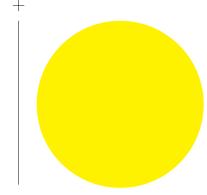
Iran targets 15mn tourists annually to revive sector after Israeli aggression

Pasargadae plan to balance heritage, community:



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Pezeshkian raises alarm over foreign security intervention in Caucasus

Pashinyan says no deal inked unless Iran's interests respected







Iron, steel exports up by 13% in first four months: ISPA





FIBA Asia Cup:

Iran routs Syria to secure direct last-eight berth





Fin Castle bridging history, modern life in southern Iran





Tehran ready to curb nuclear program for sanctions removal:

Deputy FM



Archaeologists unearth royal Ilkhanid cemetery in northwestern Iran



Negotiations need clear subject, fairness:

Former spokesman





Pezeshkian raises alarm over foreign security intervention in Caucasus

Pashinyan says no deal inked unless Iran's interests respected

International Desk

Iran on Monday said there is a need for vigilance on any foreign military or security intervention in the Caucasus region following a US-brokered agreement reached between Armenia and Azerbaijan, which involves the implementation of a transportation corridor project with the participation of Washington.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian in a phone call with Armenia's Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan emphasized the preservation of Armenia's sovereignty and a lack of interference by military or security forces within the framework of the project.

Pezeshkian also "warned against possible actions by the United States, which could pursue hegemonic goals in the Caucasus region under the guise of economic investments and peace guarantees."

Pezeshkian further said that Iran welcomes any agreement that promotes peace, particularly among regional countries

On Friday, Pashinyan and Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev signed the US-mediated peace deal at the White House. The accord includes the creation of a transit corridor through Armenia to connect Azerbaijan to its exclave of Nakhchivan.

Under the deal, the United States will have development rights to the corridor – dubbed the "Trump Route for International Peace and Prosperity" (TRIPP) – in the strategic, resource-rich region

Iran has long opposed the corridor – often referred to as Zangezur – fearing it would cut the Islamic Republic off from the Caucasus.

The Armenian prime minister, for his part, presented the outcomes of the August 8 talks in Washington, underscoring that regional routes will function within the framework of the principles of the countries' territorial integrity and sovereignty.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran's emphasis on preserving Armenia's sovereignty and territorial integrity is highly valuable and significant for us. We will not sign any agreement unless we are fully assured that the interests, considerations, and sensitivities of our friendly neighbor, Iran,



are respected." Christian-majority Armenia and Muslim-majority Azerbaijan have feuded

for decades over their border and the

status of ethnic enclaves within each other's territories.

The nations went to war twice over the disputed Karabakh region, which Azerbaijan recaptured from Armenian forces in a lightning 2023 offensive, sparking the exodus of more than 100,000 ethnic Armenians.

Iran, Iraq sign MoU on border security coordination

International Desk

Top security officials of Iran and Iraq on Monday signed a joint memorandum of understanding (MoU) on security coordination on the common border between the two countries.

The agreement was signed between the newly-appointed Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) Ali Larijani and Iraqi National Security Advisor Qasim al-Araji in the capital Baghdad. Prime Minister Mohammed Shia' Al Sudani was also present at the signing ceremony.

Al Sudani emphasized Iraq's broad efforts to develop relations with Iran to strengthen cooperation in various fields for the benefit of the two nations.

He also reiterated Iraq's principled position in opposing the Israeli regime's aggression against Iran and anything that would escalate conflicts at the regional and international levels. The Iraqi prime minister also emphasized Baghdad's support for the resumption of negotiations between Tehran and Washington on

Iran's nuclear program.

Before his departure to Baghdad on Monday, Larijani told reporters that Tehran and Baghdad have been working on the security agreement that will be signed during his visit.

"We have drafted a security agreement with Iraq, which is a very important issue. Iran's perspective and approach in relations with its neighbors are based on [the fact] that the security of Iranians is the focal point but Iran also pays attention to the security of the neighboring countries," he said.

He noted that Iran's security is intertwined with that of neighboring countries.

Iran enjoys close trade ties with the friendly country of Iraq, while the two nations also have a very good level of cooperation, he said.

In March 2023, Iran and Iraq signed a security agreement in Baghdad, encompassing coordination in protecting the shared border.

Larijani also plans to visit Lebanon. He said Iran has deep and broad cooperation with Lebanon as one of the "very important" and influential





Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Ali Larijani (L) shakes hands with Iraqi National Security Advisor Qasim al-Araji during a meeting in Baghdad on August

Iraq's National Security Advisory

countries in West Asia, adding that both sides hold constant contacts on various regional developments.

He once again reiterated Iran's clear stance on developments in Lebanon, stressing the need to maintain the country's national unity under any circumstances.

"Lebanon's independence has always been important to us," the SNSC secretary said, urging the promotion of trade relations between the two countries.

Tehran ready to curb nuclear program for sanctions removal: *Deputy FM*

International Desk

Iran's deputy foreign minister said that Tehran is prepared to accept certain limitations on its nuclear program for "a certain period" in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions, but ending uranium enrichment entirely is nonnegotiable.

"Iran can be flexible on the capacities and limits of enrichment, but cannot agree to stop enrichment under any circumstance because it's essential, and we need to rely on ourselves, not on empty promises," Majid Takht-e Ravanchi told Japan's Kyodo News in an interview.

"If the United States insists on zero enrichment, then we have no agreement," the Iranian official said.

Since April, Iran and the United States have held five rounds of negotiations to resolve a dispute over Iran's nuclear program. But an unprovoked aggression by the US and its ally, Israel, against Iran before a sixth round of the negotiations derailed the talks.

During the talks, the US insisted on zero uranium enrichment in Iran. But the Islamic Republic underlined that it will not accept the US demand.



"Iran is ready to negotiate with the United States, but the United States must make clear whether it is truly interested in a win-win dialogue or in imposing its will," Takht-e Ravanchi said.

The deputy foreign minister also referred to the "illegal" US strikes on Iran's three nuclear sites during its aggression on June 22, saying that the strikes inflicted severe damage on the facilities.

The Iranian official warned that any new threat by the US would be met with a decisive response.

He said that Tehran is in contact with Washington through a third country mediating between the two sides.



Baqaei confirms Iran's official accession to Palermo since August 6

International Desk

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baqaei on Monday confirmed Iran's membership in the "United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime," known as the Palermo Convention since August 6.

