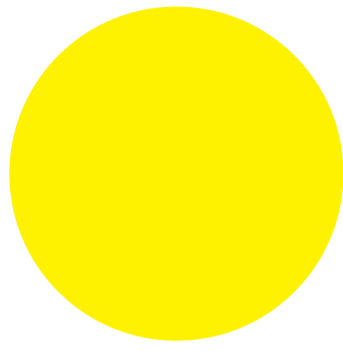


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Iranian government's spokeswoman Fatemeh Mohajerani speaks at a weekly presser in Tehran, Iran on July 1, 2025. **IRNA**

History proves Israel falters in classic wars

By Mashallah Shamsolvaezin
Iranian Journalist

OPINION

At the outset of the 12-day war, the Islamic Republic of Iran managed to swiftly restore its military chain of command after it was targeted by Israeli strikes. Under the direct leadership of the commander-in-chief, new commanders were appointed in record time, enabling the Armed Forces to quickly mobilize and launch counterattacks. Despite numerous obstacles placed by the Israeli regime, Iran pressed ahead and responded without delay. The country's military reaction soon began making headlines in mainstream media, as it effectively established a state of mutual deterrence—where Iran's operations began matching Israel's blow for blow. The Israeli regime launched a psychological warfare campaign in Tehran, attempting to sow panic with messages such as "Evacuate the city," "Everything is being destroyed," and "The country is falling apart." But the Iranian public hit back in unexpected ways. Rather than breaking down, they rallied together, and national unity only deepened—much to the dismay of the enemy. Such resilience had not been anticipated by Israeli intelligence. In fact, early assessments seemed to assume that Iranian citizens would flood the streets in chaos and that foreign mercenary commandos already stationed in the country would capture key targets. The entire scenario envisioned by Israel bore more resemblance to a bad joke than a serious strategic plan. If this was the extent of their understanding of Iranian society, it reveals a profound miscalculation. Western assumptions about a swift collapse in Iran proved drastically wrong. Instead, the tables turned rapidly. Iran succeeded in tipping the balance of deterrence in its favor quickly. **Page 3** >



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Iran not deserting path of nuclear talks despite distrust: Gov't spox

International Desk

Iran's government spokeswoman Fatemeh Mohajerani said on Tuesday that despite a lack of trust in the nuclear talks with the United States, the Islamic Republic is not walking away from the path of negotiations. Mohajerani said that the negotiations had been ongoing since the previous government and were not halted, but contradictory statements by the US officials caused problems, and in the middle of the talks, they attacked Iran – an issue that created mistrust toward negotiations in Iran. "Over the past two decades, we have demonstrated this (Iran's commitment to negotiations) as well.

Iran is committed to negotiation and diplomacy. Our diplomacy with neighboring countries and regional states proves this", Mohajerani said.

Mohajerani, citing the Iranian foreign minister, said no date has been set for the resumption of talks, and may not be held very soon.

"In order for us to decide to reengage, we will have to first ensure that America will not revert back to targeting us in a military attack during the negotiations and I think with all these considerations, we still need more time." Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi told CBS News.

In April, Iran and the US began new negotiations to resolve a

decades-old dispute over Iran's nuclear program. They held five rounds of the talks mediated by Oman. But the six round of the negotiations, which had been scheduled for June 15, was canceled after Israel launched an unprovoked aggression against Iran. The US joined the aggression by striking key Iran's nuclear facilities on June 22.

Following the attacks by Israel, Iran's Foreign Ministry said further nuclear talks with the US are now "meaningless". "The other side has done something that makes dialogue meaningless," the ministry's spokesman Esmail Baqaei said.

On Monday, foreign ministers from the Group of Seven nations said they supported the



Iranian government's spokeswoman Fatemeh Mohajerani speaks during her weekly press conference in Tehran on July 1, 2025.

● IRNA

cease-fire between Israel and Iran and urged for negotiations to resume for a nuclear deal, according to a joint statement. "We call for the resumption of negotiations, resulting in a comprehensive, verifiable and durable agreement that addresses Iran's nuclear program," the G7 foreign ministers said. The G7 foreign ministers said they urged "all parties to avoid actions that could further destabilize the region."



Iran FM says nuclear program symbolizing national pride, glory

'Tehran will seriously pursue its right to secure compensation'



Abbas Araghchi
● AFP

International Desk

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said the country's nuclear program has turned into a matter of national pride and glory, stressing that Iranian people will not easily back down from uranium enrichment.

"We have also gone through 12 days of imposed war, therefore, people will not easily back down from enrichment," the Iranian foreign minister said during an interview with American media outlet CBS News. He was referring to a 12-day aggression by Israel and the US against Iran, which began on June 13 on the pretext of Iran's enrichment of uranium.

The aggression against Iran claimed the lives of 935

people including civilians, nuclear scientists and military personnel.

Days after the beginning of Israel's aggression against Iran, the US also launched strikes on three nuclear facilities of Fordow, Natanz and Isfahan on June 22. US President Donald Trump claimed that the facilities were "completely and totally obliterated."

US General Dan Caine, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said during a news conference, "Initial battle damage assessments indicate that all three sites sustained extremely severe damage and destruction."

Rafael Mariano Grossi, the head of the United Nations' nuclear watchdog agency, told CBS News that the US strikes caused "severe damage, but it's not total

damage." Grossi said Iran could likely start enriching uranium again within a few months.

"One cannot obliterate the technology and science for enrichment through bombings," Araghchi said. "If there is this will on our part, and the will exists in order to once again make progress in this industry, we will be able to expeditiously repair the damages and make up for the lost time."

Trump recently indicated diplomatic talks with Iran could restart as soon as this week, although the White House noted no talks were officially scheduled. However, Iran's foreign minister seemed less certain about a speedy return to diplomacy. "I don't think negotiations will restart as quickly as that," Araghchi said through a translator.

"In order for us to decide to reengage, we will have to first ensure that America will not revert back to targeting us in a military attack during the negotiations and I think with all these considerations, we still need more time," Araghchi added.

However, Araghchi also insisted, "The doors of diplomacy will never slam shut." The US president has also indicated he could order

strikes on Iran again should it resume enriching uranium beyond a certain level. Araghchi questioned the legality of such action and said Iran was prepared for more attacks.

"We showed and proved during this 12-day imposed war that we have the ability to defend ourselves, and we will continue to do so should any aggression be launched against us," he said.

In response to attacks by Israel and the US, Iran launched missile attacks on Israel and the largest US military base in the Middle East, which is in Qatar.

In a phone call with his Armenian counterpart Ararat Mirzoyan on Tuesday, the Iranian foreign minister also said that Tehran will vigorously pursue its right to identify the aggressor and secure compensation through international organizations.

He stressed the international community's and the United Nations' obligation to hold the US and Israel accountable for their aggression against Iran's national sovereignty and territorial integrity, as well as their blatant violation of all principles and norms of international law.



Tehran summons Ukraine's envoy over pro-Israel 'unjustifiable' comments

The Iranian Foreign Ministry summoned the Ukrainian charge d'affaires to convey Tehran's strong protest to "unjustifiable" comments by the country's officials in support of the US-Israeli aggression against the Islamic Republic.

