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*Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (C) addresses senior officials at the Foreign Ministry during a meeting also attended by Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (L) in Tehran, Iran on July 26, 2025.*

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# Pezeshkian calls for facilitating return of Iranian expats

## Iran needs to 'reconsider' outlook on expanding ties with neighbors

### National Desk

Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian urged the Foreign Ministry to prepare the ground for the return of Iranian expatriates who feel a close affinity with their homeland, calling them the "assets" of the country.

Speaking in a meeting with the country's deputy foreign ministers and senior diplomats in Tehran, Pezeshkian pointed to the solidarity that swept through Iranians following the US-Israeli aggression against the country last month.

Referring to the June 13-25 imposed war on Iran, Pezeshkian said the regime aggressively sought to bring the country to its knees, but the Iranian nation took outstanding measures that need to be appreciated earnestly.

"This national unity should bring us to a realization — that we must treat the people with utmost respect and resolve issues through dialogue. The people inside the country, and even those who

have left the country for various reasons, including dissatisfaction with our performance, have shown that their hearts beat for this land," the Iranian president said.

"Unfortunately, we've set up frameworks that make them (Iranian expatriates) afraid to return to the country," Pezeshkian added.

### Relations with neighbors

The president also pointed to the relations with the neighboring countries, saying, "We need to reconsider our outlook on expanding relations with our neighbors."

Pezeshkian underlined that the regional countries should push aside their differences, saying that unity among neighboring and regional countries will make them more powerful.

He pledged to prioritize regional outreach in Iran's foreign policy, while also strengthening ties with key international partners such as Russia and China.

"Through established coordination and policies, we will seek to prioritize expansion of closer, deeper, and better relations with our neighbors, and then develop and advance our ties with the countries with which we have good interactions, including Russia, China, the BRICS group, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and the Eurasian Union," he said.

"We will also continue the process of cooperation with European countries and other countries based on wisdom, dignity, and expediency."

### Israel's aggression

He said that the Israeli regime initiated a war that was fundamentally unlawful under all international principles and regulations. "Unfortunately, in today's world, such aggressive actions are often justified by major powers," he added.

The president referred to the targeting of the Evin Prison by the Israeli regime during its aggression against the



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (R) addresses senior diplomats during a meeting held at the Foreign Ministry building in the capital Tehran on July 26, 2025.  
● president.ir

Islamic Republic, saying that certain countries talk about human rights but defend the attack by the Israeli regime, which is "shameful."

The regime's aggression against Iran on June 13 claimed the lives of nearly 1,100 Iranians, including civilians, military figures and nuclear scientists.

## Deputy FM: Iran should be offered guarantees before any US talks



Majid Takht-Ravanchi

### International Desk

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Majid Takht-Ravanchi said before entering a new round of negotiations with the United States, Iran should be offered guarantees that will not again be attacked.

In an interview with Turkey's Habertürk TV, the Iranian official also said that messages between Iran and the US are being relayed through mediators after talks between the two sides over Iran's nuclear program were cancelled following last month's aggressions by Israel and the US against Iran, which triggered a 12-day conflict.

Tehran and Washington had held five rounds of nuclear talks since April to resolve a decades-old dispute on Iran's nuclear program, but a planned meeting on June 15 was cancelled after the aggression. Takht-Ravanchi made the remarks on Friday – the same day Iran and three European powers – France, Germany and Britain – held talks on Iran's nuclear program in Istanbul.

"As you know, another round of negotiations with the European Troika at the deputy ministerial level has taken place. This is a process that has been going on for some time. We are currently discussing various aspects of the nuclear dossier. During Friday's meeting, we discussed the technical dimensions of the nuclear issue and the extent of sanctions relief," Takht-Ravanchi said.

"Regarding the nuclear negotiations, we have stressed that enrichment must form an inseparable

part of any agreement. This is a key element of our negotiations. Other matters concerning the nuclear issue have also been raised," he added.

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi said on Friday that Tehran and the European powers agreed to continue consultations on Iran's nuclear program during "frank and detailed" nuclear talks in Istanbul.

In a post on X, Gharibabadi said he criticized the European stance on Israel's 12-day aggression against Iran last month and discussed the so-called snapback mechanism to reimpose international sanctions against Iran during talks with officials from Germany, France and Britain.

The three European countries, known as E<sub>3</sub>, have threatened in recent weeks to trigger the UN "snapback" mechanism if no deal is reached between Iran and the United States.

## Six killed, 22 injured in terrorist attack on courthouse in Zahedan

### National Desk

An attack by terrorists on a courthouse in the capital of the southeastern province of Sistan and Baluchestan on Saturday killed at least six people, including a woman and a one-year-old child, and wounded 22 others.

Three law enforcement personnel, who were protecting the courthouse, were among the victims of the terrorist attack in Zahedan, which was claimed by the so-called Jaish al-Adl terrorist group.

Iranian security forces killed three assailants during the ensuing clashes. The attackers had been wearing explosive vests and had tried to enter the building disguised as visitors, said provincial chief justice Ali Movahedi-Rad.

"At 8:30 this morning, a terrorist cell affiliated with the Zionist regime attempted to infiltrate the Sistan and Baluchestan Judiciary building in the city of Zahedan, passing off as ordinary citizens seeking legal services," Brigadier General Alireza Daliri, deputy commander of law enforcement in Sistan and Baluchestan Province, said.

Daliri noted that thanks to the vigilance and swift action of the security forces present at the scene, the attempt was thwarted.

"Unfortunately, during the attack, one of the terrorists managed to throw a grenade inside the judiciary building before being killed. The explosion re-



MIZAN

sulted in the martyrdom of several civilians who were present at the scene, including a one-year-old infant and a woman."

Sistan and Baluchestan Province, which borders Pakistan and Afghanistan, has witnessed several terrorist attacks targeting both civilians and security forces over the past years.

On October 26 last year, ten members of Iran's law enforcement forces were killed in a terrorist attack in the Gohar Kuh district of Taftan County in the province.

The so-called Jaish al-Adl terrorist group claimed responsibility for the assault, which was one of the deadliest in the province in recent months.

The group has carried out numerous terrorist attacks in Iran, primarily in Sistan and Baluchestan. Its tactics include the abduction of border guards as well as targeting civilians and police stations within the province to incite chaos and disorder.

## Global outcry over Israel's policy of starvation in Gaza

### International Desk

Thousands of people took to the streets across the world on Friday, banging empty pots and pans to protest the ongoing hunger crisis in the Gaza Strip, which is the result of Israel's months of blockade and systematic policy of starvation in the Palestinian territory.

In London, protesters gathered outside the prime minister's office where they left 1,000 pots to symbolize the more than 1,000 Palestinians who have been killed by Israel while seeking food.

