across Venezuela, pointing to the Latin American country’s abundant natural resources and readiness to attract foreign investment.

The meeting concluded with both sides agreeing to continue consultations to identify and advance shared economic opportunities.



Deputy minister underscores use of seaplanes for economic boom across water borders

Economy Desk



Deputy Minister of Roads and Urban Development Hossein Pourfarzaneh said on Tuesday that Iran, with over 2,000 kilometers of water borders, has ample capacities for contribution to the economic and social development of various regions, stressing that the use of seaplanes is an effective solution for transporting passengers and goods.

Stressing that the establishment of seaplane terminals in the southern regions of Bandar Abbas and Jask can facilitate the movement of passengers and physicians in those areas, Pourfarzaneh said, “With this method, clinics and hospitals can be equipped in a timely man-

ner, and doctors can be brought to deprived areas. Also, by providing suitable educational conditions and transferring university professors, the groundwork for educational development will be laid.”

The deputy minister emphasized that by utilizing marine resources and fishing in such areas, the best seafood products can be transported to larger markets like Tehran, which “will not only boost the economic prosperity of the people in the southern regions but also help reduce deprivation in these areas.”

Referring to an assortment of scenic islands in the country such as Hendurabi and Kish, Pourfarzaneh said the use of seaplanes for transporting tourists can also lead to the development of the country’s tour-

ism industry.

“By creating the necessary infrastructure such as hotels and restaurants on these islands, new businesses can be launched that will help generate wealth and create jobs,” he added.

The deputy minister concluded that, given the existing capacities and the need for the development of maritime transport, planning for the use of seaplanes can be an effective step towards the economic and social progress of the country.

A seaplane is a type of fixed-wing aircraft capable of taking off from and landing on water. The aircraft is a subset of amphibious aircraft, which are capable of landing on and taking off from both dry land and water.

Role of renewables in redefining Mideast energy diplomacy



renewableinstitute.org



The photo shows the four significant regions envisioned as part of Saudi Arabia's gigaproject NEOM. Although it is claimed to be an environmentally friendly project, it is possible to notice the destructive effects of the project even from the pictures.

parametric-architecture.com



By Kamran Yeganegi
Foreign policy expert

OPINION EXCLUSIVE

For much of the 20th century, the politics and economics of the Middle East were forged in the crucible of oil. Concepts such as energy geopolitics and petro-diplomacy became synonymous with the region — from the oil shocks of the 1970s to the strategic disputes over subterranean reserves. Today, however, signs of a deeper structural shift are emerging: a transition from the geopolitics of fossil fuels to the geo-economics of renewables. In recent years, countries across the Gulf, North Africa, and the Eastern Mediterranean — particularly Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, and Egypt — have launched major initiatives in

solar, wind, and increasingly, green hydrogen. Projects such as Saudi Arabia's NEOM, Abu Dhabi's mega solar fields, and cross-border electricity ventures are more than technical milestones; They signify the emergence of a multi-dimensional, future-oriented diplomacy of energy.

Why renewables redrawing map of regional diplomacy

The shift to clean energy in the Middle East is not merely driven by environmental concerns. It reflects a strategic recognition of how power, influence, and legitimacy are being redefined in the global order. In this context, renewable energy is poised to transform regional diplomacy in at least three significant ways:

1. Diversification of national power: Renewables reduce economic vulnerabilities and equip states with new instru-

ments of soft power in global affairs.

2. Elevation of international legitimacy: Early movers in green energy gain amplified voices in climate negotiations, global trade regulations, and international institutions.

3. Construction of positive interdependence: Unlike oil — which often fostered rivalry and rentier conflicts — renewable projects, particularly in cross-border transmission and regional electricity trade, create platforms for institutional cooperation and long-term stability.

From resource rivalries to infrastructural co-futures

One of the most promising outlooks of this shift is the emergence of a cooperative energy architecture across the Middle East. A region historically shaped by contestation over fossil resources

now holds the potential to co-invest in clean energy as a platform for a new kind of regionalism.

Proposals such as a "Green OPEC" or a Middle Eastern renewable energy convergence forum are not mere idealistic aspirations. They mirror a strategic necessity born out of a changing energy landscape. Despite political differences, regional actors face shared climate vulnerabilities and a collective imperative to modernize their energy ecosystems. Technology sharing, grid interconnectivity, joint standardization, and targeted regional investment can, in this sense, become the cornerstones of sustainable regional security — economically prudent and geopolitically stabilizing.

Diplomacy to speak language of sun, wind

The global energy order is in

transition, and once again, the Middle East finds itself at the epicenter. This time, however, it is not the resources buried beneath the ground, but the forces above the horizon — sunlight, wind, and innovation — that will shape regional influence.