Speaking in his weekly press conference, Baqaei said the decision to join the convention was made by the country's decision-making authorities based on the national interests. After the approval of Iran's accession to the convention by the country's authorities, the accession document was submitted by the secretary-general of the United Nations, Baqaei said, adding the move took place on August 6 and Iran officially became a member of the UN convention.

Iran's Financial Intelligence Unit announced that the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has, for the first time in six years, formally invited the head of Iran's Financial Intelligence Unit to participate in direct negotiations.

The invitation follows Iran's recent presentation of its an-

ti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing measures to FATF's regional group, as well as the ratification of the Palermo Convention by the country's Expediency Council.

According to the statement, FATF's secretariat has officially invited Hadi Khani, head of the Iranian Finance Ministry's financial intelligence department, to attend the talks. The meeting will take place in Madrid, Spain.

The Palermo Convention, adopted by the UN in 2000, was approved by Iran's Expediency Council earlier this year. Work on ratifying the CFT (Combating the Financing of Terrorism) convention — seen as complementary to the Palermo Convention — is ongoing.

Iran's accession to the two conventions remains the sole obstacle to the country's membership in the FATF. Resolving the issue would enable Iran to soon exit the FATF's "blacklist," which outlines recommendations for combating financial crimes, including terrorism financing and money laundering.



Iron, steel exports up by 13% in first four months: *ISPA*



Economy Desk

The Iranian Steel Producers Association (ISPA) released data on the country's steel exports for the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (began on March 20, 2025), showing that the iron and steel chain product exports rose by 13 percent, equivalent to 469,000 tons.

The value of chain product exports in iron and steel grew by 7 percent in the same period, reaching over \$2.3 billion, IRNA reported. Exports of billet and bloom, which had posted an 8 percent decline in the first-quarter figures, reversed course in the four-

month statistics, registering a 15 percent increase.

The upward trend in exports of raw materials in the steel chain has also continued, with iron ore concentrate exports rising by 78 percent compared to the same period last year — a development that has raised concerns among steelmakers. Iran's steel exports have established steady markets across Asia — notably China and Southeast Asia — and in Africa, fueled by rising demand for construction materials. Despite facing logistical and financial constraints, the country exported over 10 million tons of steel products last year, generating revenue exceeding \$6.0 billion.

Nearly a dozen wastewater treatment plants to be launched in coming weeks:

Official



Economy Desk

The head of the National Water and Wastewater Engineering Company announcing that so far, 320 million cubic meters of wastewater have been allocated to industries under 78 contracts, said 11 wastewater treatment plants will be ready for operation in the coming weeks.

Hashem Amini said on Monday that on August 24, coinciding with the start of Government Week in Iran, 11 wastewater treatment plants will enter into service, IRNA reported.

He stated that one of the most important policies of the Ministry of Energy is to maximize the use of wastewater and replace it with raw water, a policy clearly stipulated in the law, which has also set out the necessary requirements in this regard.

According to Amini, 365 cities are currently covered by wastewater services, and the access index will rise from the current 65 percent to 70 percent by the end of the Seventh Development Plan.

The CEO noted that according to Clause 3 of Article 39 of the Seventh Development Plan Law, the supply and allocation of water to water-intensive industries currently using conventional water sources must be carried out through wastewater, seawater, and water recycling.

He stressed that requiring industries to replace conventional water sources (surface and groundwater) with unconventional sources is essential, particularly as the country faces multiple water constraints and a sharp decline in rainfall. All stakeholders and relevant authorities, he added, must pay special attention to this issue. Referring to the operation of 324 wastewater treatment plants nationwide, Amini noted that by the end of the Seventh Development Plan, 130.9 million cubic meters of wastewater will be allocated to industries through guaranteed purchase agreements.

Three wastewater treatment projects in Lavasan, northeast of Tehran, were inaugurated in Mid-July in the presence of Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi. Emphasizing the necessity of wastewater treatment, Aliabadi said. "Not a single drop should be wasted without recycling, and this treated effluent is primarily used in industrial and agricultural sectors." Tehran Province is experiencing its fifth consecutive year of low precipitation, with this vear's rainfall levels being the lowest in six decades. The recorded 153 mm represents a 44% drop from the long-term average and a 33% decrease compared to last year.

Iran ranks among top five manufacturers of electrochemical supercapacitors

Economy Desk

Iran has become the fifth country to acquire the technology for designing and manufacturing electrochemical supercapacitors (ECSCs) — advanced industrial capacitors with applications in electric vehicles, elevators, and wind turbines — according to a senior official at the Academic Center for Education, Culture and Research (ACECR).

The head of the Chemical Industries Research Group at the ACECR announced that the academic center has successfully designed and built an indigenous electro-

chemical supercapacitor, placing Iran among the five countries possessing the cutting-edge technology, ISNA reported.

Nourali Mohammadi said that previously, the know-how for producing industrial supercapacitors was held exclusively by four countries including Canada, South Korea, China, and the United States.

Highlighting the significance of the achievement, Mohammadi noted that prior to this, the industrial supercapacitor production savvy had been monopolized by the four countries, adding that a laboratory-scale pro-

totype of the product had been developed with quality comparable to that of highly advanced foreign models.

The head of the research group identified applications for the product in electric vehicles, elevators, and wind turbines, adding that these supercapacitors have a physical lifespan of about 10 years and a cycle life of more than one million cycles, while releasing energy in a much shorter time than conventional batteries.

Regarding the challenges of production, Mohammadi said that building an industrial supercapacitor had not been an easy task, and that



to move forward with development and enter mass production and commercial-

ization, support from both private and public sector investors is required.

CBI kick-starts specialized banking system to boost efficiency, transparency



Economy Desk

The Central Bank of Iran (CBI) launched a move toward specialized banking and approved a new framework for categorizing the country's banking system, a step expected to boost efficiency, transparency, and financial discipline in Iran's banking network. Tasnim reported.

In its 34th Supreme Board meeting, the CBI approved the comprehensive regulations for the establishment, operation, management, and supervision of commercial, universal, specialized, and Qarz ol-Hasaneh Bank or Interest-Free Loan Bank (highlighting the government's use of Islamic finance tools for social development initiatives).

The measure, implemented under the provisions of the Seventh Five-Year Development Plan Law, marks the beginning of a process to specialize banks and categorize them more precisely according to their mandates and operational areas, bringing an end to the era of uniform bank performance.



A view of the building of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI)

Experience over the past four decades has shown that the "universal banking" model in Iran has led to resource dispersion and reduced efficiency. According to CBI assessments, banks that operated across all sectors not only failed to achieve a relative advantage in any area but also allocated their

resources inefficiently. Each economic sector carries unique risks. Specialized banks, with in-depth knowledge of a particular industry, will be able to assess risks more accurately and offer tailored solutions.

