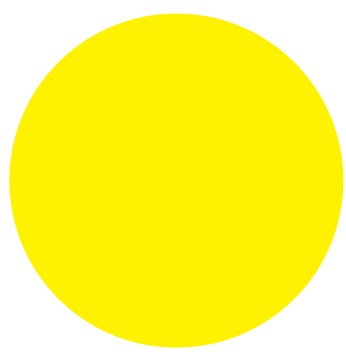


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Iran should use
30-day diplomatic
window to block
snapback

By Mohsen Abdollahi
Legal scholar

OPINION

The three European members of Iran's 2015 nuclear deal (JCPOA)—France, Germany, and Britain, known as the E3—have announced their decision to trigger the “snapback” mechanism, once again pushing the calculations surrounding Iran's nuclear program and the future of the deal into a new phase. Their move, which in practice could pave the way for the reinstatement of all UN Security Council sanctions against Iran, carries major political, economic, and diplomatic implications while posing fresh challenges for Tehran.

Once the snapback is instigated, a 30-day countdown begins during which the Security Council must decide whether sanctions will be reimposed. During this window, a round of negotiations is expected to take place, meaning the diplomatic channel remains open.

Although Russia and China support Iran's position and may deliver strong statements in support of Tehran, neither will have a decisive impact on the process, given that Panama holds the Council presidency through August and South Korea takes over in September—both countries widely viewed as aligned with US interests. Thus, the matter ultimately hinges on Iran's willingness to extend the snapback deadline, which expires in October, and head off the return of sanctions until a compromise can be found.

Iran should seize this opportunity to advance negotiations. Should progress be made, a resolution could be passed to extend the JCPOA timeframe by two to six months, thereby giving diplomacy more breathing room. Iran should not allow sanctions to return and then attempt to push through a resolution halting their enforcement, since that would prove far more complex and difficult. It is true that the return of UN sanctions does not directly target Iran's oil, gas, petrochemical, banking, or financial sectors. Rather, the bulk of these resolutions impose restrictions on military and nuclear industries, especially arms sales, while calling on governments to closely monitor Iranian transactions and shipments to ensure they are not diverted to nuclear or missile programs.

Although these resolutions, in effect, do not create new direct economic sanctions, they still act as a booster to US and EU unilateral measures, which by themselves have already proven far tougher than the five UN resolutions. If sanctions are reinstated, Iran's room for maneuver will tighten slightly, and Washington will cash in on this by ramping up pressure on countries still engaged in trade with Tehran. As a result, even if direct financial and trade barriers are not immediately imposed, the cost and risk of doing business with Iran would rise.

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President remotely launches two oil pipelines, 722 industrial projects

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Iranian Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad (2nd left) briefs President Masoud Pezeshkian (1) during a meeting to remotely launch two petroleum-related projects in Tehran on August 29, 2025.
president.ir



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Iran, Tajikistan push
Persian literary ties
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Tehran-Beijing trade channels stay open despite barriers

By Arash Nikpey
Member of Iran-China Joint Chamber
of Commerce

OPINION EXCLUSIVE

China has been Iran's largest trading partner in recent years, accounting for between 20% to 30% of Iran's foreign trade annually. According to official statistics, China remains Iran's top export destination and one of the largest sources of imports into the country.

Iran's main exports to China consist of oil and petrochemical products, while imports from China include machinery, electronic equipment, auto parts, and consumer goods. As a result, the trade balance between the two countries has in most years leaned in Iran's favor, largely due to the scale of oil, gas, and petrochemical exports to China. However, reduced oil exports caused

by sanctions, coupled with the forced discounts on sales stemming from those restrictions, along with the growth of consumer and industrial imports from China, have in some years pushed the balance toward either equilibrium or a deficit in China's favor.

For instance, in 2023, overall bilateral trade stood at around \$14.6 billion. Of that, Iran's exports totaled \$6.2 billion, while imports reached \$8.4 billion, leaving Tehran with a trade deficit.

The main barriers to trade between Iran and China are sanctions and banking restrictions. Iran's blocked access to the international financial system (SWIFT), US pressure on Chinese banks and firms to scale back dealings with Iran, and the need to get around oil sanctions through intermediaries all serve as major obstacles.

High risks in money transfers further increase the cost of trade.

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FM: E3 move to unleash snapback sanctions erodes UNSC credibility

International Desk

Iran's foreign minister on Friday censured a decision by the European powers to trigger a mechanism reimposing international sanctions on the Islamic Republic, saying that the move will have "severe consequences for the credibility of the UN Security Council."

"The path chosen by Europe, if not curbed, will additionally have severe consequences for the credibility of the UN Security Council. Invoking the so-called snapback mechanism without due process or a legal basis not only undermines confidence in the Council's decisions, but also endangers international peace and security. It is high time for the Council—and the world—to step up and say: 'ENOUGH'," Abbas Araghchi said in a post on X.

Britain, France and Germany — the European parties to the 2015 nuclear deal — on Thursday invoked the process, known as the "snapback" mechanism, which initiates a 30-day deadline for reimposing sanctions lifted under the UN Resolution 2231 which endorses the 2015 nuclear deal.

Their move came after two rounds of talks between the two sides and weeks of warnings to Tehran over what they called Iran's continued non-compliance with its commitments under the nuclear agreement, which goes by the name of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Iran has repeatedly said that the European trio — known as the E3 — lacks all legal and moral authority to activate the mechanism as they failed to live up to their commitments under the JCPOA after the United States unilaterally withdrew from the deal and reimposed sanctions against Iran.

The move took place just days after Iranian and European diplomats held talks in Geneva, the second since Israel and the US launched strikes on Iran on the eve of a sixth round of talks with the US.

"Iran was bombed. First by Israel, and then by the United States. It is repugnant for Europe to now accuse Iran of having left the table and spurning dialogue. The reality is that we are at a point where the West cannot even guarantee that it will cease further unlawful military strikes on my people while negotiations are held. That claimed the lives of nearly 1,100 Iranians," Araghchi said. "The actions of the European troika effectively reward the offender and punish the victim. It was the United States, not Iran, that unilaterally withdrew from the JCPOA in 2018 and reimposed sanctions. It was Europe, not Iran, that failed to fulfil its commitments to mitigate the economic impact of the US withdrawal. It was also Europe, not Iran, that not only failed to implement their commitments on Transition Day (Oct. 2023), but also imposed new illegal sanctions on Iranian civil aviation

and shipping."

In a letter to the UN Secretary-General António Guterres and the UN Security Council on Thursday, Araghchi also called on the body's members "to reject the unjustified political manipulations and to uphold the integrity of international law and authority of the Council."

In an earlier phone call with his European counterparts, Araghchi said Tehran would respond "appropriately to this illegal and unjustified action ... in order to protect and guarantee its national rights and interests," according to a statement from his ministry. He called on the three countries to "appropriately correct this wrong decision in the coming days."

