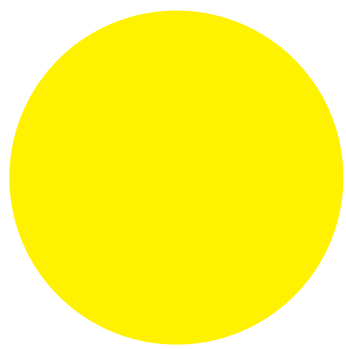


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Iran Daily

Vol. 7914 • Thursday, August 28, 2025 • Shahrivar 06, 1404 • Rabi' al-Awwal 04, 1447 • 100,000 rials • 8 pages



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Iranian First Vice President
Mohammad Reza Aref (c) visits a
permanent museum featuring works
of the recently deceased miniature
master Mahmoud Farshchian in
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Farshchian Museum reopens

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Araghchi: IAEA inspectors in Iran to monitor Bushehr nuclear plant refueling

'No agreement' yet on new cooperation with agency



International Desk

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said on Wednesday that the inspectors of the UN atomic agency are allowed to enter the country to monitor fuel replacement at the Bushehr nuclear power plant following a decision by the country's Supreme National Security Council.

A team of inspectors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has returned to Iran, its director general Rafael Grossi said, the first to enter the country since Tehran formally suspended cooperation with the agency last month.

Araghchi denied that an agreement was reached on "new cooperation" between Iran and the IAEA, saying that it does not represent a full resumption of cooperation.

"No final text has yet been approved on the new cooperation framework with the IAEA and views are being exchanged," Araghchi said.

The agency's inspectors left Iran after Israel launched its unprecedented attack on June 13, striking nuclear and military facilities as well as residential areas and killing nearly 1,100 people. Washington later joined in with strikes on three nuclear facilities.

Iran subsequently suspended its cooperation with the IAEA, accusing the IAEA of effectively paving the way for the Israel-US strikes with a report on May 31 that led the IAEA's 35-nation Board of Governors to declare Iran in breach of its non-proliferation obligations.

Iran also denounced the agency's failure to condemn the attacks.

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Russia circulates proposal in UNSC to extend snapback deadline

International Desk

Russia said on Tuesday that it had circulated an updated proposal in the UN Security Council aimed at pushing back the deadline for triggering snapback mechanism against Iran by six months until April 18 next year. Russia's deputy UN ambassador, Dmitry Polyanskiy, said that the "second version" of their proposal was designed to "give more breathing space for diplomacy," adding that he hoped it "will be acceptable."

"The choice of the international community should be in favor of peace and diplomacy, not in favor of war – and that is what our draft is about," the Russian official added.

The European trio of the UK, France, and Germany – the United States allies in a 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world countries – has long threatened to trigger the "snapback" of sanctions at the UN security council

before October 18, when the nuclear deal expires.

Iran has repeatedly said 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.

In 2018, the United States left the agreement in an illegal and unilateral move that was followed by its returning its sanctions against the Islamic Republic.

The European trio not only failed to live up to their promise of bringing back 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.

"Russia and China want to give more

breathing space for diplomacy and provide some possibilities for an active quest for a diplomatic solution to this issue," the Russian official said.

"It will be kind of a litmus test for those who really want to uphold diplomatic efforts, and for those who don't want any diplomatic solution, but just want to pursue their own nationalist, selfish agendas against Iran," he told media.

Russia's proposal came after Iranian diplomats held talks with counterparts from Britain, France and Germany in Geneva on Tuesday.

The talks – the second round since the Israeli attacks --included discussion of European threats to trigger the reimposition of UN sanctions against Iran before they are permanently lifted in mid-October.

After the talks, Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi said it is time for the Europe and the UN Security Council to make the right choice and



REUTERS

give diplomacy a chance.

During their previous meeting with Iran in July, the three European powers suggested extending the snapback deadline if Tehran resumed negotiations with the United States and coop-

eration with the IAEA.

Iran later dismissed the Europeans' right to extend the deadline, and said it was working with its allies China and Russia to prevent the reimposition of sanctions.

Security forces kill 13 terrorists in southeast



TASNIM

National Desk

At least 13 terrorists were killed and several others were arrested on Wednesday in separate operations by Iran's security forces in southeastern province of Sistan and Baluchestan.

According to a statement by Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), some of those killed were suspected of being behind an ambush reported on Friday that killed five policemen in the city of Iranshahr. The so-called Jaish al-Adl terrorists group claimed responsibility for the August 22 ambush.

Iranshahr is one of three cities, alongside Khash and Saravan, where the IRGC said security operations were carried out.

"During the operations, unfortunately, one IRGC member was martyred and another was injured," IRGC commander Hassan Mortazavi was quoted as saying by state TV.

Mortazavi added that a "kidnapped citizen was released and returned to their family".

Eight out of 13 terrorists, responsible for the August 22 attack, were killed by the security forces in Iranshahr.

Police spokesman General Saeed Montazer al-Mahdi said that servicemen from the Law Enforcement Command of the Islamic Republic of Iran (FARAJA), together with intelligence and security units, carried out a successful operation against the terrorists in the city and eliminated all of

them.

According to Montazer al-Mahdi, a considerable number of weapons and ammunition was recovered from the slain terrorists.

Sistan and Baluchestan, which borders Pakistan and Afghanistan, has long been a flashpoint for clashes between security forces and terrorist groups.

On Saturday, Iranian forces killed six terrorists in another raid in the province, saying they were members of a group linked to Israel.

The Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi in a phone conversation with his Pakistani counterpart Field Marshal Asim Munir on Tuesday said that Tehran is ready to cooperate with Islamabad 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.

Munir, for his part, 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.

Azerbaijan's Aliyev: Zangazur corridor poses no threat to Iran



Ilham Aliyev

International Desk

Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev rejected concerns about the implementation of a transit corridor between Azerbaijan and its exclave of Nakhchivan, saying that the route is not a threat to Iran.

The Azerbaijani president in an interview with Al Arabiya underlined that the Zangazur corridor poses no threat to Iran in any way and, on the contrary, can help develop regional cooperation.