Palestine Solidarity Campaign (PSC), one of the organizers of the demonstration, wrote on X, "1000 pots laid outside Downing St London for the more than 1000 Palestinians killed seeking food while being deliberately starved by Israel, the UK government's ally."

The Health Ministry in Gaza said early Friday that nine more Palestinians died due to famine and malnutrition, bringing the number of starvation-related deaths to 122, including 83 chil-

dren.

In New York, members of the Palestinian Youth Movement gathered outside the United Nations headquarters and then Times Square. They demanded an end to Israel's blockade of food and aid into the Gaza Strip.

Protesters also took to the streets of Paris denouncing the humanitarian blockade imposed by Israel on Gaza.

"First of all, we feel sad. We also feel angry because of [the] inaction of our government here in France. We feel angry because aid is being blocked while there is enough to feed the entire Gaza Strip. But in reality, food is expiring and even being poisoned, as the Israelis are blocking it," a protester said.

"It's unacceptable that the law does nothing, but today, we can't rely on the law and the government anymore. We have to do it ourselves."

Similar protests were also held in Iran, Lebanon and Somalia. According to the UN, famine threatens hundreds of thousands of civilians in Gaza, particularly children; heartbreaking images of malnutrition circulate every day.

On Friday, Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi called on Islamic countries to take collective action in response to Israel's escalating crimes and starvation campaign in Gaza.

Araghchi held separate phone talks with Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Egypt's Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty, Iraq's Fuad Hussein, and Qatar's Foreign Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani.

Araghchi highlighted the dire impact of the siege on Gaza and the continued Israeli bombardment of civilian infrastructure and residential areas, calling for "the use of all international and regional capacities, especially within the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), to deliver humanitarian aid to Gaza and put an end to the Zionist regime's crimes."

The call comes as Gaza's Government Media Office announced that at least 122 Palestinians have died from starvation since Israel's military onslaught began in October 2023, most of them in recent weeks.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist





# Iran-Netherlands Chamber Amsterdam 4th largest EU exporter to Tehran, 8th destination for Iranian goods

 **By Sadeq Dehqan**  
Staff writer

## INTERVIEW

The Netherlands ranks as the fourth-largest exporter of goods to Iran among European countries and the eighth-largest destination for Iranian exports to Europe, according to a senior official of the Iran-Netherlands Joint Chamber of Commerce. Majid Haji Ahmadi, vice chairman of the board of directors of the Iran-Netherlands Joint Chamber of Commerce, highlighted the significant potential for expanding trade cooperation between Iran and the Netherlands, emphasizing that the country holds the position of the fourth-largest exporter to Iran among European nations. Speaking to Iran Daily, Haji Ahmadi further noted that the Netherlands also ranks eighth in receiving the highest volume of Iranian exports to European countries. Referring to the position of the Netherlands in the European economy, he explained, the Netherlands is one of the important

countries in the European Union, from which one can benefit from the country's industrial technologies in various fields and export Iranian goods to other European countries through the country. Haji Ahmadi recalled that in previous years, before sanctions impeded economic exchanges between Iran and European countries, the volume of bilateral trade was substantial. Iran and the Netherlands, he noted, maintained strong cooperation and exchanges in mineral production, oil, and gas industries. He added that should relations between Iran and European countries become facilitated and positive steps be taken toward lifting sanctions, Iran-Netherlands trade volume would grow rapidly due to the two sides' extensive history of cooperation in oil, gas, and energy. Historically, most members of the Joint Chamber focused on oil and gas, but sanctions have obstructed commercial and economic activities in these fields for several years. The sanctions and resultant monetary and banking complications have disrupted payment processes and

currency transfers between the two countries, negatively impacting bilateral trade. The vice chairman said that both countries possess significant attractions and capacities in the tourism industry, which could enhance cooperation and increase revenue generation for both nations. Haji Ahmadi stated that like tourism, the agricultural sector is not directly affected by Western sanctions against Iran. Consequently, trade cooperation between the two countries is currently concentrated in agriculture. Items such as seeds, flower bulbs, botanical pesticides, and food ingredients/additives are exported from the Netherlands to Iran. In return, Iran exports agricultural products to the Netherlands, including fruits and vegetables such as dates, pistachios, saffron, apples, and citrus fruits, as well as animal products like meat and dairy derivatives, plus dried fruits. He noted, however, that the volume of these exports has decreased significantly compared to the



Majid Haji Ahmadi

past due to sanctions-related issues. Haji Ahmadi elaborated on the Netherlands' economic capacities for cooperation, explaining that the country holds strong positions in European agriculture and livestock/poultry farming, enabling it to meet part of Iran's demand for such products. Conversely, Iran can export large quantities of

food products to the Netherlands. Referring to the history of the Iran-Netherlands Chamber of Commerce, he underscored that the Iran-Netherlands Joint Chamber of Commerce was launched in 2003 to enhance trade and facilitate cooperation between the two nations' merchants. Since then, it has undertaken numerous actions, including gath-

ering Dutch trade information and disseminating it to members; inviting Dutch economic delegations; dispatching Iranian trade groups to the Netherlands; organizing and participating in specialized joint exhibitions and seminars; assisting member merchants with visa procurement; and resolving potential disputes between traders from both countries.

## Iran secured highest oil revenue growth among OPEC members in 2024

### Economy Desk

Iran attained the highest increase in oil revenue among OPEC members in 2024, earning over \$46.7 billion and registering a growth of nearly 14% compared to the previous year. This is while OPEC's total oil revenue decreased by 4%, reaching \$652 billion, Mehr reported. According to statistics published in the 60th edition of OPEC's Annual Statistical Bulletin (ASB), Iran secured the highest oil revenue increase among the organization's members in 2024, with nearly 14% growth in revenue from oil exports. Based on the data, Iran earned more than \$46.776 billion from oil exports in 2024, while the figure stood at nearly \$41.129 billion in 2023. Following Iran, Venezuela achieved the best performance in terms of oil revenue growth, rising from \$13.088 billion in 2023 to \$18.372 billion in 2024. A notable point is that only four



OPEC members attained positive performance in increasing oil revenues in 2024. Apart from Iran and Venezuela, Nigeria with a \$1 billion growth and Equatorial Guinea with a slight increase of \$39 million rank next. This comes as OPEC members' total revenue from oil exports decreased by 4% overall, falling from \$678 billion in 2023 to approximately \$652 billion in 2024. Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia's oil revenues suffered a decrease of more than \$24 billion in 2024, reaching \$223 billion. Kuwait also experienced a \$9 billion decline, earning nearly \$69 billion in oil revenue last year.

