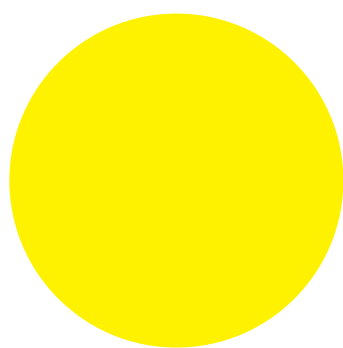


Minister: Iran targets doubling agricultural trade with China to \$2b ‘shortly’

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Speaker terms Gaza as ‘museum of humanity’s crimes’

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E3 following in US footsteps to halt Iran’s enrichment glaring mistake

By Sasan Karimi
International affairs analyst

OPINION EXCLUSIVE

International affairs analyst Friday saw the launch of a new round of talks between Iran and the three European powers—Britain, France and Germany—in Turkey. The European signatories to the 2015 nuclear deal, known as the JCPOA, entered the negotiations with two main aims. One was to hang onto the snapback mechanism enriched in the tattered deal that would reinstate UN sanctions on Iran if triggered, to prove it still holds weight, and to demonstrate its applicability to the Islamic Republic. The other was to showcase their own role in the Iran nuclear dossier, which remains a major item on the international agenda. Since Donald Trump’s return to the White House as president, European governments—especially the trio—have felt increasingly sidelined in global diplomacy by Washington. Now they are keen to play a role in Iran’s nuclear saga and show they still matter. Whether the Europeans adopt independent stances in talks with Iran or just echo Trump’s rhetoric, many of their statements—particularly regarding provoking the snapback of sanctions—are detached from the realities of the JCPOA. Their stance looks a lot like pressure tactics, akin to those favored by Trump. Nevertheless, they do not necessarily parrot everything Trump says, and it seems unlikely they support his broader agenda, especially given their disappointment with his conduct in his second term. Importantly, a distinction must be made between the JCPOA dispute-resolution mechanism (commonly called the trigger or snapback) and US sanctions. Snapback carries legal—and potentially binding—weight under UN Security Council resolutions and should not be overlooked by Iran. The pressure from US unilateral sanctions is separate and unilateral, but the return of previous UN counter-sanctions (six resolutions including five Chapter VII resolutions that portrayed Iran as a threat to international peace and security) would involve all UN members, not just the United States. This means that if snapback is activated, restrictions would be reinstated not only from Washington but from every UN Security Council member.

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Gov’t rejects nationwide closures over economic fallout amid water scarcity

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President Masoud Pezeshkian (R) speaks during a cabinet meeting in Tehran on July 30, 2025.
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Iran to build on youth talent for AFC Asia Cup mission

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Pezeshkian welcomes Venezuela's plans for promoting peace in West Asia

International Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on Tuesday welcomed Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro's push for a regional peace summit, voicing support during a phone call for what he called "constructive initiatives" aimed at reducing tensions in West Asia.

The call came amid mounting criticism in Iran of what it views as US complicity in Israeli military actions against Iranian interests, president.ir reported.

Pezeshkian thanked Caracas for its firm opposition to Israel's "aggressions" and

praised Venezuela's "principled and courageous" stance in supporting Iranian sovereignty.

He said Tehran remained committed to diplomacy, but warned that Iran would strike back "decisively" if provoked again.

"Our path is dialogue," Pezeshkian said, "but the United States has paved the way for Israel's violations by abandoning diplomatic norms."

He described recent attacks on Iranian targets as "blatant breaches" of international law.

The two leaders also pledged to expand

strategic cooperation as they marked 75 years of diplomatic ties. Pezeshkian stressed that bilateral relations would grow "deeper, broader and more strategic."

Maduro, for his part, condemned Israel's actions and offered condolences for the Iranian lives lost. He called the Iranian response "heroic," saying it had "shattered" the perceived dominance of the Israeli military and boosted morale among nations resisting foreign pressure.

"The Iranian people have shown they can defend their right to peace," Maduro said, expressing hope that a proposed



Nicolas Maduro



Masoud Pezeshkian

peace summit would yield "major agreements" and help secure lasting regional stability.

Both sides signaled their intent to step

up economic and political engagement. Maduro said the time was ripe to "deepen bilateral ties and strengthen strategic bonds."

Speaker terms Gaza as 'museum of humanity's crimes'

International Desk

Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf rebuked on Wednesday the international community's inaction about the Israeli regime's barbaric onslaught on the besieged Gaza Strip, warning that the Palestinian territory had become a museum of humanity's crimes and a laboratory for testing killing technologies.

"Today, we have gathered in Geneva to discuss multilateralism for peace and justice, while these ideals are being deliberately and continuously undermined, and the credibility of international institutions is eroding," Qalibaf said in an address to the Sixth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament in the Swiss city on Wednesday.

"Gaza today is a museum of humanity's crimes and a laboratory for testing killing technologies. We must not be mere spectators to the Gaza genocide; rather, we must stop the 21st-century Nazis before it is too late."

Displaying images of Israeli crimes against children in Gaza, Qalibaf



Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf displays images of Israeli crimes in an address to the Sixth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament in the Swiss city of Geneva on July 30, 2025.
● ICANA

warned, "The impunity of the Zionist regime's aggressions not only undermines the legitimacy of the international order but also sends a dangerous message for global peace, emboldening the aggressor to expand its crimes."

The Iranian Parliament speaker underlined that the Israeli regime's aggressive acts against Palestinians, which are a deliberate violation of international law and the United Nations Charter, were condemned by 120 countries worldwide; however, the few but bullying supporters of the Zionists prevented international bodies from taking decisive action to hold the Tel Aviv regime accountable.

Pointing to the institutions that

should safeguard peace but remained silent in the face of Israeli aggression and occupation, Qalibaf said, "The mechanisms that should guarantee justice are instead blaming the victims and shielding the aggressors, and the structures that should remain impartial and independent have often become tools for the political exploitation of certain powers."

The top Iranian parliamentarian emphasized that the Israeli regime is using hunger and famine as a weapon of mass destruction.

"The dissemination of images of starving children in Gaza is a disgrace to everyone. Gaza, today, is a place where the right to life is punished with bullets and famine," he said. "Gaza is not just a dot on the map, but the center for testing human conscience."

Gov't rejects nationwide closures over economic fallout amid water scarcity

The Iranian government on Wednesday ruled out a proposal to shut down state offices every Wednesday and implement a one-week nationwide holiday to conserve water, citing potential economic fallout amid a water crisis affecting large parts of the country. During a cabinet meeting, officials reviewed reports from the Ministry of Industry, Mines and Trade, the Ministry of Energy, and the Plan and Budget Organization, which assessed the potential impact of workplace closures on water consumption and the economy, IRNA reported. Following a debate, the proposal was shelved after projections indicated it could "have consequences for economic sectors." "I am not in favor of such consequences," President Masoud Pezeshkian told his ministers, rejecting the measure. He argued that "shutting down operations is wiping away the problem, not

solving the water shortage."

The president stressed the importance of joint consultations and raising public awareness to "weather the crisis."

"By engaging all sectors, including the public, water consumption can be managed," he added. The proposal was triggered by critically low rainfall, which officials say is more than 40% below Iran's 80-year average, significantly impacting dam reserves across the country. Last week, Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi warned that inflows to Tehran's dams had halved, and one key reservoir was expected to run dry and go offline within a month. Despite rejecting a national measure, the government had earlier ordered a localized closure of banks public offices in Tehran last week in a bid to curb water usage.