The envoy was summoned on Monday by Shahram Farsaei, head of the First Eurasian Department at Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Press TV reported. "By supporting the Zionist regime's military aggression, Ukrainian officials have in fact ignored Ukraine's international legal obligations regarding respect for the principles and objectives of the United Nations Charter and the four Geneva Conventions," Farsaei said. He added that the officials in Kiev "endorsed the heinous crimes committed by the apartheid Israeli regime and this issue leads to international responsibility for the Ukrainian government."

The Ukrainian chargé d'affaires was also warned about the consequences of his respective country's repeated "hostile and provocative" remarks against Iran.

Israel launched an unprovoked war of aggression against Iran on June 13, assassinating senior military commanders and top nuclear scientists in targeted strikes before attacking nuclear and military sites and residential areas.

The Iranian Armed Forces responded with missile strikes as part of Operation True Promise III, which targeted many strategic sites across the Israeli-occupied territories.

On June 22, the United States joined the Israeli regime in the assault and bombed three Iranian nuclear sites in a grave violation of the United Nations Charter, international law, and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

A day later, Iran launched a wave of missiles at al-Udeid air base in Qatar—the largest American military base in West Asia—in retaliation for the aggression.

As the Iranian Armed Forces pounded Israel and its military and industrial infrastructure, using many new-generation missiles that precisely hit the designated targets, the embattled regime was forced to unilaterally declare a truce deal on June 24.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Russia: Israel-US aggression against Iran 'will not go unpunished'

International Desk

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov condemned Israel and the United States for their military aggression against Iran, saying that "it will not go unpunished."

Sergey Ryabkov made the remarks during a visit to Iran's Embassy in Moscow where he signed a book of condolences for those killed in the Israeli regime's 12-day aggression against Iran.

"We witnessed an aggressive and barbaric act that led to the deaths of



Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov signs a book of condolences for Iranians killed in Israel's aggression against the Islamic Republic in Iran's embassy in Moscow on July 1, 2025.

● IRNA

the sons and daughters of the Iranian nation—including commanders, officials, scientists, and civilians who were posing no threat to anyone and harming no one," he said.

"We are certain that this military aggression, under the framework of international law, the United Na-



tions, and the International Atomic Energy Agency, is deemed unacceptable."

Veep casts reconstruction, modernization as key post-war priorities

Economy Desk

Iranian Vice President Mohammadreza Aref emphasized on Tuesday the importance of reconstruction and modernization following the 12-day Israeli-imposed war on the country.

"We must very quickly demonstrate that we possess the capability for reconstruction on all post-war fronts, and today, modernization and reconstruction are the most important national post-war priorities," Aref was quoted as saying by Tasnim.

"Utilizing economic drivers and investors is part of the government's strategy on the path to realizing the Seventh Development Plan."

The vice president said that no fault could be found with the economic front during the 12-day war, and the country "did not face any shortages of goods whatsoever, and any shortages in some areas were immediately compensated."

According to Aref, the war provided an opportunity for the country "to pursue the strategy of delegating authority to governors and ministers through several working groups, which had successful performance, and the strategy of the supervisory bodies during this period was advisory."

Emphasizing that attention to the production sector is the most important strategy of the current government, Aref said, "We must achieve the 8% economic growth target, but existing resources are insufficient."

Accordingly, he clarified that the government must attract domestic and foreign investment, the mechanism for which is through investment companies.

He also emphasized that "relations with neighboring countries can also help in the mutual utilization of capacities."

The vice president also stressed, "The government's

strategy is the continuation and strengthening of micro-finance facilities for sustainable employment. In this regard, businesses damaged by the aggression of the Zionist regime must be prioritized."

Elsewhere in his remarks, he clarified, "Government and non-government bodies must also place tourism-based, digital, and marine economies on their agenda with specific mechanisms related to their own apparatus to increase the Gross Domestic Product." He emphasized facilitating the presence and entry of the people, the private sector, and public institutions into the country's economic management, adding, "The duty of the government and sovereign sectors is supervision and facilitation of affairs, not direct management. Planning must be such that non-government sectors can inject their resources into the economic cycle for the progress and development of the country."



fvpresident.ir

Electric utility: National grid weathered \$21m-plus war damage with no outage



Economy Desk

The head of Iran's Power Generation and Distribution Company (Tavanir) said the amount of damage incurred so far by the Israeli-imposed war is estimated at over \$21 million, adding, however, that the estimate of damage inflicted on the electricity industry is not yet fully determined.

"The estimate of damages inflicted on the electricity industry in the imposed war by Israel is not yet fully determined; the amount of damage incurred so far is estimated at 2 trillion tomans (\$21.74m), which includes transmission lines, power

stations, and electricity distribution networks," Mostafa Rajabi Mashhadi said in a television interview, ISNA reported.

Noting that the volume of the Israeli regime's attacks was greater in Tehran than in other areas and that the electricity industry suffered more damage, Rajabi Mashhadi, stated, "Under these circumstances, efforts were made so that subscribers would not feel any power shortage and would have stable electricity."

He said three very large transformers were damaged, and the company managed to transport them from other

provinces to Tehran and replace. He added that out of 50 incidents resulting from the 12-day war, 25 incidents were related to Tehran.

"Some of these damages were repaired in the first hours, and others were compensated within two days, such that subscribers did not experience outages due to these damages," Rajabi Mashhadi said. "Components that suffered more damage have been taken out of circuit and are under repair."

Stating that repairs on 130,000 megawatts of power plants have been completed, he said, "These repairs belonged to thermal, nuclear, hydroelectric, small-

scale, and renewable power plants."

According to Rajabi Mashhadi, "All the country's power plants are in the production circuit at maximum capacity, and 150,000 employees of the electricity industry, including both public and private sectors, are striving for the stability of the power grid."

He requested electricity subscribers across the country to accompany the electricity industry during these hot days of the year with proper and optimal consumption.

During the 12-day war, four workers of the electricity industry were killed while performing their duties.

IRICA says non-oil trade topped \$43m in three months

Economy Desk

The head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) announced that in the first three months of the Iranian calendar year (began on March 20, 2025), the country's total non-oil trade reached 43 million and 489 thousand tons, valued at 24 billion and 684 million dollars.

"In the first quarter of the current year, Iran's total non-oil trade reached 43 million and 489 thousand tons, valued at 24 billion and 684 million dollars," Faroud Asgari was reported as saying by Mehr news agency.

Asgari stressed that Iran's non-oil exports in the first quarter of the current year amounted to 34 million and 476 thousand tons, valued at 11 billion and 655 million dollars.

"Compared to the same period last year, the volume of these exported goods decreased by 9.3 percent in weight and 14.4 percent in value," he added.

Asgari stated that the average customs value per ton of exported goods during this period was \$338, which is 5.6 percent less than the same period last year.

"During this period, 11 million and 133 thousand tons of petrochemical products, valued at 4 billion and 684 million dollars, were exported, showing a decrease of 28.7 percent in weight and 24.5 percent in value," he said.

Regarding the main items of non-oil exports in the first quarter of the Iranian year 1404, Asgari said, "The five main non-oil export items during this period were liquefied propane with \$874 million, liquefied butane with \$611 million, methanol with \$576 million, oil bitumen with \$574 million, and natural gas with \$456 million."

According to Asgari, "China with \$3.511 billion, Iraq with \$1.905 billion, the United Arab Emirates with \$1.592 billion, Turkey with \$937 million, Afghanistan with \$510 million, Oman with \$437 million, and Pakistan with \$420 million were the seven

main destination countries for our non-oil exports in the first quarter of the current year."