## INSO: Exports to 25 countries attest to quality of Iranian tractors

### Economy Desk

The head of Standards of East Azarbaijan Province in northwest of Iran affirmed compliance with quality requirements and standards in the products of the Iran Tractor Manufacturing Company, also known as ITMCO, stating "Exports of these products to more than 25 countries attest to the quality of domestic production." Speaking on the sidelines of a meeting with the group managers and in response to a question about the standard status of tractors produced by the complex, the director-general, Shahram Kashani, said, "Considering the developments that have occurred in the tractor manufacturing group in recent years, the status of adherence to standard requirements in this industrial complex is good. Presence in international markets and the use of the domestically produced product in the farms of more than 25 countries worldwide serve as proof of this matter," ISNA reported. Kashani added that accessing international and transnational markets necessitates obtaining the standards of



the destination countries and regions for exported products. "Presence in this number of markets and agricultural farms worldwide, and obtaining the prevailing standards governing them, are the result of the standardization of the country's manufactured tractors. This is a source of pride for Iran's industry and economy." Emphasizing the participation of manufacturing units in developing national standards, Kashani added, "Producer participation in this regard paves the way for having more precise, more scientific, and more effective standards, consequently enabling the production

of higher-quality products." He stated that the Iran National Standards Organization (INSO) welcomes ITMCO's participation in setting standards for tractors and its other manufactured products, including road construction machinery. ITMCO manufactures tractors, trucks, auto parts, and diesel engines with a main site and headquarters in Tabriz, Iran. The Iranian Tractor Manufacturing Industrial Group is the largest producer of agricultural equipment in West Asia and has tractor assembly plants in several other countries.

## Chamber head highlights growth of tech service exports to Iraq

### Economy Desk

A senior Chamber of Commerce official in Ahvaz underscored the development of Iranian technical and engineering service exports to Iraq during a meeting with the CEO of Iraq's State Agricultural Equipment Company. Shahla Amouri, in her meeting with Talib Jasib al-Kaabi, CEO of Iraq's State Agricultural Equipment Company, highlighted the meeting's purpose, "This meeting was held with the goal of developing Iraq's agricultural infrastructure, transferring technical

knowledge, and realizing win-win economic and production achievements for both countries," ISNA reported. The vice president of the Iran-Iraq Joint Chamber of Commerce highlighted Iran's unparalleled capacities, particularly in Khuzestan Province as an agricultural and industrial hub, noting, "Iran can play a pivotal role in meeting the needs of the Iraqi market by producing export-oriented agricultural products that aren't cultivated in Iraq." Amouri stressed the Ahvaz chamber's support for exporting techni-

cal engineering services and knowledge-based products, stating, "This approach not only helps preserve and expand the Iraqi market but can also serve as a platform for developing regional markets and making stronger inroads into Persian Gulf countries."

### Iran's tech merits in regional competition

The Ahvaz chamber head underscored the importance of safeguarding the Iraqi market against regional competitors like Turkey and Saudi Arabia, emphasizing, "Targeted government

support, including low-interest banking facilities and export subsidies, is essential for the private sector." "By leveraging its capabilities in agricultural technologies – including advanced equipment production, agricultural drones, and modern irrigation systems – Iran can become a reliable partner for developing Iraq's agricultural sector," she explained. Amouri consequently requested that the Iraqi government facilitate market access for Iranian companies to enable joint investments and technology transfer.

### Iran; a specialized partner

During the meeting, Kaabi welcomed Iran's capabilities and stressed the need to open new horizons for bilateral cooperation. Citing directives from Iraq's Agriculture Minister Abbas Jabr al-Malliki to utilize Iranian agricultural expertise, Kaabi noted, "Developing Iraq's agricultural sector requires cooperation with specialized international partners. Given Iran's advancements in agricultural technologies, it can play a significant role in this regard."



# Imperatives of governance in cease-fire era

## Iran needs to transition from crisis management to strategic preparedness



By Navid Kamali  
Strategic affairs analyst

### OPINION EXCLUSIVE

The current situation in our country and the West Asian region cannot be described by the conventional concepts of war or peace. We are living in an interwar state or, more precisely, a fragile cease-fire. The recent 12-day war, orchestrated by the United States and executed by the Zionist regime with the aim of redefining the regional balance of power, was imposed upon our nation. Although it was temporarily halted by the decisive response of our armed forces and the enemy's offer of a cease-fire, it was a strategic inflection point, not a transient event. This confrontation marks the end of one chapter and the beginning of a new one in the history of regional conflicts — a chapter in which the logic of governance and the exigencies of state administration differ fundamentally from periods of relative stability and calm. Therefore, the central question facing the concerned elites within our nation's decision-making system is not whether the next round of tensions will occur, but rather how the governance structure can be reconfigured to confront future existential threats and transform this transitional period into an opportunity for the strategic reinforcement of national power.

#### Changing rules of conflict

To answer the above question, we must recognize that the logic of governance under normal circumstances rests on the premise that threats are largely non-systemic, manageable, and separable. An economic crisis, an environmental challenge, or an energy shortage are all considered separate issues, for which sectoral solutions are sought. In an era of cease-fire, however, this logic disintegrates, and the very grammar of conflict is altered. Under such conditions, any domestic phenomenon or shortage, regardless of its origin, can become a variable in the national security equation and a lever of pressure in the hands of the enemy. Threats shift from a symmetrical military nature towards an asymmetric, hybrid, and cognitive character. Iran's growing water crisis and electricity shortages, and their consequences for industry and citizens' livelihoods are no longer merely a technical or welfare issue; It is a strategic vulnerability that, at the critical juncture of a military conflict, can easily devolve into social rupture and an economic-social war of attrition. This shift in the nature of threats necessitates a fundamental re-evaluation of national security and the expansion of its scope to domains previously classified under developmental or social headings.

#### Economy on frontline

An analysis of our nation's political economy as an interconnected production network

illuminates this reality. As various studies and research have shown, economic resilience is not solely dependent on macro-economic indicators but on the health and efficiency of critical nodes within this network. A limited disruption in a key sector — such as energy, transportation, communications, or digital infrastructure — can have cascading and paralyzing effects on the entire system. Understanding this network logic, the enemy no longer focuses merely on the physical destruction of military infrastructure. Instead, it concentrates its attacks on weakening vulnerable points and critical nodes within our nation's governance and economic network to erode national resilience from within. This parallel economic war is not waged only in the physical dimension; It also unfolds in the psychological domain of expectations management and market sentiment. Instilling despair, fueling instability, and undermining public trust in economic policies are themselves effective tools in the enemy's arsenal. Therefore, intelligent governance in this era requires the proactive identification, monitoring, and protection of these critical nodes — a task that transcends the capacity and mission of any single agency and demands cross-sectoral coordination at the highest levels of governance.