Cooperation with IAEA

On Wednesday Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi said that if the snapback was triggered, "the path of interaction that we have now opened with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) will also be completely affected and will probably stop."

He made the remarks following the return of IAEA inspectors to Iran to oversee fuel replacement operations at the key nuclear facility in Bushehr, in the country's southwest. It was the first IAEA team to arrive since Iran suspended co-operation with the UN nuclear watchdog over the agency's failure to condemn the Israeli and US strikes.

The Iranian foreign minister also sent a letter to European Union foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas, calling the European move "invalid and ineffective." Araghchi stressed that Resolution 2231 "must expire according to its scheduled timeline on October 18, 2025."

"Attempts by the E3 to revive UN Security Council resolutions that were terminated under Resolution 2231 are invalid and ineffective," Araghchi wrote.

Diplomatic solution

Reaffirming Iran's "readiness to resume fair and balanced diplomatic negotiations," he urged the EU to avoid "selective interpretations" and work towards "genuine diplomacy and the preservation of multilateralism."

On Friday, Kallas said the coming weeks offered an "opportunity" to hammer out a diplomatic solution on Iran's nuclear program.

"We are entering a new phase with this 30 days that is now giving us also the opportunity to really find diplomatic ways to find a solution," Kallas told journalists.

Russia, China reactions

Russia and China, both parties to the JCPOA, upbraided the E3 move, warning against the repercussions of imposing curbs on Iran's peaceful nuclear program.

"We strongly urge them to reconsider and review their erroneous decisions before they



Abbas Araghchi
● ILNA

lead to irreparable consequences and further tragedy," Russia's Foreign Ministry said in a statement on Friday.

The ministry also underlined that the European trio was undermining diplomatic efforts to find a peaceful solution to the stand-off over Iran's nuclear program.

Moreover, the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said a mechanism triggered by Euro-

pean countries that could reimpose United Nations sanctions on Iran was "not constructive." "The Iranian nuclear issue is at a critical juncture. Launching the Security Council's snapback mechanism of sanctions is not constructive and will undermine the process of a political and diplomatic settlement of the Iranian nuclear issue," Guo Jiakun told a regular press briefing.

'Ultimate audacity': Pezeshkian pillories Western hypocrisy over Israel's atrocities



National Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on Thursday denounced the double standards adopted by the countries claiming to support democracy and human rights, saying that they disregard Israel's crimes but accuse the Islamic Republic of



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian addresses a ceremony honoring those killed in the US-Israeli aggression against the country in June in the capital Tehran on August 28, 2025.

● president.ir

stoking insecurity in the region. Pezeshkian made the remarks in a meeting commemorating the martyrs of the 12-day war of US and Israeli aggression on Iran in June that claimed the lives of more than 1,100 innocent people, including women and children, as well as top military officials and scientific figures.

"A handful of tie-wearing individuals, with false pretenses, speak of human rights from the platforms at their disposal, while the regime they support bombs innocent women and children. What sin

or crime did these beloved ones, who were at sleep in their homes, commit to be massacred by this criminal regime?"

The Iranian president underlined that the countries claiming to support democracy and human rights, "with ultimate audacity, do not see the brutal crimes of a regime that terrorizes and kills throughout the region, but accuse the Iranian nation, which is itself a victim of terrorism, of stoking insecurity in the region."

Stressing that the goal of the pressures exerted by the US and West-

ern countries against the Islamic Republic is to turn Iran into a "disarmed, weak, and defenseless nation against their brutal attacks and aggression," Pezeshkian said, "We fear no threat... We detest war and seek peace and tranquility, but we will respond decisively to any aggression."

The Iranian president also lauded the sacrifices of the Iranian nation in the recent US-Israeli-imposed war on the country, underlining that the public proved to the world their loyalty and steadfastness in defense of their homeland.

President due in China on Sunday to take part in SCO summit

International Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian is scheduled to travel to China on August 31, where he will attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and SCO Plus summits.

According to the president's political advisor Mehdi Sanaei, Pezeshkian will also hold meetings with the heads of countries on the sidelines of the summits, including Russian president and Chinese prime minister.

The events are expected to bring together leaders and senior officials from over 30 countries.

In a meeting focused on bilateral ties with China on Thursday, Pezeshkian

described relations with China as "strategic," adding that Iran, given its geopolitical position and international role, remains a "reliable partner" for Beijing in political, economic, and international arenas, including joint efforts to counter unilateralism.

He has voiced Iran's readiness for "serious and constructive" cooperation with China, particularly within the framework of Beijing's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

"All other areas of bilateral cooperation can be defined and pursued within the framework of interacting to advance the Belt and Road Initiative," Pezeshkian said.

The BRI, launched by China in 2013,



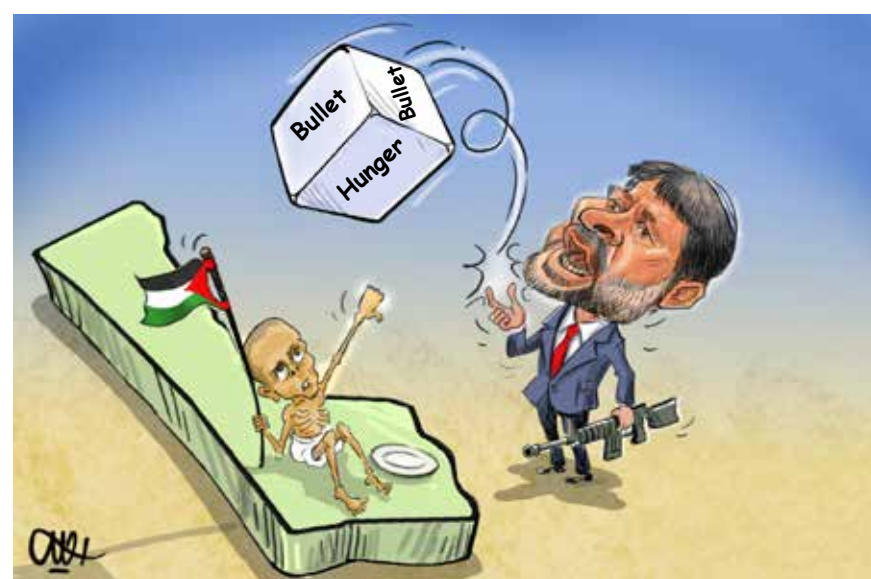
is a multi-trillion-dollar infrastructure and development project aimed at enhancing regional connectivity across Asia, Europe and Africa.

The meeting included a review of existing agreements and infrastructure projects, as well as proposals from government agencies aimed at accelerating implementation.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi

Cartoonist



President remotely launches two oil pipelines, 722 industrial projects

Economy Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on Friday inaugurated via video conference two strategic oil projects along with 722 small and medium-sized industrial schemes under the Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade, on the sixth day of Government Week.