National prominence will no longer be solely measured by the volume of oil reserves, but by the agility with which nations build smart grids, deploy clean infrastructure, and collaborate across borders.

Those who act early will not only gain economic rewards but also earn a generational stake in designing the architecture of tomorrow's energy diplomacy.

The future of energy diplomacy will not be defined by the race for underground abundance — but by the shared vision to harness what the skies offer us all.



The global energy order is in transition, and once again, the Middle East finds itself at the epicenter. This time, however, it is not the resources buried beneath the ground but the forces above the horizon — sunlight, wind, and innovation — that will shape regional influence. National prominence will no longer be solely measured by the volume of oil reserves but by the agility with which nations build smart grids, deploy clean infrastructure, and collaborate across borders.

Why is Iran strengthening its ties with Central Asia?



By Nargiza Umarova
Researcher

OPINION

The Islamic Republic of Iran, under the leadership of President Masoud Pezeshkian, is noticeably strengthening its policy in Central Asia. The main focus of Iran's regional interaction is aimed at developing trade and transport logistics links. This aligns with Iran's "Look East" strategy, which is intended to mitigate Tehran's economic isolation.

International sanctions remain the main obstacle to Iran's integration with Central Asia. Despite their geographical proximity and significant resource potential, the total volume of mutual trade remains relatively low at just over \$1.5 billion, although this figure has grown slightly in recent years. Iran's goal is to increase trade with Uzbekistan fourfold to \$2 billion, increasing trade with



The illustration shows Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (L) and his predecessor, the late Ebrahim Raisi, over a highlighted map of Central Asia.

ies.ir

Kazakhstan and Tajikistan to \$1 billion each, and boosting trade with Turkmenistan by 30 percent.

The Central Asian states are, meanwhile, seeking out new consumer markets and more efficient connections to the world's major economies. Iran combines both these qualities,

making it a valuable partner for the region. Furthermore, Iran boasts solid scientific and technical expertise in engineering, energy, agriculture, chemicals, and pharmaceuticals, and has an investment base for joint production.

Its extensive road and railway network, coupled with major

ports in the Indian Ocean, gives Iran an important advantage in cooperation with the landlocked Central Asian republics. Tehran plays a pivotal role in the Eurasian Land Bridge connecting China and Europe by rail. Several overland transit routes from east to west pass through Iran by land, which

also involve the Central Asian countries. The China-Kazakhstan-Uzbekistan-Turkmenistan-Iran-Turkey-EU railway corridor is being actively developed, and the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan-Turkmenistan-Iran-Turkey-EU multimodal route is operating in parallel.



The Iranian deep-water port at Chabahar is of particular interest to the Central Asian republics seeking to expand the southern transit direction. Chabahar is being modernized by India, and thanks to its efforts, the port is not burdened by sanctions.

The Iranian deep-water port at Chabahar is of particular interest to the Central Asian republics seeking to expand the southern transit direction. Chabahar is being modernized by India and thanks to its efforts, the port is not burdened by sanctions. In 2023, Tehran approved Tashkent's request to join the Chabahar Agreement. The Uzbek side plans to build warehouses and a terminal at the seaport. Kazakhstan and Tajikistan are considering a similar approach. Discussions are also underway to launch transport corridors from Central Asia to India using Iran's road and port infrastructure. This would boost trade with one of the world's largest economies, which is fully aligned with the geo-economic interests of the

Central Asian states. In August 2024, container shipping began from the Indian ports of Mundra, Nhava Sheva, and Chennai to Uzbekistan via Iran (utilizing Bandar Abbas port) and Turkmenistan. In March 2025, cargo deliveries to Kazakhstan were organized along the same route. In addition, Astana intends to construct a specialized terminal and logistics center at the Shahid Rajaee port in southern Iran. These developments demonstrate the Central Asian states' determination to strengthen their ties with Tehran. Central Asian transit is also very important for Iran, given the reorientation of its foreign trade to the East. A full-fledged free trade agreement between the countries of the Eurasian Economic Union

(EAEU) and Iran came into force on May 15, 2025, providing for a sharp reduction in customs duties on most commodities. Russia, which is the dominant economy in the EAEU and has an impressive trade turnover with Iran (\$4.8 billion in 2024), will benefit the most from the free trade agreement. However, China remains Tehran's largest trade partner in the East. Non-oil bilateral trade was valued at \$34.1 billion in the last Iranian calendar year, which ended on March 20, 2025. The development of transport corridors through Central Asia will presumably remain a key issue in China-Iran relations and an area of heightened attention going forward.

The article first appeared on The Diplomat.



The map shows how India can access Central Asian markets through the Iranian port of Chabahar.

Economies of Iran, Japan complement each other: *Businessman*

By Sadeq Dehqan
Staff writer
INTERVIEW
\$12 billion by 2006.

