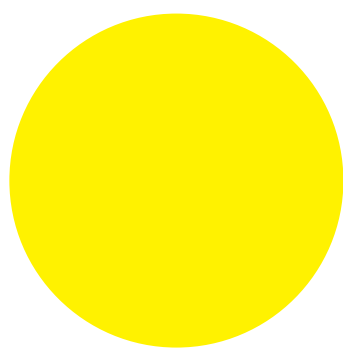


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Talks with Europe only make sense within US negotiations framework

Keeping diplomatic channels open essential

By Behzad Ahmadi
International relations expert

OPINION

Europe's stance toward Iran's nuclear program has become increasingly hostile—though it was never exactly warm to begin with. The positions taken by the three European parties to the 2015 nuclear talks—Germany, France, and Britain—during Israel's recent aggression against Iran made this abundantly clear. Their support for Israel was unmistakably one-sided.

In the case of Germany, even language deemed inappropriate in international diplomacy was used in defense of Israel. This shift underscores how much European-Iranian relations have deteriorated in recent years. Countries that once tried to play the role of mediators now appear to have firmly aligned themselves with one side—against Iran.

Europe's sharply confrontational tone during Israel's military action can be attributed to how they viewed the war—not as a localized conflict, but as part of a showdown between a unified West and a collective East. Within this framework, Iran was seen as the “weak link” in the Eastern bloc, and striking at it was perceived as a means of reinforcing a Western-led global order rooted in their own values and priorities.

The nuclear negotiations are also shaped by this mindset. European actors believe that Iran is operating from a position of weakness and that this allows them to exert pressure. Their main leverage: the so-called “snapback” mechanism, which they are poised to use to extract concessions at the negotiating table. Such tactics should not be dismissed as mere psychological warfare. While elements of it may serve that purpose, the strategy is being pursued with seriousness. Europe is clearly aiming to maximize pressure to secure the upper hand in talks.

Even before Israel's military strikes, there was a strong likelihood that the snapback mechanism could be triggered. Should talks fail to yield results, European governments—keen to curry favor with the United States—may well move forward with it. While their interests do not fully overlap with Washington's, on this issue their agendas align. Page 2 >



Pezeshkian: Return to talks conditioned on 'trust in dialogue process'

International Desk

Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian said in an interview with former Fox News host Tucker Carlson that the Islamic Republic has no problem with re-entering talks with the United States on its peaceful nuclear program but the decision is contingent upon confidence-building measures throughout the negotiation process so that the Israeli regime will not be authorized to launch new aggression on Iranian soil. Before Israel's US-backed war on the Islamic Republic on June 13, Tehran and Washington held five rounds of indirect talks mediated by the Sultanate of Oman, which were hailed by both sides as “positive” and “moving forward.” The talks were shelved after the full-scale aggression which spiraled onto a whole new level by the US bombing of the three Iranian nuclear facilities of Natanz, Fordow and Isfahan on June 22 as part of an aerial offensive, codenamed Midnight Hammer. The assault was shortly reciprocated by Iran's daring strikes on the Qatar-based al-Udeid Airbase, the largest American military base in the region.

“We have no problem with negotiations. However, the atrocities that the Zionist regime has perpetrated in the region and our country, including the assassination and martyrdom of our commanders in their homes – which is considered a war crime – and the martyrdom of our scientists along with their families and children, the killing of innocents, and the bombing of pregnant women, have exacerbated the situation. To kill one person, the Zionist regime has torn down a building on people!” Pezeshkian said. Page 2 >

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian talks to US conservative talk show host Tucker Carlson in a video interview conducted remotely and aired on July 7, 2025.
president.ir



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BRICS condemns Israel-US offensive against Iran

Araghchi: Aggression dealt severe blow to diplomacy, rule of law

International Desk

The BRICS group of emerging economies on Sunday condemned Israel and the United States for their recent aggression against Iran, saying that the strikes "constitute a violation of international law."

"We condemn the military strikes against the Islamic Republic of Iran since 13 June 2025," members of the BRICS said in a statement read during the 17th summit of the group in Brazil's city of Rio de Janeiro, which was attended by Iran's foreign minister.

On June 13, the Israeli regime launched a 12-day unprovoked aggression against Iran, which claimed the lives of 935 Iranians, including civilians, nuclear scientists and the country's top military commanders.

The US also joined the aggression by targeting three Iranian nuclear facilities of Fordow, Natanz and Isfahan.

A cease-fire proposed by the US put an end to the conflict on June 24 after Iran launched barrages of missiles at Israel's targets in the occupied territories and at the US largest military base in the Middle East in Qatar.

"We further express serious concern over deliberate attacks on civilian infrastructure and peaceful nuclear facilities," the bloc said in its statement.

The 11-nation grouping said the strikes "constitute a violation of international

law."

Addressing the summit, Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi called the aggression against Iran a severe blow to diplomacy, the rule of law, and the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) regime. He said the Israeli regime's 12-day unprovoked "military, terrorist strikes" have been carried out with the support, collaboration and eventual participation of the US.

He added that the Israeli unlawful attack against Iran violated the UN Charter, which killed and injured more than 6,000 innocent people and damaged infrastructures, residential areas and nuclear facilities in Iran.

Attacks on nuclear facilities

"The US/Israeli attacks on our nuclear facilities were in stark violation of NPT and the UNSR resolution 2231 that has endorsed Iran's peaceful nuclear program in 2015 by consensus," the top Iranian diplomat emphasized.

"The US's subsequent involvement in this aggression by targeting Iran's peaceful nuclear installations has left no doubt as to the full complicity of the American government in Israel's war of aggression against Iran," he added.

He said the strikes by the Israeli regime, and subsequently the United States, were no less than an unprecedented breach of international peace.

"No rule of law or logic allows anyone



A general view of a plenary session of the BRICS summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on July 7, 2025.
PABLO PORCIUNCULA/AFP

to target the IAEA-monitored peaceful nuclear facilities of another State simply out of speculation that the facilities may sometimes be used for weaponization," he added.

Israel's impunity

The foreign minister said, "Israel's act of aggression against Iran came as the result of absolute impunity it is granted by the US and some other European states to commit every atrocity in our region." He warned that the common values of peace and justice are at serious stake now, reminding each UN member of its

responsibility to "stand up against this grave injustice and condemn Israeli aggression firmly."