According to the CBI governor Mohammad Reza Farzin, the Central Bank had a plan to categorize banks into specialized groups "so that each bank, by focusing on its specific field, can provide better services to the country's economy. This categorization will help reduce duplication and improve the

soundness of the banking system."

Emphasizing the importance of the initiative, he said, "Specializing banks will help us better manage banking risks and channel financial resources more efficiently into the productive sectors of the economy."

Under the new regulations, banks are divided into four main categories, including Commercial Banks, which essentially serve the same role as current traditional banks but under stricter regulations and a stronger supervisory framework. These institutions are responsible for mobilizing resources and allocating them as loans to individuals and legal entities. They are permitted to conduct 21 types of authorized operations, including accepting various deposits, granting loans, engaging in foreign exchange transactions, and providing electronic banking services;

Universal Banks, authorized to offer a wide range of banking and financial services, including accepting various deposits, granting loans, engaging in foreign exchange operations, issuing various guarantees and electronic cards, issuing Islamic securities, investing in financial markets, and establishing or participating in monetary and financial groups;

Specialized Banks, focused on financing a specific industry or defined value chain, with significant shareholders required to be publicly listed joint-stock companies or non-governmental public institutions with relevant experience in the respective sector;

tive sector;
And Qarz ol-Hasaneh Bank, which mobilize and allocate resources through interest-free loan contracts and have a special mission to promote social justice and assist low-income groups.

This transformation not only reshapes the structure of the banking system but could also serve as a model for similar countries in the region. Iran's banking system is stepping into a new era of specialization and efficiency, the results of which are expected to become evident in the years ahead.



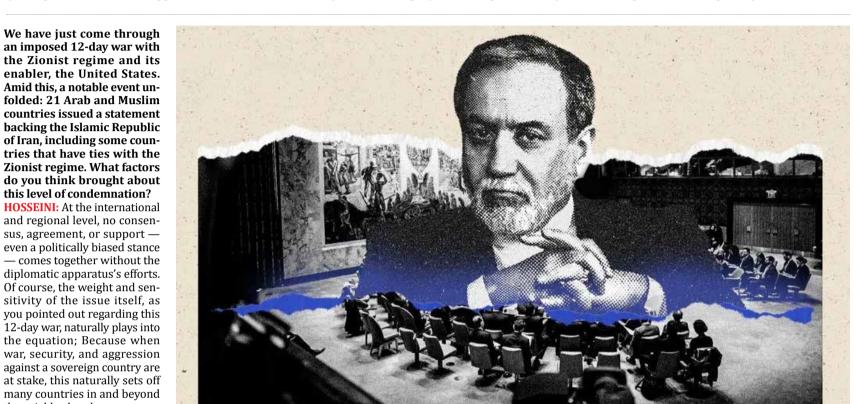
Negotiations need clear subject, fairness: Former spokesman

INTERVIEW

As the region stands on the brink of fundamental changes and global powers are looking to redraw the geopolitical map, the diplomacy of the Islamic Republic of Iran has once again stepped up to play a pivotal role in the fast-moving and sensitive developments

across West Asia.

In a detailed and candid interview, Mohammad Ali Hosseini, former spokesperson for Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, pulls back the curtain on the relentless backstage efforts of Iran's diplomatic apparatus to tackle the fallout of the imposed 12-day war and navigate through multi-layered regional crises; efforts that led to the issuing of multiple statements that supported Iran and undermined the fabricated image of unilateral power held by the Zionist regime. Below are parts of that interview:



of Iran, including some countries that have ties with the Zionist regime. What factors do you think brought about this level of condemnation? **HOSSEINI:** At the international and regional level, no consensus, agreement, or support even a politically biased stance — comes together without the diplomatic apparatus's efforts. Of course, the weight and sensitivity of the issue itself, as you pointed out regarding this 12-day war, naturally plays into the equation; Because when war, security, and aggression against a sovereign country are at stake, this naturally sets off many countries in and beyond

the neighborhood.

That said, if the diplomatic machinery, especially the foreign minister himself, had not rolled up their sleeves from the moment the crisis unfolded, and if our ambassadors had not quickly stepped up and swiftly established diplomatic contacts, such a rapid reaction simply would not have come together. Not only did we witness the stance and support of about 120 countries or more, but many of these statements were the direct result of contacts personally made by Dr. Araghchi and the tireless efforts of our ambassadors on the ground. When you want to hammer out a joint declaration condemning one party in organizations like the Non-Aligned Movement, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, BRICS, the Arab League, and the Persian Gulf

Cooperation Council, it naturally calls for broad and persistent coordination and effort.

Moreover, we aimed to have countries speak out at the level of heads of state or foreign ministers. The quality of these statements mattered a great deal; that they collectively and unambiguously condemned the aggression and voiced support for the Islamic Republic of Iran and its legitimate right to defend itself.

This move is significant both quantitatively and qualitatively in terms of the nature of the positions declared by these countries. So, the sensitivity of the issue had an impact, but even more so, the efforts of the diplomatic apparatus, both inside the country and by our ambassadors in each country where they serve.

What happened in the early hours of October 7, 2023, set our region on a fast and hectic course of developments. One of the things that transformed during this time was the deterrence equation in the region and Iran's own deterrence capability. What changes do you see in these equations after the recent developments, both regionally and for our country?

The Zionist regime's goal, naturally supported by the US, in launching this war was crystal clear: regime change of the Islamic Republic. They openly talked about the Libya and Syria models, meaning fragmentation, chaos, unrest, and instability inside Iran. They bluntly declared these aims as the core objectives of the war imposed upon us: destruction of infrastructure, dismantling the nuclear program, and more.

Nevertheless, the Islamic Republic of Iran was the clear winner of this battle; Not only did it not allow them to achieve any of their stated goals, but it also quickly and effectively showcased its deterrence power. We put into practice the slogan often voiced by senior officials that if the Zionist regime slips or acts foolishly, our response will be swift, decisive, and devastating. This deterrent strength was witnessed by all,

both regionally and beyond. As a result, the enemy missed all their targets. One goal seeking to break a wedge between the people and the Islamic Establishment — even backfired. National cohesion and unity among the people picked up steam, and widespread support for the establishment was on full display. Hence, Iran's deterrence power was clearly showcased.