The track record of economic ties between Iran and Japan shows that once sanctions are lifted, Japan can once again step into the spotlight as a major economic, commercial, and industrial partner for Iran. Diplomatic and trade relations between Iran and Japan date back over a century. Throughout this time, especially in the last 50 years, the two countries have maintained good relations. Trade volume between Iran and Japan saw a sharp increase starting in 1973, coinciding with the rise in crude oil prices. In 1967, trade volume was only \$605.8 million, but by 1977 it had shot up to over \$6 billion — a tenfold increase. After the 1979 Islamic Revolution in Iran, trade exchanges expanded further, reaching over

Japan remained one of Iran's major industrial and commercial partners for years after the Revolution because it sourced a significant portion of its crude oil from Iran. Meanwhile, Iran relied on Japan for industrial and technological goods. Japan can still play a significant role in enhancing Iran's technological level and securing its industrial supply chain, just as it did in the past. Iran's main non-oil exports to Japan included carpets, dried fruits, gas condensates, handicrafts, shrimp, caviar, and foodstuffs, while Japan exported equipment, machinery, and technical and engineering services to Iran. However, the upward trend in trade and economic exchanges hit a snag after sanctions against Iran intensified, causing trade volume to fall to its lowest point in 50 years. Japan, being a key trade partner of the United States, naturally fell in line with US sanctions on Iran. At the same time, Japan still depends on Iranian oil, making the outcome of Iran-US negotiations a make-or-break factor for future trade relations between Iran and Japan.

Iran Daily spoke with Babak Abedin, a board member of the Iran-Japan Joint Chamber of Commerce and a board member of the Iran Export Confederation, about the current state and future outlook of Iran-Japan economic relations. Below is the full interview.



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (R) shakes hands with the Japanese prime minister's visiting special envoy Tsuge Yoshifumi in a meeting in Tehran, Iran, on July 30, 2025, before the former's inauguration ceremony.

IRAN DAILY: Could you please explain the role of the Iran-Japan Joint Chamber of Commerce and the current status of trade and economic exchanges between the two countries?
ABEDIN: The Iran-Japan Joint Chamber of Commerce was established to broaden economic markets and cultural and social ties between Iran and Japan. Its vision is to bring back the level of relations between the two countries to what it was by 2029. Unfortunately, trade volume has taken a nosedive in recent years due to sanctions. The Japanese have been among the countries that strictly toe the line on US sanctions against Iran, making direct trade difficult and causing a sharp decline in bilateral trade. As you know, in the past, parts of Iran's technology, technical services, engineering, and industrial machinery capacities were built up through cooperation with Japan. Now, we are forced to bring in those Japanese industrial and technological supply chains through third countries.

What is the importance of economic and trade cooperation between Iran and Japan, and in which areas can the two countries collaborate?
There are many opportunities for cooperation. Some of these have already taken shape, especially in energy, oil, gas, and petrochemicals. Currently, the two countries can expand their energy cooperation because the economies of Iran and Japan fit like a glove: Japan needs Iran's energy resources, and Iran needs Japanese technology in this sector. There has also been good cooperation in the printing and packaging industries, especially since Japan is one of the world's two leading producers of professional printing and packaging machinery. Furthermore, there has been fruitful collaboration in cellulose industries. Japan is a global leader in electrical, electronic, and IT industries, and these are fields where cooperation can be ramped up. As one of the world's top five economies and a pioneer in technology, Japan's capabilities can be

leveraged to develop Iran's industries and production capacities. Given the sanctions imposed by Western and European countries, which create hurdles for economic, trade, and industrial cooperation, Iran must branch out beyond one- or two-dimensional relationships with Europe or even China. In this context, Japan is one of the best options for developing industrial and technological cooperation. If we shift our focus away from

Europe, Japan stands out as a very promising partner in East Asia. Japanese investors are known for making strong investments in their target markets, and we can build on this to boost industrial cooperation with Japan. In tourism, Japan is also a very good partner. The Japanese people are keen travelers with a high per capita income, spending significantly on tourism annually. Iran, with its rich natural and historical attractions, can be very appealing to Japanese tourists. Conversely, Iranians are also interested in visiting Japan's tourist sites.

What needs to be done to realize and develop cooperation in these areas?
Currently, one of the biggest obstacles to expanding cooperation is the sanctions on Iran. I believe that if the nuclear negotiations bear fruit and a good agreement is reached between Iran and the US, Japan will be one of the first markets to open up economically to Iran. Today, many industrial machines and production lines worldwide rely on Japanese

technology. Many important economic and industrial countries use Japanese equipment in their production centers. Therefore, Iran, as a country eager to develop its industry and increase production, can tap into Japan's capacities in this regard.