"The truth and facts must not be allowed to be twisted upside-down by Israel and its backers. Israel's aggression on Iran cannot and must not be justified by any legal or moral standards. Any justification for this unjust and criminal war would be tantamount to complicity," Araghchi pointed out.

He stressed the importance of holding Israel and the United States accountable for their violations of international law, including human rights and humanitar-

ian law.

The 17th two-day BRICS Summit kicked off in Rio de Janeiro on Sunday under the theme of "Strengthening Global South Cooperation for More Inclusive and Sustainable Governance".

The BRICS group of fast-developing economies initially consisted of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. In 2024, it was expanded to include Iran, Egypt, the UAE and Ethiopia as new members.

On the sidelines of the summit, the Iranian foreign minister held talks with his Russian, Turkish, Brazilian counterparts.

Pezeshkian: Return to ...

"We hope that after overcoming this crisis, it will be possible to return to the negotiating table. Of course, this requires one condition: trust in the dialogue process. The Zionist regime should not be allowed to attack again in the middle of the negotiations, and the war should not be reignited."

Asked whether Tehran is ready to embark on a new diplomatic path once again and what form and basis a desirable agreement with the US should have, Pezeshkian said what matters in negotiations is "respect for international laws and the rights of nations."

"In my opinion, we could have easily resolved our problems through dialogue. The framework for these dialogues could be based on international laws and the rights of nations. We have had and have no demand other than respect for international laws. It is [Israeli prime minister Benjamin]

N Netanyahu who has thrown the region into chaos and tried to disrupt our dialogue. We seek peace," he said.

"My belief is that in our small world, humans should live together in peace and tranquility, but we were attacked. Our nation has the ability to defend itself. I believe the US president can steer the region towards peace and security or plunge it into an endless war."

Queried on the Israeli regime's plot to assassinate the Iranian president, Pezeshkian told Carlson, "Attempts were made and actions were taken, but we believe that if God wills, a person lives, and if not, they might even die while walking. We are ready to defend our people, the independence and freedom of our land to the last breath, and we do not fear death. However, in the world we live in, it is obnoxious and regrettable that they destabilize the region with

bloodshed, murder, looting, and evil desires."

In his interview, Carlson also pointed to an alleged fatwa issued by two prominent Iranian clerics against US President Donald Trump, asking Pezeshkian to clarify the meaning and significance of the religious decree.

"As far as I know, they have not issued a fatwa against any specific individual. The fatwa that has been issued – which has no connection to the [Iranian] government or leadership – merely states that insulting religions or religious figures is, from a theological perspective, reprehensible and unacceptable," the Iranian president said.

"This matter is clearly not related to the US president or other individuals. Religious scholars have expressed their expert opinions, but this fatwa never implies assassination or threat."

VP says Iran's cybersecurity should reach global standards

National Desk

Iran's First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref said on Monday that Iran's cybersecurity must measure up to global standards, calling the localization of cyber technology a necessity and pressing for the formulation of a cybersecurity roadmap.

Addressing a meeting in Tehran, Aref pointed out certain shortcomings in the field of cybersecurity and said the country has not made use of its scientific potential and capabilities in the field.

Due to some negligence, "We may not have fully tapped into the high potential of the cybersecurity and defense sector in the past years," he said.

Given the skilled experts in the high-tech field, a serious short-term plan must be drawn up as soon as possible, Aref said.

Aref emphasized the necessity of maging out non-governmental sec-



tor involvement in cybersecurity, stating, "We have not capitalized on private sector capacities in cybersecurity matters, even though their economic interests call for full compliance with security standards."

Noting that universities and educational centers have not been properly utilized in cyberspace security, he stressed the need to train skilled human resources and strengthen research and technology centers.

Aref underscored that the localization of cyber technology is a necessity and pushed for the formulation of a cybersecurity roadmap.

Talks with Europe ...

In practice, the snapback of sanctions becomes a bargaining chip for Europe in its dealings with the US, particularly in extracting favors from the Trump administration. They are expected to make full use of it.

Walking away from the negotiating table is not a rational move. Iran must keep the doors to dialogue open. Negotiation should not be equated with weakness or surrender—as some voices inside Iran claim—but rather seen as a tool to protect and promote national interests on the global stage. Whether engagement with Europe is minimal or comprehensive matters less than whether it is built around preconditions that safeguard Iran's national interests. Talks with Europe can be constructive, but given the re-

cent developments, both the strategy and substance of these negotiations require reassessment. European governments have the capacity to rally consensus against Iran and to weaponize international law to apply pressure. Tehran must act smartly to counteract these efforts.

Still, dialogue with Europe remains secondary. The primary channel—based on the discretion of Iranian officials—is the negotiation track with the United States. If those talks progress positively, engagement with Europe will naturally fall into place or perhaps even become less significant. Any dialogue with European actors, including the prerequisites involved, should be considered a subset of the broader US-Iran negotiation track. The real focus of Iran's preconditions should be the

US, not Europe.

Politics is the art of possibilities, and while the outlook for Iran-Europe relations at this stage seems largely unwarranted—unless meaningful negotiations with European nations can be held on key issues. Still, it bears repeating that any deal with the US carries greater weight, and any talks with Europe should be seen as secondary to that primary track.

Should progress be made in negotiations with the US—a matter ultimately determined by Iran's leadership—positive ripple effects could be expected in Tehran's relations with Europe as well. Otherwise, the European trio is expected to remain in lockstep with US policy, advancing the broader Western agenda against Iran in a coordinated manner.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Minister says call for 5KW rooftop solar farms to launch next week

Economy Desk

Iranian Energy Minister announced the commencement of a national call for the development of 5-kilowatt rooftop solar systems next week. Emphasizing the national importance of advancing distributed electricity generation, Abbas Aliabadi said, "People can independently supply their consumed electricity by installing these systems," IRNA reported.

"Three different versions of these systems have now been designed and are ready for deployment," he said. According to the minister, the objective of this plan is to attract public participation as a significant step towards energy self-sufficiency in the residential sector.

