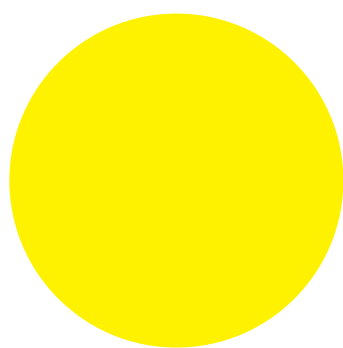


Tehran calls on Tokyo to join global campaign to abolish WMDs

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## Gov't spox says talks with E3 facing 'complicated situation'

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President in Pakistan

### Transit expansion key to flourishing trade

By Hossein Noushabadi  
Regional affairs analyst

O P I N I O N

President Masoud Pezeshkian's visit to Pakistan is expected to yield positive political, security, and economic outcomes. Pakistan is one of Iran's most important neighbors, sharing a nearly 900-kilometer border, and the Islamic Republic's relationship with Islamabad holds significant weight across multiple dimensions. As neighboring nations with deep historical and geographical ties, Iran and Pakistan play a crucial role in shaping political and security developments in South Asia, making this official visit particularly consequential.

The two countries share a profound civilizational and cultural kinship. Iran was the first country to recognize Pakistan's independence, while Pakistan, in turn, was the first to acknowledge the Islamic Republic of Iran after its establishment. Given this legacy, high-level visits between the two nations have consistently strengthened bilateral ties and expanded cooperation across various fields. Undoubtedly, in the current regional and international context, Pezeshkian's trip could prove highly significant and influential.

From an international perspective, this trip presents an opportunity to exchange views and develop a shared understanding of regional and global developments. Direct contact between the two top officials may help ease misunderstandings that have been fueled by third-party actors. At the heart of Iran-Pakistan relations lies a shared identity. The people of both nations are rooted in a common cultural and historical heritage, and Pakistan has long seen itself as part of Iran's civilizational cradle.

Both Iran and Pakistan have consistently defended the Islamic world in international forums, especially with a focus on the Palestinian issue. They are among the staunchest supporters of Palestine and outspoken opponents of Israel—positions that have aligned their views on key regional matters. As a nuclear power and the only Islamic country with nuclear capability, Pakistan has supported Iran's peaceful nuclear program. Accordingly, Iran's foreign policy has consistently emphasized good neighborliness, diplomatic engagement, and crisis management through dialogue with Pakistani leaders. Given the geopolitical and geostrategic positions of Iran and Pakistan—as well as the security concerns between them—policymakers in both countries have adopted a strategic approach focused on enhancing their security capabilities within the region's geostrategic environment.

The economic aspect of the Iranian president's visit is no less important than its security dimension. The Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline remains an unresolved issue in bilateral relations. US sanctions and pressure have been the key obstacles preventing its implementation, and serious consideration is needed to find a way forward. Both Iran and Pakistan are geographically positioned as vital links in emerging regional transit corridors. Iran's Chabahar Port offers access to the Sea of Oman and the Indian Ocean, while Pakistan's Gwadar Port, located less than 400 kilometers away, is part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. Studies show that linking the two ports could boost regional trade volume by up to 30%.

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### Pezeshkian's trip to Pakistan Tehran seeking \$10 billion trade with Islamabad

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Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian (R) is welcomed by Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif upon his arrival at the airport in Islamabad on August 2, 2025.  
● AFP



Maintaining mobile signal using solar panels

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## Pezeshkian's trip to Pakistan

## Tehran seeking \$10 billion trade with Islamabad



Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian (3rd R) is welcomed by Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif (2nd L) upon the arrival at the airport in Islamabad on August 2, 2025.  
● AFP

## International Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian arrived in Pakistan's

capital Islamabad on Saturday for a two-day visit aimed at enhancing relations between the two neighboring countries espe-

cially in economy. Heading a high-ranking delegation, Pezeshkian was welcomed by Prime Minister Shehbaz Shar-

if at Islamabad international airport.

Several documents for the expansion of bilateral cooperation are set to be signed between the two countries during Pezeshkian's visit.

Speaking before his departure, Pezeshkian said Tehran plans to increase bilateral trade volume to \$10 billion annually.

"Through Pakistan, we can connect to the Silk Road between China and Pakistan, and this road can connect to Europe through Iran," he said.

On his way to Islamabad, the Iranian president made a stop in Pakistan's northern city of Lahore where he held talks with former Pakistani prime minister Nawaz Sharif and the Chief Minister of Punjab, Maryam Nawaz Sharif. Pezeshkian also visited the tomb

of the renowned poet Muhammad Iqbal.

At the meeting, Pezeshkian expressed his appreciation for the support shown by the government and people of Pakistan during the recent Israeli-imposed war of aggression against Iran.

"If Muslims around the world unite, the Zionist regime will no longer be able to target independent nations one by one," the president said.

He also called for greater cooperation in science, industry, and agriculture between regional countries. "We must pool our strengths to form a united bloc and meet the needs of the Islamic Ummah ourselves," he said.

For his part, Nawaz Sharif praised Iran's resilience in the face of Israeli aggression. "We

stand with the Islamic Republic of Iran, and our resolve will be stronger than ever moving forward."

He said that through their resistance, the Iranian people not only protected their homeland but also reshaped Iran's global image.

"This was not merely a confrontation with one regime," he said, "but a courageous stand against global powers."

The visit marks the fifth official meeting between the two countries' officials in the past year. The Iranian president and Pakistani prime minister have been in constant contact over the past months, particularly following the escalation of recent military tensions in the region, highlighting both sides' resolve to improve bilateral cooperation.

## Gov't spox says talks with E3 facing 'complicated situation'

## International Desk

Iranian government spokeswoman Fatemeh Mohajerani said Tehran sees no obstacle in dialogue with European countries on various issues, describing the status of ongoing negotiations with the European troika as "complex."

"What is now taking place between Iran and the three European countries is an exchange of views on the nuclear issue, which has faced complicated situation," Mohajerani said in an interview with Russia's Sputnik news agency which was published on Saturday.

She said the ongoing negotiations between Iran, France, Germany and Britain are not aimed at reaching an agreement, adding that the negotiations have focused on the exchange of opinions.

Her remarks followed last week's meeting in Istanbul between Iranian officials and representatives from Britain, France and Germany, known as the E3. The closed-door session marked the first formal nuclear discussions since Israeli and US aggression against Iran in June.

The three European countries in recent weeks have threatened to trigger the UN "snapback" mechanism if no deal is reached between Iran and the United States.