Let's not forget that in the first two or three days of the war, when it seemed the Zionist regime had the upper hand, a reporter asked Mr. Trump whether he intended to call for a cease-fire to end the clashes, to which he replied it would be very difficult to ask a side on the verge of victory to agree to a cease-fire. But just 72 hours later, after witnessing the heavy bombardment of the Occupied Territories, Iran's destructive missile capabilities,



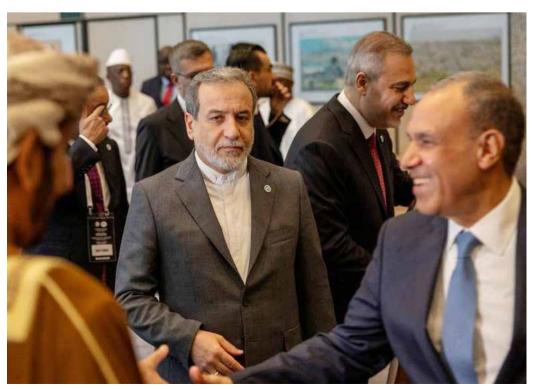
Mohammad Ali Hosseini

of Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas

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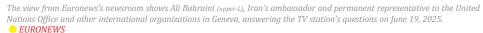
message asking for a

cease-fire.









and its defensive and deterrent power — especially after the American Al-Udeid base was hit — Mr. Trump sent out a message asking for a cease-fire. The Islamic Republic demonstrated its deterrence clearly, and when that power is openly displayed, you will see shifts and new equations taking shape in the region and beyond. Of course, to reach definite and tangible deterrence strength, we must cover up and make up for our weaknesses while simultaneously building on our strengths — so firmly that not even the thought crosses the mind of any enemy that they can threaten Iran's security. God willing, with national unity and the strong support our armed forces enjoy today, this deterrence must be reinforced and consolidated in every dimension.

One reaction to the Zionist regime and the United States' aggression against Iran that caught many Western media off guard was the stance taken by the European troika and the European Union. Numerous articles were even published highlighting how Europe, once a self-proclaimed defender of human rights, has reached a point where it not only refuses to condemn the aggression but actually comes down on the side of the aggressor. How did Europe and its three main countries get to this point? What has unfolded in **Iran-Europe relations?**

Unfortunately, the European countries have stuck to the course they set out on during the imposed 12-day war. Especially the three key players — France, the UK, and Germany — who hold significant sway in the EU's decision-making, have gone down a path that has led to the decline of Europe's credibility and influence in the region, on the global stage, and even bilaterally with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The approach European countries have adopted toward Iran has effectively knocked the wind out of the sails of Iran-Europe relationship supporters. Many analysts and political experts — even those who have consistently championed the expansion of ties with Europe — admitted they never thought Europe would double down on such negative stances or turn a blind eye to the blatant crimes of the Zionist regime.

At the G7, meeting where these three European countries were present, a statement was issued that was truly shameful. The statement laid out two deeply troubling points: First, the so-called right of "legitimate defense" was granted to a regime that openly engaged in aggression, terrorism, destruction, and mass killing. Second, the Islamic Republic of Iran was painted as the center of insecurity, instability, and terrorism in the region.

Furthermore, the German chancellor's remark was highly notable. He said the aggression was the "dirty work Israel is doing for all of us". What does this statement imply? If your nation — that is, your sovereignty, territorial integrity, people, scientists, and military commanders gets subjected to aggression, invasion, and terrorism, would you consider that legitimate? This phrase essentially means that if it were within their power, they themselves would have carried out these actions, but lacking such capability, the Zionist regime — which has become fully exposed as Amer-



Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (2nd-L) meets with his German, French, and British counterparts, as well as the Europe an Union's top diplomat Kaja Kallas (top table-C), in Geneva, Switzerland, on June 20, 2025.

• GERMAN FEDERAL FOREIGN OFFICE

ica's and the West's proxy in the region — is doing it for them. Europe not only refused to condemn the attack on Iran's nuclear facilities but also completely backed away from the bare minimum of ethical and legal standards in international relations. This is while these same countries had negotiated with us for years on the nuclear issue and formally recognized Iran's enrichment program within the framework of the agreement.

But today, they talk of "zero enrichment" and "complete dismantlement" of Iran's nuclear program; a series of demands and positions that have caused Europe's standing among the Iranian nation, regional peoples, and even on the world stage to further deteriorate. Europeans need to face up to the fact that the cause of this decline lies precisely in these irresponsible, two-faced approaches and actions. Even the United States, their closest ally, no longer holds Europe in any special regard.

What's the way forward? If Europeans are truly serious about mending fences with the Islamic Republic, they must recognize Iran's legitimate, obvious, and lawful rights — both regarding the nuclear issue and other matters. The Islamic Republic has never asked for more than its rightful rights in negotiations but expects that when it holds up its end of the bargain faithfully, its rights will be recognized in return.

Since taking office as foreign minister, Foreign Minister Araghchi has nut forward an initiative aimed at cooling down tensions in Iran-Europe relations. Amid the recent war, Araghchi held significant talks in Geneva with foreign ministers of the European troika and the EU's foreign policy chief. Moreover, another round of talks at the deputy level was just held in Istanbul. Can we hold out hope that Iran-Europe relations might come to fruition, especially given the unofficial, artificial deadline Europe has lined up for snapback activation?

This snapback issue is part of the new game Europeans are continuing to play out along the same misguided path they started before. If negotiations are to bear fruit, there's no way around recognizing Iran's legitimate, natural, and legal rights. We have no other route.

Currently, the sanctions imposed by the US have been

backed up by Europe as well. Before finalizing the nuclear agreement, we had close talks with European parties, and after the JCPOA was inked, the Islamic Republic, as a committed party, held fast to all its obligations. This was confirmed not only by multiple reports from the International Atomic Energy Agency but also by the European countries themselves. Even after the US exit, Iran kept up its commitments for a long time and still continues to engage responsibly.

But here's the question: On which commitments have the European countries, who were principal parties to the agreement, actually followed through? Aside from aligning with the US, issuing condemnations, or expressing verbal concerns, what concrete steps have been taken to fulfill their commitments? Everyone rightly expects reciprocal action from Europe for Iran's compliance. Just as they expected Iran to accept practical restrictions, Iran also has the right to see tangible moves to lift sanctions.

Let's not forget that, after the US departure from the JCPOA, Europeans took on 11 specific commitments, yet not one was carried out. A glaring example of this failure is that Europe didn't even condemn the brutal Israeli attack on Iran's nuclear facilities, despite ongoing negotiations and maintained contacts.