Does the Iran-Japan Joint Chamber of Commerce have plans to foster relations between traders and economic activists of the two countries?
The Expo 2025 World Exposition is currently underway in Osaka, Japan, running from April 13 to October 13, 2025. The Iran-Japan Joint Chamber of Commerce plans to send off trade delegations from Iran in groups of 25 to 40 people. Coordination is in progress, and registration is open for Iranian traders and economic activists to participate. The presence of Iranian delegations at international exhibitions opens up new economic windows for our traders and economic activists, which can lay the groundwork for bilateral cooperation. This will be beneficial for the country both during and after sanctions.



Babak Abedin

Given the sanctions imposed by Western and European countries, which create hurdles for economic, trade, and industrial cooperation, Iran must branch out beyond one- or two-dimensional relationships with Europe or even China. In this context, Japan is one of the best options for developing industrial and technological cooperation. If we shift our focus away from Europe, Japan stands out as a very promising partner in East Asia.



Guests watch the opening ceremony of Osaka Expo 2025 in Osaka, western Japan, on April 12, 2025. Some countries like Iran and Russia were absent at the ceremony.

Volleyball Nations League: Glimpse of the future as Iran faces Brazil in eagerly-awaited opener

Sports Desk

Iranian fans will get a glimpse of what a new era for their men's national team might be like when the Asian heavyweight takes on global powerhouse Brazil in their Volleyball Nations League opener tonight in Rio de Janeiro.

The game at the predictably packed Maracanãzinho venue will mark Iran's first competitive match in 12 months, with a new head coach in Italian Roberto Piazza at the helm.

Having signed a two-year contract – with the option of extension for another two years – with the Iranian Volleyball Federation in January, the Italian will be looking to put a lid on a dire run of results over the past couple of years for Iranian volleyball – including two dreadful Nations League campaigns, and failure to qualify for the Paris Olympics – with his ultimate goal being a spot at the Los Angeles 2028 Games. Opposite-spiker Amin Esmailnejad, who had a prolific season with Skra Belchatow in the Polish PlusLiga, will be the man to watch in the rejuvenated Iranian squad, while setter and team captain Javad Karimi is also expected to play an essential role, though his starting could be under threat by 21-year-old Arshia Behnejad, who has been impressive in training under the



Italian coach.

Pouria Hosseinkhanzadeh and Morteza Sharifi will likely be Piazza's favorite duo for the outside-hitter position, while middle blockers Issa Naseri and Mohammad Valizadeh played

the best part of the two friendly games against Italy before leaving for Brazil.

Mohammadreza Hazratpour and Arman Salehi are the two experienced liberos in Iran's squad, with both having equal chances

to start tonight's game.

The match will be the 23rd meeting between the two teams – seventh in VNL history – with Iranian managing only three wins against the South American giant in the previous encounters

– all coming at the 2014 FIVB World League.

Iran and Brazil last met at the preliminary phase of the VNL 2024, with the latter coming out victorious in four sets in Fukuoka, Japan. Tonight's game will be followed



Iranian players are seen in a training session in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on June 8, 2025, ahead of the first week of the Volleyball Nations League.

● volleyball.ir

by another formidable test for Piazza's men on Thursday.

Iran will also play Slovenia – VNL semifinalist last year – and Ukraine before leaving for Belgrade for the second week of action in the preliminary round – starting with a game against Serbia on June 25.

Piazza's side will then face Argentina and Germany before the Italian reunites with his former team, the Netherlands, in the Serbian capital on June 29.

The third and the final week of the preliminaries in Gdańsk, Poland, will see Iran square off against European powerhouses Poland (July 16) and France (July 19), who met in the Olympic final last year, either side of an all-Asian battle against China.

Iran will hope to be in contention for a place in the VNL Finals when going head-to-head with Bulgaria in their final Week 3 game on July 20.

The top eight teams of the preliminary-round table will progress to the VNL Finals – starting with the quarterfinals on July 30 in the Chinese city of Ningbo.

Basketball Champions League Asia:

Tabiat to play Japan's Utsunomiya Brex in last eight

Sports Desk

Tabiat will continue its debut campaign at the Basketball Champions League Asia today, when facing Japanese club Utsunomiya Brex in the quarterfinals at Dubai's Coca-Cola Arena.

The Iranian outfit claimed the top spot in Group A with a clean sweep of double victories, courtesy of a hard-fought 78-76 win against Ulaanbaatar Xac Broncos on Monday.

Having beaten China's Zhejiang Lions (99-85) in their opener, Mehran Shahintab's men had Stedmon Lemon to thank after the American chipped in 16 points to help the West Asia Super League runner-up overcome a nine-point deficit in the first period.