Reiterating threats against Iran regarding the activation of the "snapback mechanism," German foreign minister

said on Saturday that his country is working together with its European partners to settle Iran's nuclear issue through diplomatic means and to prevent the escalation of new military tension between Iran, the US, and Israel.

In response to the question about Germany's objective in nuclear talks following the US attacks on Iran's nuclear facilities, Johann Wadephul said the European countries are talking to see whether they can negotiate on the issue or not. He said that in fact they are "negotiations for negotiations."

The snapback mechanism allows for the return of anti-Iran sanctions suspended under the 2015 nuclear deal from which the US withdrew in 2018 and the European parties failed to fulfill their commitments.

The 2015 deal, reached between Iran and the UN Security Council's permanent members – Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States – plus Germany, imposed curbs on Iran's nuclear program in exchange for sanctions relief. But it unraveled when the United States, during Donald Trump's first term as president, unilaterally withdrew from the accord and reimposed sweeping sanctions.

The Europeans had pledged continued support for the deal, but the mechanism intended to offset US sanctions never materialized effectively and many Western firms were forced to exit Iran.

## Tehran calls on Tokyo to join global campaign to abolish WMDs



Hiroshima, Japan 1947

## International Desk

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi called on Japan to join Tehran in leading a global movement to abolish weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) as part of concerted efforts aimed at maintaining peace and promoting disarmament.

Araghchi made the plea in an opinion piece submitted to The Asahi Shimbun and other Japanese media prior to the 80th anniversary of the US atomic bombings of the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

"Japan and Iran must lead a global movement for the total abolition of all WMDs: nuclear, chemical and biological," he wrote.

The top diplomat pointed out that Iran shared the pain and suffering of WMDs with Japan as it was targeted with chemical weapons during Iraq's imposed war in the 1980s.

He described the atomic bombings of the two cities on August 6 and 9, 1945, as "a testament to the devastating power of nuclear weapons."

"Many survivors carry physical and

psychological wounds that time has not healed," Araghchi wrote. "They have lived their lives in the shadow of those nuclear flashes, turning their trauma into tireless advocacy for peace and disarmament."

During a NATO summit meeting in June, US President Donald Trump equated the US attack against three nuclear facilities in Iran that month with the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

"That hit ended the war. I don't want to use an example of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. But that was essentially the same thing. That ended that war," he told reporters.

Araghchi took issue with Trump's comment, saying, "The remark was more than a historical misstep; it was a deep insult to the memories of the dead and the dignity of those still living with the consequences of those bombings."

He added that in Iran, "the comparison was received with particular pain and fury."

In 1987 during the Iran-Iraq war, the city of Sardasht in northwestern Iran



Sardasht, Iran 1987

came under a mustard gas attack from Iraq that killed about 130 Iranians and left several thousand with permanent disabilities.

Based on that experience, Araghchi wrote that Iran "has suffered from the effects of WMDs in its own modern history."

He added, "Few nations understand, as deeply as ours, the irreversible impact of WMDs. We must raise our collective voice to say: never again."

Israel bombed Iranian nuclear facilities, military sites and residential areas during its recent aggression against Iran, which began on June 13. The aggression claimed the lives of nearly 1,100 Iranians.

Iran retaliated with ballistic missile attacks on Israel. The United States also joined its ally Israel and bombed three Iranian nuclear facilities on June 22.

The 12-day aggression culminated in a unilateral cease-fire agreement that Israel was forced to accept after suffering heavy losses, which the regime shamelessly censored before the eyes of the public and the international community.

## Transit expansion key ...

Iran has already declared its readiness to serve as a transit hub for Pakistani goods bound for Central Asia, the Caucasus, and Europe.

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Connecting Chabahar and Gwadar could position both countries as key players in global trade. With the development of free trade zones, the attraction of Chinese investment, and long-term planning, Iran and Pakistan have the potential to become central actors in the global commercial landscape. If both nations collaborate effectively on transit corridor development, their bilateral trade could reach \$12 billion by 2030.

Considering that the two countries host 23 diplomatic, consular, commercial, cultural, and media missions on each other's soil, Iran should make the most of this important presidential visit to Pakistan. Key areas of focus should include a range of economic, political, and security topics.

First, the visit should emphasize the expansion of economic and infrastructure cooperation. This includes investment in border infrastructure, the establishment of new border markets, and the modern-

ization of customs facilities. Second, transportation links must be strengthened, particularly the Zahedan-Quetta rail line, and joint projects such as the Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline must be advanced. Removing banking and trade barriers and establishing multilateral monetary agreements should also be on the agenda.

Third, the two countries need to enhance security cooperation in response to cross-border threats. Joint security mechanisms and standing commissions should be established to address border-related issues such as terrorism and smuggling. Fourth, counterterrorism efforts must be deepened through operational coordination between Iranian and Pakistani security forces.

Fifth, tighter border control using smart customs systems should be pursued. Efforts should also be made to streamline visa issuance and crack down on smuggling operations. Finally, diplomatic and cultural relations ought to be strengthened by holding regular diplomatic meetings, expanding scientific and cultural cooperation, and initiating strategic dialogue.

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# Direct shipping line prerequisite to Iran-Pakistan trade boost: *Senior merchant*

## INTERVIEW EXCLUSIVE

A direct shipping line with Pakistan is needed to unlock untapped trade potential between Tehran and Islamabad, a senior Iranian businesswoman said on Saturday, as President Masoud Pezeshkian arrived in the neighboring country for an official visit. Fahimeh Damroudi, the secretary general of the Iran-Pakistan Joint Chamber of Commerce, told Iran Daily that the lack of maritime connectivity was holding back bilateral trade. "One of the main obstacles to developing trade with Pakistan is the absence of a shipping line and direct maritime transport for the Pakistani market, which must be established by both sides," Damroudi said. Iran's president, who has made the formation of stronger ties with Pakistan a foreign policy priority of his government, said the two countries aim to increase their annual trade volume to \$10 billion, nearly triple the current level. Damroudi believes the goal is realistic, if longstanding barriers are dismantled and free trade comes into force. "The two sides have announced that they want to establish free trade. If Iran-Pakistan free trade is established and tariffs on products are lifted, this figure could be achieved," she said. Damroudi noted that talks had been ongoing for years between the two sides to hammer out the technicalities of a free trade agreement. At present, Tehran and Islamabad operate under a preferential trade agreement (PTA), she said, but the PTA

would become redundant once a full free trade deal was implemented. According to her estimates, trade could reach the \$10 billion mark within five years if key infrastructure and policy measures fall into place. "They include streamlined customs procedures, improvements in transportation, and easing visa issuance from Pakistan for Iranians." The senior Iranian businesswoman said Pakistan ranked as Iran's fourth-largest trade partner among neighboring states last year. However, she pointed out that Islamabad would become Iran's second-largest trade partner if trade hit \$10 billion annually. Pakistan's main exports to Iran include rice, oilseeds, live livestock, beef, lamb, and tropical fruits such as mangoes. In return, Iran's exports largely consist of dates and dried fruits.