He said that there have been many rumors in certain media outlets and websites about Azerbaijan's plans to occupy Zangezur and cut the border between Iran and Armenia.

"This is completely false. We have no such intention," Aliyev stressed.

Back on August 8, Aliyev and Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan 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 – a longstanding demand of Baku.

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 modification of the corridor, fearing it would cut the Islamic Republic off from the Caucasus.

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.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

Araghchi: IAEA inspectors ...

Under the law suspending cooperation, inspectors may access Iranian nuclear sites only with the approval of the country's top security body, the Supreme National Security Council.

Tehran has repeatedly said that future cooperation with the agency will take "a new form."

The spokesman for Iran's Atomic Energy Organization, Behrouz Kamalvandi, also said the IAEA inspectors would oversee the replacement of fuel at the Bushehr nuclear power plant in southwestern Iran.

Kamalvandi made no mention of whether inspectors would be allowed access to other sites, including Fordow and Natanz, which were hit during the war.

In an interview with Fox News, Grossi said the agency and Iran were still discussing what kind of "practical modalities can be implemented in order to facilitate the restart of our work there."

The return of inspectors came after Iranian diplomats held talks with counterparts from Britain, France and



Bushehr nuclear power plant
MEHR

Germany in Geneva on Tuesday.

The talks – the second round since the Israeli attacks – included discussion of European threats to trigger the reimposition of UN sanctions against Iran before they are permanently lifted in mid-October.





Agriculture sector posts 5.6% growth, minister says

Economy Desk

Iran's Agriculture Minister Gholamreza Nouri Qezeljah said the country's agriculture sector grew by 5.6% in the first year of President Masoud Pezeshkian's administration (began in last June), making it the only sector to meet the growth target set in the Seventh Development Plan. Speaking on the occasion of Government Week, Nouri Qezeljah told IRNA that, "The agriculture sector is the only field in the Seventh Development

Plan that has achieved the expected growth of 5.5%." He said output growth had swung from a negative 0.2% last year to a positive 3.2% this year, resulting in "about 5.6% growth, which is 0.1% higher than the plan's target." The minister noted that production increases were recorded in several areas over the past year, including "23% in medicinal plants, 12% in cage fish farming, 27% in sturgeon production, 54% in tropical fruits, and growth

in orchard products, 1% in chicken meat, 2% in red meat, 2% in eggs, and 5% in milk."

Sharp rise in exports

"Iran's agriculture sector is the first field to achieve the targeted economic growth without relying on oil," Nouri Qezeljah said, citing a 32% increase in the value of agricultural exports. "In addition to a 32% increase in the value of agricultural exports, there was a 6% decline in the value of

agricultural imports during the period, which shows that growth has occurred and exports have significantly increased," the minister said. According to him, the agricultural trade balance improved from a \$11 billion deficit last year to a \$8 billion deficit this year, reflecting a \$3 billion positive development in the agriculture sector. Nouri Qezeljah called the rise in the value of agricultural exports "an important step in improving the country's economic situation."



Minister of Agriculture Gholamreza Nouri Qezeljah, in an interview with IRNA on the occasion of Government Week, elaborates on the most important achievements of the sector in the Iranian economy on August 27, 2025.

● IRNA

He added that the share of agriculture in the national economy had climbed from 6% to 7% despite "constraints and limitations in resources," underscoring its growing weight as "the first non-oil sector to reach the targeted economic growth."

Minister: Solar power, consumption efficiency to ease electricity crunch



Economy Desk

Iran's Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi said on Tuesday that the country's electricity shortages will be addressed through solar power plants and greater efficiency in consumption, but added that, "We still have problems in the water sector and must solve them with the help of consumption management." Speaking at a ceremony in Tehran to launch a campaign for distributing and installing water-saving devices, Aliabadi said that building new transmission lines was time-consuming, while "production at the site of consumption" provided a faster solution, IRNA reported. He noted that new projects

are being connected to the grid weekly, boosting power generation capacity, and that significant savings in electricity use have also helped. "With these measures, we can hope electricity problems will gradually decline," he said. The minister explained that because the solar generation plan operates within the distribution network, "it is currently not possible to transfer its electricity from one district to another," which means some regions may still face outages while others do not. "This situation will gradually improve," he said. Aliabadi added that given the lengthy timelines of conventional power plants, the

ministry prioritized solar stations because of their "high speed and low cost." There is the unbalanced growth between power production and consumption over the past decade in the county. According to Energy Ministry, "In the last 10 years, electricity production has increased 13-fold while consumption has risen 23-fold, leading to a grid imbalance." The government had granted all administrative departments a deadline — effective June 21 — to supply part of their required electricity from solar energy. It has also offered incentives for industries to build dedicated power plants, particularly solar farms, to cover part of their own demand. Aliabadi also said that the country still has problems "in the water sector and must solve them with the help of consumption management." He stressed the effectiveness of water-saving devices in efficient use and called on households to install them. Aliabadi also called on experts and academics to assist the ministry in developing technologies to reduce water consumption.

Iran sets joint transit tariffs with six states to boost China-Europe rail freight



Economy Desk

Iran's railway authority said joint transit tariffs have been set with six countries along the China-Turkey route to activate the southern corridor of China's Belt and Road Initiative, aiming to increase freight traffic between China and Europe. CEO of Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (RAJA) Jabbar Ali Zakeri said 30 transit trains have already been coordinated under the new framework, with the number expected to reach 300 by the end of this year (March 20, 2026). He added that 350 million tons of cargo were transported between China and Europe.

He said that, in order to make use of Iran's position as a crossroads of north-south and east-west trade, and given regional developments and maritime insecurity stemming from the Russia-Ukraine war, broad agreements were concluded with Central Asian and Caucasus countries as well as China. Marking Government Week, Zakeri outlined RAJA's one-year performance, citing a surge in investment, infrastructure development, improved fleet efficiency, progress in rail diplomacy, and the implementation of major projects including international corridors and suburban transport systems.