Regarding the volume of imports in the first quarter, he added, "During this period, 9 million and 13 thousand tons of goods valued at 13 billion and 29 million dollars were imported into the country, which decreased by 4.35 percent in weight and 11.73 percent in value."

Asgari also said the average customs value per ton of imported goods was \$1,446, showing a 7.7 percent decrease compared to the same period last year.

According to the IRICA chief, the main imported items in the current year's quarter included gold in unwrought forms valued at \$965 million, animal feed corn at \$883 million, rice at \$500 million, sunflower seed oil at \$493 million, and mobile phones at \$372 million.

"The main trading partner countries for imports with Iran in the first quarter of the Iranian year 1404 included the United



Arab Emirates with \$3.886 billion, China with \$3.428 billion, Turkey with \$1.986 billion, India with \$514 million, Germany

with \$454 million, the Russian Federation with \$354 million, and the Netherlands with \$340 million," he said.

History proves Israel ...

History has repeatedly shown that the Israeli regime struggles to endure

Page 1 >

conventional warfare. This lack of staying power is evident in its pattern of short-lived conflicts—be it the 5-day war, the 6-day war, or the 33-day war. Given this historical trend, the short

duration of the latest war was predictable.

Iran's "Kheibar Shekan 2" missiles played a key role with superior maneuverability designed to evade advanced air defense systems. They still remain a serious threat to Israel. Just two days before the cease-fire, I pre-

dicted that if Iran maintained its missile strikes, Israel would be forced to back down.

Israel's defense systems, including the US-supplied THAAD batteries, were stretched to their limits and failed to deliver the performance expected. This exposed serious vulnerabilities

in Israel's layered defense shield. The Kheibar Shekan 2, with its speed and agility, repeatedly proved capable of penetrating Israeli defenses and continues to serve as one of Iran's most effective tools of deterrence.

For years, the Israeli regime has banked heavily on its internal stabil-

ity and hardened infrastructure. But the cracks that appeared during and after this war suggest that its capacity to withstand even a limited-duration conflict is far weaker than previously thought. As a result, the likelihood of Israel sustaining a full 12-day war in the future now appears slim.



By Sadeq Dehqan
Staff writer

INTERVIEW

Algeria is one of the Arab countries that has kept up close ties with Iran, maintaining friendly relations over the past decades based on mutual interests and respect. Politically, Iran and Algeria have seen eye to eye on many regional and international developments, and given existing capacities, a promising outlook for cooperation in political, economic, cultural, and other fields can be mapped out for both countries.

Despite the fact that the majority of Algeria's population is Sunni Muslim while Iran is predominantly Shia, Algeria has stuck by Iran as a friend over the years. Although relations have hit rough patches, such as during Algeria's civil war in the 1990s, the two countries quickly patched things up and rebuilt their ties.

After Algeria gained independence in 1962, during the reign of Mohammad Reza Shah Pahlavi in Iran, the two countries set up diplomatic relations, though these remained moderate due to distance and lack of interest. However, following Iran's Islamic Revolution and the fall of the Pahlavi regime, Algeria acted as Iran's representative in the United States for several years.

In the years after the Revolution, the two countries have been on the same page regarding many regional issues such as the Palestinian crisis, the situations in Iraq and Syria, and developments in Yemen. Algeria's approach to resolving crises through regional countries without foreign interference has been a key shared stance with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Algeria's support for Iran's peaceful nuclear program has also been a significant factor in bringing together the two nations, with Algerian officials repeatedly emphasizing Iran's right to nuclear technology and the importance of fully implementing the JCPOA.

Politically aligned on many regional developments, this shared viewpoint can lay the groundwork for strengthening cooperation in economic, cultural, and other areas. Over the years, cooperation has picked up in various economic sectors including oil, gas, agriculture, and technology.

Algeria, the largest country in Africa with an area exceeding 2.38 million square kilometers and a population of about 47 million, relies heavily on oil and gas revenues, which make up over 95% of its export value. In 2022, Algeria's non-oil exports hit a record \$6 billion. Strategically, Algeria serves as a prime gateway for Iran to enter African markets, while Iran acts as a main corridor to West Asia, Central Asia, the Caucasus, and the Indian subcontinent. According to some statistics, Iran's highest exports to Algeria in recent years were \$123 million in the Iranian calendar year 1399 (started March 20, 2020). Although the trade balance has favored Iran, the average trade volume has tapered off in recent years. Nevertheless, given the history and potential of Iran-Algeria relations, it is expected that cooperation in political, economic, and cultural fields will step up in the future.

Recently, in May 2025, an Iranian parliamentary delegation's visit to Algeria was a positive step toward enhancing bilateral cooperation. This three-day trip aimed to deepen strategic ties between Tehran and Algiers and explore joint cooperation in agriculture, economy, and parliamentary relations.

During the visit, the Iran-Algeria Parliamentary Friendship Group met with senior Algerian officials including the foreign minister, energy minister, head of the Joint High Commission, and deputy speaker of the People's National Assembly.

Ahad Azadikhah, an Iranian lawmaker and a member of the Iran-Algeria Parliamentary Friendship Group, was part of this delegation. So, Iran Daily conducted an interview with him about the history and current state of Iran-Algeria relations, prospects for cooperation, and the outcomes of this trip.

Algeria as Iran's gateway to European, African markets



Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (3rd-L), heading a top-ranking delegation, meets with his Algerian counterpart, Ahmed Attaf (2nd-R), in Algeria on April 8, 2025.
● ISNA



Ahad Azadikhah

IRAN DAILY: Could you briefly outline the history and capacities of the two countries for expanding cooperation?

AZADIKHAH: Both countries boast strong commercial and economic capacities for developing cooperation. As you know, members of our parliamentary friendship group paid a visit to Algeria, holding multiple sessions with parliamentary and government officials. Various visits and negotiations were carried out to explore cooperation development. In my view, Iran-Algeria relations represent a rich potential for expanding international ties for several reasons: Algeria has endured 130 years of colonialism and deeply understands the darkness of occupation. Likewise, Iran has long been under harsh Western and US sanctions. This mutual understanding has set up an understanding atmosphere between the two countries. Moreover, Algeria's liberation from French colonialism in 1962 and Iran's Islamic Revolution

a few years later, which ended the Shah's rule and foreign interference in the domestic affairs of the country, are common historical points. Being Islamic countries, both share many views on Islamism. These factors combined make Algeria a strong, high-potential partner for Iran in North Africa, capable of opening up access to North Africa and Europe, benefiting both sides.

How are the current political and economic relations between the two countries? Currently, political and diplomatic relations are at a high level, but commercial and economic ties are far from satisfactory. As I mentioned, Algeria is one of the countries in North Africa that can easily be a very important partner for us. Due to its proximity and connection to Europe, Algeria can set the stage for Iran's trade and economic relations with that region. Also, Africa and North Africa hold

great potential for trade and economic activities.

Can you elaborate on trade volume and areas for cooperation?

Unfortunately, trade volume is low due to various reasons, including sanctions. The two countries can join forces in agriculture, petrochemicals, industry, mining, and related services. Iran and Algeria especially can pull off significant projects in petrochemicals and agriculture. Algeria is highly capable in agriculture, producing some crops unmatched worldwide. One obstacle to expanding trade is the absence of a joint Iran-Algeria Chamber of Commerce, which is now on the agenda. Establishing this chamber can boost and improve the trade balance between the two countries.

