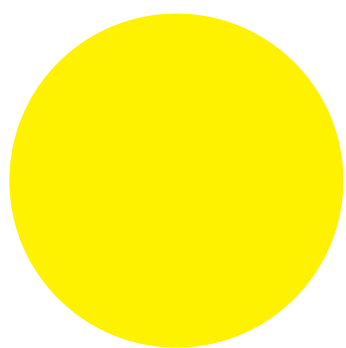


Top general: Iran ready to work with Pakistan against terrorism

2 >



Iran Daily

Vol. 7913 ● Wednesday, August 27, 2025 ● Shahrivar 05, 1404 ● Rabi' al-Awwal 03, 1447 ● 100,000 rials ● 8 pages



> irandaily.ir

newspaper.irandaily.ir

IranDailyWeb

Deputy FM: High time for E3, UNSC to make right choice, give diplomacy chance

2 >



President Masoud Pezeshkian (C) presents a trophy to an Iranian manufacturer at a ceremony to mark the National Industry and Mining Day in Tehran, Iran on August 26, 2025 as Industry Minister Mohammad Atabak (L) looks on.

president.ir

Pezeshkian urges industrialists to expedite solar panel investment

3 >

Russian proposed resolution smart move in support of Iran against snapback

By Rouhollah Modabber
Russian affairs expert

OPINION

Russia's submission of a draft resolution to the United Nations Security Council, aimed at extending Resolution 2231 for six months — the very resolution under which Iran's 2015 nuclear deal (JCPOA) was endorsed — was as a smart, friendly, and responsible initiative. By inserting specific legal wording, Moscow has effectively tied the hands of the European troika — the France, Germany and the UK (E3), preventing them from triggering the snapback of sanctions against Iran during this period.

Yet, given the hostile policy pursued by the E3, the possibility remains that their representatives could veto the draft and block its adoption.

Russia's policy toward Iran has consistently been one of cooperation, responsibility, and partnership, with the objective of backing Tehran in international organizations and helping to ward off the joint schemes of the European powers, Israel, and the United States. It should be recalled that the snapback mechanism itself, which allows the JCPOA parties to reinstate UN sanctions on Iran, was a wholly Western creation, inserted into the 2015 nuclear deal by the E3 in collaboration with the US.

Now, considering the adversarial stance taken by the European powers — and even their direct involvement in Israel's aggression against Tehran in June — the likelihood of the snapback being wielded as a practical tool by Europe is very real.

Russia, however, has now tabled a carefully crafted draft, whose preamble explicitly states that the six-month extension of the snapback mechanism is meant to give Iran breathing space, while suspending "any substantive consideration of any matters related to the implementation of Resolution 2231 and the JCPOA" for the duration of this period.

This suspension, crucially, covers the activation of the snapback as well. The draft further stipulates that any potential use of the mechanism in the future must depend on assessments of existing conditions and compliance. Should this draft be adopted, the clever provision contained in its preamble ensures that the snapback will automatically lapse after six months, leaving the European troika unable to set it in motion. This unprecedented step by Russia, taken for the first time, would be a positive move in support of Iran. For precisely that reason, however, Western governments are unlikely to rally behind the initiative and are expected instead to shoot it down with a veto.

Russia-Ukraine crisis shows no sign of ending soon Trump pursues personal motives in Ukraine conflict

By Mahmoud Shouri
International affairs analyst

OPINION EXCLUSIVE

US President Donald Trump has consistently sought to play a decisive role in the Russia-Ukraine war and to play up Washington's involvement.

Trump has tried to register the conflict as a diplomatic success under his own name and to cash in on any possible achievements. Yet serious obstacles remain in the way of that goal, and no clear strategy has so far been put forward by either the United States or Trump himself to get around them.

The recent talks in Alaska between Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin also produced no tangible or well-drafted outcomes that could serve as a basis for reliable judgment. One of Trump's key tools has been to pressure Ukraine and its president, Volodymyr Zelensky, into showing flexibility and making concessions.

Page 2 >



Iraq, Iran plan to boost tourist exchanges to 10m

8 >



12 months of effort, 12 days of defense Pezeshkian; voice of the voiceless

ANALYSIS 4-5 >



FIVB Men's U21 World Championship: Iran defeats Poland to progress as group winner

6 >



Malayer carpets crafting identity through pattern, color

7 >

Deputy FM: High time for E3, UNSC to make right choice, give diplomacy chance

International Desk

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi said on Tuesday that it is time for the Europe and the UN Security Council to make the right choice and give diplomacy a chance after representatives from Iran, Britain, France and Germany held another round of nuclear talks in Geneva.

"Dr. Takht-Ravanchi and I held another meeting with the political directors of the three European countries in Geneva. Both sides outlined their views regarding UN Security Council Resolution 2231," Gharibabadi wrote on X. "Iran remains committed to diplomacy and to seeking a mutually beneficial diplomatic solution. It is time for the three European countries and the UN Security Council to make the right choice and give diplomacy the time and space it needs."

France, Britain and Germany – known as the E3 – have long threatened to

trigger a "snapback" of sanctions at the UN security council before October 18, when a nuclear deal struck 10 years ago between Tehran and major powers expires.

Western officials have said they would wait until the end of August to decide whether Iran was serious about further negotiations, with a six-month extension only on the condition that Iran showed seriousness about the talks with the US.

"We are going to see whether the Iranians are credible about an extension or whether they are messing us around. We want to see whether they have made any progress on the conditions we set to extend," one E3 official said before the negotiations in Geneva.

Russia and China – two of the security council's five permanent members – cannot veto the snapback if Europe decides to take the step.

On Tuesday, Iranian Foreign Ministry's spokesman Ismaeil Baqaei reiterated

Iran's assertion that the European trio lacked all legal and moral authority to try to have the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) restore its sanctions on Iran.

However, Tehran was, at the same time, aware of the "unfavorable" outcome of the bans' potential return, he said, adding that the country was sparing no efforts to prevent realization of the prospect.

Baqaei noted that Iran has a "clear plan" in store to deploy to either avert the likelihood or contain its fallout. He, meanwhile, underlined that the country had to be wary of efforts aimed at abusing the situation to wage "psychological warfare" against the Iranian people.

In 2018, the United States left the nuclear agreement, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), in an illegal and unilateral move that was followed by Washington's return to its sanctions against Iran.



The European trio not only failed to live up to their promise of returning the US to the deal, but also followed in Washington's footsteps by returning their own economic bans targeting the Islamic Republic.

Now, they are trying to trigger the mechanism, accusing the Islamic Republic of "diverting" its peaceful nuclear energy activities towards "military purposes," despite the lack of all justifying evidence.

Tehran vows to retaliate Australia's expulsion of ambassador



The Iranian national flag flies over the Iranian Embassy in Canberra, Australia, on August 26, 2025.
● HILARY WARDHAUGH/AFP

International Desk

Iran's Foreign Ministry said on Tuesday that Tehran will respond to Australia's decision to expel Iran's ambassador over "anti-Semitism" allegations, stressing that the concept of anti-Semitism has no place in the nation's culture and history.

Australia declared Iranian Ambassador Ahmad Sadeghi "persona non grata" and ordered him and three other officials to leave the country within seven days after accusing the Islamic Republic of being behind antisemitic arson attacks in Sydney and Melbourne. The incident marks the first time Australia has expelled an ambassador since World War II.