According to Vice President Alireza Rafieezadeh, that decision helped cut

consumption and proved to be an "effective tool" in emergency situations. Rafieezadeh noted that "office closures can be placed on the table as a supportive measure" when faced with "critical and emergency conditions." Meanwhile, Tehran's Water and Wastewater Company has implemented pressure reduction strategies in urban pipelines and warned that "the current water reserves in the capital's dams are at their lowest level in a century." Citizens have been urged to cut water consumption by at least 20%. In some provinces, water rationing programs have been introduced, cutting off residential supply at scheduled intervals.

Pezeshkian called for full transparency, saying "consumers must clearly understand that if consumption continues at the current rate, we will face a serious crisis."

Moscow voices 'serious concern' about threat of new anti-Iran strikes

Russia said on Wednesday it was concerned about the threat of new strikes on Iran's nuclear facilities, and that a deal on Tehran's nuclear programme could be reached through dialogue, Reuters reported. Israel and the United States bombed Iranian nuclear sites in June with the stated aim of preventing Tehran from acquiring a nuclear weapon. Iran denies any such intention.

"Regular threats towards Iran to launch

new missile and bomb strikes on its nuclear facilities cannot but cause serious concern. The cynicism of such statements is added by the fact that they are made under the guise of imaginary concern for the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons," Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova told reporters. "Bombing nuclear facilities should not become commonplace, routine international practice. The catastrophic risks associat-

ed with this cannot be ignored, much less justified."

Russia has cultivated closer ties with Iran since the start of its war in Ukraine, and this year signed a strategic partnership treaty with the Islamic Republic.

Zakharova said a sustainable peace settlement and a promise not to conduct new strikes on Iran were prerequisites for normalizing cooperation between Tehran and the UN nuclear watchdog agency.

Deputy FM: Tehran will pursue US-Israeli aggression via legal channels

International Desk

A senior Iranian official underscored the Islamic Republic's determination to follow up on the recent US-Israeli aggression on Iranian soil through legal channels.

Kazem Gharibabadi, who is the deputy foreign minister for legal and international affairs, made the statement in an interview with the official website of Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei on the sidelines of a ceremony in the capital Tehran that commemorated the 40th day of those martyred in the 12-day war last month. Gharibabadi stressed that the Islamic Republic's legal follow-up after the recent aggression is an important part of the work as the US-Israeli crime was completely in contravention of international law, the UN Charter, and human rights. Iran's deputy foreign minister said two reports concerning legal violations during the aggression by the US and the Zionist regime and the martyrdom of children, women, and families had been prepared, and their documentation work was almost complete.

"The aggressors received a firm response, but now our job is to legally follow up on it ... The documentation work is almost complete. Some comprehensive international reports have been prepared and registered with the Security Council and the United Nations," Gharibabadi said. "Regretfully, legal work in the international arena is intertwined with political stances and approaches, but this should not culminate in disappointment," he added.

"The first stage is to register and document these crimes, file a lawsuit, and pursue it seriously. If it yields results, that will be excellent, and we must exert



First-responders gather outside a building that was hit by an Israeli strike in Tehran on June 13, 2025.
● Tasnim

all our efforts to achieve that outcome. Even if it fails, we should not abandon the work, and it should remain at the top of the Islamic Republic's priorities as a primary claim."

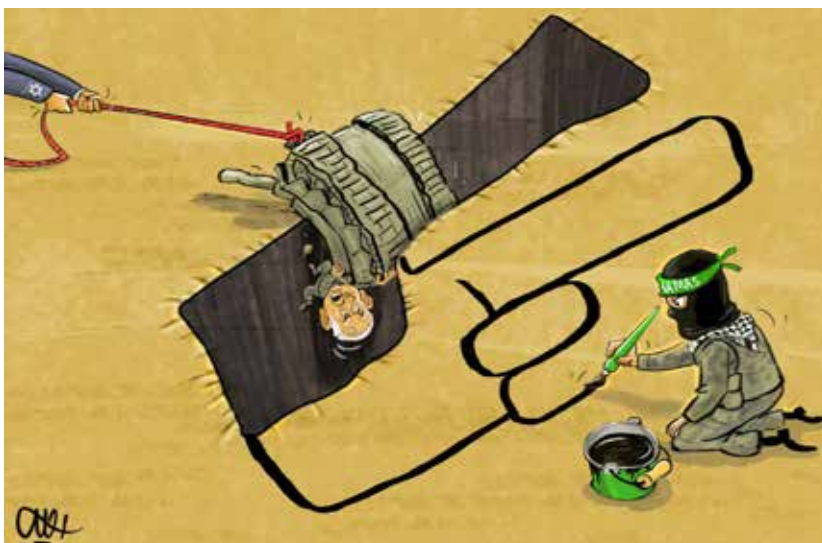
On June 13, Israel launched an unprovoked war against Iran, assassinating many high-ranking military commanders, nuclear scientists, and ordinary civilians. More than a week later, the United States also entered the war by bombing three Iranian nuclear sites in a grave violation of the United Nations Charter, international law, and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

In response, the Iranian Armed Forces targeted strategic sites across the occupied territories as well as the al-Udeid air base in Qatar, the largest American military base in West Asia.

On June 24, Iran, through its successful retaliatory operations against both the Israeli regime and the US, managed to impose a halt to the illegal assault as Tel Aviv, overwhelmed by the unceasing counterstrikes, was compelled to seek a ceasefire.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Minister: Iran targets doubling agricultural trade with China to \$2b 'shortly'

Economy Desk

The Iranian minister of agriculture expressed optimism over the potential to double agricultural trade with China to \$2 billion "in a short period," highlighting existing capacities within bilateral relations.

Gholamreza Nouri-Qezeljah is in China to attend the 10th Meeting of Agriculture Ministers of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), Mehr reported.

Upon arrival in Kunming city in southwestern China, Nouri-Qezeljah stated the meeting of agriculture ministers of SCO member states is dedicated to discussing "cooperation among the organization's members, increasing the level of interactions, and presenting solutions to deepen relations between the members of this organization." He identified the SCO member states as among Iran's most important partners in the agricultural sector, adding that China, Russia, India, Pakistan, and Central Asian countries are significant trading partners. He further stated, "On this trip, we will pursue ways to enhance the level of relations in economic, agricultural, and other fields with these countries, both bilaterally and within the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization."

Regarding Iran-China cooperation in agriculture, the minister of agriculture stated, "Currently, most interactions between the two countries are in the agricultural sector, with the trade volume standing at one billion dollars, and the share of the two countries in terms of exports and imports is almost equal." According to the minister, considering

the existing capacities in Iran-China relations, "we can increase this amount to two billion dollars in a short period." Nouri-Qezeljah identified various agricultural fields, especially fisheries, as suitable areas for cooperation between the two countries. He expressed hope that the consultations conducted during this trip would provide and expedite the grounds for increased cooperation. Emphasizing the importance of strategic Iran-China relations from the perspective of the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran, he added, "We are seriously pursuing the deepening and development of relations with China."