Gov't building 88 dams, handling 124 projects to address water crisis

Economy Desk

Hamid Pourmohammadi, who presides over Iran's Planning and Budget Organization (PBO), announced on Tuesday that President Masoud Pezeshkian's government is pressing ahead with large-scale infrastructure projects to address the country's growing water crisis, highlighting efforts under way during the past year. "Eighty-eight dams with an annual regulation capacity of about 7.5 billion cubic meters are under construction," the PBO chief said, as reported by IRNA. "As many as 124 water supply projects with a capacity to provide 6.5 billion cubic meters of drinking water annually for cities and villages along the routes, designed for the next 25 years and backed by 240 trillion rials in the budget law, are being implemented," he added. Pourmohammadi stressed that, given climate change, declining rainfall and reduced per capita water availability, and the mounting importance of the water crisis compared with other imbalances, "broad planning and measures have been undertaken to secure the country's water supply."

Anzali port sets cargo handling record in August: Official

Economy Desk

The Caspian Port Complex in Iran's Anzali Free Zone (AFZ) set a new record in August by handling more than 115,000 tons of cargo, an official from the zone's organization said on Tuesday. Meysam Mohammadi-Nejad, deputy of ports and Caspian port affairs of AFZ, said that "thirty-seven commercial vessels docked at the Caspian Port Complex in last Iranian month (began on July 23), loading and unloading raw materials for production units, timber, crude edible oil, grains, minerals and construction materials." Of these, 18 ships unloaded cargo and 19 loaded export products. Since the beginning of this year (began on March 20, 2025), 143 vessels have operated at the complex, while total cargo handling reached 438,000 tons. Mohammadi-Nejad said the legal and logistical advantages of the Anzali Free Zone have led traders to choose the port as "a reliable gateway for importing goods to meet domestic demand and exporting products." The complex, which also serves as a transit route, faces no restrictions in accommodating ships due to its deep draft, he said. Since the inauguration of a rail link to the port in the summer of last year, combined searail transport has been made possible, playing a significant role in boosting exports and attracting new shipments. According to the official, the port's advantages and market development initiatives will activate trade corridors and strengthen the role of the Anzali Free Zone in expanding commerce with Caspian and Eurasian countries.

Neither negotiation nor war for defense 'sacred': *Expert*

INTERVIEW

The one-year anniversary of the incumbent Iranian government provides a prime opportunity to size up the administration's performance through the lens of experts and activists across various fields. In this regard, a conversation was held with Shahabeddin Tabatabaei, secretary-general of the Nedaye Iranian Party and a reformist political activist. He also serves as a member of the government's Information Council. What follows is the full text of this interview:



Shahabeddin Tabatabaei



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (2nd-R) tours the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting headquarters, which was hit during the Israeli-imposed 12-day war, on the occasion of the National Journalist Day in Tehran, Iran, on August 10, 2025.

president.ir

How would you rate the government's performance over its first year as a political activist?

TABATABAEI: The past year of the Pezeshkian government should be weighed up in light of the prevailing conditions and considerations. Throughout this period, events unfolded in the country and for the government that, perhaps, one would expect to see over two presidential terms — but here, everything was crammed into just one year. We had everything from the very first day of the cabinet's formation and the inauguration ceremony, to the recent imposed 12-day war, and the longstanding chronic problems we are now grappling

with and seeing the consequences of. So, the government's performance must be evaluated with these coordinates in mind, factoring in the circumstances and timing, as well as the campaign promises made by the president during last year's election, to make a fair and accurate assessment. If I were to focus on these factors, I'd first highlight two or three traits of the president himself because, in my view, he is the driving force pushing forward this government. First, I believe this administration is a "problem-solving government". We had an era where instead of "solving problems," they were actually "carrying problems". Solving issues, especially

chronic ones, often comes with a price, and yes, it can stir up dissatisfaction. Certainly, some resist tackling these challenges. Addressing persistent crises causes pain and pressure. But the president has shown the courage to face up to these accumulated problems that previous administrations delayed addressing, partly to avoid damaging their own popularity or inviting criticism. These issues and crises are the shared baggage of all Iranian governments up to today.

Mr. Pezeshkian's main promise was "unity," centered on problem-solving. His well-known phrase, "Let's not fight," showed that in areas where agreement is reached and conflict is avoided, issues

can be smoothed out or even resolved. For example, at sensitive times, there was always concern within the Islamic Establishment that certain provinces might flare up into crisis hotspots. But in the recent 12-day war, those very provinces — previously seen as potential trouble zones — became hubs of solidarity. Mr. Zainivand, the political deputy of the Interior Ministry, cited statistics on TV from the governor of Sistan and Baluchestan, noting that during those 12 days of war, over 10,000 public messages were poured into the Ministry of Intelligence reporting suspicious movements that could have threatened security. This is a major accomplishment; Sistan and Baluchestan remained calm, as did Kurdistan. The idea of unity and leveraging all capable Iranians in the executive arena paid off.

“

Perhaps one reason some of our problems have piled up unsolved is because, at times, certain people took the approach of denial, insisting: "There's nothing to worry about!" But today, the president takes a straightforward, honest approach, openly acknowledging these issues and presenting solutions. He also listens to criticism that comes with constructive suggestions and follows through on corrections as necessary.

Similarly, in other longstanding issues facing society, such as the matter of hijab, all stakeholders and claimants converged on a common ground. Those wishing to solve this issue moved the matter forward with consensus, ultimately achieving the satisfaction of the primary beneficiaries — the people. As Dr. Pezeshkian had always said metaphorically prior to his election, "Customer satisfaction matters." And the public was indeed pleased with this process. In short, I would say the government's major achievements, domestically and internationally, have been based on "unity". Part of the fruits of this unity came to light during the imposed 12-day war. Moreover, this unity also paved the way for international understanding — not only with neighboring countries but also with nations like Egypt, where relations had long been complicated. Internal unity helped iron out issues important to the Egyptians quietly.

Another key point is that from day one, Mr. Pezeshkian stated, "I listen to the people." It has become clear that he truly hears the public, stands with them, and doesn't dig in his heels against them. If any segment of society or experts raises demands or criticisms, he listens and even goes beyond just hearing by acting on these critiques — the government steps up to adjust policies as needed. These developments have been crucial during this period.