The country's Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said intelligence services reached the "deeply disturbing conclusion" that Iran was behind the torching of a kosher cafe in Sydney's Bondi suburb in

October 2024 and a major arson attack on the Adass Israel Synagogue in Melbourne in December 2024.

"They were attempting to undermine social cohesion and sow discord in our community," he claimed.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baqaei denied the accusations and vowed "reciprocal reaction" to any such "improper and unjustifiable diplomatic" action by Australia.

Dismissing the existence of any anti-Semitic inclinations in Iran's time-honored cultural, historical, and religious background, the spokesman said, "This phenomenon is [rather] a Western and European one."

"If you look at history, persecution of Jews because of their religion is a matter rooted in Europe; and it is they who must be held accountable for their historical past, which has continued to this day." It seems that the decision is made to compensate recent rare criticisms in Australia against Israel's actions in the Gaza Strip, the Iranian official said.

Australia advised not to appease war criminals

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi also reacted to Canberra's decision.

"I am not in the habit of joining causes with wanted War Criminals, but Netanyahu is right about one thing: Australia's PM is indeed a 'weak politician,'" he said in a post on X on Tuesday.

"Iran is home to among the world's oldest Jewish communities including dozens of synagogues. Accusing Iran of attacking such sites in Australia while we do our utmost to protect them in our own country makes zero sense. Iran is paying the price for the Australian people's support for Palestine. Canberra should know better than to attempt to appease a regime led by War Criminals. Doing so will only embolden Netanyahu and his ilk," the Iranian foreign minister said.

On Sunday, tens of thousands of Australians held nationwide rallies against Israel's devastating war in the Gaza Strip, urging sanctions on Israel and an end to Australia's arms trade with the regime.

Meanwhile, a recent decision by the country's prime minister to recognize the Palestinian state had led to a war of words between the two countries.

Top general: Iran ready to cooperate with Pakistan against terrorism



Abdolrahim Mousavi



Asim Munir

International Desk

The Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi said on Tuesday that Iran is ready to cooperate with the neighboring Pakistan to eradicate terrorism and secure the two countries common border.

"Unfortunately, the movements of terrorist groups on both sides of the border have increased, and we are ready to cooperate to eradicate terrorism in this region and secure the common borders," Mousavi said.

Mousavi made the remarks in a phone conversation with his Pakistani counterpart Field Marshal Asim Munir as Iran's Sistan and Baluchestan Province, which borders Pakistan, has witnessed several terror attacks over the past years.

On Friday, a terrorist attack on two police patrol units in southeastern Iran claimed

the lives of five law enforcement officers. Grateful for Pakistan's support during the 12-day US-Israeli aggression, the top Iranian general emphasized that tangible actions against terrorists are expected as a result of this mutual collaboration.

"Of course, some steps have been taken in the past that should be increased and the shortcomings compensated," he added.

Field Marshal Munir, for his part, expressed his condolences for the martyrdom of Iranian police personnel in Sistan and Baluchestan.

The Pakistani official expressed complete agreement on the issue of border security, emphasizing the necessity of transforming the Pakistan-Iran border into one defined by friendship, brotherhood, and economic development.

He affirmed that the stated goal would undoubtedly be achieved through mutual cooperation.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

Russia-Ukraine crisis ...

But the concessions sought by Moscow are in no way simple or acceptable for Kyiv. Russia flatly refuses to withdraw from territories seized by force and has set conditions that Ukraine will find extremely hard to swallow. Europe's role in the Ukraine crisis should not be overlooked, as European states hold both a complicated and decisive position. They are strongly opposed to any Russian success in this conflict and are doing all they can to ensure the war does not end up in Moscow's favor.

For the Americans—and for Trump personally—the outcome of the battle is not the top priority. Rather, the focus is on securing a diplomatic victory that could be added to Trump's record of managing international

crises, regardless of how critical the geopolitical consequences might be for Europeans. Since the start of Trump's second term in January, Washington has worked to cement its role as the chief arbiter and a key player in resolving global conflicts—a stance fundamentally different from that of the Democrats. While the Democratic approach emphasized defeating Russia at any cost, Trump appears motivated by a mix of personal ambition and a desire to showcase American supremacy on the world stage. One of his personal incentives has even been the prospect of winning a Nobel Peace Prize through a role in the Ukraine crisis.

Still, it must be stressed that the Ukraine crisis differs sharply from

other conflicts that Trump has claimed to resolve. The reality is that a significant part of Ukrainian territory is now under Russian control, and Moscow has no reason to give up those lands. On the contrary, the Russian constitution frames these regions as an integral part of Russia, making any retreat equivalent to surrendering sovereign territory. Ukraine, for its part, will not easily agree to cede those areas to Russia unless forced by the United States—something that seems highly unlikely.

Taken together, it is improbable that the Russia-Ukraine crisis will lead to a lasting peace or a final settlement anytime soon. At best, Trump's success might be confined to brokering a temporary cease-fire.



Pezeshkian urges industrialists to expedite solar panel investment

Economy Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on Tuesday urged the country's manufacturers and industrialists to accelerate investment in solar panels, saying that without reliable energy supplies, "development will be meaningless." Speaking at the National Industry and Mining Day ceremony, Pezeshkian said his government was expanding solar capacity nationwide as part of efforts to promote clean energy, IRNA reported. "I have repeatedly stressed in government meetings that power and gas to industry should not be cut, but circumstances forced us to do so," he said. "About IRR 3,200 trillion in lost output is due to lack of energy." Iran has for years rationed electricity and gas to heavy industries such as steel and petrochemicals during peak demand to ensure households are supplied, a policy the Ministry of Industry says costs the economy around \$10 billion annually. To offset the damage, the government has offered incentives for industries to

build dedicated power plants, particularly solar farms, to cover part of their own demand. Pezeshkian said more than 1,000 megawatts of solar panels had already been installed but stressed this was not enough. "The government has committed to at least 7,000 megawatts of power generation from solar panels," he said, calling on companies and banks that pledged to support the program to "deliver on their obligations." "If we have energy, no factory or production unit will be shut down. Everyone must step forward to resolve this problem," he added.

Exports, renewable energy in future strategy

At the ceremony, which also honored the country's top industrialists, Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade, Mohammad Atabak, outlined his vision for the country's economic future, stressing the importance of exports and renewable energy as the industrial sector grapples with rising costs and energy



President Masoud Pezeshkian addresses the National Industry and Mining Day ceremony in Tehran on August 26, 2025.

● [president.ir](#)

shortages.

"Our view of industry in one sentence is: Iran, leading industry, mining as a value creator, and smart trade," Atabak said at the National Industry and Mining Day ceremony. "This phrase sums up our perspective on the future of industry, mining and trade in the coming years." Atabak said boosting exports would play a central role in the ministry's future program, to be pursued in line with President Pezeshkian's regional policies and Iran's participation in international frameworks such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Eurasian Economic Union and BRICS. Atabak noted that Iran's production sector faced "imbalances" beyond energy shortages, including two major challenges — rising input costs and energy constraints. "The increase in costs



leads to a decrease in demand, and this can create problems for our industries," he said.