The two major oil and infrastructure projects include the 455-kilometer Bandar Abbas-Rafsanjan petroleum products pipeline and the 340-kilometer Sabzab-Rey sour crude oil pipeline, IRNA reported.

Pezeshkian said the projects would "cut costs, improve efficiency, reduce environmental pollution and road hazards, curb fuel smuggling, and boost national resilience in energy security."

Most of Iran's oil is produced in the south while demand is concentrated in the north, making new pipelines critical for reliable energy supply. Truck transport is fuel-intensive, polluting and prone to accidents, whereas pipelines provide a

faster and safer alternative.

Under Iran's Seventh National Development Plan, about 2,300 kilometers of petroleum product pipelines and more than 600 kilometers of crude oil pipelines will be completed, requiring a total investment of about 130 million euros.

The Bandar Abbas-Rafsanjan petroleum pipeline, inaugurated on Friday, was built at a cost of about 400 million euros and spans 455 kilometers. It includes a 26-inch pipeline, three pumping stations, a storage terminal, 100 kilometers of power lines and three substations.

In its first phase, it is transporting 13 million liters of product per day, with capacity expected to rise to 48 million liters by year-end. Once fully operational, it will eliminate the daily use of 1,600 oil tankers, saving 60 trillion rials in fuel.

The Sabzab-Rey sour crude oil pipeline, launched with an investment of about 330 million euros, consists of a 102-kilometer 30-inch pipeline, a 239-kilometer 26-inch pipeline, five

pumping stations, two balance tanks, 43 kilometers of power lines, and four substations.

In its initial phase, the 102-kilometer Sabzab-Tangeh Fanni section, with a capacity of 450,000 barrels per day, has begun operating. Other sections, stretching 239 kilometers from Tangeh Fanni to Shazand and with a capacity of 300,000 barrels per day, are set to be completed by March, 2026.

The project will for the first time enable the transfer of sour crude from the northern Dezful oil fields to supply the Imam Khomeini refinery in Shazand, and later the Tehran refinery, boosting refined product output. Officials said the project also marked the first domestic production of 30-inch pipes under 10 millimeters thick meeting the NACE standard for high-sulfur, highly corrosive crude.

More than 95% of equipment used in the projects was domestically manufactured. The two projects created 3,000 direct and 7,000 indirect jobs.

At the same ceremony, Pezesh-



President Masoud Pezeshkian (L) orders the official launch of the first phase of Sabzab-Shazand crude oil pipeline on August 29, 2025. **president.ir**

Another 134 previously inactive units were reactivated in more than 70 industrial towns in 20 provinces at a cost of 24 trillion rials, creating 1,919 direct jobs, with the potential to rise to 3,795.

Deputy FM says forex reserves 'immune' to new sanctions



Economy Desk

Iran's deputy foreign minister for economic diplomacy said on Friday that the country's foreign exchange reserves and trade structure are designed to withstand the impact of new Western sanctions.

Hamid Qanbari said Iran had changed the way it handled its forex reserves prior to the latest rounds of sanctions.

"In the past we kept our foreign exchange resources in official accounts at banks, but due to US sanctions and even before the European Union sanctions, we decided to change this method. Today reserves are maintained in mechanisms that are immune to sanctions,

and this approach continues," ISNA quoted Qanbari as saying.

He added that both Iranian exporters and importers have adapted to sanctions conditions. "Exporters know how to receive their money under sanctions, and importers know how to make foreign payments," Qanbari said, adding that current trade will not be disrupted by what he called "first-generation sanctions."

Britain, France and Germany on Thursday triggered a 30-day process to reimpose UN sanctions on Iran, accusing Tehran of violating the 2015 nuclear deal. The accord, known as the JCPOA, limited Iran's nuclear program in exchange for sanctions relief, with a

"snapback" mechanism allowing penalties to return if breached. The E3 warned for weeks that sanctions could be restored before the pact expires in October. Iran called the move "unjustified, illegal, and lacking any legal basis."

Qanbari said Iran's current economic structure, particularly in foreign reserves and trade, limits the impact of the latest measures. "The Islamic Republic of Iran will continue its path to neutralize external pressures," he said.

He acknowledged that sanctions affect the economy but said their consequences vary. "Some argue that just as Iran's economy was damaged by sanctions in the past, it will suffer the same today. I am not saying sanctions are ineffective, but I must emphasize that not all sanctions have the same effect," he said.

According to Qanbari, Iran faces different kinds of sanctions — symbolic measures, paralyzing sanctions, targeted restrictions, and those that directly affect ordinary people or specific sectors of the economy. "Therefore, they cannot be assessed at the same level," he said.

Iran, Russia push Rasht-Astara railway as missing link in INSTC



Iran's Ambassador to Moscow, Kazem Jalali (L), shakes hands with Russian Transport Minister Andrei Nikitin after a meeting in Moscow, Russia, on August 28, 2025. **IRNA**

Economy Desk

Iran's ambassador to Moscow, Kazem Jalali, on Thursday met Russian Transport Minister Andrei Nikitin to discuss transport cooperation, including the Rasht-Astara railway and plans for a Caspian Sea cruise line, Iran's Embassy said.

The talks, attended by Russia's Transport Ministry officials, highlighted the need to speed up work on the Rasht-Astara line, described as the missing link in the western branch of the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC). The railway would connect Russia, Azerbaijan and Iran and handle at least 15 million tons of freight annually, IRNA report-

ed.

Meanwhile, Nikitin said road freight transport between the two countries grew 12.8% in 2024 and is expanding rapidly, Russia's TASS news agency reported. The talks also covered ways to increase cargo flows along the INSTC, develop multimodal transport with integrated rail and maritime tariffs, and explore the launch of a cruise shipping line between Caspian Sea ports.

The Russian Transport Ministry also noted positive trends in air travel.

Aeroflot resumed Moscow-Tehran flights on Aug. 6, 2025, while Iran's Mahan Air operates routes between Tehran and Moscow and between Tehran and Grozny.

Major transportation expo opens as gov't prioritizes transit infrastructure growth

Five new aircraft join national fleet



Economy Desk

Iran opened its sixth International Exhibition of Transportation, Logistics and Related Industries on Thursday with the participation of 105 domestic and foreign companies, as President Masoud Pezeshkian's government places "special attention on the transport and logistics sector, particularly in rail and air."

On the sidelines of the exhibition, Masoumeh Aqapour, the president's economic adviser, said measures were underway to modernize the air fleet and boost non-oil exports, with five new aircraft recently joining the country's fleet.

She added that the Economic Council had approved projects to procure new locomotives, while maritime transport — "as one of the pillars of a sea-based economy" — was also receiving attention through new policies on ports and shipbuilding.