### Iran maintains significant trade surplus

Meanwhile, official data show Iran maintains a substantial trade surplus with Pakistan, with its exports valued at 3.5 times greater than Pakistan's exports to Iran, according to the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran (TPO). Presenting a report on bilateral trade during an interview with IRNA, Hamid Reza Karbalaee Esmaeili, deputy for the Indian Subcontinent at the TPO, stated, "Tehran-Islamabad trade has an upward trend, increasing by 13.6% in the Iranian year 1403 (began on March 20, 2023) compared to the previous year (1402)." He estimated the volume of trade between the two countries in the year



A view of Chabahar Port in southeast of Iran.  
● IRNA

1404 at \$3.129 billion, adding, "Of this amount, Iran's exports were approximately \$2.423 billion, while imports from Pakistan were recorded at \$706 million." The TPO deputy for the Indian Subcontinent noted, "In the first three months of the current [Iranian] year (1404), the total volume of Iran's trade [with Pakistan], including exports, was \$594 million. This figure was about

\$704 million in the same period last year, indicating a decline in trade." "In the first quarter of this year, Iran's exports to Pakistan accounted for \$420 million, showing a 20% decrease compared to the first three months of the previous year. Imports stood at \$174 million, reflecting a 4% decrease. This decline is due to regional circumstances," he explained. The TPO official also stressed the im-

portance of border markets for trade between Iran and Pakistan, stating, "If these border markets are established and activated, it will lead to a boom in trade." He expressed, "To develop trade relations with neighboring countries, Iran must strengthen its infrastructure. Currently, we are weak in maritime transportation, and the exchange of goods via sea is almost negligible."

## Tehran, Baghdad discuss resolution of gas export, payment issues

### Economy Desk

Iranian Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad stressed on Saturday the resolution of issues regarding gas exports to Iraq and his country's financial claims in his meeting with Iraq's electricity minister. During the meeting with Ziad Ali Fadel and his accompanying delegation, Paknejad stated, "We will soon witness the resolution of both issues: the volume of gas exports to Iraq and the receipt of our gas claims," SHANA reported. On the sidelines of the meeting, Paknejad, referring to the contract between the two countries for gas delivery to Iraqi power plants from the two border points of Shalamchah and Naftshahr, commented on the volume of gas exports, saying, "Discussions were held regarding the quantity of exported gas, and fortunately, we were able to reach a conclusion." He added, "Moreover, concerning the financial claims we had for the exported gas, we achieved positive and good results." The Iraqi Ministry of Electricity in early July announced that approximately 3,800 megawatts of the country's electricity generation capacity had been lost due to a "significant reduction in the volume of gas imported from Iran." Saad Farih, the director general of fuel management at the Iraqi ministry said, "The volume of



● SHANA

gas received from Iran in recent hours has decreased to approximately 25 million cubic meters per day; while according to bilateral agreements, the committed amount for daily imports was 55 million cubic meters." Iran is the leading supplier of natural gas to Iraq, accounting for as much as 45 percent of the country's daily electricity consumption of 14,000 megawatts. Currently, approximately 80 percent of Iraq's electricity generation depends on natural gas, making the country heavily dependent on Iranian imports to sustain its power grid. In July 2022, Iraq signed a five-year contract with Iran to import 400 megawatts of electricity. In March 2024, another agreement was reached to increase Iranian gas imports to 50 million cubic meters per day, valued at around \$6 billion annually. The Iranian oil minister also ex-

pressed hope that the resolution of both issues – namely, the volume of gas exports to Iraq and the receipt of financial claims – would be witnessed soon. Over the years, US sanctions have significantly hampered Iraq's ability to settle energy debts with the Islamic Republic. US has consistently pressured Iraq to minimize its economic and diplomatic ties with Iran. On March 8, the US administration said it revoked a US sanctions waiver allowing the Iraqi government to import electricity from Iran. Weeks later, Iraq was granted a short-term sanctions waiver by the US administration in order to meet its energy needs by importing Iranian electricity. Officials in both countries have already warned that Iraq would face major electricity supply issues if it stops importing electricity from Iran because of US sanctions.

## Iran showcases ICT capabilities in high-level Venezuela meeting



### Economy Desk

Presenting Iran's technological export capabilities, with a focus on strengthening technology ties between Iran and Venezuela, took place during a joint meeting on Saturday of the deputy communications ministers of both countries, attended by representatives from eight Iranian companies active in the information and communication technology (ICT) sector. Deputy for Technology and Innovation at Iran's Ministry of Communications and Information Technology presented the capabilities of Iranian companies during a meeting with his

Venezuelan counterpart in Caracas within the framework of the strategic "Technology Diplomacy" policy, IRNA reported. Representatives from eight Iranian companies active in such areas as cloud services, social networks, video platforms, digital advertising, and communication infrastructure also attended this meeting online. The session focused on strengthening technology ties between Iran and Venezuela, exploring cooperation opportunities between Iranian companies and Venezuelan operators, and paving the way for the effective presence of Iran's digital services in Latin American

markets. Expanding target export markets for Iran's digital and communication services is one of the main pillars of the strategic "Technology Diplomacy" program of the Ministry of Communications. Based on the emphasis of ICT Minister Sattar Hashemi, the ministry, while developing domestic communication infrastructure, is paying more serious attention to the export of goods and services in the field of communications and information technology, as part of which interaction with countries such as Venezuela is considered a significant step.





● [intelligentcio.com](https://intelligentcio.com)



By Mehdi Jalilian

Guest contributor

## OPINION EXCLUSIVE

In recent years, frequent power outages in various regions of Iran have been among the country's vital infrastructure problems. It is not only residential areas and offices that are affected, but, more concerning, also national telecommunications. The majority of users lose their mobile signal during power cuts — a problem that exists in the shutdown of telecommunication towers that have no backup power supplies. What is more, these disruptions also affect internet access, emergency calls, and a very broad spectrum of mobile-based services.

But is there an environmentally friendly, green, and realistic solution to the issue? Yes — a solution that has worked effectively across many nations and now can be made possible in Iran as well: powering telecom towers with solar panels attached directly onto their facilities.