#### Architecture of national meaning

In the social dimension, understanding societal dynamics in a conflict environment is of vital importance. The magnificent display of national cohesion and unity we witnessed in Iran during the recent war is a profound phenomenon worthy of reflection. It can be explained using the metaphor of a non-Newtonian fluid: Society may appear pluralistic and even fractured in normal conditions, but under the sudden pressure and shock of an external threat, it rapidly solidifies and becomes cohesive. This situational solidarity is a precious strategic asset, but relying on it without understanding its nature can lead to strategic miscalculation. This state of affairs is less a product of a permanent integration of all groups and more the result of the ascendancy of a dominant national-revolutionary discourse and the marginalization or temporary muting of other discourses, a phenomenon described by the spiral of silence theory.

This social capital, if not managed properly, can quickly dissipate once the initial threat recedes. The duty of the governance system is to transform this temporary cohesion into an enduring national unity. This can be achieved by opening channels for dialogue, strengthening civil society institutions, redefining the state-nation relationship based on mutual trust and participation, and, most importantly, articulating and promoting a unifying national narrative. In the war of narratives, which runs parallel to and is often more intense than the physical war, the



state should not merely be a purveyor of information, but must assume the role of an architect of national meaning — a narrative that acknowledges diversity while charting a common horizon for the future and reinforcing a sense of collective belonging.

#### Reconfiguring machinery of governance

This shift in the nature of social threats and dynamics necessitates a commensurate evolution in the structure and processes of governance. State administration in the interwar period cannot adhere to the bureaucratic, consultative, and time-consuming logic of peacetime. Speed, focus, decisiveness, and structural flexibility become the governing principles. This is not a negation of law or collective wisdom, but rather the creation of agile and authoritative mechanisms for critical decision-making. Concepts such as a war cabinet or the temporary merger of aligned ministries, historically observed in other nations during wartime, are strategies for shortening the decision-action cycle and optimizing the allocation of resources toward strategic priorities. This cease-fire period presents the best opportunity to design, test, and institutionalize these emergency structures, so that the nation is not caught off guard by managerial and structural surprises in a time of crisis. Of course, centralization and expanded executive powers can present their own challenges. It is imperative that these special mechanisms are legally framed,

temporary, and subject to oversight to prevent them from becoming permanent procedures that weaken institutions of accountability. This is a pivotal, structure-altering moment that offers a unique opportunity for structural reforms and for moving beyond past ineffective or inefficient procedures. This reconfiguration must be aimed at increasing efficiency while simultaneously preserving and strengthening the legitimacy of the system. It is a delicate balance between necessity and accountability that requires profound wisdom and foresight.

#### Internal resilience: pillar of deterrence

Another crucial point is that internal resilience is the primary currency of international deterrence. An adversary confronting a nation with a cohesive internal front, a resilient economy, and an effective governance system will calculate a far higher cost for any military or subversive action. Conversely, a country plagued by social rifts, economic vulnerabilities, and managerial inefficiencies appears to be a more accessible target. From this perspective, every measure taken to fortify internal cohesion and enhance national resilience directly contributes to bolstering our nation's deterrence on the international stage. Active diplomacy during a cease-fire will be most effective when it is backed by a powerful and stable domestic foundation.

In the author's view, a successful navigation of this turbulent

era hinges on achieving and moving toward a systemic understanding of national power. National power is no longer the simple algebraic sum of military, economic, cultural, and social capabilities, but the product of the complex, synergistic interplay of these components within an integrated system. A weakness in one domain weakens the entire system, while a strength in another can reinforce other sectors. Governance in an era of cease-fire is the art of managing this complex constellation — an art that requires a macro-level, interdisciplinary, and forward-looking perspective.

Our nation now stands at a strategic crossroads: The first path is to continue governing with a peacetime logic and reactive crisis management, the inevitable result of which is the gradual erosion of national resilience. The alternative path is to accept the reality of the interwar period and proactively re-engineer the system of governance for strategic preparedness. By consciously choosing the latter, our nation's decision-making apparatus can transform this transitional period into an opportunity for rethinking the foundations of governance and turning threat into a catalyst for renewal and internal strengthening. Success in this endeavor will not only guarantee our nation's survival against the storms ahead but will also cement its status as a formidable and decisive actor in the architecture of the new regional order.



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (3rd-L) walks away with members of his cabinet after a meeting in Tehran, Iran, on October 9, 2024.

● ISNA



Society may appear pluralistic and even fractured in normal conditions, but under the sudden pressure and shock of an external threat, it rapidly solidifies and becomes cohesive. This situational solidarity is a precious strategic asset, but relying on it without understanding its nature can lead to strategic miscalculation. This state of affairs is less a product of a permanent integration of all groups and more the result of the ascendancy of a dominant national-revolutionary discourse and the marginalization or temporary muting of other discourses, a phenomenon described by the spiral of silence theory.



Tehran Symphony Orchestra holds an open-air performance at the Azadi Square of Tehran on June 25, 2025, a day after Israel proposed a cease-fire to the war of aggression it started earlier.

● AMIRHOSSEIN SHAHGHOLOI/  
IRIB NEWS





# Best-selling apps made by Israeli spies

## A new frontier for BDS movement

### INVESTIGATION

The developers behind hundreds of Android and iPhone apps with billions of downloads are former Israeli spies whose apps are generating significant revenues for Israel's genocidal war economy.

The apps I've identified range from innocuous image and video editing apps to casual games, and most users won't be aware they're installing Israeli products on their phones. Many of these app developers operate under the radar, their ownership structures are opaque, and the identity of their owners isn't commonly known.

The identification of these apps should add another frontier to the Boycott, Divest, Sanctions (BDS) movement as it provides a straightforward way for ordinary people to avoid Israeli products that contribute to apartheid, genocide, and ethnic cleansing.

The proliferation of these apps on Apple's App Store and the Google Play Store also raises questions over privacy and the harvesting of personal data, given the reputation of Israeli technology and past scandals involving spyware being smuggled onto devices by apps made in Israel.

One of the most significant Israeli app holding companies and developers is ZipoApps, whose model is to buy out and monetise apps at a large scale. The apps owned by Zipo (which also goes by the name Rounds.com) include a suite of photo and video editing apps that have received hundreds of millions of total installs. Individual apps include Collage Maker Photo Editor and Instasquare Photo Editor: Neon, both of which have received more than 50 million downloads from the Google Play Store. Other ZipoApps products include baby photo editing and retouching tools. In 2022, the founder and CEO of Zipo, Gal Avidor, told an interviewer (in his only interview to date) that all the founders of the company are former Unit 8200 Israeli intelligence personnel. On Reddit, users have complained about ZipoApps's approach to privacy and data mining. One popular group of tools known as Simple Gallery went from free and open source to a paid product with ads and trackers just one week after ZipoApps acquired it.