Stressing the need for governmental support, Aliabadi said, "Municipalities or the Ministry of Roads should incentivize solar adoption through construction cost discounts or increased building allowances for relevant projects.

"With the implementation of this program, both the share of renewable energies will increase and the pressure on the national grid will decrease. This will be an important transformation on the path to the country's energy sustainability," the energy minister said.

Meanwhile, Tehran Regional Electric Company joined the first government bodies implementing President Ma-

soud Pezeshkian's order to supply part of its electricity through solar panels. Pezeshkian granted all administrative departments a deadline - effective June 21 - to supply part of their required electricity from solar energy. The managing director of the company, Farhad Shabihi, announced that in line with policies for developing renewable energies to compensate for part of the energy shortfall, the construction operation of a 3-megawatt solar power plant has begun within the premises of the headquarters area of Tehran Regional Electric Company in the heart of the capital.

"The construction of this power plant has been prioritized with investment from Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (SATBA) and the EPC contractor, Mana Energy Tamin Company," he stated.

Amid the unprecedented increase in air temperature in recent weeks and the likelihood of its continuation in the coming days, electricity consumption is predicted to reach 77,000 megawatts. This is while this level of consumption occurred last year during the peak network load periods. Shabihi told IRNA that the project has entered its execution phase, following the arrival of solar panels and structures at the site and the start of equipment installation on designated land in the headquarters' eastern section. According to the official, "The implementation of this project is an import-



ant step towards utilizing domestic capacities for producing clean and sustainable electricity in Tehran."

"Furthermore, this action serves as an effective model for developing solar

power plants in headquarters and industrial centers," he concluded. According to an assessment made by SATBA, "There is a minimum capacity of 1600 MW of small-scale distributed

solar power plants on buildings and parking lots of government offices in the country, which can perform equivalent to that of 2000 MW concentrated power plants."

FATF reviewing Iran's call for suspension of US, Israel membership: Deputy minister



Economy Desk

Iran's deputy economy minister said the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) had agreed to consider the Islamic Repub-

lic's formal appeal, submitted by Iran's Financial Intelligence Unit, urging action against the US and Israeli regime for systematic violations of international counter-terrorism fi-

ancing treaties. Hadi Khani, secretary of the Supreme Council for Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT), reported on the FATF president's response to the official letter from the Financial Intelligence Unit and stated, "Following the unfair attacks by the Zionist regime and the United States against Iran, we formally requested the FATF president to take a stance against these two principal FATF members due to their clear violation of international treaties and United Nations resolutions," IRNA reported.

Khani noted that since Iran is unfortunately not a member of any FATF regional groups, the country has sent a copy of

the request to BRICS member countries for their support. He added that despite Iran's non-membership in FATF regional groups, and the lack of formal networking and team-building opportunities with friendly and aligned member countries due to Iran's inclusion on the high-risk money laundering and terrorist financing jurisdictions list — the FATF president announced in response to the Financial Intelligence Unit's official request that "the Islamic Republic of Iran's appeal will be considered."

The deputy economy minister emphasized that building international consensus and establishing regional/global networks to safeguard national security, economic interests,

and sovereignty — through membership in regional and international bodies and the adoption of universal standards — constitutes a fundamental principle for managing transnational challenges, particularly countering terrorist financing.

"The events and lessons from the 12-day Israeli imposed war have tangibly demonstrated the support extended by most regional countries and members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), BRICS, ECO, and similar groups toward our nation, alongside their condemnation of aggressions," he said.

"These developments have also underscored the imperative of activating official platforms in international and

regional forums as prerequisites for coalition-building to align other nations with our national interests, while simultaneously highlighting the critical need to complete infrastructure for monitoring suspicious financial transactions and tracking funds of illicit origin."

While noting that all FATF standards have been incorporated into Iran's anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing (AML/CFT) laws and regulations and are currently being implemented, Khani called for expediting "the decision to upgrade Iran's membership status in the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism (EAG) from observer to full member."

IMIDRO: 30 mining investment packages to be awarded to private sector

Economy Desk

A senior official from the Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) said 270 exploration licenses within 30 investment packages valued at 18,000 billion tomans (\$200 Million) will be awarded to the private sector by the end of the year March 20, 2026."

In an interview, the chairman of the Board of Directors of the IMIDRO, Mohammad Aqajanloo announced the preparation of guidelines for private sector activity in the exploration process and declared, "Based on Article 48 of the Seventh Development Plan Law, the Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade must facilitate the financial and technical participation of the private sector in promising areas holding exploration licenses," IRNA reported.

"Currently, 270 exploration licenses have been prepared in various packages of 10 to 15 licenses each, which will be made available to interested private entities," he added.

Referring to details of the private sector mining investment package, Aqajanloo stated, "This package introduces a new method wherein the government share is set at 40% and the private sector share at 60%, reducing the risk of loss for auction winners in the high-cost environment of mineral exploration."

He emphasized, "Under this investment package, explorations previously conducted by state entities will now be carried out by the private sector, with the government assuming a regulatory and supervisory role under the framework of the Seventh Development Plan."

The chairman of IMIDRO's Board of Directors stressed, "According to this package, the private sector becomes the mine owner; such that execution is completely separated from the government sector and entrusted to the agile private sector. In other words, this approach moves forward while specialized supervisory government entities conduct oversight."

Noting that the Birjand and Divandeh mineral blocks are currently under research studies for transfer, Aqajanloo stated, "These blocks will be finalized by year-end, and their licenses will be issued next year. Consequently, we can immediately include these blocks in the 2026 investment package portfolio."

He underscored: "IMIDRO, alongside other public and private sector entities and in line with its developmental



policies, consistently supports national production, technological advance-

ment, infrastructure development, and human resource empowerment."

Austria stable, low-profile partner for Iran in startups, AI: *Businessman*



By Sadeq Dehqan
Staff writer

INTERVIEW

Austria stands as an industrialized and advanced European nation, making its economic ties with Iran particularly significant. While Austria may not be counted among the political and economic heavyweights of Europe, its reputation for staying out of conflicts and maintaining neutrality has boosted the weight and value of establishing and stepping up bilateral relations across various sectors. As such, Austria — with its robust economy and expertise in fields like machinery, engineering, and energy — can come across as a stable and low-tension partner for any country.