Lemon knocked down back-to-back threes and then hit a tough fadeaway jumper to trim the gap to a point, 20-19, and scored another layup moments later to end the quarter with the game tied at 22-all.

"I wanted to bring a lot of energy to get the rest of my team going. I think it worked. We had a pretty good second half, probably too many turnovers and missed a lot of open shots, but I think defense prevailed," said Lemon, who finished with a game-high 23 points, as well as three rebounds and assists apiece.

Croatian center Ivan Buva also played his part in the victory, pushing Tabiat's lead to its highest at 13 points, 45-32, following a perfect trip to the foul line with four minutes remaining in the second frame.

Buva finished with a double-double of 19 points and 13 rebounds, while Dee Bost chipped in 13 points, four rebounds and nine assists off the bench in the win. Arman Zangeneh added five points and 13 rebounds.

"If you check the statistics, we were not good in turnovers, some free throws, and in making the three. But the players did their job, especially through good defense," Shahintab said after the game.

American duo Ian Miller, who left the court with 3:02 remaining in the final quarter for incurring a pair of technical fouls, and Jordan Tolbert topped the scoring with 16 points apiece for the Mongolian club, which also progressed to the last eight, while Canadian Jordy Tshi-

manga registered 13 points and 12 rebounds.

Elsewhere on Monday, American guard DJ Newbill had 22 points, with Issac Fotu (18), Finn Delany (17), and Makoto Hiejima (17) also finishing in double figures as Utsunomiya defeated Shabab Al Ahli 105-99 to join the Emirati side and Meralco Bolts of the Philippines in securing a last-eight spot.

The winner of the today's game between the Iranian and Japanese clubs will face Meralco Bolts or Broncos in the semifinals on Thursday.

The other half of the knockout bracket will Shabab Al Ahli and Taoyuan Pauian Pilots of the Chinese Taipei go head-to-head, with winner facing Zhejiang Lions or back-to-back WASL champion Al Riyadi of Lebanon for a place in Friday's final showpiece.



Tabiat's Stedmon Lemon dunks the ball during a victory over Ulaanbaatar Xac Broncos at the Basketball Champions League Asia in Dubai, UAE, on June 9, 2025.

● FIBA



● MATTEO CIAMBELLI/REUTERS

Ranieri turns down Italy job to stay on as Roma advisor

REUTERS – Claudio Ranieri said on Tuesday he has turned down the vacant Italy manager's job, after the four-times world champions sacked Luciano Spalletti, and will stay on with AS Roma as their senior advisor. Former Napoli coach Spalletti, 66, announced his own dis-

missal on Sunday following Italy's 3-0 drubbing by Norway in their opening World Cup qualifier on Friday.

Ranieri, who recently retired for a second time after his spell at Roma last season, said he was honoured to have been offered the job by Italian Football Federation

President Gabriele Gravina. "I thank President Gravina for the opportunity, a great honour, but I have reflected and decided to remain available to Roma in my new position totally," he told Italian news agency ANSA.

"The Friedkins (Roma owners) gave me their full support and backing for whatever

decision I had made regarding the national team but the decision is mine alone."

Ranieri helped Roma finish fifth in Serie A last season to qualify for the Europa League. The 73-year-old Italian has been replaced by former Atalanta manager Gian Piero Gasperini at Roma.

Role of handicrafts in promoting cultural sustainability, global recognition

Iranica Desk

World Handicrafts Day is celebrated each year on June 10th. This day aims to appreciate and honor artists and artisans who create their works with sincerity and love. These crafts, which reflect the culture and civilization of each nation, are symbols of their identity and vibrant art. World Handicrafts Day is an important event that reminds us of the importance of artists and artisans in this field. It is seen as an opportunity to appreciate and celebrate these creators who produce artistic works with their own hands. Handicrafts symbolize the identity and civilization of every nation and community, encapsulating cultural and historical values. This day, acting as a bridge connecting people across the world, provides a suitable opportunity for exchanging culture and art. Handicrafts Week in Iran is held from June 7-13. The director of Iran's Handicrafts House stated that handicrafts are not only a part of a nation's culture but also its tangible manifestation, deeply rooted in our lives, history, and the experiences of our ancestors. Nahid Gazerani, in an interview with ISNA, remarked, "The art of handicrafts is rooted in our ancestors' lives, history, and experiences. Every handcrafted piece contains stories and narratives passed down from one generation to another. Therefore, it can be said that handicrafts themselves embody culture, and paying attention to them is a way of honoring and strengthening our national culture." She continued that the sustainability of handicrafts