Another Israeli-owned photo editing app on the Play Store is the AI-powered Bazaart, which was founded by Dror Yaffe and Stas Goferman, two former IDF intelligence officers. Goferman far exceeded his mandatory service, spending a decade in the IDF up to 2011.

Facetune, made by the developer Lightricks and available for Android and iPhones, is another Israeli photo editing app with over 50 million installs. Users on the Apple Store have called Facetune, which demands access to unique identifiers and your location, a scam. The co-founder of Lightricks, Yaron Inger, spent five years in Unit 8200.

If you're into mobile gaming, or if you create mobile games to



● **DO NOT PANIC!**

sell, you will have come across the Israeli company Supersonic from Unity, probably without knowing it. With billions of downloads in recent years, Supersonic is one of the largest mobile game publishers in the world, with revenues estimated at around \$23 million per year. Earlier this year, the company reported that it owned three of the top ten most downloaded casual player mobile games in the world: Build a Queen, Going Balls, and Bridge Race. Trash Tycoon is another popular title. The company also has a game called 'Conquer Countries,' which has been downloaded millions of times, and on its advertising tile features a cartoon version of Donald Trump. The founder of Supersonic, Nadav Ashkenazy, spent seven and a half years in the IDF, where he rose to become the head of operations for the Israeli air force, managing almost half the full-time staff.

A better-known Israeli mobile game app maker whose revenues we don't have to estimate is Playtika. Listed on the NASDAQ, Playtika brings in revenues of more than \$2.5 billion, generating significant taxes for Israel's mass slaughter machine.

Playtika, which builds gambling apps, is firmly enmeshed in the genocidal Israeli war machine. The company was founded by Uri Shahak, son of the former head of the IDF, Amnon Lipkin-Shahak. Last year, its annual report revealed that 14% of its staff had been called up as reservists to participate in the genocide in Gaza. Current CEO Robert Antokol says the company has a "responsibility" to Israel, and the taxes paid by its staff are "wonderful for the Israeli economy".

Another Israeli company whose apps have been downloaded billions of times is Crazy Labs. With an estimated company value of around \$1 billion and sales estimated at up to \$200 million, Crazy Labs is another app maker integral to the Israeli economy. Its best-selling titles are Phone Case DIY, Miraculous Ladybug & Cat Noir, and Sculpt People. You can see the full list of the Crazy Lab apps on the Google Play Store. The founders of Crazy Labs are all ex-IDF, including Sagi Schliesser, who well exceeded his mandatory service by staying in the IDF and helping build the digital architecture of apartheid for eight years.

An app you may have heard of, but may not have known is Israeli, is Moovit. The urban transport app was founded by a number of ex-IDF, including Nir Erez, who spent years at the IDF's specialist computing centre, known as Mamram, which Israeli propaganda says creates "cyber warriors". As the unit that runs the military's intranet, Mamram is central to Israel's genocide of Gaza. Moovit, which has close to one billion users and delivers significant revenues to Israel, has been an official partner of the Olympic Games, the European football championships, and also partners with Microsoft.

With hundreds of millions of installs, Call App, which screens phone calls for spam, is another product of Israel's military economy. The founder and CEO of Call App, Amit On, spent three years in Unit 8200 in the 2000s. The app has over 100 million users.

On the ride-hailing front, Gett, which is focused on corporate passengers and is particularly popular in London as a way to hail black cabs, was founded by ex-Unit 8200 Roi More and Shahr Waiser. A notable mention for GPS navigation app Waze,

probably the most famous Israeli app of the last decade, acquired by Google in 2013 for \$1.3 billion and also founded by ex-Unit 8200 spies.

Another fast-growing Israeli app that has been featured on Oprah, in the New York Times, and on CNN is Fooducate, whose founder, Hemi Weingarten, flew bombing missions for the Israeli air force.

Other Israeli air force veterans behind popular apps include husband and wife team Gilad and Liat Mordechai Hertanu, who run the personal assistant and calendar-syncing app 24me. Liat was an officer in the Israeli air force, while Gilad was a pilot who flew bombing missions.

This exposé, which follows our investigations into former Unit 8200 building AI for big tech giants, and the ex-IDF soldiers working at Meta and Google, further confirms how deeply and insidiously embedded Israel is in our digital lives.

These investigations also reveal how Israel is foundationally reliant on being in a permanent state of dominance over the Palestinians because the only thing of value the country produces are tech companies founded by ex-IDF. Without being able to train their citizens as spies and soldiers, and butcher Palestinians at will, Israel's economy would collapse.

Yet most people who use these apps will have downloaded them in good faith with little idea they are contributing to Israel's occupation-apartheid-genocide economy. In addition, these apps will be gathering information and data, including large amounts of personal images, and delivering them to devotees of Israel committed to maintaining the country as an apartheid state. So, check your phone and please spread the word.

Delegitimising, defunding, and deleting Israeli products is one easy step we can all take to help dismantle Israel's machinery of genocide.

The article first appeared on [Do Not Panic!](#)



The proliferation of these apps on Apple's App Store and the Google Play Store also raises questions over privacy and the harvesting of personal data, given the reputation of Israeli technology and past scandals involving spyware being smuggled onto devices by apps made in Israel. A notable mention for GPS navigation app Waze, probably the most famous Israeli app of the last decade, acquired by Google in 2013 for \$1.3 billion and also founded by ex-Unit 8200 spies.



Google employees and other demonstrators protest the war in Gaza and Google's work with the Israel on April 16, 2024, in front of the Google offices in Sunnyvale, California.  
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## FIVB Boys' U19 World Championship:

## Iran eases past Tunisia in straight sets



## Sports Desk

Iranian boys celebrated a second successive victory at the FIVB U19 World Championship in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, by sweeping Tunisia in straight sets (25-20, 25-15, 25-20) in Pool C on Saturday.

Amirmohammad Rafiei chipped in a game-high 14 points for Iran, with fellow-outside hitter Mohammad-Amin Rahimi contributing 12 points.

Omar Hfaiedh was the Tunisian top scorer with 10 points.

Chasing a third world under-19 title, and first since 2017, Iran got off to losing start in the Uzbek capital, suffering a shock 3-2 defeat against Spain, before bouncing back to defeat Poland in a five-set thriller on Friday.

"We knew Tunisia would struggle with spikes and reception, which is why we played it safe with our serves, focusing more on targeted-zone serving," Iran head coach Adel Gholami said after the game. "We performed well on defense, cov-

ering the backcourt effectively. We also did much better on transition plays in zone four, and it worked out really well for us," added the former international middle blocker.

Runner-up to France in the previous edition in 2023, Iran will face another African test in Egypt on Monday, before squaring off against Italy in the final round of the group fixtures on Tuesday.