In 1955, Austria adopted its Declaration of Neutrality. According to this declaration, Austria will not sign up for any military alliances and will not allow any foreign military bases on its soil. This declaration is enshrined in the Austrian constitution, and since then, the nation has built its foreign policy around the principle of neutrality.

The history of Iran-Austria relations goes back over 500 years, with both nations maintaining long-standing ties in political, economic, and cultural arenas. Among the most notable milestones in this relationship was Austria's role as host for the JCPOA talks, which resulted in an agreement on Iran's nuclear program in 2015. The Iran-Austria Joint Chamber of Commerce kicked off its activities in 2018, aiming to strengthen and expand commercial, industrial, and economic ties between Iranian and Austrian economic activists, and to smooth the way for connections between the two countries. Over the years, the chamber has kept up its efforts through regular brainstorming and B2B meetings, networking, seminars, webinars, sending business delegations, and other events.

Iran Daily sat down with Alireza Nazemolroayaei, vice president of the Iran-Austria Joint Chamber of Commerce, to discuss the state of relations, especially in the economic and trade arenas. Here is the full interview:



Lab No. 1 and an entrepreneurship networking program are held with the virtual participation of 10 Iranian startup teams selected by Startup Avenue in April 2022.

● SOCIAL MEDIA

Alireza Nazemolroayaei



Austria is home to countless small businesses that are in demand worldwide. Thanks to the presence of various international organizations, Austria attracts major investment from leading global companies, setting the stage for fruitful cooperation.

IRAN DAILY: Could you elaborate on the history of Iran-Austria relations and the extent of mutual familiarity?

NAZEMOLROAYAEI: Iran and Austria share a long-standing relationship. Austria plays an active role on the international stage, hosting several key international organizations, including the United Nations headquarters in Vienna — one of the main UN offices worldwide. Vienna is also home to the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and the OPEC Fund for International Development, both of which Iran helped found.

Interestingly, a pavilion known as the “Scholars Pavilion” has been set up in the main courtyard of the UN office in Vienna, featuring statues of Avicenna (physician and philosopher), al-Razi (physician, chemist, and discoverer of alcohol and sulfuric acid), al-Biruni (mathematician, astronomer, and front-runner theorist of the Earth's axial rotation), and Omar Khayyam (poet and mathematician, creator of the so-called Pascal's Triangle). This pavilion draws in many Austrians and tourists daily, raising awareness of the contributions Iranian scholars have made to the world.

In which economic and commercial sectors can the two countries cooperate?

Austria has made great strides in manufacturing auto parts, assembling foreign cars, and innovating in automotive tech-

nologies. The country is also a front-runner in banking and has a high output of petrochemical raw materials. Furthermore, Austria has achieved significant progress in producing insulation materials, car engines, industrial machinery, and turbines. It also performs well in the production of low-voltage electrical systems, PLCs, and relay circuits.

Austria is home to countless small businesses that are in demand worldwide. Thanks to the

presence of various international organizations, Austria attracts major investment from leading global companies, setting the stage for fruitful cooperation.

On the other hand, Iran can step in to supply Austria with the petrochemical products it needs. Iran also boasts high-quality oil and petrochemical raw materials that could be provided to Austrian manufacturers. Of course, due to current sanctions against Iran, direct exports of many products to

Austria are not possible, but Iranian goods find their way to Austria through third countries.

Has the Iran-Austria Chamber taken any steps to promote cooperation in new technologies?

As you are aware, Austria is among Europe's frontrunners in artificial intelligence and is considered a hub for AI on the continent. Austria also leads the pack in startups and software, offering strong support for the creation

and launch of new ventures.

To move forward with cooperation in startups and to tap into Austria's technological expertise, including AI, the Startup Avenue event was held in Austria in 2022, organized by the Iran-Austria Joint Chamber of Commerce and the Vienna University of Economics and Business. Five hundred Iranian startups took part in this event, with the top 10 selected, paving the way for collaboration between the two sides in this field.



Kambis Kohansal Vajargah (3rd-L), the Iranian head of Startup-Services at the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber, takes a group photo with Austrian entrepreneurs at an Entrepreneurship Night at the University of Vienna in June 2025.

● SOCIAL MEDIA

China's role in easing sanctions on Iran's economy

ANALYSIS

With the inauguration of Donald Trump in the United States, the “maximum pressure” policy against Iran kicked into high gear. This strategy, designed to shake up Iran’s macroeconomic stability, was built around three main pillars:

- Staging talks for strategic disarmament,
- Imposing heavy sanctions with a focus on oil exports,
- Military threats and now action.

Alongside these main strategies, a series of secondary measures — such as humiliation and Iranophobia — were also rolled out. Yet, despite these unprecedented pressures, China, as a key player in global economic equations, stepped in with a different and counterbalancing approach to the sanctions.

Trump's three main strategies against Iran

1. Negotiations for strategic disarmament: Trump and his team set out to negotiate a comprehensive deal that would go beyond the nuclear program. Their aim was not only to halt Iran’s nuclear activities, but also to wipe out its defensive, missile, and even regional capabilities. This level of negotiation was designed to sideline Iran in the Middle East’s geopolitical landscape.

2. Oil sanctions targeting currency flows: The second and most central strategy was oil sanctions. Trump openly declared that his goal was to bring Iran’s oil exports to a standstill. In the first 100 days of his presidency, more than 180 new sanctions were slapped on Iran — an average of nearly two per day. These sanctions mainly targeted the oil industry, tanker insurance, banking transactions, and intermediary companies. These sanctions were crafted because Iran is heavily reliant on oil revenues to shore up its currency needs. Of the approximately \$120 billion in annual foreign currency demand (including imports, services, capital flight, and smuggling), about \$50–60 billion is covered by non-oil exports. This deep gap has left Iran dependent on oil exports, and Trump zeroed in on this vulnerability.

3. Military threats as a psychological warfare tool: Trump repeatedly brandished the threat of military action against Iran. These threats were aligned with a strategy of psychological pressure on Iranian society and stoking inflationary expectations. The goal was to foster an unstable economic and social environment, thereby ratcheting up public dissatisfaction and pressure on the Iranian government.