The president recently held a media gathering to mark National Journalist Day, with press managers from across the political spectrum attending. Media figures spoke frankly and transparently to the president on various topics. You were present at the session — how do you assess the overall atmosphere and the key points raised?

One aspect that really stood out was that everyone who was allotted time managed to stick to their slot, especially considering the president had other engagements scheduled. Everyone respected the timing, and no one overstepped their designated window.

Our issues and challenges are clear. Beyond a certain point, talking about them becomes mere repetition, so everyone stuck to their specific topics within their time limits, allowing all voices to be heard — from different factions and viewpoints, whether pro- or anti-negotiation, supporters or critics of the hijab law. All critiques and ideas were put forward in a very calm environment. The president responded after hearing their



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (c) poses for a group photo with the country's leading media figures on the occasion of the National Journalist Day in Tehran, Iran, on August 10, 2025.

president.ir

points, and it was evident that his replies were rooted in the country's priorities and the matters that truly resonate with the public.

Could you highlight the most important issues raised during that meeting?

The president addressed the chronic problems the country is currently facing — issues like shortages in energy and water supplies. When a matter is completely transparent and exposed in society, a notable feature of Mr. Pezeshkian is that he neither denies nor hides it. Perhaps one reason some of our problems have piled up unsolved is because, at times, certain people took the approach of denial, insisting: “There’s nothing to worry about!” But today, the president takes a straightforward, honest approach, openly acknowledging these issues and presenting solutions. He also listens to criticism that comes with constructive suggestions and follows through on corrections as necessary. As someone who has always maintained a critical perspective, I believe this approach sets us on track toward problem-solving. That day, the president candidly discussed the various challenges with the assembled media heads and requested their support. He urged journalists to help, offer proposals, and share these matters openly and honestly with the public. The outcome of the session was a real sense of sympathy among participants of all views, acknowledging that the president is sincerely raising these issues and seeking help from the media.

As you pointed out, the president, not only in this meeting but also on other occasions, reached out to the media for solutions and to help move forward with various issues. In your view, how can the media pitch in to assist the government? For instance, we are currently facing a crisis of shortages; Water and electricity problems exist in Tehran and several other provinces. How can the media lay out these issues for the public, and what role can it play in alleviating these challenges?

I always believe that the media must strike a balance between two points. While setting out the problems and crises — which people have a right to know because an informed public will, when



A woman holds an edition of Iran Newspaper featuring portraits of top negotiators, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (R) and Steve Witkoff, White House special envoy, in Tehran, Iran, on April 9, 2025.

needed, step up to help — the media also walks a fine line where overemphasizing issues can tip over into despair and a dead-end narrative. There’s a big difference between saying “these problems exist and nothing can be done” and breaking down the issues step by step for the public, explaining where we currently stand, what the challenges and characteristics are, then bringing in the perspectives and solutions of experts and officials who are responsible for tackling these problems and opening up the conversation with the people. The media is the platform for dialogue, something that sometimes gets lost in translation in our society. We even need to brush up on talking to ourselves — and the media is exactly the space where this begins to take shape. I believe that major influential media outlets, shaped

by the past year and the spirit of unity, can pull off this achievement. Yesterday’s session with the president was one such example. These are signs of progress in the media sector, which I think could lead to another positive breakthrough. Another important point I want to stress concerns the president’s remarks on negotiations during that day’s meeting, followed by interpretations of his remarks circulating in the media and on-line. I must clarify that what guarantees the national interests and preserves the country’s territorial integrity is sacred. That’s the thing that gives weight to our words, speech, and actions. But neither negotiation in itself is sacred, nor is war for the purpose of defense sacred. Each carries value only according to its specific context and realities. Mr. Pezeshkian, who said in front of me-

dia managers that “we must enter this space (negotiation),” is the same person who showed that during the imposed 12-day war, he stood firm in the heart of the battlefield, managing the country with courage, zeal, and patriotism. So, if that same man says negotiation is a solution one day, and we also saw him stand his ground in defense during war, frequently emphasizing that what he does is fully in line with the Leader of Iran’s Islamic Revolution, then we should give credit to this president and let him get on with his work with the least distraction and speculation. Of course, Dr. Pezeshkian has demonstrated that he welcomes criticism — even when it sometimes lands in the territory of sarcasm or accusations — because he feels that all voices need to be heard and the best decisions made.

Hence, I want to say that sometimes we need to stand shoulder to shoulder in defense of the homeland and the people, and at other times, we need to step into negotiation. All this is to safeguard national interests in the best possible way so that no one can breach the country’s territorial integrity. Therefore, I believe the president’s important remarks on negotiation were clear, honest, and straightforward within this framework. We should not put on a pedestal things that are not sacred by nature or bicker over them; If conflict and war are necessary, they belong elsewhere. Today, if the president says, in coordination with the Leader, “We want to negotiate,” let us trust this president.

The interview first appeared in Persian on IRNA.

Pezeshkian does not deny crises

By Hossein Kanani Moghadam
Secretary-general of Iran's Green Party

OPINION

The truth is that our elites have a comprehensive awareness of the Iranian society’s realities in all their dimensions. For example, in the joint meeting of party secretaries with the president, much harsher topics were laid out than in the media managers’ session. The gathering of party secretaries included reformists and conservatives, naturally a place for a clash of views; Yet despite the tougher remarks, it was free of controversy. Regarding positive and negative reactions to the media meeting, we must bear in mind that the Leader of Iran’s Islamic Revolution has consistently advised officials not to send out signals of weakness. On the other hand, the Leader’s firm advice is to maintain fair criticism and avoid politicization. Therefore, it is wrong that some, due to political rivalry or attempts to gain prominence, go after the president with attacks. We must not play ball on the enemy’s turf. Pezeshkian has repeatedly shown that he graciously accepts

fair and benevolent criticism. Even in his discussions with elites, tough words are spoken, but the president listens to opposing views with an open demeanor. Accordingly, it is wrong to turn a statement or comment we believe should not be publicized into a tool for settling scores. What Pezeshkian stated in the media managers’ session were realities that must be addressed among elites and officials in order to find a solution. Because in facing any crisis, three approaches are possible: slipping from one crisis into another, finding a solution, or outright denial of the crisis. Based on what I know of Pezeshkian, I am confident he is not one to deny or sweep problems under the rug, nor is he aiming just to ride out the crisis. Pezeshkian seeks to tackle the crisis and find answers. That is why those remarks needed to be brought to the table among elites. We must not make the proper approach to dealing with problems an issue for the country and its people. One of the sweet fruits of the recent war was unity and cohesion, which must under no circumstances be undermined.