The top four in each of the three six-team groups will progress to the round of 16.

"We'll have a full day of recovery tomorrow, so the players will peak their fitness for the game against Egypt," added Gholami.

"We're taking it one step at a time in our group, but we'll also have a look at the teams in other pools, so that the players get accustomed to their style of play."

Elsewhere on Saturday, Pakistan, the surprise package in Tashkent, continued its impressive run with a third straight-set win in Pool A, beating Turkey 25-17, 25-19, and 25-19.

China, which defeated Iran to the Asian U18 crown last year, stunned defending champion France in Pool B, coming out victorious in a thrilling five-set showpiece (37-35, 25-22, 20-25, 20-25, 15-12) at the Sport University Center 1.



Iranian middle-blocker Nima Bateni goes up for a spike during a 3-0 victory over Tunisia at the FIVB Boys' U19 World Championship in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, on July 26, 2025.

● FIVB

## Asian Junior Wushu Championships:

## Iran's Siahmoshtei grabs taolu gold, Ramian bags bronze



## Sports Desk

Iran collected a couple of taolu medals through Ramtin Siahmoshtei and Saba Ramian on the first day of the 12th Asian Junior Wushu Championships in Jiangyin, China. Siahmoshtei – a world gold and silver medalist last year – tallied 9.253

points to beat opponents from Vietnam and Indonesia to the ultimate prize in the men's nanquan contest on Saturday.

Elsewhere, Iranian girl Ramian had to settle for a third-spot finish in the nanquan event, courtesy of a 9.236-point performance. Hasti Askari, Narges Shahbazi, Younes Khodaei, Mohammadreza Madadi, and Mohammad-Taha Sadri were the other Iranians competing across different taolu categories on Saturday, but missed out on podium finish.



Iran's Ramtin Siahmoshtei won a taolu gold on the first day of the Asian Junior Wushu Championships in Jiangyin, China.

● iranwushufed.ir

## Iran beats Jordan in final warmup game in Beirut

## Sports Desk

Iranian men's basketball team defeated Jordan 70-61 in its final friendly outing in Beirut on Friday.

Navid Rezaeifar chipped in 16 points – coupled with three rebounds and assists apiece – as Iran bounced back from back-to-back losses to Egypt and Lebanon.

Iran had suffered a 60-59 defeat against Egypt before falling to a 105-89 setback against the host country on Thursday.

Next for Iran is a visit to Moscow for a couple of friendly games against Russia ahead of the 2025 FIBA Asia Cup – starting August 5 in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

Iran will begin its bid for a fourth Asian title with a game against Guam in Group B on the opening day of the competition, before tak-

ing on Japan 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 winners of the four groups in Jeddah will be handed direct qualification for the quarterfinals, with the second and third teams head-

ing into a playoff round for a place in the last eight.

Australia will enter the flagship continental event as the defending champion after beating Lebanon in the 2022 final.



● DANIAL AHMADI/IRIBF



● taekwondo.ir

## Asian Junior

## Taekwondo Championships:

## Iranians collect six medals on Day 1

## Sports Desk

Iranian boys and girls bagged six medals, including double women's golds, on the first day of junior contests at the Asian Junior, Cadet & Para Taekwondo Championships in Kuching, Malaysia.

Elina Alipour defeated opponents from Lebanon, India, and Uzbekistan before coming out on top in straight rounds against South Korean Kim Borim to walk away with the ultimate prize of the women's +68kg weight class.

Saina Khan-Ali rounded off an emphatic run in the women's -59kg class by defeating Kazakhstan's Togzhan Kaznabek 2-0 in the final showpiece.

There were further medals for the Iranian girls on the first day of action in Kuching as Negar Mozaffari and Rozhan Goudarzi finished their campaigns with a silver and a bronze, respectively.

Mozaffari overcame contestants from Lebanon, Uzbekistan, and Thailand for a place in the -42kg final, only to suffer a 2-0 loss to

Aiym Serikbayeva of Kazakhstan and finish on the second podium.

Having beaten Uzbek and Indian practitioners, Goudarzi had to settle for a joint-third finish in the -52kg event following a last-four loss to Kim Siwoo of South Korea.

Mohammad-Mahdi Sa'adati and Iliya Shahbazi, meanwhile, added a couple of silver medals to Iran's medal haul in the men's competitions.

Representing the country in the -63kg division, Sa'adati beat opponents from Mongolia, the Chinese Taipei, and the Philippines but fell short in straight rounds against Thanapoom Fuangnoi in the final. Shahbazi settled for a runner-up finish behind South Korean Eom Simok following a 2-1 defeat in the +78kg showdown.

Pouya Ojaqlou (men's -45kg), Taha Javadi (men's -48kg), Radin Zeinali (men's -73kg), and Baran Ne'mati (women's -63kg) were the other Iranians in action on Day 1, finishing empty-handed in their respective classes.



# Challenges, discoveries at Gur-e Kaferi Cemetery in Yazd Province



## Iranica Desk

Yazd Province is renowned for the extraordinary richness of its historical structures and textures, yet it remains one of the most underexplored regions in the country from an archaeological perspective. There exists a very limited amount of organized, documented, and published information concerning the cultural and historical periods spanning thousands of years within this province. This relative scarcity of data may be attributed to the allure of its vibrant, living historical fabric, which tends to attract more immediate attention. Nevertheless, the limited dissemination of archaeological research findings from Yazd further contributes to the overall lack of familiarity with its ancient artifacts and heritage.

The entire country also exhibits a minimal level of archaeological investigation, and Yazd Province is no exception. The scarcity of systematic studies conducted within Yazd is the primary reason behind the very early-stage and superficial understanding of its unique cultural, historical, and archaeological features, IRNA wrote. Bahabad exemplifies this situation.

Situated in the eastern part of Yazd and sharing borders with Kerman and South Khorasan provinces, this region is abundant in mineral resources, agricultural potential, and a long-standing historical legacy, yet it remains relatively unknown. Among the notable sites in Bahabad, the Gur-e Kaferi Cemetery in Kavijan Village stands out prominently. Covering an area of nearly 1,000 hectares and containing over 1,793 graves identified to date, it is regarded as one of the most significant and largest ancient cemeteries in the region. This site has been attributed to the Parthian period, underscoring its immense historical importance.

The Gur-e Kaferi site is located five kilometers southwest of Bahabad and to the west and northwest of Kavijan village. The distance from this cemetery to the provincial center is approximately 156 kilometers. This archaeological site offers valuable evidence of the life, culture, and burial practices of ordinary people from that era and has the potential to contribute significantly to a deeper understanding of the cultural and historical sequence of this part of the country.