He added that Iran's traditional energy advantage had eroded due to higher prices, underscoring the need to remove obstacles to growth and sustain

industrial development.

"With a focus on saving, gradual increases, and optimizing consumption, we are seeking to raise the industry's share of renewable energy and power plants to resolve this issue more quickly," Atabak said.

Iran launches 183-MW power plant, \$10b petchem projects in Makoran

10m-ton output capacity sought in first phase of investment



● [SHANA](#)

Economy Desk

Iran on Tuesday inaugurated a 183-megawatt power plant at the Makoran Petrochemical Complex in Chabahar as part of a \$10 billion first-phase investment that officials say will create more than 10 million tons of annual petrochemical production capacity. Following installation, technical testing and synchronization, the plant was connected to the national grid and began feeding its generated power into the system, SHANA reported. The project is described as the second strategic step in completing energy infrastructure for what is known as Iran's "third petrochemical hub." Equipped with modern turbines and advanced control and monitoring systems, the new facility is capable of producing electricity and industrial steam simultaneously, making it one of the key components of the energy supply chain at Iran's third petrochemical hub. Addressing the inauguration ceremony, Head of the National Petrochemical Company Hassan Abbaszadeh said that about \$10 billion has been invested in the first phase of petrochemical development in Chabahar, Sistan and Balu-

chestan Province, enabling more than 10 million tons of annual production capacity. The deputy oil minister said that while upstream petrochemicals generate limited employment, "it is essential that products produced in the Makoran region be converted in local industrial towns into downstream and complementary goods." Of the planned 10 million tons of output, about 3.5 million tons will be polymer products, which, he said, could spur a chain of conversion and complementary industries, creating jobs and improving investment efficiency. He added that around \$90 billion has been invested in Iran's petrochemical industry overall, producing a wide range of products, but "there is still a long way to go to complete the value chain and achieve higher value-added products." Abbaszadeh acknowledged Iran's energy challenges stem from past decisions and consumption patterns. "Although we are a country with abundant energy resources, we are facing shortages due to improper consumption patterns," he said. Overall, the government plans to add more than 2,400 megawatts of renew-

able capacity to the grid by next year, freeing hydrocarbon resources for petrochemical use and enabling "sustainable production across the value chain." The government's main strategy, he explained, is building solar and renewable power plants. Sistan and Baluchestan, he added, has significant potential for wind energy, with projects already defined. The 183-MW generated in the first phase of the Makoran plant has already entered the grid, and further expansion will directly supply power to petrochemical industries in the region. Abbaszadeh underlined the strategic importance of Makoran, chosen as Iran's third petrochemical hub owing to its proximity to consumer markets and access to international waters. He said developing the region's infrastructure — including intake facilities, desalination plants, power generation and other needs of the petrochemical zone — reflected a strong commitment to sustainable growth. Investment needed for infrastructure preparation at the Makroan complex is estimated at around \$3 billion. He added that while most of Iran's large industries were previously concentrated in other parts of the country, industrial expansion is now moving eastward. "This transformation promises greater prosperity for the petrochemical industry and balanced national development," Abbaszadeh said. The southeastern province's proximity to developing countries such as Pakistan and Afghanistan, he noted, also offers "a unique opportunity for exports of final products and for regional economic growth."

Iran, Uzbekistan sign MoU on joint steel, iron projects

Economy Desk

Iranian Steel Producers Association (ISPA) and Uzbekistan's Metallurgy Association signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on steel and iron cooperation in Tehran on Tuesday. The Iranian association hosted the president of Uzbekistan's Metallurgy Association, accompanied by Iran's commercial attaché in Tashkent and representatives from the Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), IRNA reported. The MoU covers a wide range of economic, industrial, and educational areas, the key provisions of which include long-term cooperation in the supply of raw materials and products, exchange of expertise, joint participation in industrial projects, planning and development of specialized training programs across the steel and iron chain through the capacities of the Iran's National Steel Academy, efforts to expand industrial cooperation, and strengthening positions in regional and global steel markets. Other areas of cooperation in the agreement include joint events such as conferences, exhibitions, and industrial forums for knowledge exchange; joint studies on decarbonization and energy efficiency in ferrous metallurgy; collaboration in exports and imports of products and the joint promotion of logistics routes; cooperation on data provision and analysis; and joint market research, forecasting, and supply chain studies.



● [IRNA](#)

During the meeting, which culminated in the signing of the MoU, the ISPA head, Bahram Sobhani, stressed the readiness of Iranian producers across the iron and steel chain, as well as related engineering companies, to meet the industrial and mining needs of regional countries, particularly Uzbekistan. He highlighted the capacities of Iran's steel industry and the association itself. Gulbahor Taji Mirzayeva, president of the Uzbekistan Metallurgy Association, outlined the potential of her country's metal industries, including the 17 members of the association. She noted the rapid growth of Uzbekistan's steel sector and called for the transfer of knowledge and experience from Iranian steelmakers.

AEOI expanding cold plasma, radiopharma tech for medical use

Economy Desk

Iran has equipped around 10 centers with cold plasma technology, a novel medical tool already in use in advanced countries, the head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami said on Tuesday. "Cold plasma is a new technology in advanced countries, and Iran is proud to move faster and more decisively to put its capabilities at the service of society," Eslami said. "Today we too, alongside these countries, are expanding and developing this technology, especially in the field of cancer and treatment of malignant wounds," Tasnim quoted him as saying. The vice president added that so far more than 70 types of radiopharmaceuticals are supplied to nuclear medicine centers across Iran, benefiting over 220 facilities nationwide. "The remarkable point is that these radiopharmaceuticals have been developed in three areas: diagnostic, palliative and therapeutic," the AEOI head said. Eslami noted that in diagnostics, advances in



● [IRNA](#)

the field are helping improve accuracy so that doctors can "better identify the patient's body environment." In the therapeutic field, he said, efforts were focused on reducing patients' pain and suffering while providing effective treatments. About 20 additional radiopharmaceuticals are currently in research and clinical testing stages, he added.

12 months of effort, 12 days of defense

Pezeshkian; voice of the voiceless

ANALYSIS

A year has rolled by since the incumbent Iranian government took office; After winning the people's vote, Masoud Pezeshkian stepped up from the parliament to the presidency. He put together a government under the banner of "national unity," one that brought on board all political factions. Even in appointing governors, Pezeshkian's administration called in capable and efficient figures from various groups, regardless of whom they voted for in elections. He lined up the governors and gave this second cabinet the necessary authority to act as the provincial presidents "for Iran," spearheading significant and valuable initiatives. Over the past 12 months, a special guest showed up regularly in most governors' meetings; Pezeshkian would head out from his office to Fatemi Square and the Ministry of Interior building, where he spoke about a road map that must be drawn up and put into play jointly with experts and specialists for Iran's development and progress.