Final statement

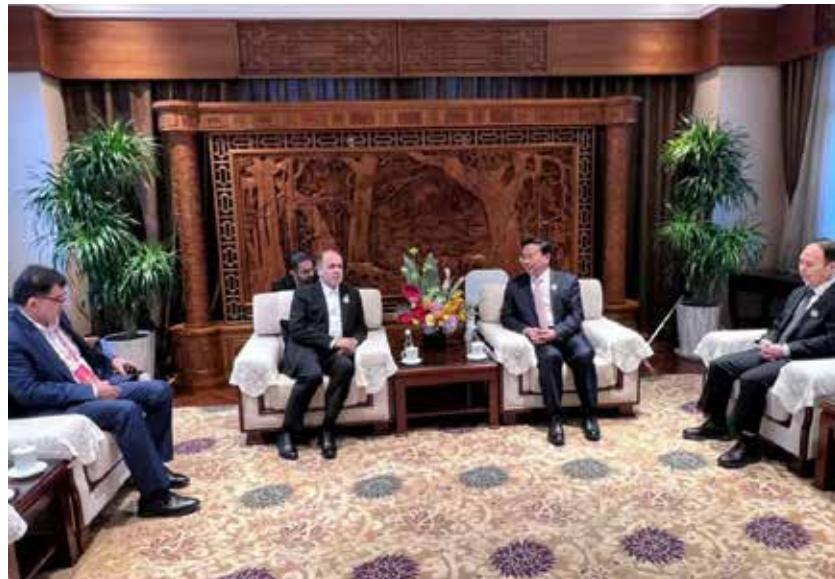
The 10th Meeting of Agriculture Ministers of SCO member states, held on Wednesday, issued the final joint statement, emphasizing the pivotal role of the member states' policies in developing the agriculture, fisheries, and aquaculture sectors.

The Iranian minister, heading a delegation to this meeting, will hold bilateral meetings with his counterparts from SCO member states in addition to delivering a speech at this session.

Ways to develop agricultural cooperation reviewed

In a meeting between Nouri-Qezeljah and his Chinese counterpart Han Jun, ways to develop agricultural cooperation between Iran and China were reviewed.

Nouri-Qezeljah announced the commitment of President Masoud Pezeshkian and his government to developing bilateral cooperation with China, including



in the agricultural sector. The minister, while enumerating the priority areas for bilateral cooperation in the agricultural sector, called for expediting the issuance of the remaining sanitary permits to facilitate the export of some of Iran's agricultural products to China. In this meeting, Han Jun evaluated the positions announced and solutions presented by the Iranian minister, especially concerning the requirements for removing obstacles to the development of trade exchanges, as beneficial and significant. He added, "China has the necessary readiness to increase imports of various agricultural products from the Islamic Republic of Iran." The agriculture ministers of the two countries subsequently held consultations



Iranian Minister of Agriculture Gholamreza Nouri-Qezeljah (l) meets Chinese counterpart, Han Jun, in Kunming, China on the sidelines of the 10th Meeting of Agriculture Ministers of SCO on July 30, 2025.

● maj.ir

on various aspects of bilateral cooperation in different fields of the agricultural sector.

Given the numerous agenda items for bilateral cooperation in this field, it was decided that detailed consultations would continue in the form of a meeting at the level of deputy ministers of the two countries. It was also decided that the third Joint Committee for Iran-China Agricultural Cooperation will be held in the near future in Tehran.

Chinese envoy rejects 'Unilateral' US sanctions over Iranian oil purchases



China's Ambassador to Tehran Zhong Peiwu
● ISNA

Economy Desk

China's Ambassador to Tehran dismissed recent US pressure over oil purchases from Iran and Russia as "unilateral", stating opposition to such sanctions and insisting normal trade with Iran "will not be negatively affected."

In an interview with ISNA, Zhong Peiwu responded to US recent pressure on his country to stop purchasing oil from Iran and Russia, and to the imposition of increased tariffs on Beijing, saying, "China opposes the unilateral sanctions of the United States, and normal trade between China and Iran will not be negatively affected by these actions."

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent on Tuesday said he warned Chinese officials that continued purchases of sanctioned Russian oil would lead to big tariffs due to legislation in Congress, but was told that Beijing would protect its energy sovereignty.

Wrapping up two days of US-China trade talks in Stockholm, Bessent said he also expressed US displeasure at China's continued purchases of sanctioned Iranian oil, and its sales of over \$15 billion worth of dual-use technology goods to Russia that have bolstered Moscow's war against Ukraine, Reuters reported.

Peiwu said, "To put it simply, trade between China and Iran is normal trade; meaning this normal trade should not be subject to unilateral sanctions by a third party."

The Chinese diplomat further emphasized, "It is for this reason that we oppose hegemony and unilateralism, especially the unilateral sanctions of the United States. Normal trade between China and Iran will not be negatively affected by this factor."

China's oil imports from Iran surged in June. The world's top oil importer and biggest buyer of Iranian crude brought in more than 1.8 million barrels per day from June 1-20, according to ship-tracker Vortexa, a record high based on the firm's data, Reuters reported.

The US secretary of treasury, whose department is responsible for enforcing sanctions on Iran, had said in early months of Trump's current presidency that Washington was committed to reducing Iran's oil exports to below 100,000 bpd.

Vortexa released figures in July showing that Iran had been shipping an average of 1.8 million bpd of oil in certain weeks in the past few months. However, its most recent figures show Iran has stabilized its exports at high levels. The data shows that even a 12-day Israeli war of aggression on Iran, which took place last month and was supported by the US, failed to affect the country's booming presence in the international oil markets.

IMF raises outlook for World and Iran economic growth



Economy Desk

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has upgraded its global economic growth forecast for 2025, citing softened US tariffs, while also

revising its outlook for Iran upward to 0.6% – double its April projection of 0.3%.

The IMF predicted stronger global economic growth than it forecast in April in part due to some US tariffs

on goods being softened. The fund has estimated its forecast for Iran's real GDP growth in 2025 at 0.6%, revised upward from the 0.3% rate it projected in April, ISNA reported.

It expects Iran's economic growth rate to remain at 1.1% in 2026.

A surge in US imports as firms tried to beat impending higher import taxes and actions by some governments to boost growth bumped up the fund's latest forecast, BBC reported.

However, higher tariffs and more uncertainty could lead to weaker growth and slower economic activity, the IMF warned.

Meanwhile, UK growth is

predicted to be 1.2% this year, and 1.4% in 2026, unchanged from revised forecasts set out in May.

The UK is set to be the third fastest growing economy out the world's so-called most advanced economies this year and the next, after US and Canada.

The IMF, which is a group of 190 countries that work together to try to stabilize the global economy, said the upgrade to its global predictions included trade "front-loading" in recent months – referring to the rush of imports into the US. It forecast global growth of 3% in 2025 and 3.1% in 2026, up from 2.8% and 3% in its April report.

However, that is still below the 3.3% rate it had projected for both years in January, prior to US President Donald Trump taking office, and the pre-pandemic historical average of 3.7%.

American firms rushed products into the country earlier this year to try to get ahead of new taxes on imports pledged by Trump.

The IMF said that this created risks that could add to any future economic shocks, including companies, having too much stock, making future imports less necessary.

Also, firms may have to pay more to store goods, and there was also a risk of items becoming obsolete, it said.

E3 following in ...

While US sanctions are effective, many countries and companies still find ways to cooperate with Iran—so long as no broader UN sanctions are reimposed.

Meanwhile, Europe remains a party to the JCPOA, perceiving itself as a negotiating partner, and calling for Iran's continued compliance—and for inspection access under the NPT and IAEA protocols. Yet, they must recognize the changed reality on the ground: Iran is reluctant to host inspectors in the aftermath of US-Israeli attacks on its nuclear facilities during the war last month. Plus, safety concerns are genuine and should be appreciated by the Europeans—not weaponized.

Moreover, Europe siding with US demands to halt enrichment would

be laughably misguided, given that Iran's right to enrich uranium is explicitly recognized in the JCPOA. European officials initially hinted at such a policy, but later back-tracked, claiming they meant something else entirely.

It remains unclear exactly what scenarios the Europeans hope to pursue after these talks. Iran believes in diplomacy and negotiation—but it must be real, substantive, and solution-oriented. Otherwise, if the discussions resemble the five rounds of fruitless talks with the US before the June military aggression against Iran, continuing them would only confer legitimacy on European posturing. However, if negotiations are meaningful, effective, and forward-moving, they could yield beneficial results.