What are the results and achievements of the Iranian parliamentary delegation's visit to Algeria?

This trip aimed to follow up on bilateral cooperation in

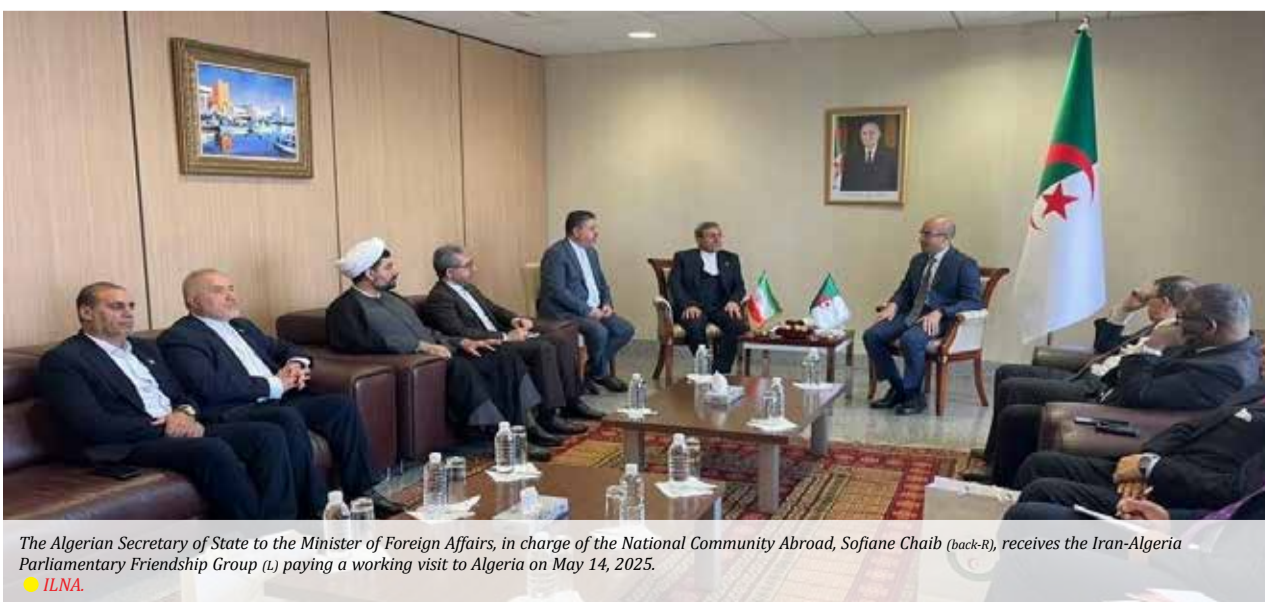
various fields, convey Iran's views on international issues to Algeria, and pursue previous agreements. The visit kicked off new momentum in Iran's relations with North Africa and laid the foundation for raising bilateral interactions.

In agriculture, Iran's capabilities for joint cooperation in greenhouse production, modern cultivation, and water resource management technologies were outlined. Also, both countries expressed readiness to team up in scientific and economic institutions for knowledge transfer, research experience, and specialized training.

The visit provided a great opportunity to get a firsthand look at Algeria's commercial and economic capacities, which will be used to hammer out future cooperation. A comprehensive report on these matters has been prepared and is ready to be presented to the executive, parliamentary, and private sectors for planning purposes.



Algeria is highly capable in agriculture, producing some crops unmatched worldwide. One obstacle to expanding trade is the absence of a joint Iran-Algeria Chamber of Commerce, which is now on the agenda. Establishing this chamber can boost and improve the trade balance between the two countries.



The Algerian Secretary of State to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, in charge of the National Community Abroad, Sofiane Chaib (back-R), receives the Iran-Algeria Parliamentary Friendship Group (L) paying a working visit to Algeria on May 14, 2025.
● ILNA

Iran's prospects in Europe's evolving energy security equation

INTERVIEW

With the kick-off of talks between Iran and the United States, hopes have been riding high for Iran to regain a foothold in the global energy market. Should sanctions be lifted, Iran could ramp up its oil and gas exports in short order and re-emerge as a reliable energy supplier — especially for Europe. The country's swift return to the market after the 2015 JCPOA agreement showed that its energy infrastructure is up to the task of boosting production and exports.

When the groundwork for foreign investment is laid out, the door would also open for the development of oil and gas fields and the rollout of new technologies in Iran's energy sector. The Ministry of Petroleum under the Pezeshkian government, in addition to its efforts to counteract the impact of sanctions, is actively stepping up energy diplomacy and expanding regional and international cooperation to showcase investment opportunities in the industry. Mohsen Paknejad, the minister of Petroleum, has stated that the ministry welcomes all forms of investment in the energy sector and has rolled out attractive incentives for investors.

Abolqasem Delfi, Iran's former ambassador to France, emphasized in an interview that the ongoing negotiations between Tehran and Washington could pave the way for Iran's return to the European energy market. He noted, "If sanctions are lifted, Iran will not only be able to step up its oil and gas exports, but by attracting foreign investment, it can also move forward with the development of its energy infrastructure." Read the full interview with Delfi below:



Fatemeh Mohajerani, the government's spokesperson, holds a press conference in Asaluyeh, Iran's energy capital, on February 18, 2025.
● SHANA



Abolqasem Delfi

How do you assess Iran's oil sales under current conditions? Given that the pressure of US sanctions is rising, yet Tehran and Washington have sat down at the negotiating table and are seeking a way out, can these talks improve the outlook for our energy sales, including oil, gas, and petrochemicals?

DELFI: Negotiations between Iran and the United States are still underway, and it's expected that some of the existing issues will be ironed out through dialogue and mutual understanding. However, no concrete results have yet come out of these talks. So, Iran's energy exports on the international stage haven't seen any marked change; In other words, Iran is still grappling with sanctions.

That said, some countries, having received licenses from the US Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), have managed to get hold of Iranian oil. Meanwhile, Iran, despite the restrictions, has been able to bring some of its oil to market. Thus, the start of negotiations between Tehran and Washington has not yet translated into a direct boost in Iran's oil exports, and oil sales are still moving forward within the constraints of sanctions. Entering the negotiation phase, however, has to some extent calmed the waters internationally, and this relative stability has made its mark on various markets, including currency, gold, and other domestic economic indicators. The noticeable drop in currency and gold coin prices is one sign of this impact.

The lifting of sanctions — especially in oil, gas, and petrochemicals — is one of Iran's main goals in these negotiations. Achieving this could bring about a major shift in Iran's energy market, with positive effects spilling over into

various sectors of the national economy. The experience of the 2015 JCPOA showed that, if sanctions are lifted, Iran can bounce back quickly in the global oil market. Between 2016 and 2018, after the JCPOA took effect, Iran's oil exports returned to normal levels, and despite some challenges, the country was able to tap into oil revenues through the banking system. According to foreign experts, post-JCPOA, Iran ramped up its crude exports faster than expected. If the current negotiations between Tehran and Washington bear fruit — and there are signs of political will on both sides — this trend could play out once again.

So, you believe that the upcoming agreement will improve the outlook for Iran's energy market?