His government also broke new ground with several "firsts". For the first time, a woman was handed over the Iranian government's spokesperson role. The president, who repeatedly promised to tap into the capacities of elites and ethnic groups, appointed for the first time an Arab governor for the Khuzestan Province, effectively breaking the spell. These measures all served one purpose. Pezeshkian had pinned two wings and a motto on his administration: "justice" and "fairness" as the right and left wings, respectively, and "National unity" as the government's slogan. Accordingly, he stuck to this approach and motto in all his moves and appointments. Earlier, Fatemeh Mohajerani, the government spokesperson, stated in an interview that the realization of justice and fairness is only within reach through national unity. She identified the full implementation of the Seventh Development Plan as the government's primary goal and stressed the necessity of justice in sectors like education and health, seen as the infrastructure for development. So, what key actions has Pezeshkian's government carried out over the past year? The Government Week offered an opportunity to lay out the achievements and plans of the executive branch for balanced development across the country, prioritizing underprivileged and deprived areas, along with implementing



justice, eradicating discrimination and injustice with transparency and honesty.

National unity

At the very start, Pezeshkian, campaigning with the "national unity" slogan, managed to win over parliament to fully endorse all proposed cabinet members. Although midway, Abdolnasser Hemmati, minister of Economy, got off the government train following impeachment by parliamentarians, citing the need to solve the economic crisis and lower the foreign currency exchange rates, the unity remained intact. Since then, the chief executive has consistently kept the government on track toward unity.

Over the last year, regular sessions between heads of branches have been held at the presidential compound. Under this banner of unity and cooperation, other agencies and bodies also came on board. On February 4 last year, a meeting was called together to tackle people's issues, attended by heads and deputies of the three branches.

Though Pezeshkian, by his own admission, does not belong to any political party, once he became the president, he sat down to discuss matters with all political parties and groups — from the conservative parties as government critics to the moderate and reformist parties and the central council of the

House of Parties. He took on board their views and concerns. To keep things rolling more efficiently, the president even appointed a political parties and associations advisor, ensuring plans were implemented with tenacity and ideas didn't gather dust in archives. Consequently, Pezeshkian's unity approach over the past year has been greeted warmly by politicians.

Gov't, Parliament converge for unity

In any case, political experts from all three camps — conservative, reformist, and moderate — agree that the government and Pezeshkian himself have been moving positively toward national unity. This means the president has not only remembered his slogan but has vigorously pursued it. He does not see unity as one-sided; He believes "Iran is for all Iranians," and thus it is essential to lend an ear to all who care about the country. Over the year, Pezeshkian's regular meetings with provincial assemblies of lawmakers have become one of the most important symbols of government-Parliament interaction; A chance that not only serves as a platform for airing constituency concerns but also can pave the way for synergy between branches to solve people's issues.

Masoud Pezeshkian, with five parlia-

mentary terms under his belt and essentially a "child of the parliament," has shown from the start that this relationship is a strategic priority. With careful planning of provincial sessions and direct presence in parliament, he has fostered a constructive level of working relations with representatives. His regular consultative meetings with these provincial parliamentary assemblies stand as a primary channel for direct interaction between the executive and legislative branches.

These sessions open the door for issues and demands of constituencies to be conveyed directly by parliamentarians to the highest executive office in the country. Within this framework, the president has shown special attention to the continuity and effectiveness of this connection. Not only has he kept meetings with provincial assemblies in his regular schedule, but by attending multiple parliamentary sessions, he sent a clear message about the importance of unity and constructive cooperation between government and parliament to the lawmakers.

Gov't stands alongside people

During election campaigns, Pezeshkian spoke candidly with the people, showed up among them, and heard their concerns and demands for the future president. Even after securing their votes, nothing about him changed; He remains the same Pezeshkian. He continues to show up alongside the people and has taken the caravan of unity from Tehran to the provinces to prove that centralized, headquarters-based management is not his style. Field supervision has become one of the fixed parts of his work, regularly checking in on most governmental bodies and ministries.

Pezeshkian does not bow down to ceremonial protocols but remains true to the Nahj al-Balagha teachings of Imam Ali (PBUH). His red line is flattery and excessive praise, which he cautions his close aides and colleagues against. On July 31, in an unannounced trip, he dropped by Zanjan Province, and at a session on the school-building movement and educational justice, he sincerely gave a heads-up to his longtime friend Mohammad Jafar Qaempanah, the executive deputy to the president, urging him to keep talking about the issues instead of praising him. When he went to Ilam Province and listened to a young woman's account of problems with school construction, he could not hold back his tears; His eyes filled with moisture as he said, "If the people step up and get involved, they can do things the government [managers and officials] cannot." Pezeshkian's tearful words carry a message: He is one of the people. He feels their pain deeply and strives, far from slogans, to iron out their problems and challenges.

Truly, over the past 12 months, Pezeshkian's down-to-earth, no-frills presence among the people during provincial tours has left behind memorable snapshots. During the president's second provincial trip to Sistan and Baluchestan Province, captivating footage circulated widely online; His conversation with an elderly woman in the rural village of Kolookhi, speaking in the Zaboli dialect, caught on rapidly across social media, earning praise from even fair-minded critics of the government for the leader's humble demeanor. Among these critics is Ali Jafari, who opposes the government. After witnessing the president's informal and heartfelt meeting with the village elder, he took to his personal page to commend Pezeshkian's actions, writing: "If I were to pinpoint one common thread among martyr Raeisi, Dr. Pezeshkian, Dr. Qalibaf, and Dr. Jalili, it



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian
● SHARGH



During election campaigns, Pezeshkian spoke candidly with the people, showed up among them, and heard their concerns and demands for the future president. Even after securing their votes, nothing about him changed; He remains the same Pezeshkian. He continues to show up alongside the people and has taken the caravan of unity from Tehran to the provinces to prove that centralized, headquarters-based management is not his style.



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (L) listens to two elderly women in the rural village of Kolookhi during his second provincial trip to the southeastern Sistan and Baluchestan Province on January 10, 2025.
● ISNA



would be nothing but a spirit of public relations and humility toward the underprivileged. Despite all theoretical and performance criticisms critics may throw at these dear figures, this spirit is invaluable. Even if we write off these images as mere showmanship, they deserve appreciation and reinforcement.” Since August 2024 through September 2025, the president of the government of national unity has shown up on provincial trips not only to be the voice of the voiceless but to follow up on their concerns and demands. He makes it a point to hold back from speeches and prefers to be a listener, so he can practically work out solutions to their issues. Therefore, one can confidently say: Pezeshkian has truly carried out the Leader’s directive from August 27, 2024, urging government officials to be present among the people despite accusations that provincial trips amount to “populism or demagoguery”. The Leader emphasized that understanding the real lives of people cannot be done through paperwork or reports alone, hence the importance of direct visits, especially to rural areas, and making decisions based on firsthand observations and input. Pezeshkian has put this into action and kept the government close to the people.