Iran, Tajik FM's in Dushanbe emphasize expanding economic, trade ties

Economy Desk

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and his Tajik counterpart Sirojiddin Muhriddin emphasized expanding economic and trade relations between their two countries during talks in Dushanbe.

Araghchi on Wednesday traveled to Dushanbe at the head of a diplomatic delegation for consultations with senior officials of the Republic of Tajikistan, IRNA reported.

At the meeting, the two ministers reviewed the progress of bilateral relations across various fields, including political,

economic, trade, cultural, academic, tourism, and consular affairs.

They also exchanged views on ways to strengthen and expand ties while facilitating private-sector exchanges and public transactions.

The Tajik foreign minister expressed satisfaction with the shared resolve of the leaders of both friendly and culturally close nations to consolidate bilateral relations and develop cooperation in all areas of mutual interest.

He described expanding economic and trade relations between the two countries as highly significant and ex-



Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (l) shakes hands with his Tajik counterpart Sirojiddin Muhriddin in Dushanbe on July 30, 2025.

● IRNA

pressed Tajikistan's readiness to advance this objective.

Iran’s Intelligence Ministry outlines in detail ‘Silent battle’ against ‘Intelligence NATO’ in imposed 12-day war

STATEMENT

The Iranian Ministry of Intelligence issued a statement clarifying different aspects of “the silent battle” the “Intelligence NATO” waged against Iran during the recent imposed 12-day war. What follows is a translation of parts of the statement published in Persian:



What unfolded during this conflict was a war plan combining full-scale use of military, security, intelligence, cognitive warfare, harassment, assassination, sabotage, destabilization, and internal chaos aimed at subjugating and forcing the country to surrender. The Ministry of Intelligence forces and Iran’s intelligence community, before, during, and after the recent imposed 12-day war, stood their ground not only against the despicable Zionist regime but also the Western intelligence-security NATO, boldly facing a wide array of security threats and enemy mercenary attacks. They fought valiantly, captured traitors and foreign agents, and in armed clashes, wiped out enemy elements, silently and anonymously offering martyrs and veterans for the Islamic Iran and the proud Iranian nation. However, this great and silent battle with the Zionist front was not confined to defensive measures alone. With pride, the Ministry informs the honorable Iranian nation that its personnel simulta-

neously held all-round security bastions and launched an unprecedented combined intelligence offensive by opening multiple fronts within the occupied territories against the ruling criminal gang. Taking advantage of this opportunity, part of the Ministry’s countermeasures and offensives (due to certain security and operational constraints) are briefly disclosed here, with more detailed updates to follow as soon as conditions allow:

1. Offensive and Defensive Espionage Cases, Information Exchange, and Anti-Terror Measures:

1.1. Numerous multifaceted offensive intelligence operations (aggressive espionage) took place in various cities within the occupied lands against the Zionist regime’s interests and its ruling criminal gang. One key tactic was recruiting informants and operatives from deep within the military and security layers of the regime to carry out missions, submit documented and visual reports, and verify these actions. It is now confirmed that although

the desperate Zionist regime managed to identify and detain some Israeli agents, the majority of the sensitive operations are still underway. Furthermore, even these few uncovered cases severely rattled the criminal regime, leading to self-inflicted damage and embarrassing reactions across various regime apparatuses. Multiple public warnings issued by security, law enforcement, and the prime minister’s office attempted to shut down cooperation among the regime’s citizens with Iran and threatened heavy punishments to those aiding the Ministry of Intelligence. When cooperation from a number of military personnel, government officials, and teachers with the Ministry became apparent, the regime’s media reported a “jolt hitting” army and security forces, escalating propaganda and overt threats remarkably.

1.2. Effective intelligence efforts to beef up access and expand information-gathering channels from targets inside the regime and relay outcomes to relevant civil and military entities. Of notable



Numerous multifaceted offensive intelligence operations (aggressive espionage) took place in various cities within the occupied lands against the Zionist regime’s interests and its ruling criminal gang. One key tactic was recruiting informants and operatives from deep within the military and security layers of the regime to carry out missions, submit documented and visual reports, and verify these actions.

significance is the exploitation of highly classified documents obtained through recent intelligence strikes against the “nuclear treasure trove” of the usurping Zionist regime in the weeks before the 12-day war, pinpointing dozens of key centers in sensitive security, armament, defense, economy, industry, refineries, power plants, fuel transmission lines, inhumane research labs (nuclear, chemical, microbial, biological), steerable frequency commands, etc., to Iranian armed forces before, during, and after the imposed war. A documentary on this subject will be broadcast soon.

1.3. Activation of a covert diplomatic mechanism in connection with the evolving war front, exchanging intelligence with other agencies, sending warning messages through regional countries, and sharing information with them.

1.4. Identification and arrest of 20 spies, operational agents, Mossad supporters connected to the regime’s officers in Tehran, Alborz, Qazvin, Arak, Isfahan, Fars, Kerman, Khuzestan, Zanjan, Mazandaran, West Azerbaijan, and Kurdistan; In three special cases, joint operations were conducted with the intelligence protection units of relevant forces.

1.5. Identification of several agents allied with the regime’s intelligence officers in economic, financial, and industrial sectors poised for sabotage.

1.6. Discovery and disruption of terrorist operational sites used by the enemy during the recent imposed war across several provinces, thwarting their terror plots.

1.7. Uncovering and foiling the Zionist regime’s terror plans aimed at assassinating 23 officials of the country during the 12-day war, and 13 similar conspiracies in the months leading up to the war, successfully preventing the targeting of 35 senior civil and military officials by God’s grace.

1.8. Detecting new regime targets in the Atomic Energy Organization and certain military centers, promptly informing responsible authorities, and neutralizing sabotage attempts.

2. Terrorist, Takfiri, and Separatist Groups

During the recent imposed war, Takfiri and terrorist groups, assigned by American-Zionist criminals to spark insecurity, conduct large-scale terror operations, and fragment the country, were countered by the following measures:

2.1. Identification and arrest of 3 so-called Daesh (ISIS) emirs (commanders) and 50 Takfiri terrorists inside the country, along with discovery and confiscation of suicide vests and war weapons.

2.2. Uncovering the base of 300 foreign terrorists near the southeastern borders, poised to infiltrate Iranian soil; All movements were monitored and prevented. Moreover, the Zionist enemy was attempting to recruit and organize hundreds of mercenaries under the fake banner “United Balochistan Front,” whose activities are under close surveillance.

2.3. Discovering that approximately 150 Takfiri elements stationed in Syria were ready to head to Iran and act against it, which led to timely preventative actions.

2.4. Exposing a 12-article program and instructions by one group, which were situated across Iran’s western borders intending to initiate “Syria-style actions,”



The juxtaposed photos show two Afghans, arrested on the charge of spying for Israel during the regime’s 12-day war of aggression against Iran, being interviewed on Iranian state TV.

● SCREENGAB



resulting in identification and detention of some members in border areas and destruction of their weapon caches prepared for smuggling into Iran.

2.5. Obtaining intelligence on the entry of certain armed group leaders into Iraqi Kurdistan and the holding of military drills by some armed groups there, prompting appropriate deterrent measures.

2.6. Striking several operational cells of the Mujahedin-e Khalq (MKO) or “insurgent hubs,” which were active during the recent war in provinces such as Tehran, West Azerbaijan, Sistan and Baluchestan, Qazvin, Hormozgan, among others.

2.7. Crushing multiple urban cells of two terrorist groups intending to carry out operations in Kurdish provinces.

2.8. Arresting extremist elements aligned with the fake regime that were promoting ethnic separatism and targeting national unity and cohesion in several regions.