All but a few Iranian telecom towers, especially in remote or mountainous areas, derive their power entirely from the national grid. In times of power failure, these towers are shut down as they do not have backup batteries or working generators, cutting out local customers from mobile services.

Installing solar panels atop the framework of telecommunication towers is a way to provide the required electricity to tower equipment — radios, transmission gear, control systems, and lights — without needing to access the power grid. However, for good measure, solar power is usually paired with battery storage to provide a steady supply of power when night falls or clouds obscure the sun.

Using the power of the sun to fuel telecom towers not only provides an effective and viable solution to Iran's blackout-induced challenges but also has numerous advantages — financial, ecological, and operational.

Most important of all, the continuity of communication during a disaster is one of the greatest strengths of this practice. When emergencies such as an earthquake, flood, or fire hit a city, its power supplies can go down immediately. Yet that is when emergency communication is most required. Solar panels, by providing power to telecommunication towers, keep mobile networks alive and kicking even in the most adverse conditions.

On the economic front, these systems bring immense savings on the running costs. Elimination of dependence on the national grid or diesel generators saves on fuel and maintenance while improving equipment lifespan as solar panels tap clean, stable energy. Such savings are extremely useful at the national level as well as for large telcos.

Environmentally, solar panel usage is in complete harmony with the principles of sustainable development. Contrary to noisy, air-polluting generators, solar energy systems offer quiet and clean power. This renders them ideal for advancing the concept of "green telecommunications".

Moreover, this technology is most suitable for distant, off-grid areas. Where it is difficult to access electricity or transport fuel due to terrain, solar panels can independently power towers without paying for costly infrastructure extensions.

To accelerate and streamline deployment, body-mounted solar panels are recommended. These panels are fixed directly onto the metal framework of the tower and have a variety of advantages: They occupy no additional space or support systems, offer maximum sunlight exposure at high altitudes, are easy to install without costly infrastructure, and are weather resistant to winds, dust, and rain. In regions where there is a dominant wind regime, these panels can be combined with miniature wind turbines in order to generate round-the-clock power during the day and night.

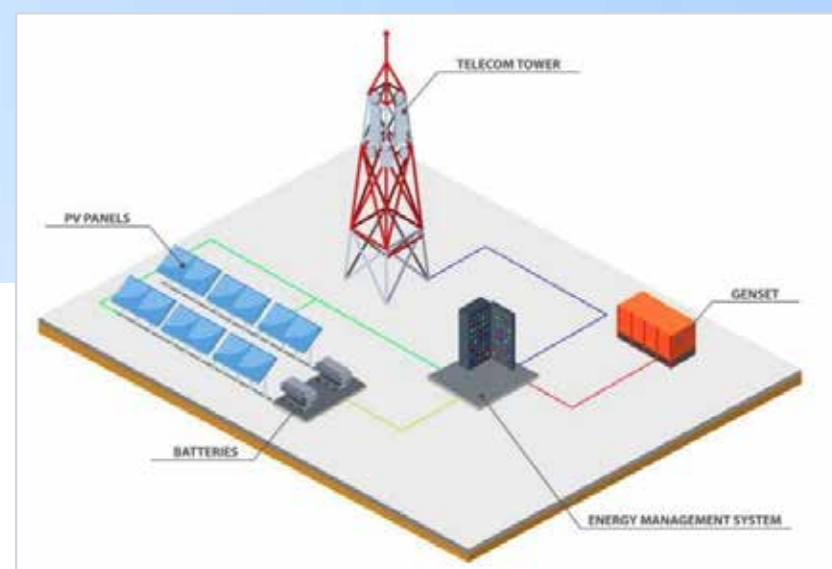
While there are numerous advantages, the appropriate execution of this plan entails the fulfillment of a series of technical and administrative requirements. These include national-level planning by ministries and telecom operators, development of technical standards for apparatus and installations, funding by public exchequer budgets or green loans, and training specialized staff for operation and maintenance of renewable power schemes.

Overall, cell phone usage nowadays is not a nicety. It's part of daily life and national infrastructure. Being out of signal in the case of an outage is not only a hassle; During an emergency, it can be life-ending. Installing solar panels on telecommunication towers is a smart, cost-efficient, and long-term option for making communication infrastructure resilient. It is an inspirational, sustainable solution that is particular to the immediate needs of our society at this time.



Using the power of the sun to fuel telecom towers not only provides an effective and viable solution to Iran's blackout-induced challenges but also has numerous advantages — financial, ecological, and operational.

# Maintaining mobile signal using solar panels



● [pv-tech.org](https://pv-tech.org)



● [studer-innotec.com](https://studer-innotec.com)





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# Iran’s plan to abandon GPS about much more than technology



By Jasim Al-Azzawi  
Analyst, journalist

## OPINION

For the past few years, governments across the world have paid close attention to conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East. There, it is said, we see the first glimpses of what warfare of the future will look like, not just in terms of weaponry, but also in terms of new technologies and tactics. Most recently, the United States-Israeli attacks on Iran demonstrated not just new strategies of drone deployment and infiltration but also new vulnerabilities. During the 12-day conflict, Iran and vessels in the waters of the Persian Gulf experienced repeated disruptions of GPS signals. This clearly worried the Iranian authorities, who, after the end of the war, began to look for alternatives. “At times, disruptions are created on this [GPS] system by internal systems, and this very issue has pushed us toward alternative options like BeiDou,” Ehsan Chitsaz, deputy communications minister, told Iranian media in mid-July. He added that the government was developing a plan to switch transportation, agriculture, and the internet from GPS to BeiDou. Iran’s decision to explore adopting China’s navigation satellite system may appear at first glance to be merely a tactical manoeuvre. Yet, its implications are far more profound. This move is yet another indication of a major global realignment. For decades, the West, and the US in

particular, have dominated the world’s technological infrastructure from computer operating systems and the internet to telecommunications and satellite networks. This has left much of the world dependent on an infrastructure it cannot match or challenge. This dependency can easily become a vulnerability. Since 2013, whistleblowers and media investigations have revealed how various Western technologies and schemes have enabled illicit surveillance and data gathering on a global scale — something that has worried governments around the world. Iran’s possible shift to BeiDou sends a clear message to other nations grappling with the delicate balance between technological convenience and strategic self-defence: The era of blind, naive dependence on US-controlled infrastructure is rapidly coming to an end. Nations can no longer afford to have their military capabilities and vital digital sovereignty tied to the satellite grid of a superpower they cannot trust. This sentiment is one of the driving forces behind the creation of national or regional satellite navigation systems, from Europe’s Galileo to Russia’s GLONASS, each vying for a share of the global positioning market and offering a perceived guarantee of sovereign control. GPS was not the only vulnerability Iran encountered during the US-Israeli attacks. The Israeli army was able to assassinate a number of scientists and senior commanders in the Iranian security and military forces. The fact that Israel was able to obtain their exact locations raised fears that it was able to infiltrate telecom-