Educational justice

Education is recognized as one of the essential pillars of sustainable development, but challenges within the education system may throw a wrench into achieving educational justice. Accordingly, focusing on this matter is crucial, and “educational justice” has become a key phrase of the government of unity. The core program Pezeshkian follows up on during provincial tours is the construction of schools and achieving educational justice through the “school-building movement” and the elimination of educational discrimination. He simply cannot visit a province without taking stock of the movement to expand educational justice. In this vein, the president himself rolled up his sleeves and laid down the symbolic “first brick” of the educational justice movement: During a trip to Khuzestan Province, Pezeshkian took part in the bricklaying of a 15-classroom school in a deprived and densely populated area of Ahvaz. This demonstrated his commitment to his promise to even serve as a laborer if needed to bridge the shortage of educational facilities. The president has frequently expressed deep concern about children studying in makeshift, thatched-roof schools and stressed that while building schools is crucial, the transformation of education cannot stop at infrastructure. Building schools is just the first step; Improving the quality of education in schools is the real crux. He believes that we must teach the youth of this land in a way that brings their talents to light, so they can move forward on the path of growth and development — only then will the country be prosperous. Engaging the public has always been Pezeshkian’s core trait and belief. Throughout his various roles — from dean of the Medical Sciences Faculty at Tabriz University of Medical Sciences to minister of Health and lawmaker from Tabriz city — he has emphasized public involvement and participation. Now, as president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, he continues to hold this conviction. Hence, he has stepped up to say that everyone must pitch in for reconstruction efforts. The president has even shown he is ready to pick up a shovel, despite some calling it “populism” or demagoguery, to break a sweat for educational justice and send a clear message to officials about its priority. Moreover, the current government has, over the past year, called on the capacities of other organizations such as the Mostazafan Foundation and the Basij Organization to join forces for educational justice, aiming to resolve the long-standing issue of thatched-roof schools and build facilities worthy of Iran and its people,

and raising the flag of justice in the education system. If we call “educational justice” the most important achievement of the incumbent government, it would not be an exaggeration. In this area, Pezeshkian has, like in two other sectors, managed to establish an acceptable record. Of course, this does not mean that the work is done. There is plenty left to do, yet it must be acknowledged that Pezeshkian and his administration are wholeheartedly committed to breathing fresh air into the education system through public participation. They have clearly demonstrated how deeply they care about educational justice over this past year.



Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian (R) contributes to the bricklaying of a 15-classroom school in a deprived and densely populated area of Ahvaz, southwestern Iran, on January 23, 2025. [president.ir](#)

Strengthening neighborhood diplomacy

Maintaining internal unity and cohesion alongside dialogue and interaction with the world is the cornerstone of Pezeshkian’s government policy. He does not see the world limited to Europe and the West but has forged good and amicable ties with other countries, especially neighbors. “Our first priority in foreign policy is to beef up relations with neighbors. We must strengthen ties with neighboring countries like Turkey, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, and the Persian Gulf states.” Pezeshkian made this clear with an oral directive to the Foreign Ministry on July 25, 2024, signaling that his vision and that of the government center on relations with neighbors and aligned countries. Accordingly, he recently took off for Armenia, Belarus, and Pakistan, underlining that the focal point of Iran’s foreign policy is its neighbors. Despite enemies’ conspiracies and obstacles, Pezeshkian’s government has sought to carry on pursuing national interests through good neighborliness policies and balanced engagement. The president’s visits to friendly and neighboring countries like Iraq, Qatar, Tajikistan, Azerbaijan, Oman, and Turkmenistan have become a clear symbol of the commitment to strengthen and develop regional relations. On September 25, 2024, during his first speech at the United Nations, Pezeshkian shared his programs with other heads of state, recalling that he entered the election race with a platform based on “reforms,” “national unity,” “constructive engagement with the world,” and “economic development,” and succeeded in earning the trust of Iranians at the ballot box. He stated his intention to lay firm foundations for his country’s entry into a new era and constructive, effective participation in the emerging global order, to iron out challenges and to restructure his nation’s relations based on the de-

mands and realities of today’s world. Furthermore, his government — with in the framework of balanced interaction with countries such as Russia and Egypt and by participating in regional and international organizations — has sought multilateralism and enhanced economic ties with other countries in the world. One cannot brush past the extraordinary coordination that has come about between the different wings of the Islamic Establishment in the era of unity. Since the post-election period, Pezeshkian has established a fortunate link between “the field” and “diplomacy,” vividly demonstrated in the crushing True

Promise III Operation, which delivered a firm response to the Israeli aggressor. During that imposed war, not only the armed forces defended the Islamic Republic’s integrity in the war room, but Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, through his travels and negotiations, spoke up in the language of diplomacy to regional and European counterparts, affirming Iran’s right to legitimate self-defense. Majid Nasirpour, representative of Sarab city and member of parliament’s Social Committee, noted in an interview with IRNA: “To run the country effectively, we inevitably need to show up actively in all arenas. Just as everyone acknowledges our military as a deterrent, naturally, many issues in international fields require follow-up and negotiation. During this time, we have witnessed full coordination between the field and diplomacy, both moving in tandem toward our national goals and interests.” Iranian statesmen also give props to the collaboration between the armed forces and diplomats. Araghchi, during Pezeshkian’s visit to the Foreign Ministry, highlighted the blessed bond formed between diplomacy and the field in the era of unity. He said: “Just as our armed forces defended the country with full power, our diplomats also defended Iran’s just cause, victimhood, and legitimacy with strength, and the government’s performance in this regard was remarkable.” Security, Education, and Healthcare stand as three key sectors for the incumbent Iranian government. Mohammad-Sadegh Javadihesar, spokesperson for the Etemad Melli Party, considers Pezeshkian’s performance in security highly commendable. Maintaining that Pezeshkian is one of the humblest presidents in national security, he added: “Dr. Pezeshkian has acted fully in line with the Leader’s guidance, fully recognizing and embracing their role in managing the country’s macro affairs. Some may doubt the president’s scope of authority, but in my view, he has operated well within his powers and excellently main-



Now, public sector offices, ministries, and agencies will have to cover most of their electricity needs through solar energy. Hence, the government kicked off tackling the power shortage. On June 8, 2025, with the executive deputy president attending, solar panels were installed at the presidential compound, sending a clear message that the current government is serious about addressing power shortage via solar energy as the initiative started right at government headquarters.

tained necessary coordination with the Leader in appropriate cases.” All in all, the current government has taken steps forward in developing international relations, and Pezeshkian has come out with his head held high by fulfilling another demand of the Leader of Iran’s Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei to strengthen relations with neighbors. Now, with Pezeshkian’s successful foreign policy performance, we can make a fair judgment about what has been accomplished in the past year.

Energy consumption pattern reform

Earlier this year, the president opened up about a major program he personally keeps tabs on daily. On April 17, 2025, Pezeshkian stated, “I personally follow up day by day on resolving energy shortages, and this issue is at the very top of the government’s action plan.” In line with this, a crucial move was made. Now, public sector offices, ministries, and agencies will have to cover most of their electricity needs through solar energy. Hence, the government kicked off tackling the power shortage. On June 8, 2025, with the executive deputy president attending, solar panels were installed at the presidential compound, sending a clear message that the current government is serious about addressing power shortage via solar energy as the initiative started right at government headquarters. But why is the president so keen on public sector bodies upping their use of solar energy? The reality is that public offices and the public sector have a significant and growing share of electricity consumption. Studies show the country’s total peak electricity demand reaches 90,000 megawatts. The current electrical deficit is approximately 30,000 megawatts, which the government aims to wipe out by March 2026 — with public cooperation in electricity consumption, of course. These figures highlight the importance of managing consumption and expanding renewable energy sources like solar panels in government offices and other sectors, such as industrial parks, to ease the strain on the country’s power network.