2.9. Intelligence was gathered on the ill-conceived plans of terrorist and separatist groups to carry out operations and, as they call it, “seize territory” (۱) in the northwest and southeast of the country. Following this, decisive preventive and punitive measures were carried out with full force.

2.10. Arresting several key figures and supporting intelligence and technical teams of a long-standing terrorist, separatist, and anti-people group in the Sistan and Baluchistan Province, who were in the process of gearing up for terrorist operations.

3. Neutralizing Conspiracies to Overthrow, Introduce Alternatives, and Colonial Cults

3.1. Discovering and establishing full intelligence surveillance over the massive American-Zionist scheme to establish a “puppet government” centered on the despised remnants of the treacherous Pahlavi family and direct involvement of fanatical Iranian-born Zionist elements such as Ben Sabti (former spokesperson of the occupying regime), Bijan Rafiekian (close to Netanyahu and former member of the Turkey-US Business Council), Ari Moghimi (representative of the Zionist regime among monarchists), and the granting of “government-in-exile” leadership to Reza Pahlavi by these actors (۲) in tandem with advancing Israeli-backed separatist agendas by monarchists (detailed reports to follow).

3.2. Discovering, establishing full intelligence surveillance over, and foiling the monarchists’ plan under Mossad’s command to unleash and dispatch armed operational teams from across the country to Tehran on June 22 to carry out terrorist acts the following day (coinciding with the bombardment of Evin Prison) and attacks on nearby military and security facilities, synchronized with wide mobilization calls by Reza Pahlavi and affiliated Zionist Persian-language propagandists. This was aimed at rallying all related operatives, prisoners’ families, etc., around the prison to spark street unrest from that point. This Zionist-monarchist plot was brought to a grinding halt through identifying involved agents, delivering repeated blows to enemy operational teams, and arresting 122 mercenaries

across 23 provinces before any terrorist acts in Tehran could take place.

3.3. Discovering and dealing blows to multiple teams that were paid in digital currency (USDT) by the monarchist-Zionist network hubs in various provinces tasked with sabotage actions. This also included the arrest of 65 mercenaries in the days leading up to the Israeli regime’s aggression.

3.4. Establishing full intelligence surveillance over the unusual spike in interactions and ties among the leaders of the Zionist Bahá’í sect originating from their central hub in the occupied lands (Haifa), and at the right moment, arresting agents organized to serve the Zionist-monarchist project nationwide.

3.5. While history shows Iranian Christians have always had perfect peaceful coexistence with Muslim compatriots, been loyal supporters of Iran, and sacrificed martyrs defending the country, the Zionist regime attacked this sacred unity as well. A branch of Mossad mercenaries under the guise of the so-called “Zionist Christian evangelism,” linked to the Seattle-based Church of Salvation and a church in the occupied lands, also engaged in various anti-security activities at the same time. Through full identification and arrest of 53 trained operatives abroad, alongside inspections of their organizational sites where weapons were uncovered, their activities were put to a stop.

3.6. Neutralizing a network recruiting famous figures from the arts, sports, and popular media by inviting them to Zionist-monarchist gatherings in Turkey and the US, coupled with the arrest of a dual American-national coordinator for this network.

3.7. Discovering and establishing full intelligence surveillance over the support networks and cells linked to the so-called citizen-journalist arm of the Zionist-terrorist Iran International network, revealing connections with the child-killer regime, and arresting and summoning 98 operatives inside the country.

4. Anti-Security Activities in Cyberspace, Technical Communications, and Social Media



4.1. Constant smart monitoring of American-Zionist psychological operations online and real-time tracking of websites and social media to pinpoint and clamp down on active regime supporters, campaigns, and calls aimed at stirring unrest and fostering anti-security gatherings.

4.2. Surveillance of covert and unusual communications between domestic users and foreigners, especially with Zionist regime agents and channels, identifying and apprehending dozens of page and channel admins linked to espionage and operational (the so-called “street warfare”) cyber networks.

4.3. Monitoring enemy activities in signal intelligence and neutralizing their efforts within the Ministry’s technical reach and capabilities.

4.4. Smart surveillance, as well as designing and deploying preemptive technical measures, to keep enemy cyber threats and attacks at bay while identifying technical contaminations and disruptions.

4.5. Identifying and cracking down on Mossad operatives’ attempts to contact targets inside the country (via various international dialing codes) to create psychological insecurity and confusion, make threats, provide “safe exit routes,” and promise foreign citizenship and residency. Thanks to the vigilance of the targeted individuals, all attempts were thwarted.

5. Discovery of Weapons and Equipment for Anti-Terrorism Purposes

Secret reports and data revealed behavioral patterns of terrorist, Takfiri, and separatist groups, especially near western and eastern borders. Such patterns included extensive stockpiling of weapons, personnel, and smuggling of arms into the country in preparation for the “zero hour” and subsequent phases of the imposed war to carry out hostile operations against Iran’s national security. Key intelligence and operational actions in this area include:

5.1. Discovering and establishing full intelligence surveillance over large weapon storage centers on the country’s outer borders ready for transfer and distribution among supporters at zero hour by counter-revolutionaries; During the im-



Iran’s intelligence community made great strides before, during, and after the imposed 12-day war despite the heightened security measures in Israel.

● FILE PHOTO



Basij forces set up a checkpoint to stop and search suspicious vehicles in Tehran, Iran, during Israel’s brutal war of aggression against the country in June 2025.

● M. HASAN ZARIFMANESH/FARS



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posed 12-day war, six major shipments heading towards Kurdistan Province and arms and equipment routes for the military wing of terror groups based in Iraqi Kurdistan Region were successfully hit and disrupted. These operations uncovered a large cache of grenade launchers, rifle grenades, Kalashnikovs, war grenades, pistols, ammunition, and more.

5.2. Operations against several large weapon and explosive ammunition warehouses in Sistan and Baluchistan and Kerman Provinces, capturing significant numbers of machine guns, RPG-7s and rounds, hand grenades with detonators, pistols, grenade launchers, magazines, and ammo.

5.3. Identifying two major arms traffickers abroad, putting a wrench in their illegal networks, and seizing dozens of war-grade weapons such as M4, M16, Kalashnikov, pistols, grenade launchers, radios, and more.

6. Managing Social Agitation

6.1. Given the enemy’s multi-pronged efforts to whip up social unrest before, during, and after the 12-day war, the Ministry of Intelligence kept a tight watch on enemy scenarios, carrying out thousands of countermeasures nationwide via all provincial intelligence offices aimed at both positive (educational clarification) and negative (detering agitators, conscious or otherwise) approaches.

6.2. Heightening monitoring and protective measures and providing warnings to critical service centers and production complexes on plots by enemy services, groups, and hostile elements aiming to fan the flames of disruption and dissatisfaction.

6.3. Continuous intelligence surveillance and prompt action against enemy agents and domestic fifth columnists inciting artificial shortages of essential goods during the war, either through hoarding, price gouging, or spreading rumors to stir public unrest.

In conclusion, our unsung soldiers humbly thank God that despite the vastness and depth of the Zionist-American conspiracy, the coalition of foreign mercenaries, official spies, and terrorist groups — including all varieties of Takfiri, ISIS, Mujahedin, monarchists, heretical sects, and separatists from east and west — the enemy could not carry out a single operation against Iran’s national security throughout the 12-day war, despite the ministry sacrificing six martyr heroes. This success surely comes down to divine blessings, the guidance of the Leader of Iran’s Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, and the profound role of the vigilant and heroic Iranian nation.



The photo shows the substantial cache of weapons, military ammunition, and operational tools seized by Iranian security forces from the hideouts of two armed Takfiri terrorist groups in the southeastern province of Sistan and Baluchestan in March 2025.