If circumstances change, Iran's energy market will also undergo

a transformation, and a more diverse group of buyers will come into play. By broadening its customer base, Iran's economy will get on a more stable footing and see marked improvement.

If sanctions on Iran's oil and gas are lifted, could Europe become a suitable market for Iranian energy?

Not long ago, European countries such as France, Germany, the UK, the Netherlands, and Italy were among Iran's main oil buyers. However, as sanctions tightened at various points, these countries cut off oil imports from Iran. After the 2015 JCPOA agreement, the president of the European Commission visited Tehran for talks with Iran's Ministry of Petroleum. The aim was to bring Iran back into the fold as an energy supplier and help diversify

Europe's energy basket. In this context, major energy firms like Total, ENI, and Shell expressed readiness to invest in Iran.

For instance, in 2017, TotalEnergies, in partnership with China's CNPCI and Iran's Petropars, inked a deal with the National Iranian Oil Company to develop Phase 11 of the South Pars gas field. However, when the US pulled out of the JCPOA in 2018, Total, under mounting sanctions pressure, bowed out of the project. In fact, Europe had envisioned energy cooperation with Iran — including oil, gas, and petrochemicals — as a significant part of that process and in 2016 took practical steps to get the ball rolling. Nevertheless, the tough sanctions imposed by the first Trump administration brought European investment in Iran's oil industry to a halt.

Given the changes in Europe's energy market after Russia's attack on Ukraine and the arrival of new players, can Iran become a supplier for Europe?

Regarding Russia, after the war in Ukraine broke out, European countries slapped sanctions on Russian gas imports, gradually whittling down Russia's share of the European gas market. Russia, in turn, shifted its focus to markets like China. Meanwhile, Europeans, to make up for the shortfall from Russian gas, turned to the Persian Gulf states, with Qatar and Saudi Arabia making significant efforts to step into the breach in Europe's oil and gas market.

Iran, however, due to ongoing sanctions, was unable to capitalize on this opportunity to stage a comeback in the European energy market. Still, if Iran can, through dialogue and understanding, settle its differences with European countries and hammer out a sound framework for cooperation, there is hope that it could break back into Europe's vast energy market. Iran's return could not only shore up sustainable revenues from oil and gas exports but also pave the way for the introduction of cutting-edge energy technologies. European countries are well aware that, with the world's second-largest natural gas and third-largest crude oil reserves, Iran can step up to the plate as a reliable supplier and play a pivotal role in Europe's energy security. Therefore, it is essential to attract foreign investment and create the right conditions so that Iran's energy infrastructure can pick up speed and the country can reclaim its rightful place in the global energy market.

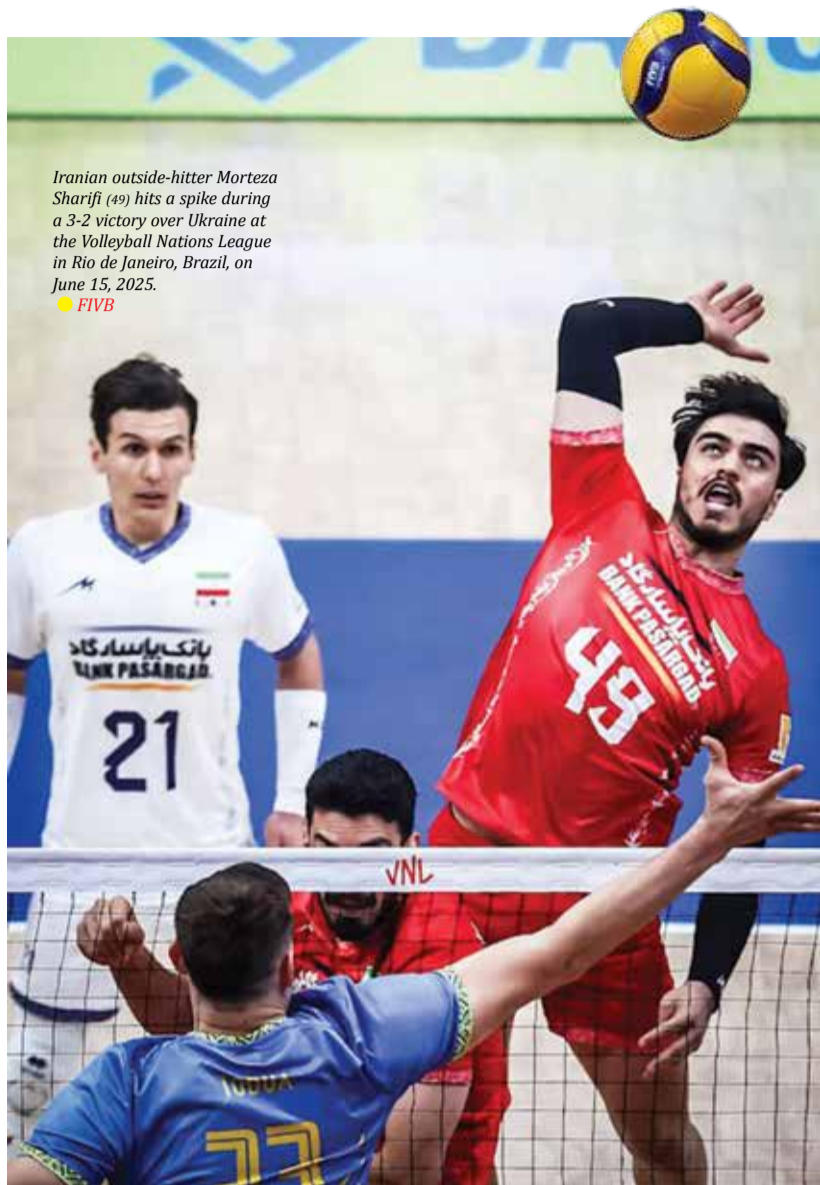


German Chancellor Olaf Scholz (R) and Qatari Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani give a news conference following talks in Berlin, Germany, on May 20, 2022, just a few months after Russia's attack on Ukraine in February 2022.
● SEAN GALLUP/GETTY IMAGES

The article first appeared in Persian in Iran Petroleum.

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after the war in Ukraine broke out, European countries slapped sanctions on Russian gas imports, gradually whittling down Russia's share of the European gas market. Meanwhile, Europeans, to make up for the shortfall from Russian gas, turned to the Persian Gulf states, with Qatar and Saudi Arabia making significant efforts to step into the breach in Europe's oil and gas market. Iran, however, due to ongoing sanctions, was unable to capitalize on this opportunity.



Iranian outside-hitter Morteza Sharifi (49) hits a spike during a 3-2 victory over Ukraine at the Volleyball Nations League in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on June 15, 2025.

● FIVB

Volleyball Nations League:

Iran given injury boost ahead of vital Week 3

Sports Desk

Iran head coach Roberto Piazza has received good news from his medical staff, as outside-hitter Morteza Sharifi will be fit to feature in the third and the final week of the preliminaries at the Volleyball Nations League.

The outside hitter suffered an ankle injury in the closing stages of a 3-1 victory over Argentina last Friday and was ruled out the final two games in Week 2 against Germany and the Netherlands.

"I had a calf strain against Serbia but still managed to play until the end of the game. Then against Argentina the next day, I twisted my ankle and I thought it might be broken as the pain was so intense," Sharifi said of the incident.