Final word

Healthcare justice, increasing the role of culture and art communities in cultural governance, reforming procedures, and cost-saving measures can also be checked off among the successful and promising achievements of the Pezeshkian government over the past year. For instance, when energy shortages intensified, at the president’s order, all lights and lamps at the presidential office’s compound were switched off. All in all, what has been outlined is just a snapshot of the most important activities of the government of national unity over the past year. Officials in various executive and administrative sectors will soon hand over a report of the measures taken. However, a quick review of accomplishments shows Pezeshkian has, over the past year, kept away from “political sloganeering and campaign rhetoric,” worked genuinely for the people and for Iran, did not make promises that he could not fulfill, and dedicated himself and his government to realizing the Leader’s directives. He has not fed into polarization, commotions, or political games, consistently believing that moments of service must be used for more work and effort. Accordingly, after the election, he put aside competition and shook hands with his rivals to collectively piece together the puzzle of Iran’s development and progress. Naturally, during Government Week, we heard more about completed and forthcoming projects. Based on available data, the government of national unity’s hands are fully loaded to publicly defend a respectable record on its first anniversary.

The full article first appeared in Persian on IRNA.

FIVB Men's U21 World Championship: Iran defeats Poland to progress as group winner



Iranian outside-hitter Ariyan Mahmoudinejad (17) spikes the ball during a 3-1 victory over Poland at the FIVB Men's U21 World Championship in Jiangmen, China, on August 26, 2025.

Sports Desk

Iran defeated Poland 3-1 (25-18, 19-25, 25-17, 25-19) to advance to the round of 16 as the Pool B winner at the FIVB Men's U21 World Championship in Jiangmen, China. Outside-hitter Matin Hosseini chipped in a game-high 17 points – including four aces – while Pouya Aryakhah (14), Ariyan Mahmoudinejad (12), and Armin Ghelichniazi (12) also finished in double figures as Iran completed a clean sweep of five victories in the preliminary round. “Thank God we had a very good game today, and I am absolutely satisfied with all of my players’ performance. That’s what I expected to see from them after five

months of hard training,” Iran head coach Gholamreza Mo’menimoqaddam said after the game. “Poland is a very good team and had not conceded a single set until today, but we were better than them in every aspect of the game. The Iranian players were exceptional in defense and executed everything I told them during the analysis sessions,” added Mo’menimoqaddam, who is on a remarkable 24-game unbeaten run with his team, during which Iran claimed back-to-back Asian under-20 titles either side of the world U21 crown in 2023 in Manama. “Beyond all the tactics and techniques, I believe the solidarity and friendship between our players were best

demonstrated in today’s game,” said the Iranian. Iran began its title defense in Jiangmen with a 3-1 win against Kazakhstan and then eased past Puerto Rico in straight sets, and edged out South Korea in a five-set thriller – in a repeat of last year’s Asian under-20 final, which Iran had won in straight sets – before beating Canada 3-0 on Monday. Iran will resume action on Thursday against the fourth team in Pool D, which will be either Argentina or Ukraine. “I just hope we can carry this momentum forward and be at our mental and tactical best when knockout phase gets underway. We’re taking it one game at a time,” said Mo’menimoqaddam.

Persian Gulf Pro League:

Alipour on target as Persepolis ends drought in ‘Iranian Clasico’

Sports Desk

Persepolis celebrated a first top-flight victory in the ‘Iranian Clasico’ in 1,335 days, securing a hard-fought 1-0 away win against Sepahan in the Persian Gulf Pro League on Monday. Ali Alipour made the difference at Isfahan’s Naqsh-e Jahan Stadium, as the prolific striker rounded off a textbook counter-attack with a composed finish from the edge of the box in the 44th minute. This was a relieving, and yet statement, victory for new Persepolis boss Vahid Hashemian, who replaced Turkish Ismail Kartal in the summer, after his team had suffered four successive defeats against its familiar foe last season and was held to a 1-1 stalemate against Fajr Sepasi on the opening day

of the new campaign last week. Despite the victory, Hashemian acknowledged in the post-match press conference that his team is far from a finished article. “It was a really tough game, as I expected. We had to hold off their pressure in the opening 15 minutes and then managed to control the game. It’s a massive result, but that doesn’t mean there’s no more room for improvement. We will enjoy the three points today and then keep working hard for our future games,” Hashemian said. Meanwhile, Sepahan head coach Moharram Navidkia, who was also appointed to the role in the summer, must have felt unlucky to finish the game empty-handed, after his team enjoyed 62-percent pos-

session and registered 26 shots compared to the visitors’ seven. The home side, which was reduced to 10 men after a straight red for Mohammad Daneshgar, was still fortunate not to concede a second goal late in the game. Persepolis winger Oston Urinov hit the crossbar from close range, before Milad Mohammadi missed an absolute sitter on the counter. “I think I just have to praise my players for their exceptional performance. They dominated the possession and created numerous chances,” Navidkia said. “My players lost their composure in the final 15 minutes, and were pulled out of position, which led to a couple of chances for Persepolis. “We all due respect to our



Persepolis striker Ali Alipour (red) scores during a 1-0 victory over Sepahan in the Persian Gulf Pro League at the Naqsh-e Jahan Stadium, Isfahan, Iran, on August 25, 2025.

opponent, I think this was one of the best performances by any of my teams throughout my managerial career. I still can’t believe

we lost the game,” added Navidkia. Sepahan, which shared the spoils in a 1-1 draw at Malavan last week, will

chase a first win of the campaign when visiting Golgozar Sirjan next, while Persepolis will welcome Foolad Khuzestan and for-

mer Reds head coach Yahya Golmohammadi to the Shahr-e Qods Stadium after the upcoming international break. Elsewhere on Monday, Khaybar continued its impressive start to the new season with a 1-0 win at Iravco. Mehrdad Qanbari sent goalkeeper Mohammad Khalifeh the wrong way from the spot in the 63rd minute to lead the visitors to a second win in a row. Newly-promoted Paykan and Esteghlal Khuzestan shared the points in a 1-1 draw in Tehran. Iran under-20 striker Kasra Taheri bagged his second goal in as many games for Paykan midway through the first half, only to see his strike canceled out by Maysam Taymouri’s own goal three minutes later.

US Open:

Alcaraz eases into second round as Venus makes emotional exit



MIKE FREY/IMAGN IMAGES

REUTERS – Carlos Alcaraz cruised into the second round of the US Open with a straight-sets mauling of big-serving American Reilly Opelka on Monday, while veteran Venus Williams made an emotional

exit at the hands of 11th seed Karolina Muchova. Alcaraz, sporting a new buzz cut that has sparked plenty of chatter on social media, dismantled Opelka 6-4 7-5 6-4 under the bright lights of Arthur

Ashe Stadium to set up a second-round encounter with Italian Mattia Bellucci. Williams, back at Flushing Meadows at the age of 45 after a year’s hiatus, fought bravely against Muchova, forcing a deciding set before bowing out 6-3 2-6 6-1. “I’m very proud of how I played,” said Williams, who was beaten 6-1 6-1 on her last US Open appearance in 2023. “I think for me getting back on the court was about giving myself a chance to play more healthy,” added Williams, who disclosed in 2011 that she had been diag-

nosed Sjogren’s, an autoimmune disease that causes fatigue and joint pain. “When you play unhealthy, it’s in your mind. It’s not just how you feel. You get stuck in your mind too. So it was nice to be freer.” Talented teen Mirra Andreeva crushed Alycia Parks 6-0 6-1 with a near-flawless performance on Louis Armstrong Stadium but an error-strewn showing from Madison Keys saw the Australian Open champion upset 6-7(10) 7-6(3) 7-5 by Renata Zarazua in the first match on Arthur Ashe. At number six, Keys is the highest seed to fall so far.