Our position is crystal clear: The legitimate rights of the Islamic Republic of Iran must be acknowledged. Iran will never back down from any of its obvious rights, including enrichment, peaceful nuclear activities, and the safeguards set by the Agency. Should Europe change course, Iran's leadership will undoubtedly make decisions suited to the new circumstances.

cumstances.
In my view, the ongoing talks reflect Iran's effort to hammer home its lawful, principled, and rational stances. Now, it's up to the European side to make up its mind: Are they genuinely interested in turning over a new leaf in relations with the Islamic Republic or not? If yes, they must accept and commit in practice to frameworks for constructive interaction based on mutual respect, shared interests, and adherence to dialog principles.

Despite all the realities currently playing out on the political and field scenes, the Islamic Republic of Iran has consistently stressed that it has never walked away from the negoti-

ating table nor shut the door on diplomacy at any point. Is there any prospect for us to return once more to the negotiating table with the United States? Especially under conditions where Donald Trump has recently, in response to our foreign minister's remarks, threatened to launch new attacks.

Some officials of the Zionist regime and certain American figures continue to wave the threat of renewed attacks. These threats are nothing but a rerun of the "all options are on the table" policy that we have repeatedly heard echo through past years. Amid this, what Araghchi has laid out is that despite all the damages sustained during this period, the Islamic Republic of Iran remains ready to engage in dialogue. But the issue is: Who should answer for these damages? Who should make good on these harms?

When we talk about negotiation, we mean a purposeful and clear dialogue. A negotiation with a well-defined subject. Naturally, topics such as Iran's peaceful nuclear program, the right of enrichment, territorial integrity, national sovereignty, and scientific achievements — which are the nation's assets — are red lines that are non-negotiable. This is something considered self-evident even in Western countries.

However, if the goal is to dial down tensions and carve out a path for effective dialogue, the Islamic Republic of Iran has not only never turned its back

tently kept it going, directly or indirectly. Yet, one must bear in mind that an event has taken place; A 12-day war was forced upon Iran. Now the question arises: Who was the aggressor? What was the cause of this aggression? Why did some countries extend unconditional support to that regime? And now that serious damages have been inflicted — on people, infrastructures, and nuclear programs — who should take responsibility for these losses? One cannot simply brush aside these developments by saying "let bygones be bygones and now enter into negotiations," especially over the same issues that sparked the war and where the enemy was defeated. The very side that failed in that war is now shamelessly resurrecting the prewar demands. This is where the subject, framework, and standards for negotiation and dialogue must be clearly laid out. We did not back away from the

on negotiation but has consis-

logue must be clearly laid out. We did not back away from the negotiating table; Rather, while we were engaged in talks, our country was targeted by attacks. Therefore, the question arises: Who is responsible for this situation? Who caused the negotiations to break down? It was the United States that walked out of the nuclear deal and tried to drag others along to exit as well. Plus, it was also the instigator of war — and now speaks of negotiation.

now speaks of negotiation. As a result, the prior trust — even the minimal trust that existed — is now gone, and that very mistrust was cooked up by them. Negotiation calls for a clear subject, transparent rules, and at least a minimum of trust and fairness. Only within such a framework can common ground be hammered out for talks with either the American or European side.

I emphasize that even during the imposed 12-day war, our foreign minister was in contact with various parties; He was both taking in messages and sending out messages. Thus, the door to negotiation has never been shut tight. But it cannot be ignored that when a side suffers damage from the talks, it must be clearly established who is responsible for that damage and how they should be held accountable. Only in a transparent atmosphere with clear frameworks can the groundwork be set up for fruitful negotiations — negotiations that will at least pay off with benefits for the people of Iran.

The full article first appeared in Persian on IRNA.

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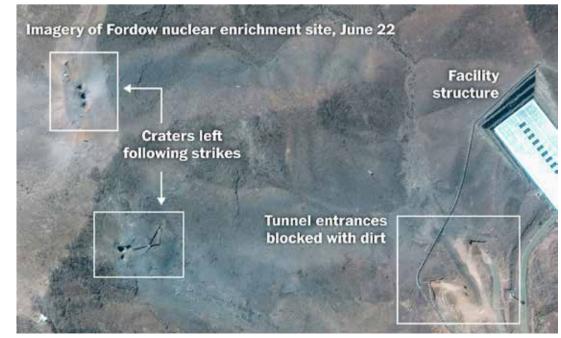
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The satellite photo allegedly shows two clusters of holes at Iran's Fordow nuclear site following the United States' strikes on the facility on June 22, 2025.

MAXAR

Sports

FIBA Asia Cup:

Iran routs Syria to secure direct last-eight berth

Sports Desk

Iran hammered Syria 82-43 to complete a clean sweep of Group B victories at the FIBA Asian Cup and secure a direct berth in Wednesday's quarterfinals in Jeddah.

It was a neck-and-neck battle in the first half at the King Abdullah Sports City, with only two points separating the two teams, before Iran pulled away in the third quarter and never looked back to maintain its perfect run in the competition.

Matin Aqajanpour was the star of the show for Iran with a game-high 24 points, chipping in six three-pointers - including a decisive four in the third

Sina Vahedi also made a significant contribution, producing 19 points, three rebounds, three assists and two steals.

"Every game is tough," Aqajanpour said post-game. "Syria is a very good team. In the first half we could not play well, but in the second half we heard our coaches, and we did do our job." Syria's defense disrupted Iranians' rhythm from the opening tip, holding them to just 13 points in a scrappy first quarter. Vahedi and Aqajanpour provided Iran's only perimeter spark, but the scoreboard read just 13-11 after 10 minutes.

The struggle continued in the second frame as Syria's energy



and hustle kept the three-time champions at bay. Mohamad Bilal Atli's putback gave Syria the lead briefly, and Keron Deshields, who finished with 16 points, kept applying pressure. A late triple from Arsalan Kazemi nudged Iran ahead 25-23 at the break, with star wingman Mohammad Amini yet to score.

However, the game turned on its head after halftime as Iran's defense clamped down, forcing a series of turnovers that led to transition opportunities. Aqajanpour drilled a triple to extend the lead, then struck again moments later after Kazemi's

work on the boards. The gap hit double-digits midway through the quarter, and Syria's offence began to unravel.

Aqajanpour's shooting display reached its peak with back-to-

Iranian players celebrate after an 82-43 victory over Syria at the FIBA Asia Cup in leddah, Saudi Arabia, on August 10, 2025.

back threes in the final minutes of the third, part of a 32-11 blitz that turned a tense two-point game into a commanding 57-34 advantage heading into the

From there, Iran was in cruise control. Vahedi continued orchestrating the offence, Amini found his way onto the scoresheet, and the defense allowed just nine points in the final period.