Iranian team doctor Ali Haddadi, however, rejected a serious injury setback for Sharifi on Monday, saying: "He no longer feels any pain in his ankle and is continuing with his recovery process. He will return to team training in a few days and I am confident he will be available for the third week."

Sharifi has contributed 67 points – including a team-high 14 against 14 – across eight rounds of preliminary fixtures for Iran at this year's tournament.

Iranian setters Javad Karimi and Arshia Behnejad, as well as Issa Naseri have also been dealing with injury problems throughout the tournament but Haddadi said all three will be fit for the remainder of the campaign.

Iran is 10th in the 18-team table with

a 4-4 record before the third week gets underway in Gdansk, Poland, on July 16. Piazza's men will return to action against European powerhouse Poland – second in the table with six wins – followed by an all-Asian encounter against China. Iran will square off against reigning Olympic and VNL champion France on July 19, before facing Bulgaria the following day at the Ergo Arena. The top seven of preliminary table will be joined by host China at the VNL Finals – starting with last-eight round in Ningbo on July 30.

Looking to progress to the Finals for the first time since 2022, Iran got off to a slow start in the competition under the new Italian head coach, suffering successive defeats against Brazil (3-0), USA (3-2), and Slovenia (3-2), before salvaging a five-set win against Ukraine in the final Week 1 game in Rio de Janeiro.

The Asian powerhouse, however, delivered much-improved displays in the second week of action, defeating Serbia in four sets in Belgrade, before claiming victories against Argentina and the Netherlands (3-2) either side of a 3-1 loss to Germany.

Iranian Pouria Hosseinkhanzadeh has been the joint-best server in the preliminary round – alongside German opposite Filip John – with 15 aces.

The 21-year-old outside-hitter is second in the scoring chart for the country with 96 points, following opposite-spiker Amin Esmaeilnejad, who has chipped in 100 points.

Azmoun to undergo surgery on injured ankle

Sports Desk

Iran and Shabab Al Ahli striker Sardar Azmoun is set to undergo a surgery on his injured ankle in Dubai in the coming days.

Azmoun, 30, has been out of action since a 3-2 victory over Dibba Al Hisn on May 20 in the penultimate round of fixtures in the UAE Pro League and missed Iran's final two games in the World Cup Asian qualifiers against

Qatar and North Korea in June.

The prolific striker is expected to be sidelined for four to six weeks, facing a race against time to be part of the national team at the CAFA Nations Cup – starting August 29 in Uzbekistan and Tajikistan.

The second edition of the CAFA tournament will feature Iran, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Oman, and Malaysia.

Having joined from Bayer Leverkusen last summer, Azmoun bagged 26 goals and 10 assists in 39 games across all competitions for Shabab Al Ahli in the newly-finished season – including 11 strikes in the league title-winning campaign.

Azmoun also scored eight goals, including four in the third qualification round, in the World Cup Asian qualifiers as Iran finished atop the Group A table and secured a place in next year's finals in North America.



● MOJTABA SALEH/AFC

Inzaghi hails 'extraordinary' Al Hilal after City upset

AFP – Al Hilal's Italian coach Simone Inzaghi hailed his "extraordinary" team after Monday's stunning 4-3, extra-time win over Premier League giants Manchester City at the Club World Cup.

"We knew had to do something extraordinary if we were to beat Manchester City and that is what the boys did tonight, the lads were simply wonderful," said Inzaghi after the shock of the tournament in Orlando.

"We had to be extraordinary because well, Manchester City, we all know that team. So we had to climb Everest without oxygen to win the game and we made it.

"We were great. All the players were exceptional in everything, in the possession phase, non-possession phase," added the former Inter Milan coach

whose previous club were defeated by Fluminense just hours before the kick-off at Camping World Stadium.

"It is only right in this moment, this evening, to enjoy this achievement up against the Manchester City of Guardiola. The heart that they put in tonight...." he said.

Inzaghi had only been in charge of the team for a few days before the opening game where his side drew with Real Madrid and said the credit for the performance belongs with the players. "It is barely three weeks that we are together and you can see the level of application, they really put the effort in. As a coach clearly that is very satisfying.

"The lads delivered that performance, they have reached the quarter-finals," he said.

City won all three of their group stage

games and after a 5-2 win over Juventus in their last game before the knockout stage they were viewed as one of the favourites for the title.

City boss Pep Guardiola gave credit to Al Hilal but clearly hadn't seen such an outcome on the horizon.

"It is a pity, we have been on an incredible journey together and so good place. The vibe was really good, I cannot thank Manchester City enough and especially the players for training and how they have been playing," he said.

"We were so open. When the crosses arrived, in the first action, they had the ability to pass the ball and attack and they have quick players. We created a lot and had a lot of chances against a team that defend so deep. They punished us on the transitions," the Spaniard added.



Al Hilal players celebrate after their 4-3 victory over Manchester City at the FIFA Club World Cup in Orlando, FL, US, on June 30, 2025.

● GETTY IMAGES

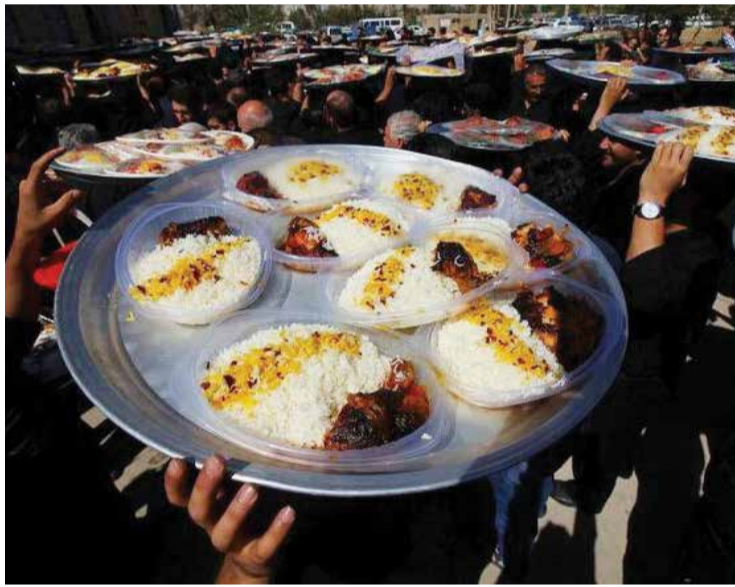
Muharram in Bushehr; a confluence of devotion, tradition, social solidarity

Iranica Desk

The lunar month of Muharram, marking the anniversary of the martyrdom of Imam Hussein (PBUH) and his companions, is not merely a religious occasion in Bushehr, the capital city of the southern province of Bushehr; it is a powerful reflection of the cultural identity and social solidarity of the people of southern Iran. Celebrated annually with profound fervor and grandeur, Muharram embodies both spiritual devotion and communal unity.

From the earliest nights of Muharram, the atmosphere of the city undergoes a dramatic transformation. Alleys and streets are draped in black, and mourning banners are hung on homes, shops, and Husseinieh — religious places dedicated to commemorating the martyrdom of Imam Hussein (PBUH). Husseinieh and mosques are among the first to host mourners, with mourning groups beginning their activities promptly. People participate passionately in these ceremonies, ensuring that age-old traditions are handed down through generations, preserving the cultural fabric of the community, chn.ir wrote.