The exhibition, held at Tehran's International Fairground for four days, covers six themes, including the five modes of transport, digital and technological logistics, logistics resilience and crisis management, integrated and multimodal transport, sustainable and agile supply chains, and innovation, governance and policymaking.

The event features innovation and advanced technology sections, a technology experience area, a business interaction hub, export and international engagement platforms, training workshops, media and documentation hubs, as well as expert panels.

An "innovation stage" will also showcase the latest industry breakthroughs both from participants and external invitees.

According to Sodaif Beykzadeh, acting head of Iran International Exhibition Company, "This year's expo, with participation from rail, air, and maritime transport representatives and logistics firms, has seen significant growth compared with previous editions."

He said that the logistics sector is a key infrastructure that improves the supply chain and can provide a basis for economic growth.

Iran-China trade ...

One way forward lies in the use of non-dollar currencies. Settlements in Chinese yuan, UAE dirham, Russian ruble, or Indian rupee can largely neutralize dollar-based sanctions. A successful example is the Iran-China agreement to conduct oil transactions in yuan via China's domestic payment system, Cross-Border Interbank Payment System (CIPS).

Another option is the expansion of bar-

ter trade, which reduces the need for currency transfers. Under this system, oil and petrochemical exports can be exchanged directly for Chinese machinery, equipment, and goods.

Strengthening bilateral currency swap agreements and enabling direct rial-yuan settlements without the dollar is also among the practical tools for easing trade. This approach is already in place between China and several Asian countries, including Russia and Paki-

stan.

Using smaller regional Chinese banks can also help facilitate trade, as unlike major state-owned banks—which are under heavy pressure from sanctions—smaller banks face fewer restrictions and are more willing to engage in non-dollar transactions. The establishment of joint Iran-China financial channels could also prove useful, similar to Europe's INSTEX mechanism, but based on local currencies and designed

specifically for infrastructure projects. Currently, over 80% of global trade is carried out in dollars and euros. Yet China, by launching the CIPS, is seeking to wean itself off reliance on the dollar.

Iran, in navigating trade under sanctions, can benefit from using the yuan or other regional currencies. This reduces the risk of US tracking and freezing of funds, cuts transaction costs, and enhances Iran's leverage to sell oil at reduced discounts.

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From Putin's prestige to humiliation of European leaders



OPINION

Almost everyone caught sight of the humiliating image of European leaders seated in a row opposite the US president. Meanwhile, the Russian president came across as the victor in his meeting with his American counterpart, forcing him to show respect, roll out the red carpet, and welcome him.

Another humiliating image of European leaders, lined up like patients in a hospital waiting room or schoolchildren queuing for the principal's attention, resurfaced on social media. Though photo-shopped, the intention behind it was spot on. Anyone who saw this exaggerated version would undoubtedly pick up on the humiliating spectacle of European leaders sitting around the table with Donald Trump, listening to him. After having been humiliated, they even went ahead and fed him false flattery to butter him up. All this took place so they could sign off on what Trump and Putin had earlier agreed upon. The most pitiful and ridiculous figure

in these pictures was Ukraine's "Don Quixote," Volodymyr Zelensky, who, with a forced smile, took in these humiliating decisions, having to swallow them against his will.

Perhaps these images will strike a chord with many Arab leaders who, having bent over backwards to accept Trump's demands to hand over billions of dollars with nothing in return — even drawing criticism — will feel reassured and quietly mutter, "We did what we did because we couldn't stand up to American ambition. But what excuse do the Europeans have, who in aggregate are ahead of the US economically and militarily?"

It was clear the issue was not Washington's capabilities or needs, but the Europeans' willingness to bow down and submit — especially regarding the French president, who, since Trump came to power, had tried to show defiance, particularly by recognizing Palestine and condemning the massacres of the devastating war on Gaza. European leaders pushed back when Trump announced efforts for a cease-fire in Ukraine that requires Kyiv to cede territories taken by Russian forces, and instead poured hundreds

of billions of dollars in military and economic aid into Ukraine to fuel its fight against Russia.

This ran counter to military experts' views, who said Ukraine was fighting a losing battle. Still, they just sat opposite the US president to declare that a cease-fire was essential and timidly insisted on American guarantees for Ukraine's protection or Russian commitments to refrain from re-attacking Kyiv. This request in itself was laughable since the Russian president had said since the crisis's start and even before the war, Moscow would never buy into Kyiv joining NATO.

When Washington was lining up Kyiv's NATO membership, Putin launched a special military operation. The endgame was that everyone, including Zelensky, took on board Putin's condition and, after enormous human and material losses, had to call it quits on their adventure, accepting the loss of a fifth of Ukraine's land and permanently writing off Crimea's return.

This war exemplified the political foolishness of the Americans, Europeans, and Ukrainians: First, preventing it would have only called for a simple pledge from Ukraine not to join NATO.

Second, the US and Europe could have held back Kyiv from challenging Russia's overwhelming military power. While the Russian army suffered losses, it eventually pulled itself together and changed the course of the battle. A few months ago, Russia's army pushed ahead swiftly in eastern Ukraine, seized significant parts, and annexed them.

More importantly, Putin turned up as the winner in his meeting with Trump, forcing him to treat him with respect, lay out the red carpet, and enthusiastically welcome the Russian president.

There are obstacles to ending the Ukraine war. The first is direct talks that Trump hopes to set up between Putin and Zelensky. The Russian president verbally promised to sit at the table with his Ukrainian counterpart; However, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov quickly dampened expectations, saying the process had to be gradual, with preliminary expert committees hammering out final agreements first.

It's also reported that Putin told his American counterpart he was willing to host Zelensky in Moscow for talks — a move Zelensky might shy away from in fear of Ukrainian public backlash, ques-

tioning, "Why did Zelensky insist on war, then willingly show up in Moscow as the defeated party?" He is also being urged by the UK, France, and Germany not to travel to Moscow.

Hence, direct negotiations may not come off, leading to the second obstacle — the European leaders' dissatisfaction with Trump's plan to stop the war. Although they had to swallow their pride and show up in Washington, they feel Trump's actions are self-serving, aiming chiefly for the Nobel Peace Prize. More importantly, such a solution would tie their hands, forcing them to lift the harsh sanctions imposed on Russia — effectively restoring Russia as Europe's strongest power again. This they can hardly swallow, as Macron's statement showed. Macron described Putin as "an ogre at our gates," and the German chancellor chimed in by saying Putin is completely unreliable. They doubted accepting a cease-fire imposed by Putin while his forces held the upper hand on the battlefield. The absence of any Trump guarantees to contain Russia or deploy American troops to Ukraine only frightens them more. The sole promise from the US president was that if Russia backs out of its commitments and attacks Ukraine again, American air forces would be deployed around Russia.