● malltina.com



● chtn.ir



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● chtn.ir

depends on attention to their economic aspects. Whenever an art form cannot meet the livelihood needs of its artists, it risks being forgotten. Gazerani emphasized, "If we want our handicrafts to remain sustainable, we must take the art economy seriously. Artists, despite their love and passion for their work, need economic stability and tranquility to continue creating." She highlighted that in the era of globalization, the artworks can serve as a significant cultural solu-

tion. Iran, with the highest number of registered handicrafts in UNESCO, possesses a richness that, if managed and introduced properly, can not only stand against the homogenization of cultures but also contribute to strengthening global cultural identity. She underscored, "The position of handicrafts in Iranian identity is very prominent. Due to their grassroots origin and deep connection with daily life, they are an authentic and inseparable part of our

identity; paying attention to them is an effort to preserve and revive this identity." Gazerani added that handicrafts cannot be regarded solely as art; these works are expressive languages of history, pain, joy, and the lifestyles of various ethnic groups across the country. Many local communities have sustained themselves through handicraft production, and these arts truly reflect their culture and lived experiences. She stated, "To keep handicrafts alive within the

modern lifestyle, we must seriously update them and make them practical. Fortunately, young artists, while maintaining authenticity and historical values, have designed works suitable for current needs and tastes. This link between tradition and modernity can guarantee the presence of handicrafts in people's everyday lives." She continued that governmental and cultural institutions also play an important role in supporting handicrafts. One of the most effective measures

is purchasing handicraft products for organizational and personal use. This practical support not only strengthens the art economy but also sets an example for the general public to pay more attention to domestic productions. Institutions should focus on native arts and take them seriously as part of the national culture. Gazerani remarked, "Exporting handmade products could significantly contribute to introducing Iranian culture to the world. Although we

currently face limitations in tourism and exports, there are extensive capacities in this field. A large portion of globally registered handicrafts belong to Iran, and if we can implement proper planning, this sector can play a prominent role in cultural diplomacy." She emphasized, "Experience has shown me that the most important solution is linking the various parts of this chain together. We face a challenge called 'disconnection between producer and consumer,' and if this relationship is properly established and the concern for supporting national art is rooted in everyone's mind, not only will the financial circulation of this sector be strengthened, but the path toward cultural sustainability will also be smoother." Gazerani added, "The capacity of handicrafts in the field of social entrepreneurship is very high, especially in deprived areas. My experience in this area has demonstrated that through education and supporting vulnerable individuals, especially housewives, we can turn them into knowledgeable and capable producers. These arts, besides creating income, also reinforce a sense of cultural belonging, and this very feature ensures their longevity." She concluded by saying that his message to young people interested in this field is to pay more attention to their cultural roots. "With their motivation, creativity, and high energy, the younger generation can play a decisive role in reviving authentic Iranian arts. If their cultural choices are directed towards preserving and promoting this precious heritage, a bright future for our country's art and culture will be secured."

Sam Castle; an ancient fortress standing silent on a mountain

Iranica Desk

The Sam Castle is of great ancient origin and is built on a mountain named with the same name. Every year, with the arrival of spring, Chardavol in Ilam Province transforms into one of the country's prominent tourist and recreational destinations. This castle is a historical and ancient site, and nearby, there is a plane tree estimated to be 500 years old, which visiting it without doubt would be a delightful experience, ISNA wrote. A brief examination of the site reveals its strategic military and defensive purpose, as it is built on the highest point of Sam Mountain. The fortress comprises three interconnected yet distinct sections: two towers on the north and north-west sides, with a guard



● balad.ir

chamber inside the mountain, and the remnants of a fire temple on the southwestern side, which may have been converted into a mosque. In addition to the 500-year-old tree near the fortress,

several springs can be observed in the area. Since no plan or blueprint was available during its construction, the builders shaped the rooms and entrances to suit the natural rock formations. Overall,

the design of Sam Castle exhibits techniques similar to those of the Sassanid era, employing mortar and materials such as stone, plaster, and Sarooj (a traditional waterproof mortar). In some areas, mud was also used.

The Director General of the Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Organization of Ilam Province announced the commencement of restoration and organization projects at Sam Castle.

Farzad Sharifi added that the restoration and organization work includes dismantling damaged sections, reconstructing the stone walls, removing and cleaning soil layers, dredging, and creating channels and



● borna.news

diversionary water paths leading to the historical site. He stated that this complex consists of three interconnected yet separate parts, believed to have been formed over a period in history likely spanning from the late Parthian period to the early Sassanid era. He noted that the architecture of this fortress is of a military and defensive nature and was built on the most inaccessible heights of the mountain, as it had no pre-made plans. The designer or architect constructed the towers, rooms, and entrances considering the natural positioning of the rocks. Sharifi continued that Sam Castle was registered as one of the antiquities and historical attractions of Ilam Province on Iran's National Heritage List.