Chasing a first Asian trophy since 2013, Iran left fans with another reminder of why it is among the region's elite, capable of weathering adversity, flipping a game in minutes, and riding multiple offensive weapons to decisive wins. With Vahedi in control and Agajanpour firing from deep, Team Melli now turns its attention to the quarterfinals with momentum firmly on its side.

Having beaten Guam (77-52) and Japan (78-70) earlier in the group phase, Greek head coach Sotirios Manolopoulos's men will face the winner of the Chinese Taipei-Jordan playoff in the last eight, with two-time defending champion Australia, which will play the Philippines or the host next, likely awaiting in the semi-

AFC Champions League Elite:

Sepahan to begin new era at Al Duhail

Sports Desk

A place in the West region's league phase will be at stake as Sepahan plays away to Qatari club Al Duhail in the preliminary stage of the AFC Champions League Elite today at the Khalifa International Stadium.

The game will also mark the beginning of a new era for the Persian Gulf Pro League outfit under head coach Moharram Navidkia, who returned to Sepahan bench in June to replace Patrice Carteron after the Frenchman walked out of his job amid the 12-day war between Iran and Israel.

Having settled for a runner-up finish in their respective domestic leagues last season, both sides will aim to feature in the West's 12team league stage of the revamped ACL Elite for the first time.

Victory in today's game will

mean a 15th appearance in the Asian elite clubs' competition for Sepahan, which was a losing finalist in 2007.

Meanwhile, Al Duhail - a semifinalist in 2022 – will be looking to build on a superior head-to-head record against the Iranian club to secure a 13th participation in the continental showpiece.

The two sides met four times in the group stage in the 2012 and 2022 editions, with Al Duhail coming out victorious on three

Sepahan fans will get to watch their new-look team in action for the first time this season following a busy transfer window of high-profile incomings and departures.

While Iranian international goalkeeper Payam Niazmand and midfielder Reza Shekari left for Persepolis, French midfielder

Steven Nzonzi parted ways with club for "safety reasons" and prolific winger Mohammad-Mahdi Mohebbi joined Ittihad Kalba in the UAE Pro League.

Ex-AEK Athens fullback Ehsan Hajsafi, meanwhile, has returned to his boyhood club for a fourth spell, with goalkeeper Seyyed Hossein Hosseini and his Esteghlal teammate Arash Rezavand, as well as Portuguese midfielder Ricardo Alves, who won the Iranian league with Tractor last season, among the new signings.

There will be two marquee signings to watch in Al Duhail shirt. Former PSG midfielder Marco Verratti has joined as a free agent from fellow-Qatari club Al Arabi SC, while Polish striker Krzysztof Piatek is set to make his debut in Asian football following his €10m move from Turkish club Basaksehir.

Iranian boxer Estaki wins Asian U22 silver

Sports Desk

Young Iranian boxer Sam Estaki settled for a silver medal in the men's under-22 age class at the U22 & U19 Asian Boxing Championships in Bangkok, Thailand. Representing the country the country in the 85kg division, Estaki, who had his father Alireza Estaki as the head coach in his corner, defeated opponents from Sri Lanka and India to reach the final, but fell short against Abdulaziz Abdulrahmanov of Uzbekistan in Monday's show-

This was a sole medal for the country enjoyed a much more prolific campaign in the under-19 competitions, winning a Mahdi Rouzbehani (50kg), Ash-



ran's Sam Estaki (R), pictured with his father and head coach Alireza Estaki, settled for a silver medal at the U22 & U19 Asian Boxing Championships

gold and four bronze medals. Iranian six-man squad at the Ali Chehreqani beat Kazakhunder-22 event, while the stan's Adil Tortbik to walk away with the ultimate prize in the 60kg category, with

kan Hashemi (65kg), Mohammad-Saleh Mesbahi (70kg), and Abbas Garshasbi (+90kg) suffering last-four setbacks to finish with a consolation bronze in their respective events.

Iranian weightlifter Javadi back in training ahead of ISG 2025

Sports Desk

Iranian weightlifter Mir-Mostafa Javadi is back in training after recovering from a back injury and will be in contention for a place in the national team squad at the 2025 Islamic Solidarity Games - starting November 7 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. A winner of five world medals - including double golds in 2023 – the Iranian weightlifter has been sidelined with a pain in the waist area after missing out on the men's 89kg podium at the 2024 World Championships in Manama, Bahrain.

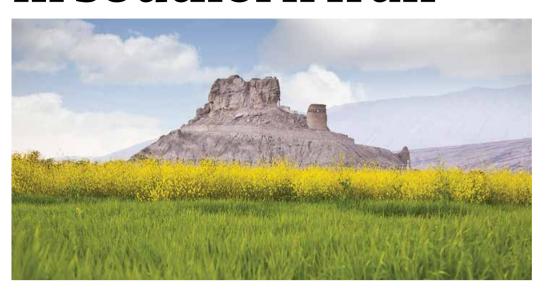
However, Iran head coach Behdad Salimi has named the 25-year-old weightlifter in the provisional squad for the visit Riyadh, as he will be



eager for further ISG glory in his career, having grabbed double golds and a snatch silver at the multi-sport event three years ago in Konya, Tur-



Fin Castle bridging history, modern life in southern Iran





Iranica Desk

South of the city of Fin in Bandar Abbas, Hormozgan Province, atop a hill approximately twenty meters high, a silent yet mysterious structure still stands — a castle that, despite the effects of natural erosion, has preserved traces of its past grandeur.

This monument, known as Fin Castle, is regarded as one of the significant legacies of the Islamic period in southern Iran and has remained quietly steadfast for centuries within a semi-mountainous and tropical natural environment.

The strategic location of the castle, situated adjacent to an unpaved road to the north and an asphalt road to the east leading to the center of Fin city, reflects a carefully considered and wise choice. This placement provided both effective surveillance control over the surrounding areas and convenient access to natural resources and regional communication routes. On the western side, dense palm groves create a picturesque landscape for the castle, while to the south

and west, urban facilities and residential houses display clear signs of the coexistence between history and contemporary life, chtn.ir wrote. Near the castle, particularly on

the gently sloping western foothills, lies a historic cemetery. In this area and within the castle grounds, a significant number of broken pottery pieces have been discovered, serving as the primary basis for dating the castle. The pottery found at the site is categorized broadly into two main types: glazed and unglazed. Among the glazed pottery, the blue glaze is the most prominent, and occasionally geometric decorations are visible beneath the glaze. The unglazed pottery, predominantly in shades of red and beige, features shapes with, broad rims, and either simple or molded designs, representing the middle Islamic period. Based on the style and craftsmanship of these pottery pieces, most are attributed to the Ilkhanid and Timurid eras. Moreover, the discovery of a blueand-white porcelain fragment from the Safavid period suggests the castle remained in use during



that era as well.