The article first appeared in Persian on IRNA.



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (3rd-R) listens to the secretaries of political parties during a meeting in Tehran, Iran, on November 25, 2024.

FIVB Men's U21 World Championship: Iran salvages victory over Argentina, advances to last eight

Sports Desk

Iran came from behind to beat Argentina 3-1 (22-25, 25-20, 25-16, 25-23) and progress to the last-eight round at the FIVB Men's U21 World Championship in Jiangmen, China, on Wednesday. Middle-blocker Armin Qelichniazi was the star of the show for Iran with a game-high 18 points. Prolific opposite Pouya Ariakhah added 15 points – including double aces – for the reigning champion, while opposite-spikers Matin Hosseini and Ariyan Mahmoudinejad chipped in 14 and 12 points, respectively. Mateo Gomez (13 points), Iñaki Ramos (12), Fausto Diaz (11), Emiliano Molini (11), and Leonardo Herb-

sommer (10) all finished in double figures for the South Americans. "We aimed to dictate the game with solid defense and well-executed passes at the net. However, we lost the first set due to poor serving, which allowed Argentina to outperform Iran in offense during that set," Iran head coach Gholamreza Mo'menimoqaddam said after the game. "Overall, we made some mistakes in this match, which is normal for players at this age level. Players need to make these errors in order to gain the necessary experience and maturity before playing for the senior national team," added the Iranian, whose team will Japan or China for a place in the semifinals. Wednesday's victory was Iran's

sixth in Jiangmen. 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. A 3-1 win against Poland on Tuesday had seen Iran finish atop the Pool B table.



Iranian players and coaching staff pose after a 3-1 victory over Argentina at the last-16 round of the FIVB Men's U21 World Championship in Jiangmen, China, on August 27, 2025.
● FIVB



Iran names 27-man squad for CAFA Nations Cup

Sports Desk

Head coach Amir Qalenoee named Iran's 27-man squad for the upcoming CAFA Nations Cup – starting Friday in Hisor, Tajikistan. Defending champion Iran is in Group B of the eight-team tournament alongside Tajikistan, Afghanistan, and India. Team Melli will take on Afghanistan at the Hisor Central Stadium on the opening day of the competition, before playing India and Tajikistan on September 1 and 4, respectively. Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, and Oman are in Group A – to be staged in Tashkent.

The winner of the group will advance to the final showpiece at Tashkent's Olympic City Stadium on Sept. 8, with the two runners-up squaring off in the third-place match. Shabab Al Ahli duo Sardar Azmoun and Saeid Ezzatollahi, as well as Mahdi Qayedi, Ali Qolizadeh, and Sepahan midfielder Mohammad Karimi have all missed the tournament due to injury, while first-choice goalkeeper Alireza Beiranvand is a serving a four-month suspension. Veteran fullback Ramin Rezaeian has earned a first international callup since the AFC Asian Cup in February 2024, following an impres-

sive season with Esteghlal in the Persian Gulf Pro League. Persepolis midfielder Mohammad Khodabandelou, Sepahan striker Majid Aliyari, and Mes Rafsanjan goalkeeper Nima Mirzazad are also among the surprise names in the list. The Following is Iran's full squad for the CAFA Nations Cup:

Goalkeepers: Payam Niazmand (Persepolis), Ahmad Gohari (Paykan), Nima Mirzazad (Mes Rafsanjan)
Defenders: Mohammad-Amin Hazbavi (Sepahan), Aref Aqasi (Esteghlal), Mohammadhossein Kan'anizadegan (Persepolis), Ali Ne'mati (Foolad

Khuzestan), Arya Yousefi (Sepahan), Ramin Rezaeian (Esteghlal), Omid Nourafkan (Sepahan), Mohammad Naderi (Tractor)
Midfielders: Rouzbeh Cheshmi (Esteghlal), Mohammad Qorbani (Al Wahda), Samman Qoddous (Ittihad Kalba), Mohammad Khodabandelou (Persepolis), Alireza Jahanbakhsh (-), Mohammad Mohebbi (Rostov FC), Mahdi Hashemnejad (Tractor), Alireza Koushki (Esteghlal), Mohammad-Mahdi Mohebbi (Ittihad Kalba), Mahdi Tikdari (Tractor), Mehran Ahmadi (Esteghlal)
Strikers: Mahdi Taremi (Internazionale), Amirhossein Hosseinzadeh (Tractor), Shahriar Moghanlou (Ittihad Kalba), Ali Alipour (Persepolis), Majid Aliyari (Sepahan).

Persian Gulf Pro League: Rezaeian rescues point for Esteghlal; Tractor held at Mes

Sports Desk

Esteghlal fullback Ramin Rezaeian scored a last-gasp equalizer as the Capital Blues overcame a two-goal deficit to salvage a point in a thrilling 3-3 draw against Zob Ahan in the Persian Gulf Pro League at the Shahr-e Qods Stadium on Tuesday. Esteghlal stepped onto the pitch fresh off an opening-day 1-0 victory over Tractor but was stunned inside 14 minutes when Pouya Mokhtari gave the visitors, who were beaten by newly-promoted Paykan at home last week, a surprise lead with a half volley from outside the box. Hassan Shoushtari added to the Blues' misery midway through the first half before Alireza Koushki pulled one back for the home side with a superb curling effort from the edge of the area. Shoushtari, however, restored the two-goal cushion for Zob in the first-half added time, drilling a free kick into bottom corner. New Esteghlal signings Duckens Nazon and Jasir Asani were introduced for the start of the second half, and



Esteghlal fullback Ramin Rezaeian celebrates after scoring the equalizer during a 3-3 draw against Zob Ahan in the Persian Gulf Pro League at the Shahr-e Qods Stadium, Tehran, Iran, on August 26, 2025.
● AHMAD MOEINI JAM/IRNA

the duo combined to set up Koushki for his second of the night three minutes after the restart. Esteghlal supporters still had to wait until the fourth minute of stoppage time for an equalizer, when Rezaeian headed home Abolfazl Jalali's set-piece. Esteghlal will be desperate to get back in the winning ways when visiting Esteghlal Khuzestan after the international break, while Zob Ahan will be looking to build on the result at home against Mes Rafsanjan.