Yes, the Russian president has nipped in the bud a major conspiracy to weaken and subjugate his country. The stage is now set for Russia to reclaim its dominant position in Europe and the world, while European strategists will rack their brains to find new weak points in Russia to throw a wrench into its security. As for the American president, he has closed a lucrative deal, the first fruit of which is control over Ukraine's precious metals and the latest, a new \$90 billion contract for American weapons.

The Ukraine war is yet another example of major powers trying to take advantage of smaller countries, or rather, the willingness of their leaders to tear apart their nations, exposing their people to death and displacement to serve plans they have no stake in.



US President Donald Trump (L) meets with European leaders in the Oval Office of the White House on August 18, 2025, after his call with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

● DANIEL TOROK/WHITE HOUSE



Although the European leaders had to swallow their pride and show up in Washington, they feel Trump's actions are self-serving, aiming chiefly for the Nobel Peace Prize. More importantly, such a solution would tie their hands, forcing them to lift the harsh sanctions imposed on Russia — effectively restoring Russia as Europe's strongest power again. This they can hardly swallow, as Macron's statement showed.



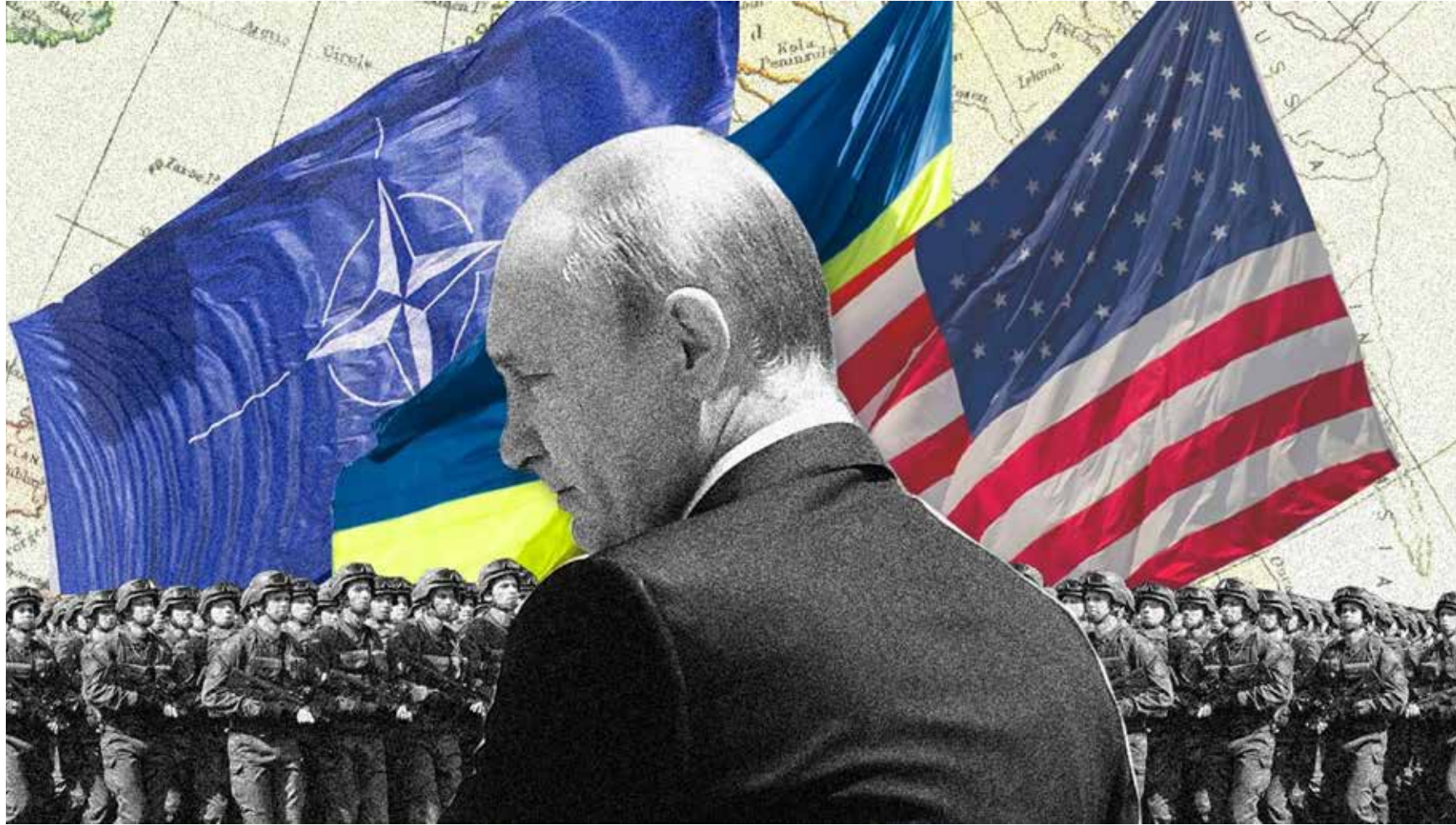
US President Donald Trump (R) greets his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin, on a red carpet after arriving at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Anchorage, Alaska, on August 15, 2025.

● ANDREW CABALLERO-REYNOLDS/AFP



The article was first translated into Persian by Rahborde Moaser.

For peace in Ukraine, Russia needs 'security guarantees,' too



Russian President Vladimir Putin against the backdrop of NATO, Ukrainian, and US flags
● JESS FRAMPTON/GZERO MEDIA



NATO's military function, accompanied by the longstanding exclusion of Russia from possible membership, even though it asked to be considered at least four times, makes its expansion a threat. And the same would hold true for any country whose security environment is so drastically altered. Thus, when Putin says that a true peace settlement must address "the root causes" of the conflict, he is not just talking about specific grievances. He is also referring to the West's deep-seated sense of moral supremacy that underlies them.



By Nicolai Petro
Professor of political science at URI

OPINION

The failure of the recent meeting in Washington to move the needle forward toward peace hinges, in my opinion, on the failure of the participants to properly understand the security dilemma they are facing. Rather than seeking security for all, Europe is still seeking partial security, only for Ukraine. This short-sightedness stems from the desire to punish Russia, which argues that it is only defending its national interests. It is telling that, toward the end of their joint press conference, Putin said he agreed with Trump's claim that this war could have been prevented if Trump had been president. Many saw this as a throw-away line designed to ingratiate himself with Trump, but I believe that Putin was remarking on how different Trump's approach to the conflict is from that of his predecessor. While Biden saw NATO as an unvarnished force for good, Trump appears to appreciate that it can also be seen as a threat, especially by those who have been excluded from it. The arguments in favor of NATO expansion are all about the way the world "ought" to be. To understand why NATO can be seen as a threat, however, we must distinguish between what "ought" to be and what "is". In the idealistic world of "how things ought to be," NATO expansion is always benign because its members are democracies. Objecting to NATO expansion is therefore synonymous with objecting to the expansion of democracy. NATO thus becomes the Instrument of Democracy, seen as the summum bonum. That is why NATO's relentless expansion has always been a