Although parts of the walls and towers still stand, extensive erosion has buried large sections of the main structure beneath the soil, complicating efforts to create an accurate architectural plan of the castle. Nevertheless, based on the remaining architectural fragments and the positioning of watchtowers at the four corners of the structure, it can be inferred that the castle's layout was an irregular polygon

reinforced by round towers.

The primary construction materials used for the castle include rubble stones and sarooj mortar in the lower sections, while square adobe bricks feature prominently in the upper parts. This combination was both durable and well-suited to the warm climate of southern Iran. In later periods, additions such as concrete walls, metal frameworks, bricks, and tiles appear in certain parts of the structure, in-

dicating shifts in use over recent decades. Evidence of temporary habitation by some Khans and local residents is also present within the current remains.

On the eastern side of the castle. remnants of a round tower with a wall measuring 840 centimeters in length and 270 centimeters in height are still visible. Within this wall, vertical arrow slits and windows with pointed arches served functions that were both practical and aesthetic. On the western side, another round tower with an approximate diameter of 380 centimeters stands, with its two-story structure still distinguishable. The second floor of this tower is located about 450 centimeters above ground level, and the multiple niches and arrow slits found inside indicate that these towers played a crucial role in the castle's defense system.

Historically, the castle's primary function was military and security-oriented. In times of threat from bandits or foreign forces. the castle acted as a safe refuge for local inhabitants. At the same time, its relatively sophisticated architectural design suggests that the castle was more than a mere military fortification; during various periods, it also served as the residence of influential individuals, guards, and even local command centers.

Although substantial parts of the structure have been destroyed and detailed information about the castle's interior decorations is limited, the pointed-arch windows slits within the towers remain the most distinctive examples of decorative Islamic architecture at the site. These features not only fulfilled defensive roles but also contributed unique visual beauty to the building and are recognized as characteristic elements of castle architecture from the Islamic period.

Despite the extensive damage it has suffered, Fin Castle continues to hold an important place in the architectural and defensive history of southern Iran. The site was officially registered on Iran's National Heritage List in 2002 and is deserving of increased attention from heritage organizations, researchers, and cultural preservation advocates.

Touch, listen, explore secrets of human body in Darabad of Tehran

Iranica Desk

Among the tourist attractions in Tehran, there is a fascinating scientific museum known as Human Park, located in the Darabad neighborhood.

Human Park holds the distinction of being the largest of its kind in the Middle East. It provides visitors with an immersive glimpse inside the human body. Each section of the body, along with the exhibits they contain, has been carefully designed under the supervision of experts

in the field. It appears that this park drew inspiration from a similar concept established in the Netherlands.

The entire park is ingeniously shaped to resemble parts of the human body. Upon entering, visitors pass through the mouth, and from there, all the internal organs are displayed sequentially. The exit is designed to represent the end of the intestines, creating an experience akin to being swallowed by a giant human. This imaginative layout offers an excellent opportunity for

children to explore and become familiar with the anatomy of the human body in an engaging way. The human body representation is presented in vivid 3D form. This three-dimensional visualization, combined with audible sounds corresponding to each body part, greatly enhances children's understanding of both the structure and the functions of the human body. A unique aspect of Human Park is the interactive nature of its exhibits: as visitors approach or touch certain body parts, the exhibits respond accordingly. For example, touching the nose hairs triggers the sound of sneezing. The section dedicated to the heart and its blood vessels is particularly impressive, where 3D sound effects mimic the flow of blood and the heartbeat, creating a captivating atmosphere.

Exploring the inside of the human body in this way offers a fresh and intriguing experience for people of all ages. However, photography is not permitted inside Human Park. Instead, professional photographers are

available to capture attractive photos of your visit, ensuring your memories of the park are well preserved.

Within the Darabad museum complex, Roya Park is another noteworthy tourist attraction. Additionally, the Iran Wildlife and Nature Museum, located nearby, is a fascinating destination well worth visiting. The complex offers several facilities and amenities, including a café and a 6D cinema. Inside Human Park itself, on the second floor, there is a uniquely themed café called Dr. Land, designed like a

At Dr. Land, children have the delightful chance to wear medical clothes and immerse themselves in the experience of being a doctor while learning about various medical instruments. Since Human Park is situated in Tehran's Darabad neighborhood, nature lovers and hiking enthusiasts can also take advantage of the nearby mountains and valleys, making it possible to combine an educational visit with outdoor adventures.









Arts & Culture Desk

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Iran targets 15mn tourists annually to revive sector after Israeli aggression

Pasargadae plan to balance heritage, community: Minister



Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's Cultural Heritage Minister Reza Salehi Amiri said Monday the government will target 15 million annual visitors to revive tourism after a recent conflict with Israel damaged the sector. The minister said Iran would "stimulate domestic tourism" and "focus on neighboring markets" to recover from losses during the 12-day conflict. Around six million international tourists have visited Iran this year, he confirmed, IRNA



Iran's Cultural Heritage Tourism and Handicrafts Minister Reza Salehi Amiri speaks during a ceremony in Fars Province, Iran, August 11, 2025.

Speaking after visiting the UN-ESCO World Heritage site of Pasargadae, Salehi Amiri said the recovery strategy has two main elements. Iran will boost domestic travel to create jobs and social optimism while easing access for foreign visitors through upgraded facilities.

The government is investing in coastal infrastructure along the Caspian Sea, Persian Gulf and Sea of Oman through public-private partnerships, he said. Stimulus measures include visa-waiver agreements and expanded hotel capacity, with 45 new properties already opened. Salehi Amiri said Iran must bridge a nine million-visitor gap by "boosting domestic demand" and "leaning on neighbors from Iraq to the Caucasus."

Last year, 7.4 million tourists

visited Iran, with Fars province and Pasargadae among top destinations, according to ministry data. Tourism grew 48 percent in the first month of the Iranian year compared to the previous

"The government considers itself obligated to restore normal conditions as quickly as possible so people can see tourists returning," the minister said.

At Pasargadae, Iran's first dynastic capital, Salehi Amiri pledged a development plan that balances historical preservation with local community needs. The 6th-century BC site contains the tomb of Cyrus the Great and ancient palace ruins.