Four Iranian skaters into top 10 in inline freestyle world ranking

Sports Desk

Four Iranian skaters made their way into top 10 in the latest Inline Freestyle World Rankings – released by the international governing body of the sport. A Hero Battle Cup champion in June, Amirmohammad Savari, previously ranked 27th, made a significant leap of 23 places to claim the fourth position in the men’s ranking. Meanwhile, Reza Lasani, who finished runner-up to Savari in June’s event in Milan before claiming back-to-back bronzes at the Asian Championships and The World Games, climbed from 41st place to fifth in the new rankings. The top three positions in this category were taken



Iranian skaters Taraneh Ahmadi (R) and Romina Salek stood sixth and seventh, respectively, at the latest Inline Freestyle World Rankings.

by skaters from Spain, Chinese Taipei, and France. In the women’s division, Taraneh Ahmadi and Romina Salek, two accomplished Iranian skaters previously ranked 29th and 44th respectively, advanced to sixth and seventh place in the world rankings. An athlete from Chinese Taipei currently leads the women’s ranking.

Ahmadi, 23, won a precious speed slalom silver medal at the 20th Asian Roller Skating Championship in Jecheon, South Korea, while 20-year-old Salek, – a former world speed slalom record holder, who won the gold at the Hero Battle Cup but was unlucky to miss out on the podium at the Asian showpiece, finishing fourth.

Malayer carpets crafting identity through pattern, color



IRNA



IRNA

Iranica Desk

Malayer, a city deeply rooted in the heart of Hamedan Province, has long been a cradle of Iranian art and creativity in the field of carpet weaving. This county is not only known as one of the largest hubs for handmade carpet production but also holds a special place in the history of Iranian carpet art due to its unparalleled variety in patterns, colors, and weaving styles.

Carpet weaving in Malayer is not merely a profession or industry; it is a part of the cultural and social identity of the people of this land — a heritage that has survived in small rural workshops and old homes, passed down from generation to generation.

Each region of Malayer has its own unique identity, and this unmatched diversity has earned Malayer the reputation of being the “Living Museum of Iranian Carpets,” a place where a foreign buyer can, in just one trip, witness a wide range of authentic Iranian designs and styles all together, ISNA wrote.

Artistic excellence

The color palette of Malayer, ranging from lacquer red and turquoise to olive and cream, along with the durability of Turkish knots and the use of cotton warp and weft, has created carpets that possess both artistic beauty and delicacy as well as high strength and longevity.

Many of the old designs are now preserved in museums and renowned palaces around the world, spreading the fame of Malayer weavers’ art globally. However, the significance of Malayer carpets is not limited to their artistic aspect; this art-industry plays a decisive role in the regional economy and the country’s non-oil exports. For years, the markets of Europe, the Middle East, East Asia, and even America have been customers of Malayer carpets, but the industry faces challenges such as the lack of a unified brand, sanctions, and shortages of standard raw materials.

Tradition and challenges

Hamidreza Forouzan-Ahsan, head of Hamedan Province’s Handmade Carpet Producers



IRNA



hamedanpayam.com

and Exporters Association, stated that Malayer is not just a carpet weaving center but a cluster of independent centers with diverse design identities. Each of them holds a special place in the history of Iranian carpets and perhaps represent the first county in Iran with the greatest number of carpet weavers and the most diversity in color and design.

He added that each of these local centers is still active in the form of home-based or rural workshops, but overall, the number of weavers has declined compared to the past. There are approximately hundreds of active looms in the villages and city of Malayer, but this number has significantly decreased compared to the 1960s and 1970s.

According to Forouzan-Ahsan, the Mishan carpet design is one of the oldest and most antique patterns of Malayer carpets, featuring unique and diverse motifs. Many old Mishan samples are preserved in museums and

palaces around the world. He stated that the target market for Mishan carpet designs includes collectors, museums, and special orders from Europe and America, provided that restrictions are lifted. Primarily, the United Arab Emirates serves as the re-export hub and purchaser of Malayer carpets; Germany, China, Italy, and the United States are also interested buyers.

Emphasizing that the variety of patterns has allowed Malayer to occupy niche markets with different tastes, he added that the unparalleled diversity of Malayer carpet designs and colors holds the potential to create a “global collection” of Malayer carpets, where each region represents a part of that collection. He mentioned that registering the geographical trademark of Malayer carpets, encompassing all these villages and districts, compiling a booklet or digital catalog introducing each style and its historical story, establishing a visit center and direct



IRNA



ISNA

sales outlet in Malayer showcasing the full diversity, and utilizing this variety to attract art tourists and special buyers are among the measures to revive the position of Malayer carpets in the global market.

He identified money exchange problems, the lack of a unified brand that introduces all these styles under one umbrella, and sanctions as some of the major obstacles to exports.

He stated that while local light sheep’s wool is available, there is no standard and high-quality collection, processing, and dyeing of it. He noted that weavers are aging and fewer young people are turning to carpet weaving because the domestic and export markets are unstable.

According to Forouzan-Ahsan, carpets from each region of Malayer, such as Jowzan or Mishan, are recognized sporadically, but the “Malayer carpet” brand as a cohesive whole has been less introduced.

He predicted that if this diversity is introduced through

smart branding, Malayer could reach the position of the “capital of carpet diversity in Iran,” because in the global market, customers seek uniqueness, and Malayer can offer a product for every taste.

He emphasized the necessity of government support for providing uniform quality raw materials, training in natural dyeing and other carpet-related professions, offering insurance, facilities, livelihood support for weavers, and facilitating Malayer’s unified presence at international exhibitions. He noted: “Malayer; diversity, authenticity, and Iranian handmade art” is the slogan of Malayer handmade carpets.

Craftsmanship and sustainability

Mohammad Amini, involved in the carpet industry in Malayer, also considers high-quality raw materials as the foundation of handmade carpets. He said buyers seek carpets that are made from sheep’s wool and natural dyes.

He stated that many years ago, around 6,000 wool spinners were active in Malayer and mostly in Lorestan Province, especially Borujerd, and the majority of raw materials for Malayer carpets were supplied from these spinning mills. Unfortunately, wool spinning has been shut down for about eight years now, and most weavers use machine-spun wool.

Amini emphasized that carpets woven from sheep’s wool and natural dyes have much greater durability and quality. He added that nowadays, sheep’s wool is either discarded or sold to Afghanistan, and Afghans use this wool to weave their carpets, which have had good sales in recent years. The main reason for this success is the high-quality raw materials they purchase from Iran.

He considers reviving wool spinning feasible but believes it requires more support and supervision from relevant authorities and the prevention of machine spinning factories’ activities. He noted that currently most dyes used for carpets are synthetic, which is why older carpets have higher value and demand — they were woven with sheep’s wool and dyed with authentic plant-based colors.