munications and trace people via their phones. On June 17, as the conflict was still raging, the Iranian authorities urged the Iranian people to stop using the messaging app WhatsApp and delete it from their phones, saying it was gathering user information to send to Israel. Whether this appeal was linked to the assassinations of the senior officials is unclear, but Iranian mistrust of the app run by US-based corporation Meta is not without merit. Cybersecurity experts have long been sceptical about the security of the app. Recently, media reports have revealed that the artificial intelligence software Israel uses to target Palestinians in Gaza is reportedly fed data from social media. Furthermore, shortly after the end of the attacks on Iran, the US House of Representatives moved to ban WhatsApp from official devices. For Iran and other countries around the world, the implications are clear: Western platforms can no longer be trusted as mere conduits for communication; They are now seen as tools in a broader digital intelligence war. Tehran has already been developing its own intranet system, the National Information Network, which gives more control over internet use to state authorities. Moving forward, Iran will likely expand this process and possibly try to emulate China’s Great Firewall. By seeking to break with Western-dominated infrastructure, Tehran is definitively aligning itself with a growing sphere of influence that fundamentally challenges Western dominance. This partnership transcends simple transactional exchange-

es as China offers Iran tools essential for genuine digital and strategic independence. The broader context for this is China’s colossal Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). While often framed as an infrastructure and trade project, BRI has always been about much more than roads and ports. It is an ambitious blueprint for building an alternative global order. Iran — strategically positioned and a key energy supplier — is becoming an increasingly important partner in this expansive vision. What we are witnessing is the emergence of a new powerful tech bloc — one that inextricably unites digital infrastructure with a shared sense of political defiance. Countries weary of the West’s double standards, unilateral sanctions, and overwhelming digital hegemony will increasingly find both comfort and significant leverage in Beijing’s expanding clout. This accelerating shift heralds the dawn of a new “tech cold war,” a low-temperature confrontation in which nations will increasingly choose their critical infrastructure, from navigation and communications to data flows and financial payment systems, not primarily based on technological superiority or comprehensive global coverage but increasingly on political allegiance and perceived security. As more and more countries follow suit, the Western technological advantage will begin to shrink in real time, resulting in redesigned international power dynamics.

The article first appeared on Al Jazeera.



Iran’s decision to explore adopting China’s navigation satellite system, BeiDou, may appear at first glance to be merely a tactical manoeuvre. Yet, its implications are far more profound. This move is yet another indication of a major global realignment. Nations can no longer afford to have their military capabilities and vital digital sovereignty tied to the satellite grid of a superpower they cannot trust.



Meta Platforms’ WhatsApp messaging service has been banned from all devices issued by the US House of Representatives, according to an internal memo circulated to House staff on June 23, 2025.

dialoguepakistan.com



# Iranian roller skater Ahmadi eyeing World Games gold

## Sports Desk

Iranian roller-skating sensation Taraneh Ahmadi says she will settle for nothing less than the gold medal at the upcoming World Games.

The 12th edition of the World Games will kick off in Chengdu, China, on Thursday, featuring 34 sports and 60 disciplines that are not contested at the Olympic Games.

Ahmadi, 23, will enter the multi-sport event fresh off winning a speed slalom silver medal in inline freestyle at the 20th Asian Roller Skating Championship in Jecheon, South Korea, in late July, courtesy of a final defeat against Chinese Taipei's Liu Chiao-his.

This was a second setback for Ahmadi against her familiar foe in a major event, following the final loss at the Hangzhou Asian Games two years ago.

"The competition featured Asia's top-notch skaters. All top global contenders in the sport are from East Asia, which is why the event in Jecheon essentially carried the same weight as the World Championship," Ahmadi told IRNA.

"The gold medal at the Asian Championship was the only outcome I had envisioned before the event. I even recorded a better time in the final showpiece, but I was penalized for a last-second error, which eventually cost me the ultimate prize," added the Iranian girl, who also won a precious bronze medal at the



● IRNA

high-profile Hero Battle Cup in Milan in June.

"I'm a bit exhausted, but with little time left before the World

Games, I had to resume round-the-clock training just days after returning from South Korea.

"I'm determined to learn from

my mistake at the Asian Championship to deliver a flawless performance in Chengdu. My goal is to reclaim the gold I lost to the

Chinese Taipei opponent, and I'll do everything to make that happen.

"Inline freestyle skating will make its World Games debut this year, and I'm working hard to reach peak form before heading to China. Since my national team debut in 2016, I've pursued nothing but the ultimate prize in every competition.

"I have notched up some historic firsts for Iranian skating – including our nation's breakthrough world gold in 2017. The gold medal is all that has ever mattered to me – worth fighting for with everything I've got throughout these years. Nothing short of a top-podium finish will fulfil my ambition in Chengdu," added the Iranian girl.

Joining Ahmadi in representing the country in the women's Inline freestyle event at the World Games is 20-year-old Romina Salek – a former world speed slalom record holder, who won the gold medal at the Hero Battle Cup but was unlucky to miss out on the podium at the Asian Championship, finishing fourth. Amirmohammad Savari and Reza Lesani, meanwhile, will vie for success in the men's competitions.

Savari and Lesani secured an all-Iranian 1-2 finish in Milan, before the latter went on to win a bronze in Jecheon.

## Iran goalkeeper Beiranvand hit with four-month ban over Persepolis contract row

## Sports Desk

Tractor and Iran international goalkeeper Alireza Beiranvand was handed a four-month ban from international and club action by the Iranian Football Federation's Appeal Committee over a year-long contract dispute with his former club Persepolis, the national governing body of the sport confirmed on Saturday.

Beiranvand, 32, walked out of his contract with Persepolis in June last year – citing delayed wages – to join fellow-Iranian top-flight club Tractor.

His move was deemed illegal by Persepolis, which lodged a complaint to the Status Committee

of the Iranian federation.

Beiranvand initially received a four-month suspension, but Persepolis appealed the decision, demanding a definitive ban for the Iranian goalkeeper.