The head of the archaeological team investigating Gur-e Kaferi



told IRNA that during a one-month preliminary and survey-based archaeological exploration, conducted within the site of Gur-e Kaferi, a total of 1,793 historical graves were identified across an area close to one thousand hectares.

Mohammad Hossein Azizi Kharanaqi stated, "Considering the similarity of most graves and burial objects found here, it is highly likely that this cemetery belongs to ordinary people

from the Parthian period who inhabited this region. However, this dating remains tentative and preliminary, and further research and excavation efforts could lead to revisions and refinements in this chronological assessment."

He also added, "The burial objects discovered are limited in number and include one or two ceramic vessels placed at the head and foot of the graves, along with small bronze arti-

facts such as bracelets, rings, and stone beads. Fragments of glass paste also constitute a significant part of the objects recovered."

Furthermore, he stated, "This high density of graves over such a large area has made Gur-e Kaferi a truly unique and significant cemetery site. However, it has been subjected to illegal excavations for over four decades, which has resulted in more than 90% of the graves being damaged or completely destroyed." He continued, "In order to gain a better understanding of the intrinsic nature and historical context of this site, alongside systematic and survey-based investigations conducted within the area, five graves were also carefully selected and excavated for test trenching."

Azizi Kharangi emphasized, "Considering the structure of the graves, their shallow depth, and the potential for moisture and water penetration into the interior spaces due to the soil composition surrounding the graves, almost no remains of human skeletons have been preserved. Only in some cases, worn and fractured pieces of long bones have been left behind, providing limited evidence of the buried individuals."

He added, "Despite ongoing efforts by local officials and archaeologists, the lack of comprehensive understanding and accurate expert assessment of the function and significance of this prominent site has prevented Gur-e Kaferi from being registered on Iran's List of National Heritage. This lack of official recognition has unfortunately led to a rise in illegal excavations and disturbances at the site."

He further mentioned that studies of Gur-e Kaferi have been conducted during the initial phases of exploration. The next steps in research involve finalizing the documentation necessary for national registration and undertaking more precise, scientific excavations. The goal is to preserve this cemetery, which dates back over 2,000 years, and to recognize it as a valuable cultural heritage within the Iranian plateau.

Finally, he clarified, "The graves in this cemetery are constructed directly on the ground in rectangular and oval shapes, often forming mound-like structures. We hope that ongoing and future research into Gur-e Kaferi will lead to the discovery of definitive and solid evidence about this previously unknown period of Parthian history."



## Varni standing as unique intermediate between carpets, kilims

Varni Bafi or Varni weaving, is a traditional and popular northwestern part of Iran. Today it is produced in an area called Dasht-e Moghan that is located in Ardebil Province. Varni is a nomadic hand-weave and belongs to an ancient tribe that was known as Shahsavari in the past.

The Shahsavari, which was formed by merging of fifty tribes into each other, was named so by Shah Abbas Safavid

who ordered them to settle in Azarbaijan as a defense against the advances of Ottoman Empire. Varni is a delicate kilim also known as Sumak. According to many specialists, Varni, that is double sided, is an intermediate between carpets and kilims. It is considered among the complex weaves and it takes a skillful weaver with years of experience to make a Varni.

Varni is weaved using Pudpichi. It is a

method in which in addition to warp and weft yarns, an extra thin weft is added to the body of kilim. After inserting the weft yarns, the thin weft is inserted too and then they are packed together by the comb. The extra weft enhances the interconnection of yarns and adds to the durability of the weave. This is considered as the last upgrade in the craft of kilims. Another weave, very similar to Varni, is Shirikipich that is a product of Kerman Province. They also differ in motifs and patterns.

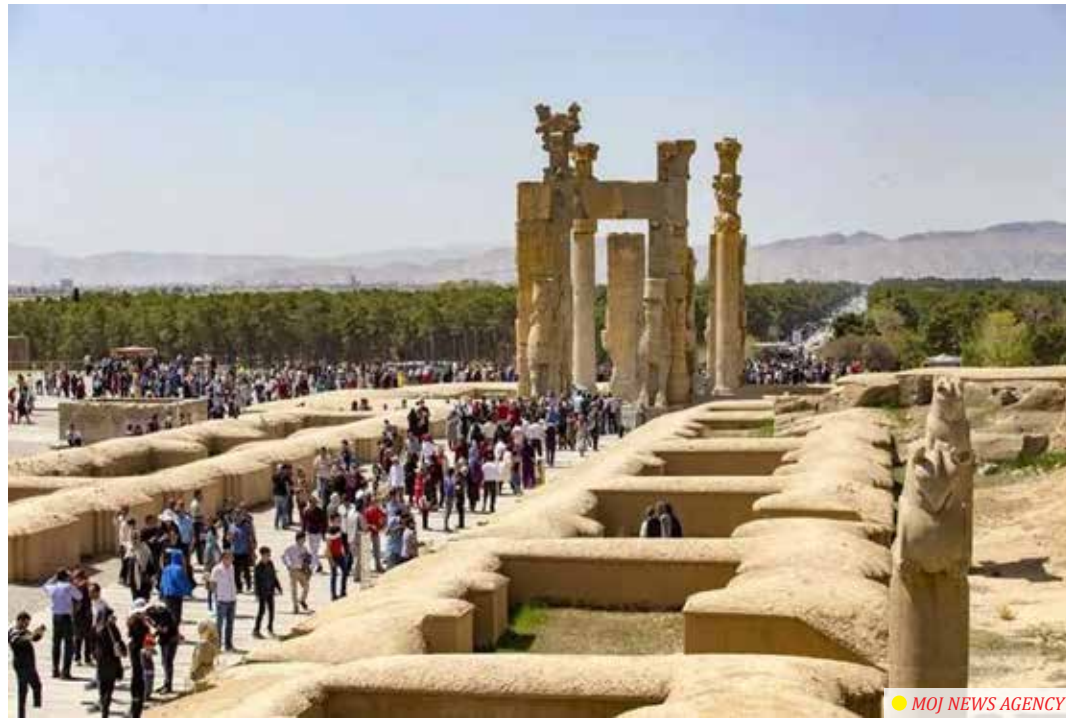
Varni is made more often in the winter season, because that is when the tribe has settled in one place and have the necessary time. The yarn is a mixture of silk and wool. Cotton, wool or silk yarns are used as wraps, and hand spun wool or silk yarn as wefts. Azarbijani nomads use Varni to make saddlebags and horse covers that, in terms of style, motifs (birds and animals) and color palettes, are among the best horse covers of Iran. The big saddlebags that are used to carry the utensils of nomads are ornated by motifs that are inspired by prehistoric potteries of this area.