● SCRENGRAB

Iran to build on youth talent for AFC Asia Cup mission

Sports Desk

The young talents of the Iranian national football team played a pivotal role in securing qualification for the 2026 AFC Women's Asian Cup, capturing attention with their exceptional performances. Team Melli endured a thrilling and hard-fought campaign against Singapore, Bhutan, Lebanon, and Jordan in Group A of the qualifiers in Amman earlier in July. On the final matchday, Iranian women faced a must-win task against Jordan – and they delivered, beating their formidable opponents 2-1 on their own turf to book their place in the Asian Cup. This marks only the second time in history (and the second consecutive edition) that Iranian women have reached the continental tournament. Despite entering the qualifiers with an incomplete and subpar preparation, the national team defied expectations. A closer look at head coach Marzieh Jafari's 23-player squad reveals that nine players were born in 2001 or later, with these young stars stealing the spotlight. Remarkably, they accounted for 10 of Iran's 14 goals in the qualifiers, proving their technical prowess on the big stage. Negin Zandi, 21, was undoubtedly the standout player of the tournament. With her blistering speed and dazzling technique, the Izeh-born winger constantly threatened defenses. Though the woodwork and some heroic goalkeeping denied her a more prolific tally, she still finished with two goals and three assists, earning recognition as Iran's most influential player in the Jordanian capital. Her brilliance will be crucial in the Asian Cup, where she could be Iran's secret



weapon against stronger opponents. At 24, Zahra Alizadeh is the oldest among Iran's Gen-Z stars. Initially used as a substitute, she made an immediate impact by assisting against Singapore, earning a starting role afterward. She scored against Bhutan and delivered a crucial assist in the decisive match against Jordan, proving her worth as a clutch performer. Few expected Fatemeh Shaban, 22, to break into the starting lineup, but the technically gifted winger silenced doubters by scoring in three consecutive games (Singapore, Bhutan, Lebanon). Though luck denied her more

goals, she still finished as Iran's top scorer in the qualifiers, announcing herself as a rising force. Sara Didar, 20, played multiple roles – from attacking midfielder to target forward – and excelled in each. She scored and assisted against Singapore before netting the crucial opener against Jordan, cementing her status as a key figure in Iran's qualification. Despite carrying an injury, 21-year-old Fatemeh Pasandideh was the heartbeat of Iran's midfield. Her incisive passing created numerous chances, and she even contributed an assist. Her leadership and vision signal

the rise of a new midfield generation for Iran. While they saw limited minutes, 19-year-old Rojin Tamerian and 20-year-old Mohaddeseh Zolfi made their mark. Zolfi scored against Bhutan and impressed against Jordan, while Tamerian netted her first international goal in the same match, showcasing her predatory instincts.

A golden generation in the making

As Iranian women's football approaches its 20th anniversary, the emergence of this technically gifted generation hints at a bright future. With stars like Zandi, Zahra,

Shaban, Didar, Zolfi, Tamerian, and Pasandideh leading the charge – alongside 18-year-old Maryam Dini, who is yet to get her chance – this could be the dawn of a golden era for Iran's women's football. With greater investment and attention, this talented crop of players could take the nation to new heights. The 2026 Asian Cup will be their stage – and the world should take notice – though a mammoth task lies ahead of Jafari and her team in the group phase when the showpiece gets underway in Australia next March. Iranian girls will begin their campaign against South Korea



L-R: Mohaddeseh Zolfi, Zahra Alizadeh, Sara Didar, Fatemeh Shaban, Negin Zandi, and Fatemeh Pasandideh
● FC360

– beaten by China in the 2022 final – on March 2, before taking on their formidable hosts – World Cup semifinalists on home soil two years ago – in Gold Coast three days later. The final round of the group fixtures will see Iran face the Philippines, which made it to the last four in the previous edition, on March 8. The top two in each group will be joined by the two best third-place teams in the quarterfinals.

U17 World Wrestling Championships: Delrouz wins heavyweight silver as Iran bags three Greco-Roman medals

Sports Desk

Iranian Greco-Roman wrestler Yazdan Delrouz settled for a silver medal in the 110kg weight class at the U17 World Championships in Athens, Greece, on Tuesday. The Iranian enjoyed an emphatic run prior to the final showpiece, not conceding a single point in three bouts, but was unfortunate to give away a three-point lead at the break and lose on criteria (3-3) to Indian Yardeep Yardeep. The final setback summed up a disappointing campaign for the Iranian



● IAWFIR

Greco-Roman squad, which headed into the event as the three-time defending world champion, across six weight categories. Amirmohammad Hajivand recovered from a first-round 4-3 defeat against Uzbekistan's Bunyod Hasanov, who went on to win the gold, to finish his campaign with a consolation bronze in the 48kg contests. Hajivand beat Kyrgyzstan's Zhanarbek Seitiyev 7-4 in a thrilling repechage battle before defeating Turkish wrestler Baris Soylu by technical superiority (12-3) for a joint-bronze

alongside American Michael Rundell. Iranian Amirreza Tahmasbpour also bounced back from a setback in his first outing – against Kyrgyzstan's Alkham Abdirasulov (5-3) – to finish his 55kg run with something to cheer about. Tahmasbpour was given a second chance for a medal following comfortable victories over China's Zongyao Wu (8-0) and Hungarian Balint Kazinczy (11-1) before he came out on top against Aditya Gupta by superiority (10-1) to add a second bronze to Iran's medal haul. Abdirasulov, meanwhile, went on to claim the gold, thanks to a 4-1 win against Nurali Askar of Kazakhstan in the final, with Tajikistan's Makhdi Barotov taking the other bronze of the class. Elsewhere in the Greco-Roman competitions, Abolfazl Shiri suffered a first-round loss to Bulgarian Kristiyan Petkov to finish empty-handed in the 65kg category. Representing Iran in the 80kg division, Taha Nouri also missed out on the podium following a 3-1 loss to Nurislam Oskonbaev of Kyrgyzstan in the third-place bout. There was further disappointment for Iran in the 51kg class, as Amir-mahdi Hajivand crashed out in the round of 16, courtesy of a 10-1 loss to Islam Kurbanov of Kyrgyzstan.

Asian Roller Skating Championships: Iranians impress with six speed medals

Sports Desk

Iranians delivered an impressive performance in the speed event of Asian Roller Skating Championships in, securing a total of six medals, including double golds, across different genders and age classes.

In the 100m category, Iran claimed one gold and two bronze medals. Milad Salehi came out on top in the men's final to notch up the ultimate prize, while Mohammad Soroush Mehr earned bronze. On the women's side, Mahya Dastpak also clinched a bronze medal.

The junior division saw further success, with Amir Mahdi Yahaqqi claiming gold and Mohammad Amin Samimifar settling for a bronze in the men's showdown. Yosna Haqnazari added another bronze to Iran's medal haul in the women's junior competition.



● varzesh3.com

UNESCO welcomes Hawraman for living cultural significance

Iranica Desk

Four years ago, on July 27, 2021, the dreamlike paradise for tourists in western Iran was inscribed as Iran's 26th site on the UNESCO World Heritage List. This unique and captivating region, renowned for the authentic culture of its people, its pristine and breathtaking nature, and its ancient and enigmatic history, was registered over an area of 409,000 hectares — including both the core and buffer zones — spanning the two provinces of Kermanshah and Kurdistan.

Today, on the occasion of the fourth anniversary of the inscription of the Hawraman Cultural Landscape, ISNA conducted an interview with a member of the team that developed the dossier, in order to learn more about the criteria that enabled this region to achieve global recognition.