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Russia's Cultural Week kicks off in Tehran

Creative industries key to Iran-Russia cultural ties, Iran says

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's Culture and Islamic Guidance Minister Abbas Salehi told his Russian counterpart Tuesday that creative industries could "play a major role" in boosting cultural exchanges between the two nations, as Russia's Cultural Week kicked off in Tehran.

The bilateral cultural cooperation aims to deepen understanding between Iran and Russia through cinema, arts, media and entertainment sectors, according to officials from both countries meeting on June 10, IRNA reported.

Salehi met with Russian Culture Minister Olga Lyubimova to discuss expanding cultural partnerships.

The Iranian minister emphasized that creative industries spanning film, arts, media and entertainment "can contribute to strengthening economic relations between the two countries" as well.

"We have very diverse opportunities for cultural and artistic communications between the two countries, only a small part of which has been activated so far," Salehi said during talks with Lyubimova, who arrived in Tehran Tuesday morning for Russia's cultural week.

The Iranian minister stressed that media cooperation should be pursued "more seriously and deeply," noting that a joint media committee between Iran and Russia has been established with its latest meeting recently held in Russia.

Salehi argued that expanded media partnerships could help counter what he described as Western media efforts to present "distorted images" of both Iran and Russia to global public opinion. The cooperation "can help correct this image and present the cultural, historical and social realities of the two countries," he said.

More than 110 prominent Russian artists

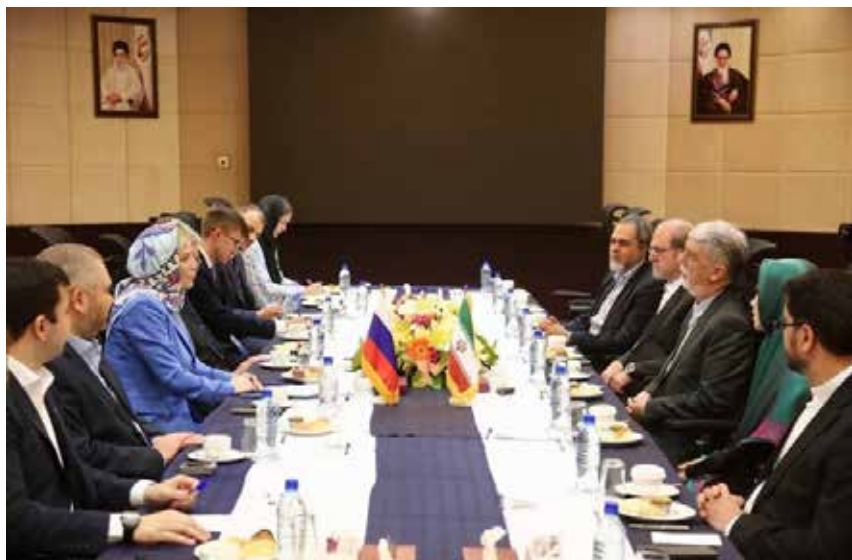


Iran's Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Abbas Salehi (3rd R) and Russian Culture Minister Olga Lyubimova (3rd L) attend a bilateral meeting at the Iranian ministry's office in Tehran, June 10, 2025.
● farhang.gov.ir

across music, film and visual arts will participate in the cultural week alongside an official delegation and cultural committee totaling around 130 people.

The program includes performances by Russia's Tchaikovsky Symphony Orchestra in Tehran and Isfahan, shows by the Lezginka artistic group, and Russian film screenings in Tehran and Isfahan.

The cultural exchange takes place under the framework of a comprehensive strategic partnership agreement signed between Iran and Russia in January 2025, which emphasized expanding cultural and artistic relations.



Iran's civilizational treasures stand tall against Western media fear: Minister

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Reza Salehi Amiri said that Western-backed media campaigns are pushing a "distorted image" of Iran to discourage global tourism, as the ancient city of Yazd officially received recognition as a world center for traditional jewelry crafts.

The minister's remarks came during a ceremony in Yazd where officials handed over the city's registration plaque as a global hub for traditional ornaments, IRNA reported.

Salehi Amiri argued that Iran's handicrafts and creative works showcase the country's true beauty to the world, countering what he described as deliberate misinformation campaigns.

"Media outlets today, backed by Western support, are working to display an ugly image of Iran, but their efforts to implement Iran-phobia projects will be neutralized," Salehi Amiri told the gathering on Tuesday.

The minister cited surveys showing over 85 percent of foreign tourists leave Iran with a "different perspective" than what they expected before arrival.



He called on all Iranians to help showcase the nation's artistic talents and creativity to international audiences.

Iran currently has numerous cultural sites awaiting global registration, a process Salehi Amiri said will take at least half a century to complete.

The country is conducting archaeological excavations in 36 regions, with new discoveries emerging daily and over one million artifacts identified for national registration.