Secondary strategies

1. Humiliating Iran: Trump repeatedly played down Iran’s achievements, apparently tried to change the name of the Persian Gulf, and compared Iran unfavorably to Saudi Arabia’s skyscrapers, all in an effort to chip away at Iran’s image in regional public opinion. These moves were part of a soft war aimed at undermining national pride and sowing division in the region.

2. Fueling Iranophobia to



In this illustration, US President Donald Trump (L) and Chinese President Xi Jinping are shown in front of a picture of a B-2 bomber, which was used against Iran's nuclear facilities on June 24, 2025.
● NIKKEI

boost arms sales: On regional trips, Trump painted Iran as an existential threat to Arab countries, claiming that without a US presence, Iran would take over these states. This narrative was meant to pave the way for massive arms deals with Arab countries and to prop up the US defense industry.

Iran's economy under sanctions

Iran, with its fragile currency structure, is more reliant than ever on oil revenues. Despite efforts to ramp up non-oil exports, oil dependency still tips the balance in the country’s payments. If oil exports were to be completely halted, alternatives such as using foreign reserves (which are limited), remittances from workers (as in Pakistan, but absent in Iran), or international borrowing (impossible under sanctions) are not viable. The direct result of this scenario is a sharp rise in exchange rates, inflation spikes, economic stagnation, piling pressure on households, and growing social discontent.

China moves to counter sanctions

Despite America’s maximum pressure, China took a different tack. According to S&P Global Commodities, in May 2025, China imported an average of 1.91 million barrels of oil per day from Iran — a very high figure that at times crept up to nearly 2 million barrels daily. China scaled back its imports temporarily in January 2025 but quickly ramped them up again. This behavior highlights China’s relative economic dependence on Iranian oil. By purchasing discounted Iranian oil, China not only cuts down on its energy costs but also reduces its reliance on Persian Gulf oil routes under US control.

China's interests in cooperating with Iran

Contrary to the popular belief that China’s cooperation with Iran is a political gesture, the reality is that Beijing reaps significant economic and strategic rewards from this relationship. As the world’s second-largest economy, China needs vast and

stable energy resources to keep its industrial engines running and to ensure energy security. In this context, Iranian oil — offered at steep discounts under sanctions — is a highly valuable and cost-effective resource for Beijing. Buying oil from Iran, besides saving money, allows China to diversify its energy imports and scale back its dependence on routes controlled by the US and its allies in the Persian Gulf and Indian Ocean. This energy diversification is not only an economic boon but also a matter of national security; In the event of geopolitical crises, Beijing will not find itself up against restricted energy supplies. Moreover, China channels part of its Iranian oil imports into strategic reserves, which could give it more room to maneuver economically and politically during global crises. These purchases also help Chinese refineries and industries, which are tailored to Iran’s heavy and unique crude, run at full tilt. On the political front, continued oil purchases from Iran give

China extra leverage in international negotiations with the West. With this tool, Beijing can bargain for economic or security interests or push back against Western pressure at critical junctures. Therefore, buying oil from Iran is not merely an economic decision for China, but part and parcel of its grand strategy for energy, security, and foreign policy. So, China’s benefits include:

- Access to oil at prices lower than the open market,
- Diversifying energy sources and hedging against the risks of Western-controlled routes,
- Using Iranian oil for strategic reserves and domestic industries,
- Creating a political lever in talks with the West.

That is why the Chinese, driven by their economic and geostrategic interests, have remained Iran’s main oil customer.

Oil sanctions no longer pack same punch

While US strategies — especially the focus on Iranian oil exports — have dealt blows to the country’s economy, they no longer pack the same punch as before. The main reason is the changing lineup of global players and China’s disregard for Washington’s pressure. Because of its direct economic interests, China has remained one of Iran’s main oil buyers, preventing Iran’s oil exports from drying up completely. Thus, the structure of today’s international economy is such that the US can no longer impose its will unilaterally on Iran. Iran can, by playing its cards right and working around these international rifts, sidestep some of the sanctions pressure and keep its economic balance afloat. We recommend that, given global trends, expanding economic ties with countries independent of the Western system — like China, India, Russia, and even some African nations — could shore up Iran’s economic resilience in the face of sanctions.



An aerial view shows a crude oil tanker at an oil terminal off Waidiao Island in Zhoushan, China, on January 4, 2023.
● REUTERS



Contrary to the popular belief that China’s cooperation with Iran is a political gesture, the reality is that Beijing reaps significant economic and strategic rewards from this relationship. As the world’s second-largest economy, China needs vast and stable energy resources to keep its industrial engines running and to ensure energy security. In this context, Iranian oil — offered at steep discounts under sanctions — is a highly valuable and cost-effective resource for Beijing.

The article first appeared in Persian on Tasnim news agency.

Asian U20 Wrestling Championships: Iran targets double team crowns in Bishkek



● IAWFIR

Sports Desk

Iran will be aiming for yet another clean sweep of the men's team titles when the Asian U20 Wrestling Championships kick off in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, on Wednesday. Around 300 of young talents in the continent will vie for success at the competition, which will begin with the Greco-Roman event, followed by the women's wrestling, before the freestyle contests close off the championships on Sunday. Iranian boys collected a remarkable 11 golds, three silvers, and four bronze medals across 20 weight classes to beat Kazakhstan to both Greco-Roman and freestyle team trophies in Sriracha, Thailand, last year. Abolfazl Fat'hi will headline the Iranian Greco-Roman squad in the Kyrgyz capital, defending his title in the 130kg contests. Joining Fat'hi in the 10-man squad are Payam Ahmadi (55kg), Seyyed Iman Hosseini (60kg), Mohammad Aboutalebi (63kg), Gholamreza Abdevali (67kg), Amir-Mahdi Saeidi-Nava (72kg), Ahoura Bouveiri (77kg), Alireza Mohammad-Hosseini (82kg), Hamidreza Keshkar (87kg), and Mohammad-Hadi Seydi (97kg). Abolfazl Rahmani (86kg) – a silver

medalist last year – will be the Iranian to watch in the freestyle contests, having won a gold medal in March's Asian Senior Championships after picking up the world U20 bronze last September.