Elsewhere on Tuesday, Tractor's formidable frontline was kept at bay as the defending champion was held to a goalless stalemate at Mes Rafsanjan. The result meant that Dragan Skocic's side remains without a win in its first two games and has yet to find the net ahead of the home game against Iralco on September 12. Newly-promoted Fajr Sepasi, which played to an impressive 1-1 draw against Persepolis last week, defeated Golgozar Sirjan 1-0 in its first

home game in the Iranian top flight in three years, thanks to Shervin Bozorg's spot kick 10 minutes into the second half at the Pars Shiraz Stadium. In Ahvaz, Mohammad Alinejad scored a 47th-minute winner against his former club as Malavan walk away with a massive 1-0 victory over Foolad Khuzestan. Shams Azar and Chadormalou shared the spoils in a rollercoaster 4-4 draw in Qazvin. Reza Dehqan and Ali Khodadadi put Chadormalou in front inside 11 minutes, before Mahdi Mamizadeh and Houman Rabizadeh's spot kick drew the home side level in the first half. Rabizadeh again scored from the spot to give Shams Azar the lead for the first time in the game on the hour mark, but Dehqan bagged his second of the night four minutes later to restore parity. Ecuadorian substitute Renny Simisterra thought he had secured maximum points for the visitors when he scored with four minutes remaining, only to see his strike canceled out by Milad Sourgi's equalizer in the fourth minute of stoppage time.

Iran unveils wushu lineups for world, ISG events

Sports Desk

The Wushu Federation of Iran announced the country's squads for the upcoming two major events. Iran will be represented by 13 contestants at the 17th edition of the World Championships – starting Sunday in Brasília, Brazil – with six Iranians vying for glory across the men's and women's sanda events at the sixth edition of the Islamic Solidarity Games, when the multi-sport event kicks off in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on November 7. Shoja Panahi (65kg), Erfan Moharrami (70kg), five-

time world champion Mohsen Mohammadseifi (75kg), Soheil Mousavi (80kg), and Mahdi Moradi (90kg) will participate in the men's sanda contests, as Iran will be back in the world showpiece for the first time since 2019, having missed out on the previous edition in Fort Worth, Texas after being denied entry visas by the United States. Shahin Banitalebi – a gold medalist at The World Games earlier in August – Mostafa Hasanzadeh, and Abolfazl Qarebaghi will compete across different men's taolu events in the Brazilian capital, with Asian

gold medalist Zahra Kiani and Helia Asadian part of the women's draw. Mansourian sisters, Sharbanou (75kg) and Soheila (70kg), will be joined by Sediqeh Daryaei (65kg) in the women's sanda in Brasilia. Meanwhile, Moharrami will be back in action in Riyadh, with Amirhossein Hemmati (60kg) and Farbod Taleshi (85kg) completing the Iranian three-man squad in the Saudi capital. Mansourian sisters will also chase glory in Riyadh, where Sara Shafiei will compete in the 56kg class.



Zahra Kiani will represent Iran in the women's taolu competitions at the World Wushu Championships in Brasilia.
● BORNA NEWS

Preserving Iran’s history through cross-sector collaboration

Iranica Desk

In recent years, the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts has pursued goals such as preserving national identity, strengthening cultural diplomacy, and achieving sustainable development through a cross-sectoral approach in its three main areas of mission. Despite existing challenges, the actions taken — especially in the field of cultural heritage—not only demonstrate the ministry’s serious commitment to protecting Iran’s history and culture but also serve as a model for synergy between the public sector, private sector, and non-governmental organizations.

Mohammad Nasiri-Haqiqat, head of the Pasargadae World Heritage Site, wrote that among the commendable measures of this ministry in the cultural heritage sector are the registration of historical and natural sites on national and international lists, conducting field and archaeological research, restoration and revival of historical buildings, attracting private sector participation in projects, and promoting a heritage-centered culture in society, according to IRNA.

Holding festivals, educational programs, scientific and cultural meetings, and public initiatives to improve “heritage literacy” among all segments of society have played a significant role in bringing people closer to their cultural identity.



Tourism sector

In the tourism sector, the ministry’s focus on developing infrastructure and facilities in lesser-known areas and empowering local communities has created a clear vision for “sustainable tourism.” The growth of eco-tourism accommodations, the organization of festivals such as Nowruzgah, traditional ceremonies, and local food festivals have not only boosted the economy but also provided an opportunity to introduce indigenous culture to both domestic and international tourists.

Regional and international co-operation for developing joint tourism indicates Iran’s growing role in cultural diplomacy.

Handicrafts

In the field of handicrafts, actions such as registering handicraft cities and villages, supporting artists by offering facilities, providing specialized training, holding exhibitions and domestic and international markets, and innovating in design and packaging have led to a renaissance of this authentic art and attracted the younger generation. The fusion of traditional art with modern design has placed Iran’s handicrafts in a newly competitive position.

Pasargadae World Heritage Site

The Pasargadae World Heritage Site, one of the country’s most



important historic sites, has undertaken numerous actions aligned with the ministry’s overarching policies in three areas: conservation and restoration, development of infrastructure, and research and outreach.

Key actions at the Pasargadae World Heritage Site include launching conservation and restoration workshops for Cyrus’s tomb, organizing, protecting, and restoring the watercourses of the royal garden of Pasargadae and the Mazafari Caravanserai within the Pasargadae World Heritage Area, and replacing part of the surrounding fence to strengthen the site’s physical protection.