One of the most distinctive and widely recognized expressions of mourning in Bushehr is the Dammam beating — a musical and ritualistic tradition that plays a vital role in the region's commemorative practices. The Dammam is a type of indigenous drum instrument played with a specific and coordinated rhythm. The deep, pounding sound of the Dammam intensifies the somber mood of the mourning and often reaches its peak on Tasu'a and Ashura — the 9th and 10th night of Muharram. During these nights, large groups of players, dressed uniformly, move in organized formations along the main streets of the city, creating a



moving tableau of devotion and grief. Alongside the Dammam, cymbals (Senj), trumpets, and sometimes Ney Anbans (a type of bagpipe) are played, producing a distinctive auditory experience that symbolizes the collective mourning. An important aspect to note is that Dammam beating in Bushehr extends beyond mere musical tradition; it also functions as a ritual performance capable of conveying emotional and religious messages through facial expressions, body move-

ments, and even moments of meaningful silence. The performance is often carried out by young participants, and each year, newer groups join this scene, demonstrating the ongoing vitality and continuity of this cherished custom. In addition to Dammam pounding, the recitation of Noha (elegies) in a distinctive Bushehri style also holds a prominent place. These Nohas are typically sung in the local dialect with a unique southern tone, blending local music with Ashura themes and creating

a mourning style that distinctly sets Bushehr apart from other regions of Iran. The combination of music, dialect, and heartfelt recitation enhances the emotional depth of the ceremonies. Performing Tazi'eh, a traditional Iranian theatrical performance that reenacts the martyrdom of Imam Hussein (PBUH), is another significant aspect of Muharram in Bushehr. Such performances are sometimes staged in open spaces and other times in specific courtyards. The costumes and dialects of the actors

and narrators craft a compelling atmosphere that deepens the audience's emotional connection to the tragedy. Some performances are designed to span multiple nights, narrating different parts of the event of Ashura and its aftermath, thus involving the community in an immersive and continuous mourning experience. Charity meals form an indispensable part of Muharram ceremonies in Bushehr. From the very beginning of the month, communities start preparing

sacrificial and traditional dishes. Foods such as local cuisines and special sacrificial offerings are cooked for mourners and those in need. Throughout the city, volunteer groups establish charity stations, providing food, beverages such as fruit syrup drinks, tea, and cold water, offering sustenance to all participants. The role of women in Muharram mourning in Bushehr is especially noteworthy. Many religious groups maintain separate sections for women, where they engage in reciting

Noha, reading the Holy Qur'an, and preparing sacrificial offerings. Women's groups also support the mourning processions by preparing clothes, banners, flags, and other ceremonial materials essential for the rituals. Their participation enriches the spiritual and communal atmosphere and underscores the collective nature of the observances. More broadly, Muharram ceremonies in Bushehr go beyond purely religious rituals; they function as vital platforms for social cohesion, the transmission of cultural values, and the reconstruction of collective identity. During these days, individuals of different ages, ethnic backgrounds, and social classes come together, reinforcing unity within the community. This social cohesion is a key feature of Bushehr's mourning rituals and has piqued the interest of sociologists and researchers interested in communal traditions.

In recent years, efforts to document and record the spiritual and cultural significance of activities such as Dammam beating and other rituals highlight their national importance. The presence of filmmakers, journalists, and cultural tourists during Muharram has helped showcase these authentic traditions on a broader, even global, stage, giving them greater visibility and recognition.

Muharram in Bushehr embodies a profound expression of love for Ahl al-Bayt — the family of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) — and manifests as a performative religious art, indigenous music, and social solidarity. Deeply rooted in the hearts and culture of its people, Muharram continues to be commemorated each year with increasing grandeur, maintaining its significance as a vital, living tradition that binds the community through faith, culture, and shared history.

IRNA



Strategic importance of Kordasht village in Jolfa

Iranica Desk

Strategically, Kordasht village in Jolfa, East Azarbaijan Province, held a significant role in Iran's history and served as a witness to the bravery of Iranian troops against Russian soldiers during the Qajar dynasty. This region was of immense military importance due to its proximity to the borders and its natural defenses. Furthermore, Abbas Mirza, the Qajarian crown prince, designated this area as a key garrison to oppose Russian invasions, highlighting its strategic military value. Historical records indicate that during that period, a complex of structures was built, including eight main buildings, among which the

bathhouse and the castle are the most renowned. It is believed that the early foundation of the Kordasht Bathhouse dates back to the reign of Shah Abbas the Great, initially serving exclusively the royal family. After the Safavid era, Aqa Muhammad Khan ordered the reconstruction of the structure to make it accessible to the wider public. The lime-carved decorations adorning this building are particularly unique and exemplify exquisite craftsmanship.

The Kordasht Castle played a central role in Abbas Mirza's defensive strategies against Russian advances. While historical documents attribute its construction to Abbas Mirza, archaeological evidence suggests that the cas-

tle existed prior to the Qajar dynasty, with origins tracing back to earlier Islamic periods, indicating its long-standing significance as a military stronghold.

Jolfa, situated in the northwest of East Azarbaijan Province lies along the banks of the Aras River, which flows through its northern region near the borders of Iran, the Republic of Azerbaijan, and Armenia. The city is located approximately 150 kilometers from Tabriz.

Its climate features warm summers and moderate winters, influenced by its topography, limited rainfall, and sparse vegetation. Jolfa's geographic position makes it a crucial border city, historically serving as a trade hub and a strategic gateway be-



Kordasht Castle
mrbit.com

tween Iran and its northern neighbors. In summary, Jolfa's unique geographical setting and historical significance, especially with sites like Kordasht

village, reflect its importance in Iran's military, cultural, and economic history, particularly during critical periods like the Qajar dynasty and earlier Islamic eras.



Kordasht Bathhouse
wikipedia.org

Iranian short film 'Raana' wins best screenplay at Italian festival

Social Desk

Iranian short film 'Raana,' written and directed by Ahmad Monajemi, won Best Screenplay Award at the 15th Social World Film Festival in Sorrento, Italy from June 22 to 29. The drama marks Monajemi's second international award. His film had earlier taken home the Audience Choice Award at the Milano Film Festival. This time, Rana was selected from among nearly 100 entries in various categories, ILAN reported.

Shot in Persian and produced by

Mohammad Hassan Sa'adat Hindi, Raana tells the story of a kindergarten teacher whose encounter with a child's crisis forces her to confront a personal trauma. The film explores themes of empathy, memory, and social responsibility.

Monajemi, who walked the red carpet with a "No to War" slogan pinned to his chest, received the award directly from the jury. His presence underscored the festival's broader focus this year on peace and humanitarian issues.

The cast includes well-known Iranian actors such as Afsaneh Kamali,

Alireza Ostadi, Shaghayegh Farahani, Amir Sam Mousavi, Faramarz Roshanaei, Amir Mayar, and Mahsa Shakouri.

Italy-based Pathos Film is handling international distribution. No official comment was made on the film's next festival stops, but a source close to the production said Raana "has sparked interest from multiple European festivals."

Held annually in the seaside town of Sorrento, the Social World Film Festival draws independent films from around the world, often spotlighting socially driven narratives.



Iranian cartoonists fire back with satirical blows in 'Muzzle' exhibition



Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian artists launched a group exhibition of political cartoons and caricatures on Monday, using humor to push back against what organizers described as "foreign aggression" by Israel and the United States.