Former world U17 bronze winner Erfan Alizadeh, meanwhile, will be looking to build on an impressive silver medal in February's Ranking Series event, when representing the country in the 97kg weight class.

Reigning world and Asian cadet champion Abolfazl Shamsipour will be the top favorite in the 79kg event. Ebrahim Elahi (70kg) – a world cadet champion in 2022 – will be eager to improve on his Asian U20 silver in 2023, with Tohid Nouri competing in the 92kg contests on the back of a world under-17 bronze in Istanbul two years ago.

With a 2023 world cadet silver under his belt, Sajjad Pirdayeh will be a top contender in the 65kg class, while Mohammadreza Lotfi (125kg) will be looking to add the super-heavyweight glory to his Asian cadet gold.

Arshia Haddadi (57kg) – a bronze medalist at the 2022 U17 Worlds – Abolfazl Bakhshoudeh (61kg), and Mohammad Mamivand (74kg) complete the Iranian freestyle lineup in Bishkek.

IFSC World Cup Series:

Iranian climber Alipour misses out on speed podium

Sports Desk

Iranian climbing sensation Reza Alipour left the latest IFSC World Cup event empty-handed, finishing fifth in men's speed event in Krakow, Poland, on Sunday.

A winner of a remarkable 14 medals including six golds – at the competition, Alipour registered a 5.168-second qualification time to progress to the round of 16, before clocking 5.16 seconds to knock out China's Jinguo Long (6.00 seconds).

However, the Iranian's campaign came to an end in the quarterfinals, where he scaled the wall in 5.16 seconds against American Zach Hammer – who finished the race in 4.85 seconds – to settle for a fifth-place finish.

Former world champion and two-time Asian Games gold medalist Alipour, 31, was unlucky to miss out on the Olympic podium in Paris last year after falling short against American prodigy

Sam Watson in the bronze medal contest. The setback in Paris, however, did little to dampen Alipour's determination as he sets sights on glory at L.A. 2028.

Meanwhile, an all-Indonesian gold medal race in Krakow saw Raharjati Nursamsa steal the show with a lightning-fast 4.73 seconds for a new men's Asian record and personal best, also securing his second World Cup win after taking the ultimate prize on home soil gold two years ago. Kiromal Katibin slipped early in the final to settle for silver.

The bronze medal went to Omasa Ryo of Japan, who kept his composure with a 5.48-second effort after Hammer slipped near the top of the route. It was Omasa's fourth career World Cup podium, and his second of the season following a silver in Bali, Indonesia. The IFSC World Cup Series 2025 move to Chamonix, France, next where lead and speed competitions are scheduled from July 11-13.



● GETTY IMAGES

Iran to visit Lebanon, Russia for friendlies ahead of FIBA Asia Cup

Sports Desk

The Iranian national basketball will take part in a friendly four-team tournament in Lebanon – also featuring Syria and Egypt – in the coming weeks, according to the Iranian Basketball Federation.

The event will be part of Iran's preparation for August's FIBA Asia Cup in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, where Team Melli is drawn in Group B – alongside Japan, Syria, and Guam.

Iran will then head to Russia for a couple warmup games before the flagship continental tournament.

"Originally, a total of 10 preparation matches had been scheduled for the national team, but this number had to be reduced in the aftermath of the 12-day war with Israel and following restrictions," Mohsen Mo'ezifar, the secretary of the sport's national governing body, told



● FIBA

Mehr News Agency, A game against the Philippines in Tehran and a training camp in Belarus, have now been eliminated from the national team's preparation plan, Mo'ezifar added.

Iran will begin its quest for a fourth Asian title with a game against Guam on the opening day of the competition in Jeddah on August 5, before taking on Japan on two days later – in a repeat of a

group encounter between the two teams in the 2022 edition, which Iran won 88-76. The final round of the group fixtures will see Greek head coach Sotirios Manolopoulos's men play Syria on Aug. 9.

THE GUARDIAN – Arsenal are closing in on the signing of Viktor Gyökeres from Sporting after agreeing personal terms with the Sweden striker. Negotiations are continuing over a fee for the 27-year-old, with Arsenal hoping to strike a deal for less than the £68m asking price. Gyökeres has made no secret of his desire for a new challenge, having scored 54 goals for Sporting last season, and is understood to have made clear he wants to join Arsenal despite interest from elsewhere in the Premier League, including Manchester United. Arsenal had identified Gyökeres as one of their two

main targets to add firepower, with strong interest also in RB Leipzig's Benjamin Sesko. With Mikel Arteta keen to bring in reinforcements as soon as possible, Arsenal's sporting director, Andrea Berta, is understood to have stepped up efforts to sign Gyökeres after the arrival of the midfielder Martín Zubimendi was confirmed on Sunday. Gyökeres, who joined Sporting from Coventry in 2023, is believed to have agreed a five-year deal at the Emirates. It is understood that his former club Brighton would be due money under a sell-on clause.

Arsenal close on Sporting striker Gyökeres



● AFP

Reviving Sistan and Baluchestan Province’s craft heritage is crucial



Mat weaving
FARS



Khameh Duzi
ifilmtv.ir



Siah Duzi
wikipedia.org



Kilim weaving
lemart.ir



Handicrafts of Sistan and Baluchestan Province
yjc.ir

Iranica Desk

Sistan and Baluchestan Province is one of the largest provinces in the country, situated in southeastern Iran, sharing borders with Afghanistan and Pakistan. From a geographical standpoint, the province is divided into two regions: Sistan and Baluchestan, and in terms of ethnicity, it comprises two major groups: the Baloch and the Sistani.

Artistic traditions

The people of Sistan and Baluchestan Province, like other Iranian tribes, have always sought ways to better utilize the art and crafts of their ancestors. They have used branches and leaves of trees, animal hair and wool, soil, and anything available to them to create new products or to add color and vitality to their daily objects. Throughout the expansive province, various art forms and crafts flourish, each with its dedicated enthusiasts. These arts reflect the rich culture of the region's people and are a vital part of their way of life.

Center of authentic handicrafts

The Sistan region, despite facing climatic challenges, is regarded as one of Iran's most significant centers of authentic handicrafts. These arts are predominantly created by women and are deeply rooted in the region's Aryan and Islamic cultural heritage.