Infrastructure developments

In the infrastructure section, phase 3 of the route improvement leading to Cyrus’s tomb and the completion of the administrative building of the base have been completed.

In the research and study section, which is considered one of the ongoing programs of the site, three projects have been underway in the past year. Also in the cultural section, introduction and training, the Nowruz Festival, regional handicrafts exhibition, local cuisine and games, a photo exhibition introducing the region’s historic and natural tourist attractions, and the first training course in stone

conservation and restoration at the Pasargadae World Heritage Site are among the important actions carried out in the past year.

Considering the primary mission of all world and national heritage sites, which is to protect the historical monuments under their management, ongoing conservation and restoration workshops remain a priority. Moreover, studies and research, as the precondition for all related efforts, are ongoing and cultural activities in the fields of introduction and education remain on the site’s agenda.

Pasargadae World Heritage Site regards itself as committed to continuing the path of protection, introduction, and education, and, leaning on scientific experience, technical knowledge, the involvement of local communities, and support from the ministry, steps forward in safeguarding one of the oldest symbols of Iran’s civilization.

It is hoped that, with a more comprehensive perspective, firmer resolve, and stronger trust in the country’s human and natural capacities, we can take more solid steps toward achieving the broader goals of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts.

Adventure awaits in Helvan Desert

Located about 93 kilometers from Tabas, the Helvan Desert in South Khorasan Province is one of Iran’s most captivating and expansive deserts, making it a popular destination for desert explorers and adventure seekers. Renowned for its vast sandy plains, towering sand dunes, and unique landscapes, the Helvan Desert offers an exceptional experience for those eager to immerse themselves in the stark yet stunning beauty of the Iranian desert.

This magnificent desert is an ideal destination for travelers interested in exploring Iran’s desert environments, offering a perfect blend of nature, tranquility, and breathtaking nighttime skies that capture the true essence of desert adventure. Whether you’re a desert trek enthusiast, a photographer seeking dramatic landscapes, or someone simply yearning for peace in an untouched natural setting, the Helvan Desert is a must-see, sunnyiran.com wrote.

One of the first things visitors notice upon entering the Helvan Desert is the distinctive sand dunes and sandstone mountains. The desert’s terrain is dominated by sand dunes that sometimes rise up to 100 meters, crafting majestic ridges that shift and reshape with the winds. These dunes, com-



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posed of fine sand particles that shimmer in sunlight, provide ever-changing views that delight the eye. Surrounding mountain ranges offer a striking contrast to the vast dunes, creating a dramatic backdrop that enhances the desert’s beauty. The unique sandstone formations, sculpted over centuries by wind erosion, are key elements of the landscape that add to the region’s natural allure.

Despite harsh conditions, the Helvan Desert supports a variety of wildlife adapted to the arid environment. Lizards, scorpions, and desert foxes inhabit the area, while bird-

watchers may spot species such as sparrows and eagles that call this desert home. Perhaps the most profound feature of the Helvan Desert is its tranquility. The silence here is deep and restorative, providing an escape from the hustle and bustle of daily life. With no nearby human settlements and virtually no noise pollution, it’s an ideal place to connect with nature at its purest.

Spending a night beneath the desert sky is highly recommended. As night falls, temperatures drop and the sky transforms into a dazzling canopy of stars. The clear desert air offers some of the best star-



kite.ir

gazing in Iran, where travelers can marvel at the Milky Way and constellations hidden from urban eyes.

The night sky is one of the Helvan Desert’s most memorable sights. Its pollution-free atmosphere allows for crystal-clear views — perfect for astrophotography or peaceful nighttime camping. Lying beneath the stars, you’ll hear only the gentle rustling of the wind and the occasional call of desert wildlife.

The stillness of the desert night is both peaceful and surreal, creating an almost meditative experience. It’s a chance to disconnect from the digital world,

appreciate natural beauty, and enjoy solitude or quiet companionship in a serene setting.

Helvan Desert is also a hub for desert sports and adventure. Its expansive dunes are ideal for dune bashing, where visitors ride off-road vehicles up and down the slopes for an exhilarating thrill. Camel rides offer a traditional and authentic way to explore the landscape at a slower, more reflective pace. For those who prefer hiking, trekking on foot allows a close-up experience of the desert’s flora and fauna and its serene atmosphere. Photographers will find endless inspiration in the sharp contrasts of sand,

mountains, and sky.

Beyond its natural beauty, Helvan Desert holds historical and cultural significance. The surrounding region features numerous historical sites and cultural landmarks that reveal the area’s rich heritage. The nearby ancient city of Tabas has long been an important trade and cultural center, with preserved traditional architecture.

Moreover, as part of the greater Khorasan region, the desert is steeped in the history of Persian civilization. Visitors can explore remnants of caravanse-rais, ancient trade routes, and other relics, enriching their desert experience with historical depth.

The best time to visit Helvan Desert is during spring and fall when temperatures are moderate and the desert is more hospitable. Summers can be intensely hot, often soaring above 40°C (104°F), making outdoor activities more difficult. In contrast, spring and autumn offer ideal weather for trekking, stargazing, and photography.

Winter brings cooler conditions and fewer visitors, but nights can get quite cold. Regardless of the season, visitors should come prepared with appropriate clothing, hats, sunscreen, and plenty of water to ensure comfort and safety during their desert adventure.



Farshchian Museum reopens

VP urges civil society partnership to protect heritage



Iran's First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref speaks at the fourth national tribute to cultural heritage icons at the Sa'dabad Cultural and Historical Complex in Tehran on August 26, 2025.

● fvpresident.ir

climate threats were eroding historical sites. He spoke at a ceremony in Tehran honoring leading figures in heritage preservation, fvpresident.ir reported. Aref used the annual tribute to link heritage protection with national identity, youth education and Iran's global image. He argued that strengthening non-governmental organizations and giving them official support could help meet mounting challenges. "Heritage is not just our past," he said. "It is an investment in Iran's future." The vice president described Iran's cultural assets as both "a foundation

of identity" and "a permanent barrier" to what he called US-backed efforts at Iranophobia.