"According to submitted documents and expert assessment, Persepolis fulfilled all its financial obligations under the 2023-2024 season contract," read the verdict by the Appeal Committee.

"Beiranvand terminated his contract on June 20, whereas the contract explicitly permitted termination only after a 15-day waiting period following the last competitive match of the season (June 21)," added the verdict, concluding what was

arguably the most controversial legal case in Iranian football history.

A six-time champion in the Iranian league with Persepolis, Beiranvand kept 19 clean sheets in 37 appearances for Tractor across all competitions, helping the club lift a maiden Persian Gulf Pro League trophy in May.

His ban is a major setback for Tractor ahead of its league title defense – starting with a home game against Esteghlal on August 19 – as well as the early stages of the upcoming AFC Champions League Elite, which will kick off with the first matchday of the league phase in the West region on September 15.



● ALI SHARIFZADEH/IRNA

## Dariush Mostafavi, ex-Iran Football Federation chief, dies at 81

## Sports Desk

Dariush Mostafavi, the former president of the Iranian Football Federation, passed away at the age of 81 on Friday after a long battle with illness.

A decisive figure throughout decades in the Iranian football history, Mostafavi played for both Tehran archrivals Esteghlal (then-named Taj) and Persepolis in the 60s and was a member of the national team at the 1964 Olympic Games in Tokyo.

Mostafavi served as the secretary-general at the Iranian Football Federation in the 1980s. He then took up the presidency role in 1994, and



was in charge of the national governing body when Team Melli secured a memorable

qualification for the 1998 World Cup, thanks to an aggregate 3-3 victory over Australia.

## Spurs captain Son to leave club after 10 years

**REUTERS** – Tottenham Hotspur captain Son Heung-min will bring his 10-year spell with the Premier League club to an end this summer, the 33-year-old South Korean said on Saturday.

Son, who is under contract until 2026, led Spurs to their first trophy in 17 years with their win over Manchester United in the Europa League final in May, having joined the North London club from Bayer Leverkusen in 2015.

While Son did not disclose his next destination, British media have linked him with a move to Major League Soccer club Los Angeles FC. "I have decided to leave the team this summer," Son said at a press conference ahead of Spurs' pre-season friendly against New-



● REUTERS

castle United in Seoul on Sunday. "I think it was one of the most difficult decisions I've ever made in my football career. Playing football and being with one team for 10 years is something I am very proud of, but

I think I gave my all to the team every single day.

"I did my best on the field and off the field, and by winning the Europa League, I thought I'd done everything I could and achieved."

Son has made 454 appearances for Spurs and scored 173 goals. He won the Premier League Golden Boot in the 2021-22 season.

"It was the place where I grew a lot as a football player and a person, so I have a very grateful heart." Manager Thomas Frank said Son was "truly Spurs legend in every aspect".

"I like that the club has been open to it because it is never, never easy to find that perfect timing ... I think it is probably the perfect timing going out on a high," he added.



# A glimpse into Golestan Palace Complex

The Golestan Palace museum collection is part of the Golestan Palace Complex, a series of Qajar-era buildings located in the heart of Tehran. Originally established in the 16th century, the compound expanded over the next two centuries with the addition of several palaces. In 1865, Haji Abul Hassan Mimar Navai undertook a significant reconstruction of the complex. The compound features various museum sections that showcase various historical artifacts, which we will introduce below:

### Makhsoos Museum

The Makhsoos (Exclusive) Museum was constructed in 1874 during extensive renovations of the northwest wing of the Golestan Palace Complex. This initiative was led by Nasereddin Shah Qajar, who sought to modernize the royal residence following his first European tour. The architect responsible for this building was Haj Abolhassan Memar Navai. Initially working under Mohammad Hassan Khan Sani al-Dowleh in the gardens and structures, Navai's talent and dedication earned him widespread recognition. The building underwent extensive modifications during the Pahlavi period, with its walls and ceilings adorned with exquisite plasterwork, transforming it into what is now known as the Makhsoos Museum.

### Ivory Hall

The Ivory Hall predates two other halls namely the Salaam Hall and the Mirrors



Golestan Palace  
● respina24.ir



Brilliant Hall  
● yjc.ir

Hall. It features three large sash windows and a veranda with six delicate columns. Initially adorned with European gifts and artifacts, the hall underwent renovations, modifying its exterior to match the Salaam Hall.

### Brilliant Hall

To the east of the Ivory Hall, several beautiful chambers and rooms are adorned with extensive mirror work, chandeliers, fireplaces, staircases, and numerous hallways. One of these is the Brilliant Hall (Talar-e Berehlyan). Before its construction, the Crystal Hall occupied this space, dating back to the reign of Fat'hali Shah. Few details remain about the Crystal Hall, and no images exist to reveal its design. Some believe the hall was named crystal due to its extensive mirror work or the installation of an octagonal crystal fountain and chandeliers gifted by Emperor Alexander I of

Russia to Fat'hali Shah. Historical records affirm that the hall existed until at least 1882 CE, as mentioned multiple times by Etemad al-Saltaneh.

### Persian Painting Museum

The Persian Painting Museum, located in the northwest wing of Golestan Palace Complex, serves as an art gallery. This building is also a product of Nasereddin Shah Qajar's first trip to Europe. In 1995, an architectural project began to connect the southern and northern parts of this building. After two years of extensive restoration and reconstruction, it was opened to the public.

### Karim Khan Nook

Khalvat-e Karim Khani (Karim Khan's Nook) is a covered structure located in the northwest corner of the Golestan Palace Complex. This pavilion features a three-

arched veranda and a central bubbling fountain fed by a royal qana, with water flowing through the gardens. Named after its original builder, Karim Khan Zand, Khalvat-e Karim Khani holds historical significance not only for its architectural origins but also for the events that transpired here. In 1791, Aqa Mohammad Khan Qajar ordered the remains of Karim Khan Zand to be exhumed from the Kohlah Farangi Building (now the Pars Museum in Shiraz) and reburied under the steps of this pavilion.

### Marble Throne Mansion

The historic Marble Throne Mansion (Ivan-e Takht-e Marmar), located in the northwest corner of the Golestan Palace Complex and adjacent to the Salaam Hall, features a roofed structure with a three-arched ivan and a central bubbling fountain. It served as a ceremonial setting for



White Palace  
● pingard.ir

Qajar kings, hosting court sessions and public audiences. The building underwent significant changes during the Qajar era, including the transfer of marble columns and inlaid doors from Shiraz, as ordered by Aqa Mohammad Khan Qajar.