Aziz Mostafaei stated that Hawraman is one of the largest World Heritage Sites in the world. He explained that UNESCO uses ten parameters for world heritage inscription: six cultural and four natural criteria. The Hawraman dossier met two of these criteria, both falling within the cultural category. Mostafaei emphasized that obtaining UNESCO inscription for cultural sites is an exceptionally challenging process, noting, "The inscription of Hawraman is a symbol of a living, dynamic, and authentic culture and is a great honor for western Iran."

He also highlighted the extensive efforts invested in preparing the dossier. For this purpose, since 2016 in Kurdistan and 2017 in Kermanshah, the Hawraman National Heritage Site was established, and a dedicated, skilled team worked diligently on the dossier.

He continued, "When countries



intend to nominate sites for the UNESCO World Heritage List, they must submit their tentative list at least two years in advance to be considered for formal registration. In Hawraman's case, the site's name was first submitted to UNESCO in 2007." Mostafaei described the inscription of the Hawraman Cultural Landscape as a major accomplishment at the time, adding, "Countries have limited quotas for registering World Heritage Sites, so they tend to prioritize those with strong, well-prepared dossiers when submitting nominations to UNESCO."

He further explained that, in order for the Hawraman Cultural Landscape dossier to be prioritized by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, all relevant officials at that time — from the governor and members of Parliament to heritage authorities and local activists — united their efforts in support, which proved invaluable during that period. He said, "The area inscribed as a World Heritage Site is essentially a complex, interwoven landscape of mountains and rivers, surrounded on all sides by plains. The Mahidasht and Za-



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hab Plains in Kermanshah, the Shahrizor Plain in Iraq, and the Leilakh Plain in Kurdistan Province are the expansive plains framing the towering mountains of Hawraman." He noted that the Hawraman region is not limited solely to the two Iranian provinces of Kurdistan and Kermanshah, adding, "A portion of this region lies within Iraq, and if that section were included in the dossier, the Hawraman Cultural Landscape would become an international transboundary site, greatly enhancing its significance. Furthermore, this would strengthen cultural

ties between the two countries." Mostafaei also highlighted the prestigious cultural value of Hawraman from UNESCO's perspective, stating, "Considering the rapid global changes and transformations underway, cultures worldwide are becoming increasingly homogenized, and diverse cultural identities are gradually fading and disappearing. For this reason, UNESCO places particular emphasis on cultural dossiers and gives them special attention, as it is vital to preserve authentic cultures, languages, customs, and local cuisines."

He added, "About one year before Hawraman's official inscription as a World Heritage Site, Hesam Mahdi, a UNESCO evaluator, visited Kermanshah and toured the Hawraman region. The cultural features of the area deeply impressed him."

He continued, "During his visit to Javanroud County, his trip coincided with the ancient Suleh Ceremony — a tradition thousands of years old — held beside the Lileh River in the village of Lulem in the Kalashi district. We invited him to observe this ritual, which garnered great interest and admiration from him."

Mostafaei explained that the UNESCO evaluator explored various cultural dimensions of Hawraman during his visit to Kermanshah, saying, "The primary factor that led to Hawraman's inscription on the World Heritage List — and that today stands as a great honor for western Iran — was the culture of this region."

"We must be steadfast in preserving and protecting it. At the same time, we hope that, through the wise leadership of provincial officials, suitable conditions will be created so that we can fully harness the benefits of this globally registered region, allowing local communities, residents of Kermanshah, and even all Iranians to share in its blessings."

He concluded by noting that Kermanshah Province currently has three World Heritage Sites: the Bisotun Inscription, the Hawraman Cultural Landscape, and the Bisotun Caravanserai. This underscores the province's strong standing in terms of World Heritage Sites. However, he believes this number is insufficient and, given the province's rich cultural potential, added that efforts could also be made toward registering Taq Bostan, the Anahita Temple and the collection of Sassanid sites in Qasr-e Shirin.

Money Museum showcases monetary heritage from ancient to modern times

Iranica Desk

The Money Museum in the Dafeh Cultural Museum Complex, as the first specialized and permanent museum in Iran focused on forms of exchange such as coins, banknotes, and other securities, was inaugurated in Tehran on July 8, 1997. This museum narrates part of the history of Iran — a history told through coins.

The museum exhibits the evolution of trade over various historical periods and the role of early exchange tools, like exchange rings. Visitors can also become acquainted with the first marked metal pieces and the earliest standardized coins, which were mint-

ed in the kingdom of Lydia, Mehr News Agency reported.

One of the highlights of the museum is the display of the first Iranian coins, struck during the Achaemenid era on the order of Darius the Great — symbols of the intelligence and power of Iranians of that time. Other coins, such as those of satraps and subordinate rulers of the Achaemenids bearing images of chariots, ships, and other artistic motifs, are also part of the museum's collection. The collection includes coins from the periods of Alexander the Great, the Seleucids, Parthians, and Sassanids. These artifacts reflect the rich history and artistry of Iran through their images and inscriptions.

A significant portion of the museum is dedicated to Islamic coins from the Umayyad, Abbasid, Ghaznavid, Seljuk, and other dynasties, illustrating the arrival and spread of Islam in Iran. The art of calligraphy is a particular highlight in the design of these coins. Beyond coins, a section of the museum is devoted to banknotes. From the first Iranian banknotes issued during the Qajar era under Naser al-Din Shah to contemporary examples, all are displayed here. The museum even preserves the original prototype of the first printed banknote in Iran — each banknote telling part of the collective memory of Iranians. The museum introduces the his-

tory of banknotes from the era of stamped transactions to the present day. There's also a section dedicated to the history of banknote issuance in the world, with both wall explanations and exhibits that showcase the evolution of currency in Iran and the world. In a section of information related to the history of the publication of banknotes in the world, it is mentioned: The Chinese were the first who, in the mid-10th century CE, invented something similar to banknotes and named it chao. According to historians, the use of paper money dates back to the Song dynasty (960-1279 CE) in China. The first person to issue it was Tai, the first emperor of the famous

Song dynasty. The people of China used various materials to make paper money. They made banknotes using paper made from mulberry tree bark. The most important paper money of the Yuan dynasty period was called Jiaochao. The issuance and distribution of chao is considered the emergence of a real paper money system. At that time, and before seeing these magical papers, for travelers and foreign tourists, seeing chao, which was used for buying, selling, and paying taxes with various goods, was astonishing. Some travelers such as Marco Polo and Ibn Battuta, the Moroccan traveler who both visited China about the same time, described

paper money in their travelogues. Historical evidence indicates that apparently, the world's first non-paper banknote and credit money was common in Iran during the reign of Artaxerxes III of the Achaemenid dynasty in 358 BCE, about 2,400 years ago. This credit money was called Shahakan or Shahagan. It was a special royal seal that was pressed hot onto pieces of leather creating a raised impression and functioning similarly to today's banknotes. However, the first banknote resembling modern banknotes was printed on January 5, 1691, at the Bank of Stockholm in Sweden, which is currently kept in the museum of this bank.



● MEHR



Iran pushes to globalize traditional crafts as engines of identity, resilience

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's Deputy Minister of Handicrafts and Traditional Arts, Maryam Jalali, said that the country's centuries-old craft skills can "shine globally" if integrated with international standards. Speaking in Tehran during National Skills Week, Jalali emphasized that handicrafts serve not only as market products but also as "pillars of social resilience, cultural diplomacy, and development-focused investment," according to the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, IRNA reported. In her remarks, Jalali positioned Iran's traditional craftsmanship as a distinct national asset in a globalized world. "We are not here to copy-paste global models," she said. "Cultural globalization today means telling the unique stories of each region." She called Iran's rich intangible heritage a "reservoir" of local skills capable of offering an alternative global narrative.