He added that foreign rivals wanted "a dependent and submissive Iran," but insisted that such "dependency does not exist in the nature of Iranians."

Aref pressed for broader use of cultural diplomacy to bolster unity and improve ties with other nations. He urged young people to look to prominent figures in culture and heritage as role models, saying their introduction to Iran's history amounted to "an investment for the future."

The vice president also underlined the need for scientific and innovative approaches in preservation, stressing documentation, public education and media outreach. Alongside bricks and monuments, he said, heritage had a "software dimension" that required awareness-building and social responsibility.

On the same day, Aref inaugurated the

reopened Farshchian Museum in Tehran, which had been closed following previous attacks on the country.

The ceremony was attended by Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Minister Reza Salehi-Amiri, Academy of Persian Language and Literature head Gholam-Ali Haddad-Adel, and other senior officials.

Aref toured the museum's galleries, highlighting its role in preserving the legacy of the late miniature master Mahmoud Farshchian.

Salehi Amiri said the reopening gave new life to Iran's cultural heritage and reinforced the country's commitment to its historical treasures.

The Sa'dabad ceremony also honored other leading figures, including archaeologists, architects and conservators such as Seyfollah Aminian, Akbar Taqizadeh-Asl, Parvin Seghat ol-Eslam, Ebrahim Heidari, and Mohammad-Hassan Talebian, emphasizing society's respect for those who safeguard national heritage.

Minister vows major upgrade of tourism infrastructure



Reza Salehi Amiri

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Reza Salehi Amiri on Wednesday promised to launch what he called a "movement" to build basic infrastructure for the ministry, vowing better pay, upgraded offices and wider provincial representation for staff across the country. The pledge came in a message marking Government Week (August 24-30), where Salehi Amiri tied the ministry's future to "social capital" and framed the task of preserving heritage as a historic mission beyond daily bureaucracy, ILNA reported. His remarks underscored Tehran's intent to shore up a sector officials see as both a

national identity anchor and a driver of sustainable growth.

Referring to the country's strained economic backdrop and a short but intense conflict last year, Salehi Amiri praised employees for keeping "the light of service" alive.

He called their resilience "a golden page in the organizational memory," noting that many worked in towns without adequate facilities or even basic livelihoods.

The minister said he plans to tour all 31 provinces by late September to meet staff directly, hear their concerns, and assess shortages in administrative space and resources. "The bitter reality is that many of you are serving under minimum living standards," he said, pointing to 380 counties that lack proper offices.

Salehi Amiri highlighted three fronts of progress — protection of cultural heritage, growth of handicrafts as a "mirror of national culture," and tourism as an engine for development. Each, he said, was made possible by "sacrifice" from staff whose names "shine on the achievements" of the ministry. He described the roadmap ahead as aligned with guidelines from Iran's Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei and President Masoud Pezeshkian, presenting it as part of a broader strategy to revive Iran's "historic grandeur."

First Persian-Thai digital dictionary launched

Art & Culture Desk

Iran's cultural mission in Thailand on Wednesday unveiled the first two-way Persian-Thai digital dictionary after a year of work, saying the project aims to expand language learning and deepen cultural links between the two countries.

The new dictionary is described by Iran's Islamic Culture and Relations Organization (ICRO) as the first comprehensive and standardized reference for daily vocabulary and phrases in both languages, IRNA reported.

Officials said the tool is meant to serve as a "fresh platform" for strengthening academic, cultural and tourism ties that have been growing between Iran and Thailand in recent years.

Available on web, Telegram, Android and iOS, the service offers audio pronunciation and phonetic transcription in three scripts – English, Thai and Persian – covering both single words and common conversational sentences.

The main strength is its focus on pronunciation," the cultural center said, stressing that users can listen to a word and at the same time see how it should be spoken.

Developers say the dictionary goes beyond single entries by providing ready-made phrases for greetings, directions, shopping, transport and administrative tasks. Each comes with a voice recording and phonetic guide, designed to help beginners build confidence in real-life situations.

The project was launched amid rising demand for



user-friendly language tools. Academic exchanges, student mobility and tourism flows between Iran and Thailand have all climbed, creating what officials call an urgent need for reliable bilingual resources.

The dictionary's first phase covers the "1,000 most frequent words" and "1,000 key phrases" and is already online. A second phase, dependent on new funding, would add advanced features such as voice message translation, photo-to-text conversion and AI-based sentence suggestions, effectively turning the product into an intelligent language assistant.

Target users include Thai students interested in Persian, Iranians learning Thai, teachers, researchers and travelers. The tool is also expected to benefit cultural centers, schools and universities, providing what its designers call "a trusted companion" for translation, pronunciation practice and essential communication.

Fajr International Film Festival to run in Tehran late November

Art & Culture Desk

Iran's Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance said on Wednesday that the 43rd Fajr International Film Festival will be held in Tehran from Nov. 25 to Dec. 2, with newly appointed secretary Rouhollah Hosseini overseeing the event. The official call for entries will be released on Aug. 30, IRNA reported.

The festival, billed as one of Iran's most important cultural showcases, is expected to highlight both the country's "committed and creative" cinema and Tehran's push to widen artistic exchanges with filmmakers abroad.

Organizers said the gathering aims to provide a platform for cultural dialogue among nations while also drawing on international institutions and domestic expertise to raise the event's global standing.

Hosseini was named secretary last month by the head of the Cinema Organization of Iran. His appointment letter urged him to strengthen ties with global filmmakers and scholars and to ensure the festival promotes Iran's cinema as a medium rooted in both artistry and social responsibility.

The directive also called for programming that underscores the "bravery and resilience" of Iranians during a 12-day war, reflecting

the government's aim to tie cultural events to broader narratives of national endurance.

The Fajr International Film Festival was relaunched as a separate event in 2015 and was run for five editions under secretaries Alireza Rezadad, Reza Mirkarimi and Mohammad Mehdi Asgarpour. In 2022 and 2023, it was folded back into the national Fajr Film Festival before regaining its independent slot this year.