core security issue for Russia. Whatever else it may be, NATO remains, first and foremost, a military alliance, one that should now be preparing itself, according to the head of NATO's Military Committee, for a "war-time scenario". NATO's military function, accompanied by the longstanding exclusion of Russia from possible membership, even though it asked to be considered at least four times, makes its expansion a threat. And the same would hold true for any country whose security environment is so drastically altered. Thus, when Putin says that a true peace settlement must address "the root causes" of the conflict, he is not just talking about specific grievances. He is also referring to the West's deep-seated sense of moral su-

premacy that underlies them. Understanding this is vital because it means that there can be no true and lasting peace in Europe until multiple moralities learn to coexist. An important step in this direction would be having both Russia and Ukraine become part of a larger, pan-European security framework. For Russia, this means that the West would have to give up the notion that security can be achieved by building up defenses against all its putative enemies, and instead embrace the idea that peace can only be achieved in partnership with its putative enemies, through dialogue. At times, the West has seemed to agree with this principle (in both the Istanbul Summit of 1999 and Astana Summit of 2010), but in practice, it often reverts

to coercion and brute force to achieve results that better suit its interests. Such a dialogue was Mikhail Gorbachev's ambition, even before the collapse of the Soviet Union. The decision, made by Bill Clinton in the early 1990s, to expand NATO while simultaneously excluding Russia from it, is the main reason the Cold War never truly ended, and has now erupted into war. At the time, Boris Yeltsin told Clinton that NATO expansion was not a problem, but "Russia has to be the first country to join NATO." The solution to this security dilemma is as obvious today as it was then — a pan-European security framework that embraces Russia and its neighbors, rather than excludes some of them. The reluctance of European leaders to discuss this openly suggests

that they are still thinking of containing Russia, along the lines that John Foster Dulles envisioned in the 1950s. They have forgotten that it was not rollback and liberation that led to the end of communism, but détente, rapprochement, and the Helsinki Process of the 1970s. Western leaders, however, only came to realize the need for coexistence after the Cuban Missile Crisis. Do we really need another such crisis today to remind us? It may seem naïve to think about a European security framework that includes both Russia and Ukraine today. But if one wants to both end the war and secure a lasting peace for Europe, it is the only realistic option.

The article first appeared on *Responsible Statecraft*.



Then-US president Bill Clinton (sitting) signs a document ratifying NATO's enlargement to include Poland, the Czech Republic, and Hungary on March 12, 1999.
● ATLANTIC COUNCIL

FIVB Men's U21 World Championship: Iran hammers host to set last-four date with USA

Sports Desk

Iran marched to a straight-set victory (25-21, 25-16, 25-15) over China on Friday to progress to the FIVB Men's U21 World Championship semifinals in the Chinese city of Jiangmen. Awaiting Iran in today's last-four clash is USA, which came from behind twice to edge out France in a five-set thriller (21-25, 25-17, 22-25, 25-23, 15-12) earlier on Friday. Middle-blocker Taha Behboudnia and outside-hitter Matin Hosseini contributed with 14 points apiece for Iran, with middle-blocker Armin Qelichniazi – the top scorer in the last-16 win against Argentina – chipping in 10 points. Chinese opposite also finished on 14 points, while outside-hitter Zhiqiang Zhang scored nine for the host, which stepped onto the court fresh off a sensational fifth-set comeback victory

over Japan in the quarterfinals. Friday's victory extended Iranian head coach Gholamreza Mo'menimoqaddam's unbeaten run at the helm to a remarkable 26 games in competitive action, during which his team has claimed back-to-back Asian under-20 titles either side of the world U21 crown in 2023 in Manama.

"We had two analysis sessions before today's game, and I am extremely pleased that the players did all I had asked them to in those meetings," Mo'menimoqaddam said after the game. "We scored 17 direct points on defense, which was exceptional. I think that was a record for this tournament." On today's opponent, the Iranian coach said, "USA is a different team which knocked out one of the tournament favorites in France. The United States play with a strong system; they

are a top-notch team with players of exceptional physique.

"However, we are Iran, and will face them with passion and pride, determined to reap the rewards of five months of hard work and training. "Our ultimate goal is definitely beyond reaching the last four, but we're taking it one game at a time," added the Iranian. Iran began its title defense in Jiangmen with a 3-1 win against Kazakhstan and then defeated Puerto Rico (3-0), South Korea (3-2) Canada (3-0), and Poland (3-1) to finish atop the Pool B table, before coming out on top in four sets against Argentina on Wednesday.



Iranian middle-blocker Armin Qelichniazi (20) goes up for a spike during a last-eight 3-0 win against China at the FIVB Men's U21 World Championship in Jiangmen, China, on August 29, 2025.

● FIVB



Taremi at crossroads as Inter exit looms



● GETTY IMAGES

Sports Desk

Mahdi Taremi is on the verge of a new chapter in his career, as the Iran international striker is believed to have no future at Internazionale. With the closing date of the summer transfer window fast approaching across Europe, several clubs have reportedly inquired about the out-of-favor Inter forward, who is with the national team in Tajikistan for the CAFA Nations Cup. French top-flight side Lyon is the latest club to enter the race for the Iranian's services, according to high-profile Italian journalist Fabrizio Romano. While Leeds United and Fulham have shown interest in bringing Taremi to the Premier League, Brazilian clubs Botafogo and Flamengo also approached the Iranian in

recent months, though the 33-year-old However, the 33-year-old has made clear that he prefers to stay in Europe. Greek heavyweights Panathinaikos and Olympiacos, as well as Dutch champion PSV, Serie A outfit Sassuolo, and Turkish Süper Lig club Besiktas have also emerged as potential suitors for the Iranian in media reports throughout the summer. When Taremi left Porto as a free agent to join Inter on a two-year contract – with the option of a one-year extension – last summer, his signing was widely regarded as a bargain for the Serie A giant. Taremi had spent four glorious seasons with the Portuguese heavyweight, helping the Dragons lift seven domestic trophies – including a league and cup double in the 2021/22 campaign – while

he bagged 91 strikes in 182 appearances to become the club's third all-time top scorer. With Marcus Thuram granted an extended vacation ahead of the new season – due to his involvement in Euro 2024 – the Iranian capitalized on the Frenchman's absence by delivering impressive performances during preseason friendlies, making a strong case for a No. 9 role alongside Lautaro Martinez in the starting XI. However, his debut campaign in the Nerazzurri colors was hardly one to remember, as Taremi managed only three goals – including double spot-kicks – and nine assists in 43 appearances across all competitions, with his sole strike from open play coming in a 3-2 loss to archrival Milan at the Supercoppa Italiana final in January.