### Shams-ol-Emareh

Shams-ol-Emareh is one of the most iconic and beautiful structures in the Golestan Palace Complex. This five-story building was constructed at the order of Nasereddin Shah and was funded and supervised by Dustali Khan Moayyer al-Mamalek (Nizam al-Dowleh), with architecture by Jafar Kashani. Inspired by European skyscrapers, the Qajar king envisioned a towering structure from which he could observe the city of Tehran and its surroundings. Its construction also served as an important urban landmark alongside the development of Naserieh Street (now Naser Khosrow Street).

### Pool House

Adjacent to the Salaam Hall, the historic Pond House (Howz Khaneh) is located in the northwest corner of the Golestan Palace Complex. This roofed structure also features a central bubbling fountain. Originally designed in a traditional Persian style, the pool house underwent significant European-inspired renovations. These changes reflected the monarch's fascination with European architecture and aesthetics.

### Windcatcher Mansion

The breathtaking architecture of the Windcatcher Mansion (Emarat-e Badgir) makes it a walk-in museum. Constructed during the reign of Fat'hali Shah in the southern part of Golestan Palace's garden, the Windcatcher Mansion underwent significant renovations, supervised by Haj Ali Khan Hajib al-Dowleh. These changes

Mirrors, and the special ceremonies held there. Before the construction of this hall and the adjacent Mirrors Hall, the site housed the Talar-e Almas (Diamond Hall), which separated the garden of the complex from the buildings of Asaf al-Dowleh and Salar.

### Mirrors Hall (Talar-e Ayeneh)

The Mirrors Hall is one of the most famous halls in the Golestan Palace, located to the west of the Salaam Hall. It was constructed around the same time as the Salaam Hall and was part of the new museum buildings. Known for its elaborate mirror work, the hall gained fame through the renowned oil painting by Mirza Mohammad Khan Kermani (Kamal-ol-Molk) created in 1892.

### White Palace (Kakh-e Abyaz)

In the late reign of Nasereddin Shah,



Karim Khan Nook  
● balad.ir

Sultan Abdul Hamid of the Ottoman Empire gifted the shah luxurious furnishings, including Louis XVI-style steel furniture, velvet curtains, bronze-gilt mirrors and statues, and Turkish woven carpets. Since most royal palaces and halls were already filled with art and furnishings, Nasereddin Shah decided to construct a new palace in the southwestern corner of the Golestan Palace Complex, where the Kohlah Farangi or Aqa Mohammad Khan Tower once stood, to house these gifts.

### Diamond Hall

Established during the reign of Fat'hali Shah, the Diamond Hall (Talar-e Almas) is distinguished by its intricate mirror work and Qajar-era architectural elements. Though it underwent several changes in decor and structure during Nasereddin Shah's reign, the hall retains its original charm. The hall features a large central room, side chambers, numerous passageways, and an extensive basement. Notably, it is adorned with three mirror-inlaid niches on three sides and large sash windows with beautiful stained glass.

### Photography Museum

Located on the lower level of the Windcatcher at Golestan Palace, the Photography Museum occupies a space once known for its spacious pool house. This area originally featured four tall windcatchers adorned with blue, yellow, and black mosaic tiles, topped with golden domes. These windcatchers effectively cooled the air in the basement, hall, and rooms. Historically, a marble fountain with flowing water was centrally placed, though it has since been altered to prevent moisture damage. During the Qajar era, the pool house was a summer retreat for the royalty when they stayed in Tehran.



Windcatcher Mansion  
● tehranpicture.ir



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# Iran launches cultural ncyclopedia project with Austria in Vienna

## Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's Islamic Culture and Relations Organization launched a new project to compile a bilingual encyclopedia documenting the cultural ties between Iran and Austria, the Iranian cultural attaché in Vienna announced. The initiative aims to chronicle centuries of historical, artistic, and academic exchange between the two nations. The encyclopedia, to be published in Persian and German, is being developed at the Iranian Cultural Mission in Vien-

na and will serve as a long-term reference to boost future cooperation. The editorial team includes Iranian and Austrian researchers and writers with backgrounds in literature, history, and cultural studies. The project is led by Reza Gholami, a university professor and scholar of the philosophy of culture and civilization. He oversees content policy, scientific integrity, and overall editorial direction. The structure of the encyclopedia is designed around ten thematic pillars, covering shared cultural

heritage, historical monuments, academic collaborations, prominent cultural figures, language and literary exchange, tourism, the Iranian diaspora, and joint institutional efforts. The content follows established standards of encyclopedic writing, with a focus on combining academic precision with public readability. The first step has involved identifying roughly 100 entries using the Delphi method in consultation with subject experts. These entries will be drafted in phases, with priority given to the most historically



Cover design of the 'Iran-Austria Cultural Relations Encyclopedia,' a bilingual reference work currently in development under the supervision of Iranian scholar Reza Gholami

and diplomatically significant topics. The first edition is scheduled for publication—both digitally and in print—in early 2026. According to the cultural mission, the format will allow for regular updates and editorial revisions to reflect ongoing developments in bilateral relations.

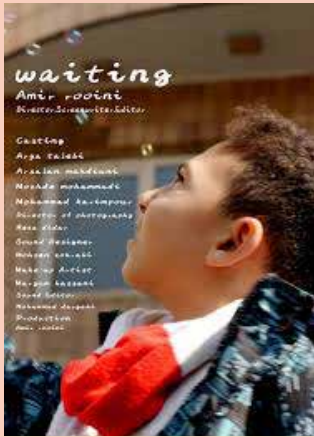


## 'Waiting' heads to Japan's Sapporo film festival

### Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian short film 'Waiting', directed by Amir Rooini, was officially selected to compete at the 20th Sapporo International Short Film Festival and Market, organizers announced. The festival will run from October 10 to 13 in Sapporo, northern Japan, ILNA reported. The Sapporo event, recognized as a Canadian Screen Award-qualifying festival, is among Asia's most prominent short film markets. 'Waiting' is the only Iranian entry in this year's lineup, standing out from a crowded field of international submissions. The film centers on two schoolboys, Navid and Hamid, who anxiously wait every day

for their parents at the school gate — a routine that unsettles Hamid more than Navid. Rooini's 2023 production has already made the rounds at 13 international festivals, including the 25th Santa Fe Film Festival in the US, the seventh FilmKörbes in Germany, and the 17th Media Film Festival in Pennsylvania. It took home the Jury's Special Prize at Taiwan's Chiayi Film Festival and clinched Best Short Film at Madeira Curtas in Portugal. The film was also screened in Bulgaria's Quarantine Film Festival and the 21st Patheos Festival in the US. Rooini has described the film as a story about "childhood fear and quiet desperation," unfolding through the silent



routine of waiting. The narrative, told in a sparse visual style, offers "more questions than answers," reflecting the emotional ambiguity of the boys' daily ordeal.