Crafts, she noted, should no longer be seen as tools of mere subsistence or ritual. "We live in a customer-centered era," she said. "Contemporary skills must be rooted in tradition but operate with the logic of global competitiveness." Jalali warned against overlooking local craftsmanship in development policies, calling for a smart blend of "creative policymaking, flexible planning, and field-based action" to unlock their full potential. Jalali dismissed top-down approaches to development, urging instead an ecosystem built on consensus across government, industry, and families. The real meaning of a "Skilled Iran," she said, lies in merging technique with cultural depth and a civilizational vision. "Skill becomes convergence when it touches daily life and production," she added, asserting that crafts can foster both economic durability and national cohesion. Jalali also argued that the values now

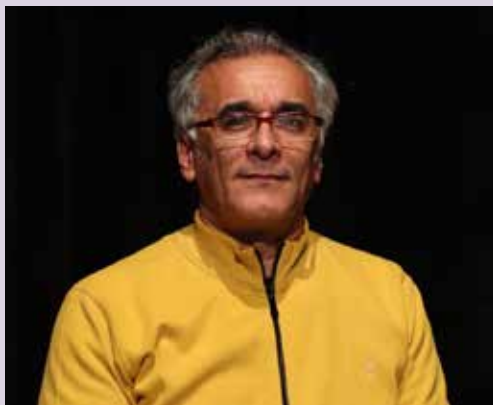
hailed by modern development—resilience, sustainability, and cultural inclusion—have long been woven into Iran's craft heritage. "Handicrafts are the embodiment of local ecology, cultural self-reliance, and community-based economy," she said. She underlined that indigenous materials and nature-bound techniques used in crafts foster an "endogenous and wisdom-driven" model of development. "This is an art-industry rooted in history that has always served human and societal needs," she said, contrasting it with Western-centric views of progress. Referring to weaving, pottery, metalwork, and vernacular architecture, Jalali said these were not just art forms but "expressions of a balanced, people-powered Iranian development model." A systemic approach to the crafts value chain, she argued, could reinforce rural economies while safeguarding cultural identity. "Investment in crafts is more than



capital injection," she said. "It carries a civilizational weight." For development-minded investors, she added, handicrafts offer a rare triad—"economic return, social impact, and cultural value." Jalali said each handmade object tells

a story, and the ministry's mission is to "introduce this potential in a complete, professional, and globally understandable way." The globalization of Iranian crafts, she said, must present the country through "wisdom, art, and civilization."

Iranian mime artist Ghajar awarded 2025 'Golden Hands'



Arts & Culture Desk

The World Mime Organization awarded its 2025 Golden Hands special prize to Iranian performer and educator Sasan Ghajar for what it called his "outstanding contribution" to the art of mime, according to an official letter signed by the group's president Marco Stojanović. Founded in 2011 and headquartered in Belgrade, Serbia, the organization grants the Golden Hands award annually to honor individuals who have made a lasting mark

on non-verbal physical theater. Ghajar joins a list of international recipients including France's Corinne Soum, Spain's Carlos Martínez, and Sweden's Stanislaw Brosowski, IRNA reported. Ghajar, a veteran stage and screen actor from Zanjan, began his mime career in the 1990s, inspired by silent film legends Charlie Chaplin and Buster Keaton. Over the years, he has played a central role in popularizing the craft in Iran, where mime had little institutional presence. "He has done something ex-

tremely rare in the world," the Organization wrote, praising Ghajar for turning mime into a "family art" that brings together people across generations. Trained under instructors affiliated with France's Jacques Lecoq school, Ghajar went on to found Iran's International Pantomime Festival, which has held three editions so far. The fourth is currently in the works. He also took part in professional workshops and performed in the Tehran Pantomime Festival with a piece titled 'The Musician'.

The World Mime Organization operates in collaboration with the International Theater Institute (ITI) and has built a network of mime professionals across four continents, including Iran. Since 2017, the group has hosted specialized and hybrid global conferences and regularly conducts masterclasses and training sessions for emerging artists. In welcoming Ghajar to its growing circle of laureates, the organization said, "You are both a leader and a follower, a student and a teacher."

Iran reinstates standalone Fajr Int'l Film Festival after two-year pause

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's Cinema Organization appointed Rouhollah Hosseini as director of the revived Fajr International Film Festival, set to take place in early December, the Farabi Cinema Foundation said. The decision marks the formal return of the international section as a separate event after a two-year merger with the national festival. The change reverses a 2021 move by the then-management to consolidate both segments, a shift that risked the festival's standing with FIAPF, the International Federation of Film Producers Associations, ISNA wrote. The upcoming edition—likely the 39th—faces a tight deadline. With fewer than four months to go, organizers are racing against the clock. No venue has been finalized. Although Charsou Cineplex previously hosted the event, its role remains unclear due to recent renovations. Mellat Cineplex is under consideration, but no official decision has been announced. Hosseini, currently the deputy for

supervision and evaluation at the Cinema Organization of Iran, replaces speculation around a well-known actor being tapped for the post. His appointment aims to steady the ship after months of ambiguity surrounding the event's timeline and leadership. The Fajr International Film Festival ran separately for five years from 2015, under directors Alireza Rezadad, Reza Mirkarimi, and Mohammad Mehdi Asgarpour. It was known for high-caliber foreign selections, restored classics, and professional workshops that drew widespread attention from domestic and international filmmakers. Critics, however, have questioned the timing of the newly scheduled festival, which will fall in early December—an off-peak slot following the closure of most major international film festivals. The cinema organization has defended the shift, calling it a "strategic repositioning" to draw greater focus to Iranian cinema. Several films had already registered under the original call for entries issued earlier this year, and more



are expected to apply once the updated call is published "within days." The Farabi Foundation is reportedly in contact with foreign filmmakers and distributors. Still, uncertainties linger. Industry insiders have raised concerns over the compressed planning window, limited budget, and the broader regional climate. The lack of clarity over the festival's name and structure also fuels debate, with questions over whether two separate events under the "Fajr" banner within the same year might confuse audiences and stakeholders. Despite the hurdles, organizers say the aim is to deliver a festival that lives up to the brand's legacy and Iran's cultural ambitions. Whether they can pull it off in time remains to be seen.

Iran tapped for Ramsar leadership role in global wetland governance

Social Desk

Iran was elected as the representative for South and West Asia on the Ramsar Convention's Standing Committee during the COP15 summit in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, according to the country's Department of Environment. The committee, the executive body of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, comprises 18 elected countries, along with international observers. It holds annual meetings in Switzerland to steer global wetland policy between triennial conferences, IRNA reported. Iran's new seat gives it a formal voice in shaping strategy, overseeing secretariat operations, and managing international funding streams such as the Wetlands for the Future Fund. As one of Asia's three voting members, Iran will be directly involved in drafting future resolutions and responding to wetland emergencies, such as droughts and biodiversity threats. The current committee is chaired by Zimbabwe, with the vice-chairmanship passing to the next COP host. Iran was also unanimously elected vice-president of the 173-member Ramsar COP during this year's summit, which runs from July 23 to 31. The appointment comes



as the convention welcomes Saudi Arabia as its newest signatory. The Ramsar Convention, signed in 1971 in Ramsar, Iran, promotes the "wise use" of wetlands and now recognizes 25 Iranian sites. It also designates "wetland cities" committed to sustainable development. Three new Iranian cities—Babol, Kiashahr, and Gandoman—were officially certified at COP15, joining two earlier members, Bandar Khamir and Varzaneh. Iran has hosted the Ramsar Regional Center for Central and West Asia since 2005, following a 2002 decision by convention members. The center helps coordinate regional wetland conservation initiatives and facilitates access to global environmental support.