He emphasized that the market is thirsty for Malayer handmade carpets and that good, high-quality carpets always have domestic and foreign buyers. Despite sanctions, Malayer carpets continue to have many buyers abroad.

Amini mentioned that currently the prices of machine-made carpets do not differ much from handmade ones. He said that when you love the art of carpet weaving with all your heart, seeing a genuine handmade carpet gives you chills, and you put all your effort into mastering the art created by those hands using symmetrical and asymmetrical knots.

He stated that if Malayer University enrolls students in a carpet-related bachelor’s program, it would greatly help introduce and revive Malayer handmade carpets.

He believes that if every Iranian home had a 6- or 9-meter handmade carpet, it would support the weavers and preserve the authenticity of this art while introducing it to the world.



Iraq, Iran plan to boost tourist exchanges to 10m

Arts & Culture Desk

Iraq's Minister of Culture, Tourism and Antiquities, Ahmed Fakkak Al-Badrani said his country is ready to expand tourist exchanges with Iran to 10 million visits a year, after holding talks with Iranian industry officials in Baghdad.

Iraq currently sends around 3.5 million visitors annually to Iran, mostly for health treatment and pilgrimage. Under the new plan, the two neighbors expect to raise the figure sharply, with about 5 million travelers heading in each direction, inn.ir reported. Hormatollah Rafiei, head of Iran's Association of Travel and Tourism Agencies, said an Iranian tourism roadshow will take place in mid-September in Baghdad, Karbala and Basra, featuring business meetings and cul-

tural nights designed to draw in potential partners.

During the Baghdad talks, a phone call was arranged with Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Reza Salehi Amiri. The two ministers agreed to "hammer out" cooperation on restoring historic sites and pledged closer coordination to let tourism "flourish" through detailed planning.

Officials highlighted health, cultural and educational tourism as priority areas. They are drafting a memorandum of understanding to underpin the initiatives.

Rafiei noted that combined tour packages including other regional countries are also on the table, and both governments will make "special efforts" to push ahead with the joint projects.



Iranian filmmakers on global juries

Armenia's Apricot festival appoints Hadi Afarideh as festival judge



Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian documentary filmmaker Hadi Afarideh has been named to the jury of the 11th Apricot Tree International Documentary Film Festival, set to run from August 30 to September 6 in Debed, Lori Province, Armenia.

The appointment brings a respected voice to a festival renowned across the Caucasus region,

ILNA wrote.

Afraid of pomp and red-carpet glamour, the Apricot Tree Festival thrives on its rural, intimate vibe. Nestled in the village of Debed, it pairs screenings with hands-on workshops and daily excursions, drawing filmmakers keen to exchange ideas—not spin publicity—on their craft. Afarideh joins jurors from France and Germany in assessing 20 short and feature-length documentaries drawn from an international selection. Many of the films have already earned recognition at major festivals such as Berlin.

From Iran, Mahdi Bagheri's documentary 'Old Boy' will be shown in a special section, alongside the competition films. Screenings will be held outdoors in the open-air cinema of Debed village and inside the local library. Cinema workshops run alongside.

Afarideh is known for directing documentaries such as 'Water Lorry', 'Hollein in Iran', and 'Chenarestan'.

Javid Sobhani to serve on panel of Portugal's Arouca Film Festival



Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian director and screenwriter Javid Sobhani was named to the jury of the 23rd Arouca Film Festival, which will run from September 9 to 18, in Portugal, Mehr News Agency reported on Tuesday.

The Arouca festival, regarded as one of Portugal's most prominent cultural events, high-

lights international cinema and supports emerging talent.

This year's edition will expand its reach by adding a feature film competition for the first time, alongside its long-standing contests for short fiction, documentary, animation and experimental works, Mehr News Agency reported.

Sobhani, born in 1991 in Karaj, Alborz Province is a member of Iranian Society of Screenwriters. He previously served on the festival's jury in 2024. His credits include writing the feature film 'Azhdar' and both writing and directing the short films 'Lullaby' and 'Walkie-Talkie'.

His latest screenplay, 'The White Horse,' won the top prize in the pitching section at the 20th Kazan International Film Festival in Russia. Organizers in Portugal said his return to Arouca reflects the festival's "commitment" to showcasing diverse voices in global cinema.

Iran entrepreneurs to be showcased in Dubai city-museum project

Art & Culture Desk

Iran will take center stage in the first phase of a new "International Entrepreneurs' City-Museum" being built in Dubai, with busts of 20 prominent Iranian business leaders to be installed, the United Network of Business Entrepreneurs and Development Organization (UNBEDO) said on Tuesday.

The multi-million dollar project, launched by UNBEDO in partnership with Golchin Holding, is rising inside Dubai's Global Village, one of the Emirate's busiest tourist and trade hubs.

UNBEDO chief executive Reza Yadegari called it the group's "largest networking initiative" and said the site was designed to foster investment ties and business ventures between Iranian entrepreneurs and their global counterparts.

By establishing its headquarters in Dubai, UNBEDO seeks to leverage the city's role as a trade corridor and meeting ground for international dealmaking. The mu-

seum will later expand to feature sculptures of entrepreneurs from more than 90 countries, alongside hyperreal statues and reconstructed offices of global figures such as Bill Gates and Elon Musk. Yadegari said the location, which attracts more than 13 million visitors annually, offered a "unique opportunity" to present Iranian business leaders on the world stage while building a platform for



cross-border collaboration.

"The goal is to introduce our entrepreneurs to millions of visitors and to create a setting for shared experience and joint investment," he said.

The museum will also house themed halls tracing the history of companies such as Hilton Hotels through detailed models, while a "Brand City for Children" will use interactive play to instill entrepreneurial ideas in younger generations. Yadegari, a veteran of more than three decades in the field, previously founded Tehran's first municipal entrepreneurship center in 1997 and later established Iran's National Museum of Entrepreneurs. He has authored a 1,000-volume series on Iranian entrepreneurs published on Amazon and was awarded the Jalal Al-e Ahmad prize in 2019 for his contribution to economic literature.

He said the Dubai project is expected to become a new global "hub for inspiration, networking and economic development."

'Like A Secret' to compete at Portobello in London

Art & Culture Desk

Iranian short film 'Like A Secret,' directed by Saeed Zamanian and starring popular actress Elnaz Shakerdoost, was selected for the competition at the 30th Portobello Film Festival in London.

The festival, renowned for showcasing independent cinema, will run from August 28 to September 21, at venues including The Muse on Portobello Road and The Gate Picturehouse in Notting Hill.

The film explores the psychological turmoil of Baran, a 9-year-old girl grappling with trauma and neglect. As she navigates a blurred line between reality and nightmares, Baran seeks a confidant to share her burdens.

'Like A Secret' is produced by Hassan Mohammadi, with a team that includes cinematographer Pouyan Aghababaei and editor Emad Khod-



abakhsh. The international distribution is managed by Cinerama, led by Neshat Bagheri.

The Portobello Film Festival, established in 1996, is one of the UK's largest free independent film festivals. It has previously launched the careers of filmmakers like Guy Ritchie and Shane Meadows. This year's edition promises a diverse lineup, featuring over 200 new independent films, and continues its tradition of free admission and screenings across various venues.