Despite receiving criticism for his lack of goals throughout the season, Taremi still had the full backing of former Inter boss Simone Inzaghi, who even selected him over his first-choice duo for some of the big occasions in the Champions League. The introduction of new head coach Cristian Chivu in June, however, marked the beginning of the end for Taremi, who missed the FIFA Club World Cup after being stranded in his home country due to all flights from Iranian airports being grounded amid the 12-day conflict with Israel. Taremi was left out of the Inter squad for the 5-0 victory over Torino in the opening weekend of the new Serie A season this week, meaning Iranian fans have already seen the last of their compatriot in a Nerazzurri shirt.

Iran futsal remains fifth in Men's World Ranking

Sports Desk

Iranian national team retained the fifth spot in the latest FIFA Futsal Men's World Ranking – released by the international governing body of the sport on Friday. Iran, which lifted a record-extending 13th Asian Cup trophy last year, collected 1485.1 points to remain the top team

in the continental ranking, followed by Thailand and Japan, which stood 11th and 13th respectively, while Uzbekistan moved up by four spots to sit 19th – fourth in Asia. The top four of the World Ranking remained unchanged, with top-ranked Brazil followed by Portugal, Spain, and Argentina.

Meanwhile, Iran remained ninth in Women's Ranking with 1183.68 points – following Thailand (fourth), and reigning Asian champion Japan, which moved up by five places to sit fifth, in the AFC member states ranking. Brazil, Spain, and Portugal are the top three, respectively, in the Women's World Ranking.



● AFC

Ex-Persepolis defender reunites with Sepahan

Sports Desk

Georgian center-back Giorgi Gvelesiani signed for Sepahan for a second spell as a free agent from Persepolis, the Persian Gulf Pro League club announced on Friday. Having joined Persepolis from Sepahan for the start of the 2022/23 season, the 34-year-old Georgian scored 20 goals in 100 appearances for the Tehran Reds, lifting two league trophies as well as the Hazfi Cup two seasons ago, while becoming the club's all-time foreign top scorer. Gvelesiani, who played for the national team at the Euro 2024, scored some crucial goals throughout the three seasons with Persepolis, including a double in a 2-2 draw against archrival Esteghlal in



● SEPAHAN S.C.

December 2022, and a last-gasp winner against Mes Rafsanjan on the final day of the 2023/24 season, which helped Persepolis win a seventh top-flight title in eight years. He contributed with four goals in 36 games for Persepolis last term. The Georgian, who was introduced to the Iranian top flight with Zob

Ahan in January 2017, made 79 appearances in his previous spell with Sepahan, finding the net on 10 occasions. Sepahan has endured a shaky start to the new campaign under new head coach Moharram Navidkia, who replaced Frenchman Patrice Carteron in June. A 3-2 loss to Qatar Stars League club Al Duhail

in the AFC Champions League Elite playoffs was followed by a 1-1 stalemate against Malavan on the opening day of the domestic league season, before Sepahan suffered a first league defeat against Persepolis in 1,335 days in the 'Iranian Clasico' last Monday, losing 1-0 at the Naqsh-e Jahan Stadium.

Zarch Qanat breathes new life into Yazd’s water heritage



● hamishehsafar.com

Iranica Desk

Qanats have long been a vital solution for accessing water in Iran’s dry and desert regions, and they are also an inseparable part of the country’s culture and civilization. Among them, the Zarch Qanat holds a special place as the longest qanat in the world. Stretching approximately 90 kilometers with over two thousand wells, it originates from Fahraj village and after passing through the historic districts of Yazd, reaches the city of Zarch. Its inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List affirms its global significance. Ebrahim Kazemnajand, the director of Zarch, Hasanabad Moshir, and Dehnow Qanats World Heritage Site, explained in an interview with ISNA that the Zarch Qanat project started in 2016, aligned with the goals of the global registration of the Iranian qanat. The aim is the restoration and renovation of structures related to the qanat from

the area of the Grand Mosque of Yazd to the Vazir Mill in the Kushkno neighborhood of Yazd, and it is still ongoing. This qanat, with a length of 90 kilometers and 2,115 wells, is registered on Iran’s National Heritage List. Zarch Qanat has three branches, of which currently only one is active. It traverses different neighborhoods of the city, including Amir Chakhmaq Square, and after passing the Jaame (Grand) Mosque, it leaves Yazd and heads toward Zarch. Kazemnajand pointed out that more than 30 water outlets (Pay-ab) have been constructed along the Zarch Qanat route in Yazd and most of them are public and dedicated for the use of the people, with some built in religious buildings. The first phase of this project, regarded as the Zarch Qanat tourism route, includes eight water outlets, two water reservoirs, and one mill. A comprehensive project began in 2016 to protect and restore this qanat. Regarding one of the

main challenges in protecting and managing qanats — the issue of multiple management — he noted that various organizations, including the Agricultural Jihad, regional water companies, local councils, and landowners, each have a role to some extent. Among them, the role of Cultural Heritage Organization mainly focuses on the protective, supervisory, and preservation aspects of the qanat’s area, boundaries, and structures. However, in terms of implementation and maintenance, institutions like the Agricultural Jihad, Regional Water Authority, and local councils play a more direct role. This fragmentation of responsibilities is one of the main problems in maintaining qanats. He referred to the Zarch Qanat as a clear example of qanat restoration success and said this qanat is registered as a World Heritage Site, and its structure not only had no clear plan but its usage had practically stopped. “When we took over this qanat,

many wastewater systems were connected to it, and since the 1990s it was in a critical condition, on the verge of complete destruction and even death. However, actions to save it began.” Kazemnajand added, “First, the wastewater connections were identified and cut off from the qanat, then protection-focused operations were pursued along with the restoration of architectural structures related to the qanat, including Payabs and the Vazir Mill in Yazd city. Although there are still some sections along the qanat route where free water flow is not possible due to land subsidence, we are working on providing the necessary infrastructure to resolve this issue. Therefore, qanat restoration is not only possible but, in cases like this example, has led to tangible results.” He continued that, following these actions qanat tourism has become one of the tourist attractions of Yazd, with the Zarch

Qanat hosting 16,000 to 17,000 visitors during the Nowruz (Iranian New Year) holidays. This number has continued in recent years, and the Zarch Qanat has become recognized as one of Yazd’s water-based tourist attractions. This experience demonstrates that qanat restoration requires coordinated management and support from various organizations. In this project, the Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicraft Ministry, in collaboration with organizations such as the Agricultural Jihad, Regional Water Authority, the city health center, and the governor’s office, played an effective role. “From the early years of the project, through measures like freeing the qanat’s boundaries, and other protective activities, we succeeded in winning the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation in 2022,” Kazemnajand noted. He said, “Although our country is facing a serious water shortage crisis, there is still hope in

the capacities of qanats, especially in rural and traditional areas. In regions that still rely on traditional management and the qanat system, the effects of the crisis are less severe. In contrast, in cities, particularly areas dependent on modern water supply technologies, the crisis is more intense.” He said that, for example, the historic city of Yazd was once managed using qanats, but with urban expansion and changes in the water distribution system, more problems have arisen. If industry and universities can update traditional qanat management and align it with today’s needs, part of the crisis might be controlled. Unfortunately, in the 1950s and 1960s, the approach of eliminating the qanat system and replacing it with wells, without consideration of the geological structure, caused serious damage to underground layers and led to a sharp decline in groundwater levels.