Khameh Duzi

Khameh Duzi, a notable form of traditional embroidery in Iran, is the most prominent craft among women in Sistan. In this art, fine white silk or cotton threads are embroidered onto black or dark-colored fabrics. The interplay of these colors results in textiles featuring geometric, Arabesque, and indigenous patterns, often seen in women's and girls' clothing, scarves, chadors, and local dresses. Unlike Baluchi Suzan-Duzi (needle embroidery), Khameh Duzi is characterized by its subdued color palette; the elegant contrast of black and white symbolizes modesty and reinforces the cultural identity of Sistani women. This craft has been practiced in the region since the Safavid era and is typically transmitted from generation to generation within families.

Siah Duzi

Alongside Khameh Duzi, Siah Duzi — a style of embroidery with black yarn — is the predominant male craft in Sistan. In this art form, light or white fabrics are decorated with black stitches, primarily serving as a symbol of cultural and ethnic identity rather than aesthetic appeal. Siah Duzi is frequently used to embellish men's traditional clothing, vests, prayer mats, and hats. This craft also plays a vital role in religious and ceremonial occasions, especially during Muharram, marking the anniversary of martyrdom of Imam Hussein (PBUH) and his companions, and other traditional Sistani rituals. Some artisans

incorporate black embroidery in combination with epic poetry or religious inscriptions, further highlighting its cultural significance.

Kilim weaving

Historically, kilim weaving was among the main activities of women in Sistan. Today, however, this craft is gradually fading due to declining livestock numbers and rural migration. Nonetheless, some villages still sustain this tradition, where women weave simple and functional kilims on wooden looms.

Mat weaving

In regions near Lake Hamun, mat weaving using local reeds remains prevalent. These woven mats serve various purposes, including making tablecloths, floor coverings, wall hangings, and traditional storage baskets. These crafts continue to be a key part of the region's rich artisanal heritage.

Preservation challenges

Despite their inherent beauty and cultural authenticity, many of Sistan's handicrafts face the threat of extinction due to the lack of a proper market, ongoing youth migration, and limited governmental support. Sistani women artisans predominantly work from their homes, selling their handcrafted products in a restricted local market. While efforts have been undertaken by the provincial cultural heritage organization and various volunteer groups to preserve and revive these traditional arts, these initiatives remain insufficient to meet the challenge. In an environment where water and soil are continually fighting for survival, the culture and craftsmanship embedded in these arts stand as some of the region's last remaining inexhaustible sources of life and resilience.

Cultural significance

These crafts hold immense cultural value and merit national recognition, UNESCO registration, and robust support from cultural policymakers. Within each delicate needlework — whether Khameh Duzi or Siah Duzi — lies a powerful story of resilience, perseverance, and the enduring spirit of the Sistani people.

Nimruz Handicrafts Training Center

The Handicrafts Training Center of Nimruz, a city in Sistan and Baluchestan Province, was recently inaugurated as a significant milestone in the efforts to enhance and promote Sistan's rich handicrafts heritage, aiming to introduce these exquisite arts to both national and international markets. During the opening ceremony, the Director General of the Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Organization of Sistan and Baluchestan Province expressed his congratulations on this important development. He provided detailed insights into the project's objectives and the vital role it plays in preserving and expanding the region's cultural crafts.

Development plans

Mohammad-Hadi Tehrani Moqadam highlighted the importance of developing handicrafts as an inseparable element of the cultural and economic identity of the province. He elaborated that the new center has been constructed on a 200-square-meter plot, with a built-up area of 110 square meters. The facility is equipped with three classrooms and workshops dedicated to practical training, management offices, a staff room, and modern sanitary facilities. He expressed his optimism about the future of the center, foreseeing a bright outlook that would allow the development and flourishing of Sistan's noble craft traditions. He also conveyed hope that this center would enable local artisans to achieve a significant share in both the national and international markets, thereby elevating the region's crafts economy.

Governmental support

Meanwhile, Mansour Bijar, the governor of Sistan and Baluchestan Province, also emphasized the region's unique potentials in the handicrafts sector. He pointed out that since the primary livelihood of the local population in Sistan largely depends on agriculture and livestock, it is crucial to devise strategies for creating alternative employment opportunities, particularly through home-based businesses. He further added that, fortunately, Sistan and Baluchestan Province, especially the Sistan region, possesses considerable capacities in various handicraft sectors such as kilim weaving, Khameh Duzi, and Siah Duzi. These crafts, he said, have the potential to generate sustainable employment and economic prosperity for local communities. In relation to the inauguration of this new handicrafts training center, Bijar emphasized that, "The primary goal of this center is to provide training for unemployed women, particularly those residing in rural areas, and to empower them through skills development in the field of handicrafts, thus supporting their economic independence and social empowerment." He also emphasized the government's support for this project, stating, "In addition to providing training, supplies are made available through facilities and various aid programs to help trained individuals initiate their own production." He emphasized that, with effective branding and marketing, these products can be placed in diverse markets within the province, across the country, and even internationally. At the conclusion of his remarks, Bijar reiterated the unwavering commitment of the provincial administrative system to support this sector, saying, "The provincial administrative system will fully support this initiative. All executive agencies have been instructed to ensure that in the distribution of gifts and awards, handicrafts — especially products made in the region — are included. This is essential to support local producers and to activate the region's economic cycle."

Iran sees tourism as nat'l asset to tackle economic, social challenges: *Deputy minister*

Arts & Culture Desk

Tourism could offer the country a "low-cost, high-return" path out of economic and social challenges, said Deputy Tourism Minister Anoushirvan Mohseni Bandpey, on Monday. He made the remarks during a joint meeting with senior officials at the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts in Tehran, IRNA reported. Tourism, he stressed, is one of Iran's few industries capable of generating income, jobs, and social cohesion without heavy state intervention. He called it a "national advantage" and a critical driver for economic resilience

and long-term sustainability. "This is the only industry that creates jobs, earns income, and builds identity all at once," Bandpey said. He urged policymakers to take a scientific, targeted, and inclusive approach to tourism, positioning it as both an economic engine and a tool for cultural diplomacy. While acknowledging the sector's vulnerability to geopolitical crises and international sanctions, Bandpey dismissed them as threats. "These are not threats but chances to rethink, innovate, and create local models for tourism management," he said. Bandpey underscored the need for

"creative decision-making" and warned against a passive stance. Instead, he called on the ministry to take the lead in forming national tourism strategies. Engaging universities, the private sector, and civil society would unlock new horizons, he said. Investing in tourism, especially under current economic strains, is "not a cost but a chance to build national wealth and renew social hope," he added. He closed by urging a nationwide consensus and "smart governance" to turn Iran's vast cultural, historical, and natural heritage into the "flag-bearer of national development" and a symbol of economic resilience.