## Iranian journalist Mansour Jahani named 2026 Golden Globe voter

### Arts & Culture Desk

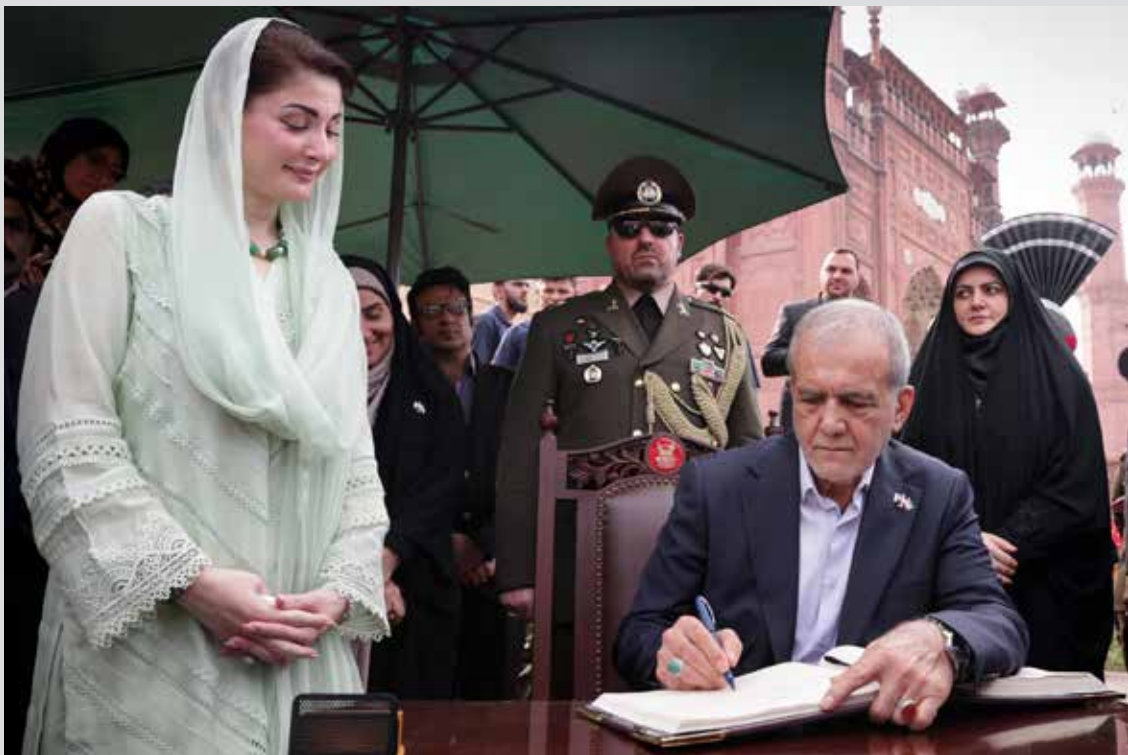
Iranian film journalist Mansour Jahani was selected as one of the voting members for the 83rd Golden Globe Awards, set to take place in January 2026 at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Los Angeles. The invitation came from Tim Gray, executive vice president of the Golden Globes and a former editor of Variety, Asriran reported. Jahani, a seasoned independent cinema journalist, has contributed to major global outlets including AFP, Reuters, The Guardian, Le Monde, and Hollywood Reporter. He previously served as a jury member for IndieWire's critics' poll during the 2023, 2024 and 2025 Cannes Film Festivals. His inclusion in

the Golden Globe voting roster puts him among a select group of international entertainment journalists tasked with casting ballots in one of the industry's most closely watched award races. The Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA), reorganized in recent years under new management, has broadened its voting pool to include a wider range of global voices. Jahani joins over 300 journalists from around the world who track trends in film and television and report from major international festivals throughout the year. Voters are expected to assess entries with "sharp eyes" and stay in tune with evolving industry currents. Fluent in English, Persian, Arabic and Kurdish, Jahani



holds memberships in the International Federation of Journalists (Belgium), the Iranian Society of Film Critics and Writers, and the International Sports Press Association (AIPS). His journalism has earned recognition from the Goteborg Art Association in Sweden.

### PHOTO OF THE DAY



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian signs the visitors' book at the mausoleum of Allama Muhammad Iqbal in Lahore during an official visit to Pakistan, August 2, 2025. Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif and local officials accompanied him at the ceremony honoring the Persian-speaking philosopher-poet.

● [president.ir](http://president.ir)

## Iran tracks declining births, launches family support programs

### Social Desk

Fewer than one million Iranian women gave birth last year despite over 16 million being of reproductive age, Deputy Health Minister Alireza Raisi said during a population planning meeting at the Ministry of Health in Tehran. Raisi was speaking at the fifth session of the National Coordination Council for Population Growth, where officials unveiled a new legal abortion registration system. He noted that Tehran, Khorasan Razavi, and Sistan-Baluchestan recorded the highest number of births over the past two years. Still, the overall fertility rate remains low, with "60 percent of women of childbearing age now between 35 and 49," a demographic that signals later motherhood and fewer children. Iran's population is aging fast. The country's median age has climbed to 35. Raisi compared the trend to that of Japan—where 30% of the population is now over 65—calling it "a demographic trap" that's difficult to escape once entered. He added that India, by contrast, remains one of the youngest large economies, with an average age of 28.7.

Iran is not alone in tackling declining birth rates. Raisi pointed to similar incentive-based efforts in China. Domestically, the government has ramped up support schemes, including stepped pay increases through 57 universities of medical sciences, a 100% rise in child allowance payments to students, and a 76% boost in married student housing. Marriage, however, is trending down. The most marriages between 2012 and 2024 occurred in Tehran and Khorasan Razavi. The average age at first marriage stands at 27.5 for women and 32 for men, with the lowest average in Sistan-Baluchestan and the highest in Tehran and Ilam. Caesarean births are also on the rise. Last year, 56.6% of deliveries were C-sections—peaking at 80% in Gilan, with Abadan showing the lowest rate. Still, maternal and infant mortality rates have dropped, with neonatal deaths now at 8.3 per 1,000 births. Raisi highlighted the efforts of the Nafas centers—a network of 357 local organizations supporting pregnancy continuance—saying over 15,000 women decided against abortion in the past two years.