"Iran sits at the crossroads of three major world civilizations, and if we're allowed to display what we possess, we're certainly the world's

premier civilization," the minister declared.

He claimed Iran's cultural reserves are "richer than the Central Bank's deposits."

Salehi Amiri dismissed what he called propaganda from certain countries portraying Iran as pursuing nuclear weapons, saying such "false images" cannot overshadow Iran's cultural giants like Ferdowsi, Sa'adi, Hafez and Rumi, who demonstrate the cultured and creative nature of Iranians.

The minister emphasized that handicrafts transcend mere economics, representing creativity and artistry.



Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Reza Salehi Amiri addresses the audience at a ceremony in Yazd Province on June 10, 2025.
● IRNA

Iran produces around 300 of the world's 400 types of handicrafts, which could serve as suitable alternatives to some industries with proper support.

He acknowledged that steel, copper, oil and petrochemical industries have overshadowed the country's cultural image, but stressed the importance of promoting Iran's artistic heritage.

While not opposing industrial development, Salehi Amiri said he takes pride in Iranian artisans who showcase the land's beauty through their creative works.

The minister called for educational institutions to better teach Iran's cultural heritage to younger generations, noting that even Iranian children don't fully understand Yazd's significance as part of the country's "golden triangle" geography.

Tuesday's ceremony marked the formal handover of Yazd's registration as a global center for traditional jewelry to provincial and city officials.

Iranian short film 'Raana' awarded at Milan festival



Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian short film 'Raana' claimed the best short film audience award at the Milan Film Festival during its first international screening, according to Iran's state news agency IRNA.

The social drama, written and directed by Ahmad Monajemi and produced by Mohammad Hasan Saadat Hindi, swept up the audience prize at the festival that ran from June 3-8 in Milan, Italy.

The 'Raana' story centers on a kindergarten teacher who faces a significant challenge when a prob-

lem arises with one of the children, leading to identification with the child. The film features Iranian actors including Afsaneh Kamali, Alireza Ostadi, Shaghayegh Farahani, Amir Sam Mousavi, Faramarz Roshanaei, Amir Miar, and Mahsa Shakouri.

Italian distribution company Patmos has picked up international distribution rights for the short film. The Milan Film Festival, which showcases independent films and emerging talent, provided a platform for the Iranian production to reach European audiences for the first time.

Iran calls for global cooperation to save endangered Zagros forests

Social Desk

Iran has appealed for international cooperation to preserve the endangered Zagros forests, a UNESCO-registered natural heritage site facing mounting threats from climate change and illegal exploitation, the head of the country's Natural Resources and Watershed Management Organisation said on Tuesday.

Ali Teymouri, speaking at an international conference on sustainable management of Zagros forests at the Foreign Ministry's research center, warned that the ancient woodland—home to over 2,500 unique plant and animal species—required urgent "global partnerships" to survive, IRNA reported.

Iran possesses roughly 14mn hectares of forest covering 7.5 per cent of the country's territory, with a per capita forest coverage of 1,700 square meters compared to the global average of 5,600 square meters, Teymouri said.

Iran boasts 300,000 hectares of forests registered as UNESCO World Heritage sites, making it home to some of the world's oldest woodlands.

The Zagros forests, spanning Iran's western regions, serve as a crucial lifeline for millions of local residents whilst playing a "pivotal role" in preserving biodiversity, securing water resources, and regulating local climate across the dry and semi-arid Mediterranean zone, the official explained.

These woodlands harbor exceptional genetic diversity due to their unique geographical position, hosting species found nowhere else on Earth, Teymouri noted.

However, this precious heritage now faces "serious threats" including climate change, recurring wildfires, and unlawful logging operations.

Iran's forestry authority has rolled out sustainable management initiatives involving local communities and stakeholders through social forestry programs.

Yet Teymouri acknowledged these domestic efforts fall short of requirements, stating the country needs enhanced international collaboration across technical cooperation, financing, regional partnerships, and scientific exchanges.

The official called for joint research projects, student exchanges, and shared expertise with experienced nations to design and implement sustainable forest management schemes. He emphasized that environmental challenges transcend national borders, making international funding mechanisms and global environmental facilities essential.

Regional cooperation with neighboring countries proves vital for tackling dust storms, protecting shared water resources, and combating cross-border fires, Teymouri added. Iran actively pursues forest restoration through various initiatives including a complete ban on timber harvesting from all Iranian forests, implementing nationwide forest protection schemes, and



launching a four-year program to plant one billion trees with public participation.

The deputy economy minister urged all countries and international bodies to join a comprehensive cooperation program for Zagros forest rehabilitation, describing such partnerships as "investments in our land's future and the entire region's environmental stability."