# Iran waives zoning fees to lure foreign tourism investment, eyes global rebound



● MOJ NEWS AGENCY

## Arts & Culture Desk

Iran has scrapped land-use conversion fees for tourism projects in a bid to attract foreign investment and revive its post-sanctions tourism economy, Cultural Heritage Minister Reza Salehi Amiri announced on Saturday. The measure, long demanded by developers, is expected to unlock stalled projects and ease entry for international hotel chains, eco-tourism ventures, and wellness brands, IRNA reported. "This is a game-changer," Salehi Amiri said at a high-level meeting in Tehran. "We are opening the door to global investors. Our mission is to put Iran firmly back on the international tourism map." The move comes as Iran seeks to rebuild its cultural and tourism sectors amid a wider drive

to diversify the economy and counter years of isolation. Until now, developers were required to pay up to 80% of land value to convert agricultural land — a key hurdle for both domestic and foreign investors. New exemptions now apply to hotels, eco-lodges, marine resorts, and other qualifying projects. The reform is part of a broader five-year overhaul that includes tighter governance, increased cultural diplomacy, and higher budgets. Salehi Amiri said Iran's tourism and heritage strategy had entered a "new phase," marked by direct provincial coordination, international outreach, and structured performance benchmarks. Officials cited recent cultural engagement with Egypt and Azerbaijan, as well as expanded UNESCO site nominations, as proof of the country's growing

soft power. The minister also pointed to national resilience during the recent 12-day war, praising swift crisis management and coordinated provincial response. Deputy Minister Ali-Asghar Shalbafian called the fee removal "historic," saying it fulfilled a 10-year demand from the private sector. Ali Darabi, another deputy, said reopening museums and training tourism workers are now top priorities, while a new push is underway to inscribe Alamut Castle as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Under its 7th Development Plan, Iran aims to raise the number of museums to 1,000 and will host an international handicrafts fair in September. Talks are also in progress to increase ministry funding by 60% and boost staff salaries by half.

## Iranian documentary on traditional needlework to be screened at UK's Lift-Off Sessions



### Arts & Culture Desk

'Pateh, Intangible Heritage,' a documentary directed by Azam Ramezanzadeh and produced in central Iran's Yazd Province, will be screened at the 2025 Lift-Off Filmmaker Sessions in the United Kingdom. The documentary, supported by IRIB Media Trade, was selected for the seventh edition of the global event, which runs from

July 28 to August 11. The festival showcases selected works from around the world in both online and in-person screenings, IRNA reported. The 50-minute film explores the cultural roots and historical value of Pateh-bafi—a centuries-old Iranian needlework craft practiced mainly by women in the south and southeast. Through interviews with artisans and textile scholars, the

film highlights intricate stitching techniques and the role of the craft in local identity and collective memory. Ramezanzadeh's team traveled across Kerman and Yazd provinces to document "the delicate and complex" process of Pateh embroidery. The film also sheds light on the economic pressures threatening traditional crafts in Iran and the urgent need for intergenerational transmission. One artisan interviewed in the film called the embroidery "a silent language of women's resistance and creativity." Iran's selection at Lift-Off marks a rare international spotlight for its textile heritage. The festival's global platform "opens the door" for wider recognition of intangible cultural practices, IRIB said in a statement.

## Iranian opera singer Fekri to perform in Zagreb with French conductor Niquet

### Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian opera singer Reza Fekri is scheduled to perform Marc-Antoine Charpentier's 'Te Deum' under the baton of French conductor Hervé Niquet at the Vatroslav Lisinski Concert Hall in Zagreb on October 26, according to the Croatian National Theatre and the event's official website. Part of the long-running 'Lisinski Saturdays' concert series, the performance highlights Fekri's growing international footprint, IRNA reported. A tenor with the Croatian National Opera, Fekri will appear as the soloist in Charpentier's triumphal Baroque piece, often linked with "splendor and victory" in classical tradition. The concert will also feature works by Lully and Campra, drawing from France's 17th and 18th-century musical heritage. Fekri, one of Iran's leading classical vocalists, has held the stage in major European venues.



He was invited three years in a row to perform 'Thus Spoke Zarathustra' under Iranian maestro Ali Rahbari at the Mariinsky Opera in St. Petersburg, and has worked with Helikon Opera in Moscow, the Zagreb Philharmonic, Tehran Symphony Orchestra, and others. Niquet, founder of the early music ensemble 'Le Concert Spirituel,' is widely recognized for reviving sacred and secular French Baroque music. His collaboration with Fekri marks a rare cross-cultural pairing on the classical stage.

## Italian festival to show Iranian short animation 'Paper Flowers'

### Arts & Culture Desk

The short animation 'Paper Flowers' by Iranian filmmaker Ramak Amin Kazemi will compete at the ninth Nebrodi Cinema Festival held from September 29 to October 5 in Messina, Italy, the Iranian Documentary, Experimental & Animation Film Center (DEFC) announced. The festival will showcase 'Paper Flowers' in its competition section, highlighting the film's international reach following previous screenings at festivals in Italy, Turkey, Russia, Iraq, and Iran, ILNA reported. The film has garnered several awards, including Best



Animation at Russia's Kazan Festival, the Fifth Real Cinema Festival prize in Russia, and Best Costume Design at the Fumi Festival in the UK.

'Paper Flowers' tells the story of a renowned author who retreats to an isolated mansion in a neglected garden after his second book meets a "cold reception."

## Iran wins five silver medals at 2025 International Physics Olympiad in Paris

### Social Desk

Iran's national high school physics team won five silver medals at the 55th International Physics Olympiad (IPhO 2025), held in Paris from July 15 to 25, the Ministry of Education reported Saturday. The team members, Mohammad-Hassan Sadeghinejad, Aria Zarabi, Ilya Ghashaei, Mohammad-Hassan Golabdar, and Milad Mohammadi, each received a silver medal in the competition, which featured representatives from more than 90 countries. Ahmad Shirzad and Alireza Norouzshad

served as team leaders. This achievement highlights the "valuable knowledge and efforts" of Iran's young scholars and reflects the country's growing footprint in international scientific arenas. Iran's consistent participation and medal-winning performances in the IPhO underline the nation's commitment to advancing STEM education. The International Physics Olympiad is an annual competition for high school students, first held in Warsaw in 1967. Since then, except for three years, it has been hosted by different countries



The Iranian team poses for a group photo on July 24, 2025, following winning five medals at the 2025 edition of the International Physics Olympiad.

worldwide. The 2025 contest drew roughly 400 students from 94 nations, testing their skills in theoretical and experimental physics. Iran's latest results follow strong showings in recent years. At the 54th IPhO

held in Isfahan, Iran, last year, the national team earned one gold and four silver medals, finishing fourth overall. In 2023, at the Tokyo Olympiad, Iranian students secured five medals, including four silver and one bronze.