The show, titled 'Muzzle,' opened at the Abolfazl Aali Gallery at the Art Bureau in central Tehran, just days after a tense ceasefire ended a 12-day military flare-up, ISNA reported.

The exhibition features 82 works by prominent Iranian cartoonists, including Seyyed Masoud

Shojaei Tabatabaei, Mohammad Hossein Niroumand, Maziar Bijani, and Mohammad Ali Rajabi. According to the Art Bureau's Visual Arts Center, the pieces tackle what they called a "media and military war" waged against Iran.

"This is a tribute to truth," said Shojaei Tabatabaei, the show's curator. "In these difficult days, our society came under serious attack from outside, and the artists rose to the occasion."

The cartoons use sharp visual metaphors, many mocking Western leaders, to portray recent events and Iran's response. Shojaei called the medium "a global language," one that "delivers deep messages with a dose of humor." He added that even Iranian artists abroad had contacted organizers after seeing the

work, asking to contribute.

'Muzzle' is meant as both a literal and symbolic response to political threats, censorship, and foreign narratives, organizers said. The exhibition was organized by the Visual Arts Center of the Art Bureau, a body linked to Iran's Islamic Development Organization. It drew high-profile cultural figures to its opening, including Mohammad-Mehdi Dadman, head of the Art Bureau; Shabab Shakiba, director of the Visual Arts Center; and Mostafa Momenirad, director of the Islamic Architecture Center. Resistance literature expert Morteza Sarhangi and language advocate Nasser Feiz also attended.

In a statement released at the opening, curators described the show as "a thunderous response to nonsense, sanctions and vi-

olations," citing recent quotes from Iran's Leader. One cartoon reportedly reflects the Leader's phrase, "We crushed Israel," following recent strikes.

The works are expected to go far beyond gallery walls. Shojaei said the team is working with Tehran's Beautification Organization and metro authorities to display select cartoons in public spaces like billboards and subway stations. Plans are also underway to adapt the artworks into motion graphics, short animations, and promotional teasers for distribution on national and international media in Persian, English, and Arabic.

"This is just the beginning," Shojaei said. "We're tapping into citywide advertising, social media, and television to make sure this message is heard."

Cartoonist Hossein Youzbashi, who contributed two pieces to the show, said artists "have a duty to reflect the truth through symbolic and artistic language." His work aims to capture "layers of reality the enemy tries to distort."

The exhibition runs from July 1 to July 15, Saturday through Wednesday, at the Abolfazl Aali Gallery.

Organizers hope the project becomes part of a larger effort, called Dot-Strike, to document and amplify artistic responses to geopolitical tension. A portion of the exhibition will appear in future media campaigns and educational initiatives.

While the tone is satirical, the message is clear: Iran may not fire the first shot, but artists will not stay silent.

A life through the lens

Iran's top camera collector dreams of int'l photography museum in Tehran

EXCLUSIVE

In a quiet corner beneath Tehran's iconic Azadi Tower, visitors step into a different era. Lantern-style box cameras used by Qajar-era photographers, massive projectors once hauled to weddings, and hundreds of vintage lenses, negatives, and photographic equipment fill the walls of Iran's only museum of its kind. At the heart of this vast archive is its curator and creator—Mohammadali Jadidoleslam, the man behind the Middle East's largest collection of vintage cameras. Born on April 6, 1952, in the historic city of Tabriz, Jadidoleslam's journey into photography began not in academia but on the streets and in the studios of mid-century Iran. "I finished sixth grade when my father took me to his friend, the photographer Ahmad Kiabakhsh," he said in an interview with the reporter of the Persian speaking newspaper "Iran". "That's when I fell in love with photography." Though his father dabbled in singing, calligraphy, and amateur photography, it was Jadidoleslam who transformed that inherited spark into a lifelong devotion. He began taking photos in 1964 and never

stopped, even during Iran's political upheavals and his two-decade career teaching first grade.

His path to formal training was shaped by the 1979 Islamic Revolution. Accepted into the Tehran Institute for Art Education in 1977, he became part of the student movement that helped convert the institute into a full-fledged university. When the Cultural Revolution closed the institution, Jadidoleslam returned to Tabriz with a forced associate diploma and started teaching—but he also opened a photography studio to stay close to his passion.

Over the years, he documented everything from street protests to quiet family moments. His early obsession with Leica cameras—"I bought one thinking it was a real Leica, but it turned out to be a fake"—eventually matured into a refined understanding of portrait photography. Inspired by masters like Armenian-Canadian photographer Yousof Karsh and American portraitist Arnold Newman, he studied English to better access photography books and magazines.

Jadidoleslam's technique stands out for its sensitivity to light and emotion. "I never tell my subjects, 'One,

two, three.' I capture them in the moment their soul shows," he says. "My goal is to illuminate their inner world through light."

One of his proudest achievements was photographing Mohammad-Hossein Shahriar, Iran's celebrated poet. Through a family connection, Jadidoleslam was invited to the poet's home in Tabriz and captured several portraits using a twin-lens Lubitel camera. But disaster struck—the lab technician overexposed the negatives. When he called Shahriar to confess, the poet simply said, "Never mind. Come again and take more." The resulting photos are now considered some of the best ever taken of the literary giant. Jadidoleslam's collection, however, goes far beyond individual portraits. His private museum houses over 1,500 items: cameras, lenses, filters, projectors, enlargers, and more. The oldest piece is an 1850 German Voigtlander once owned by the renowned Italian photographer Luigi Montabone. The smallest—a 250-gram Leica Minox spy camera. The largest uses 18x24 cm film sheets.

Among the museum's most valuable artifacts are more than 100 glass plate negatives, including the

first known photograph of a Tabriz carpet factory—bought in 1994 for 100,000 toman. Others depict Tehran landmarks like Imam Square and Golestan Palace, or scenes of traditional trades and crafts. His path to becoming a collector was gradual. After opening a studio in 1983, he began setting aside old cameras in a cabinet. "People were fascinated," he says. "So I bought more, studied their history, and created ID cards for each one. Today, I believe this is one of the most comprehensive collections in the region."

The museum draws daily visits from students, researchers, and photography enthusiasts. Jadidoleslam acts as both guide and historian. "There used to be a place in Tehran called the city's house of photos with 250 cameras," he says. "It's now closed. So my museum at Azadi Tower fills a crucial gap." Previously, his collection was displayed at the Tabriz Museum of Occupations. But poor maintenance and damage during transport forced him to shut it down. He sold many pieces at low prices, and others were broken. It wasn't until Abbas Azimi, then-director of Azadi Tower, expressed interest that



the museum found a new home in Tehran.

Today, the museum spans 500 square meters and is open six days a week, drawing visitors from around the world. Jadidoleslam even received offers to sell or export the collection, including a proposal from Dubai, but turned them down. "They said I could buy two apartments with that money," he says. "But I told them, 'This belongs to my country. I'll only retire when I die.'"

He has donated 150 cameras and 70 vintage prints to the photog-

raphy museum in Tabriz's Sa'at Tower and still keeps rare items—like glass negatives and Qajar-era prints—at home due to space constraints. But he dreams of expanding the Azadi Tower museum into an international center for the history of photography. "If I'm given the facilities," he says, "I'll bring the rest here and turn this into a world-class institution."

The museum at Azadi Tower is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday through Friday, and from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Fridays. It is closed on Saturdays.