He described the site as a "peerless investment in Iran's collective memory" and said restoration and infrastructure

projects would follow longterm scientific evaluation while respecting "both heritage and host communities.'

A technical advisory body including archaeologists, local officials and Parliament members will convene within a month to make binding decisions on the site's development, he announced.

This land is steeped in identity and splendor—it must be honored in deed, not just word," Salehi Amiri said. "Every measure will reflect its stature" according to national and international heritage standards.

The minister apologized to Fars Province residents for any government shortcomings and promised to address local concerns while protecting the archaeological site's integrity.

Archaeologists unearth royal Ilkhanid cemetery in northwestern Iran

Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian archaeologists unearthed remains from an Ilkhanid-era royal cemetery adjacent to the UNES-CO World Heritage Soltaniyeh Dome in northwestern Iran.

The discovery of the underground tomb, dating back to the 13th and 14th centuries, marks a significant archaeological breakthrough that could shed new light on Mongol burial practices and royal customs during the Ilkhanid dynasty, IRNA reported.

Abolfazl Aali, director of the Soltaniyeh archaeological site, said the excavation team discovered skeletal remains and burial structures in an area known as "Abvab Al-Bar" during ongoing archaeological work that began in late July.

"Based on existing evidence and historical sources, the tomb and skeletons belong to the royal family

of Mongol Ilkhans," Aali told the provincial Cultural Heritage Organization.

The cemetery appears to house members of the royal court, including wives and children of Öljaitü, the eighth Ilkhanid dynasty ruler who governed from 1304 to 1316. Also known as Mohammad-e Khodabandeh, Öljaitü commissioned the construction of the massive Soltaniyeh Dome between 1302 and

The burial site discovery provides "valuable information about history, culture, and customs during the Mongol era," Aali emphasized. Archaeological teams have uncovered human remains, precious artifacts, architectural structures and inscriptions that offer insights into religious

The excavation will continue through late September as researchers work to cat-



alog the full extent of the royal burial ground.

Soltaniyeh Dome was one of the largest religious endowments of the 14th century and served multiple functions including prayer, teaching and medical care. The octagonal structure, crowned by a 164-foot dome covered beliefs and funeral rites of in turquoise-blue tiles, represents the world's third-largest brick dome. The Mongol Ilkhanid dynasty, established by descendants of Genghis Khan, ruled over Persia from 1256 to 1335. Soltaniyeh briefly served as the dynasty's capital during the early 14th century before power shifted back to Tabriz.

The discovery builds upon Iran's rich archaeological heritage and could attract increased scholarly atten tion to the site, which UNE-SCO designated as a World Heritage location in 2005 for its outstanding architectural significance.

'Land of Kindness' exhibition draws crowds at China's Nanjing Museum

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's touring cultural exhibition 'Land of Kindness' opened at Nanjing Museum in eastern China, showcasing 151 historical artifacts that span over 3,000 years of Persian civilization through November 2025. The exhibition marks the third stop on a cross-country tour that has already drawn more than 300,000 visitors and generated over 100 million social media views since launching in January at Sichuan University Museum in Chengdu, IRNA reported.

Majid Montazer Zohouri, cultural advisor at Tehran University and head of the Moghadam Museum, said the artifacts were carefully chosen to tell Iran's story through the ages. The collection includes metalwork, ceramics, glassware, textiles, carpets and paintings from five prominent Tehran museums: Reza Abbasi, Moghadam, Glass and Ceramics, Carpet Museum and National Arts Museum.

These historical objects showcase different dimensions of Iranian culture and present a fresh narrative of ancient Iran," Montazer Zohouri told Iranian state media Monday.

He added the pieces feature recurring motifs that represent eternal messages of "covenant, friendship and kindness."

The touring exhibition has struck a chord with Chinese audiences, building on long-



standing cultural ties between the two nations. After successful runs in Chengdu and Guangzhou, the show settled into China's second-largest museum, which houses over 430,000 artifacts.

Iranian Deputy Cultural Heritage Minister Ali Darabi said China has formally requested extending the exhibition beyond its scheduled end date. The original plan called for the artifacts to return to Tehran after completing the three-city tour.

The chronologically arranged display spans from the second millennium BC through the Qajar period, offering visitors a comprehensive look at Persian artistic traditions and craftsmanship. Nanjing Museum, located at the foot of Purple Mountain, provides a fitting venue for the cultural exchange.

The exhibition runs through November 2025 at Nanjing Museum, with admission included in the museum's standard ticket price.



Date: 1404/5/21 - No.: 55/04/10717 Amendment of the publication of one step international tender

AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT SERVICES COMPANY

Following the two announcements No. 55/04/10105 published in the Iran Daily Newspaper dated 5/8/2025 (first announcement) and Tehran Times Newspaper dated 6/8/2025 (second announcement) regarding a one-step international tender for the purchase of seven items of pesticides technical materials, please take note of the following updates:

 The tender document distribution period has been extended until Sunday, August 17, 2025, at the close of official working hours.

The deadline for submitting the envelopes of offers has been adjusted to Sunday, September 14, 2025, by the end of official working hours. Subsequently, the meeting for opening these envelopes will be convened on Monday, September 15, 2025, at 2:00 PM.

Other terms and conditions are unchanged.

Public Relations and International Affairs of Agricultural Support Services Company

'A Death for Life' named sole Iranian film at India's HALF festival

Arts & Culture Desk

The one-tale short, 'A Death for Life,' by Iranian filmmaker Mohammadreza Setarehshenas will compete at the 15th International Haiku Amateur Little Film (HALF) Festival on September 14 2025 in Palakkad, Kerala. The film is the only Iranian entry selected for the final competition, IRNA reported. The festival, run by the creative collective Insight the Creative Group, recognizes ultra-short films—those no longer than five minutes—as "haiku" in cinematic form. Its emphasis is on aesthetic immediacy and non-profit creation. This year's edition drew a global audience, culminating in Setarehshenas singular national

distinction. A single-shot short, 'A Death for Life' depicts a female pigeon's demise and the death of her mate upon witnessing the scene. The filmmaker took on writing, directing, cinematography, editing, poster art and production duties himself. The film has previously screened at festivals in India, Chicago, Russia, and has earned commendations including a special experimental prize in Bolivia and finalist status at Busan's New Wave, plus a nomination in Italy. The celebration of his victory falls amid a growing appreciation of micro-cinema. "The power of small gestures resonates even in film," said one juror, praising the film's emotional clarity. A 'Death for Life' "carried us" with its haunting simplicity.