Iranian film 'Under the Shady Oak' wins top jury prize in Bulgaria



Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian short film 'Under the Shady Oak', written and directed by Hossein Allahyari, won the Special Jury Prize at the 22nd edition of Bulgaria's In the Palace International Short Film Festival. The Oscar- and Goya-qual-

ifying festival, held from June 28 to July 5 in Bulgaria, praised the film's "haunting atmosphere" and "powerful visuals," calling it a deeply resonant exploration of family tensions and generational legacies. The win marks the film's international debut, IRNA reported. Founded in 2003, In the Pal-

ace has become one of Europe's leading platforms for young filmmakers and professionals in the short film circuit. The jury described 'Under the Shady Oak' as "a sensory and immersive experience" and a "symbolic narrative of endurance, sacrifice, and the unspoken bonds across generations." Allahyari's film had already made waves in Iran, winning Best Film, Best Screenplay, and Best Sound Design at the 41st Tehran International Short Film Festival. It also received the National Will Manifestation Award at the 43rd Fajr Film Festival. The cast includes Amin Sha'rbaf, Fathollah Taheri, Yousef Safari Bakhtiari, Morteza Alidadi, Sepas Rezaei, Sima Sadeghi, and Parham Gholamloo. International distribution is handled by Cinerama, led by Neshat Bagheri.

Islamic carpets show Silk Road ties at Hong Kong Palace Museum

Arts & Culture Desk

Nearly 100 rare Islamic artifacts, including silk carpets woven for royal courts, is on display at the Hong Kong Palace Museum in a major collaboration with the Museum of Islamic Art (MIA) in Doha. The exhibition, which runs through October 6, explores centuries of cultural exchange between Islamic and Chinese civilizations, ILNA reported. Titled 'Wonders of Imperial Carpets: Masterpieces from the Museum of Islamic Art', the show marks the first comprehensive presentation in Hong Kong of "imperial Islamic carpets" and related objects from the 16th to 18th centuries. It highlights the cross-cultural flow of materials, patterns, and craftsmanship driven by diplomacy, trade, and migration along the Silk Road. On display are opulent silk and gold-thread carpets, along with manuscripts, ceramics, jade, and metalwork—many on loan from MIA, and others from the Beijing Palace Museum and HKPM's own collection. Some of the items are being shown outside Qatar for the first time. "This exhibition offers tangible evidence of artistic interaction," said Mounia Chekhab Abudaya, MIA's deputy director of curatorial affairs. She pointed to the enduring influence of the Safavid, Mughal, and Ottoman dynasties, all of which had close ties with China that shaped their aesthetics and techniques. Despite clear distinctions between Islamic and Chinese visual traditions, she noted "remarkable points of con-



vergence." Islamic court carpets were typically woven from luxury materials like silk and gold thread, with intricate geometric, floral, or figural designs. Similarly, carpets made in China's Xinjiang region during the Qianlong era featured ornate floral motifs and were crafted for imperial use. Curators say the show is not just about textiles—it's a broader testimony to centuries of cultural give-and-take between East and West. The Silk Road, long a lifeline for ideas and artistry, is once again in the spotlight.

Dust blankets Tehran; officials urge emergency measures

Social Desk

Tehran's air quality remained unhealthy on Monday, July 7, as airborne dust blanketed the capital for a fourth straight day, prompting health warnings from both public health experts and the Department of Environment. According to the Tehran Air Quality Control Company, the Air Quality Index (AQI) hit 156 Monday morning — a level considered "unhealthy for sensitive groups," including children, the elderly, and people with respiratory or cardiovascular conditions, IRNA reported. The 24-hour average reached 182, marking a stretch of increasingly toxic days for the city's nearly 9 million residents. The root cause of Tehran's dust problem has been attributed to the drying up of reservoirs in the south of Alborz and southwest of Tehran, exacerbated by strong winds. Mohammad Nouri-Sepehr, a faculty

member at Alborz University of Medical Sciences, called fine dust particles "a silent threat" to public health and urged both local and cross-border action to address what he called a "growing environmental crisis." He warned that the particles — mostly between 2.5 and 10 microns — are small enough to penetrate deep into the lungs and exacerbate asthma, bronchitis, and heart disease. "Human health hinges on environmental health," he said, calling for a public awareness campaign and multi-agency intervention. Tehran has already recorded 31 days of "unhealthy air" for sensitive groups this year, in addition to three days rated unhealthy for all populations and one "very unhealthy" day, according to official data. Last year, the city experienced just seven days of "clean" air, while the remaining days were either moderate or harmful. Hassan Abbasnejad, Director General of Tehran's Department of Environment,

echoed the alarm and cited meteorological reports predicting more dust from both local and trans-regional sources through Thursday, July 10. He urged residents, especially pregnant women, seniors, and those with chronic conditions, to stay indoors as much as possible and avoid physical activity during peak pollution hours. "Close windows, limit driving, and avoid open flames," he advised, warning that the incoming dust would reduce visibility and increase airborne particle concentrations. Tehran is not alone in its struggle with dust storms. Cities in Iran's west and southeast have long faced even more critical conditions. Authorities are also asking the public to limit personal vehicle use and refrain from actions that may worsen air quality. Mobile air monitoring stations continue to assess pollution levels across the city, with updated advisories issued when thresholds are breached.



Experts say controlling the domestic origins of dust storms — including dried-out wetlands and overgrazed land — must go hand-in-hand with regional cooperation.

"Curbing cross-border dust sources requires diplomacy and environmental agreements," Nouri-Sepehr said, warning that failure to act could leave vulnerable populations increasingly exposed.