Termeh revealing unique beauty in skilled hand weaving

Iranica Desk

Termeh is a finely woven, precious cloth featuring traditional Iranian patterns and textures. It is handcrafted using two sets of warp and weft yarns made from pile, wool, and high-quality natural and synthetic silk with long fibers. While some believe that Termeh originated in the heart of Central Asia and the Kashmir highlands, others argue that its weaving began in Iran before spreading to Kashmir. However, Termeh weaving was developed and gained popularity during the early Safavid period in Isfahan. Its most notable advancement occurred under the reign of Shah Abbas Safavid, when it became one of Iran’s prominent export products. The refined taste and creativity of Iranians in delicately weaving Termeh — including material selection and intricate designs — is unique. One of the most important responsibilities for Termeh weavers is the selection and combination of colors. This can involve either harmonious or contrasting colors arranged in a way that achieves a distinct balance and beauty, considered



● noorsalehi.com

a well-guarded secret of the Iranian Termeh weaving tradition. Typically, the colors used in Termeh, especially in its patterns, are derived from natural herbs and materials. These in-

clude shades such as dark red, light red, green, orange, and black. The motifs mainly feature various traditional curved patterns and intricate designs. Historically, this delicate fabric

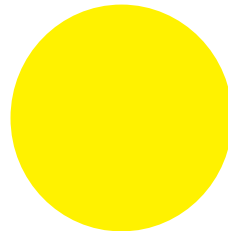
was used for sewing aristocratic and noble attire, curtains, prayer rugs, and robes, primarily worn by members of noble, aristocratic, and royal classes. Today, Termeh is mainly gifted



● emalls.ir

among the upper and middle classes during weddings, celebrations, and official or family occasions. It is also sometimes used as upholstery or tablecloth fabric.

Currently, Termeh weaving is on the verge of extinction and is produced exclusively in Yazd Province, where it is then distributed and sold throughout other regions of Iran.



Decentralization of arts policy

Culture minister calls for stronger creative economy

Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian Culture and Islamic Guidance Minister Abbas Salehi on Thursday urged greater efforts to “activate” the country’s creative economy during meetings with artists, writers and media figures in Kerman, saying cultural industries must be treated as a driver of growth and employment. The minister, who traveled to the southeastern province as part of Government Week events, also inaugurated the Pars Hamoon ferrochrome plant a day later, framing the project as a model of local development and stressing that linking production to “jobs and value-added output” was a strategic goal. His two-day trip highlighted Tehran’s bid to blend cultural policy with regional economic initiatives.

At a gathering with Kerman’s cultural and religious community, Salehi said decentralization was at the heart of his ministry’s agenda. “The idea that the center necessarily makes better decisions than the provinces is not correct,” he noted, pointing to new powers given to provincial book licensing committees and local cultural institutions. He said Tehran had been moving to shrink central bureaucracy and shift decision-making to the regions. The minister stressed that cultural industries should not depend on wealthy patrons. “We cannot send the artist to the doors of the rich,” he said. Instead, he cited new financial tools, including a state-backed Culture and Arts Fund that has secured a capital market license and can channel private investment into cultural projects.

He also mentioned the rollout of a “culture card,” due in September, which will provide about \$330 in credit to 100,000 artists for buying cultural products interest-free. Salehi added that government rules now oblige companies to allocate part of their corporate social responsibility budgets to culture and the arts. “This creates transparency and an incentive for firms that want to play a role in society,” he said, noting plans for a national prize recognizing companies active in cultural sponsorship. In cinema, he said provincial film councils chaired by governors would be set up nationwide by October, while support was being arranged for building movie theaters in cities of more than 100,000 people that currently lack them. A Higher Council of Arts is



Iran’s Culture and Islamic Guidance Minister Abbas Salehi speaks during a gathering of artists and cultural figures in Kerman, southeastern Iran, August 28, 2025.
● farhang.gov.ir

also planned as an umbrella body extending to the provinces. On Friday, Salehi attended the opening of the Pars Hamoon ferrochrome plant in Orzuiyeh county, calling the project a “sweet and memorable” example of local initiative. He said tapping into regional strengths was a “strategic policy for grassroots development” and praised the private sector’s push to curb raw mineral exports in favor of processing industries that generate jobs and added value. Salehi also pointed to Kerman’s



animation sector, local festivals, and proposals for heritage projects such as the Tepe Yahya, an ancient hill in Dowlatabad, southeastern Iran, which he described as “valu-

able opportunities” for both the province and the country. “Culture and art are not marginal,” he told participants. “They are the key to solving social issues.

Tourism boom puts Iran closer to 15m foreign visitor target



● IRNA

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran’s deputy tourism minister Anoushirvan Mohseni Bandpey said that foreign tourist arrivals jumped by nearly 50% in April 2025 compared with a year earlier, putting the country on track to meet its goal of attracting 15 million visitors by the end of its seventh development plan. The government has made tourism a pillar of its “post-oil” economy, portraying the sector as a source of jobs, foreign currency and social cohesion. Officials say the strategy is backed by international outreach, private-sector partnerships and fresh funding from state resources, inn.ir reported. Bandpey said more than 7.39 million foreign tourists entered Iran in the year that ended on March 20, 2025. In April alone, arrivals rose 48.5% from the same month in 2024. “The figures show that the 15 million target is becoming a reality,” he told reporters.

Iran also returned to Dubai’s international tourism fair this year after a decade-long absence, covering exhibition costs to allow private firms to showcase attractions ranging from cultural and religious heritage to eco-tourism. Officials signed bilateral agreements with neighboring states and members of the Nowruz cultural sphere to spur cross-border travel. New financing has flowed into infrastructure. For the first time, \$1bn from the National Development Fund was directed to the tourism ministry, matched by commercial banks. The Central Bank of Iran also issued \$5bn in bonds for hotels already 80% complete. Another \$1.5bn was allocated to small businesses such as eco-lodges and handicrafts, with \$2bn distributed to provinces. Between March 2024 and late August 2025, 138 hotels were opened nationwide, surpassing the annual target of 100. Bandpey said the figure “proves the target is within reach” by the end of 2025. Regulatory reforms have moved in tandem. Cabinet approval was secured for new rules under the Seventh Development Plan, including customs exemptions on over 200 tourism-related goods and permits for mixed-use facilities in areas where stand-alone hotels lack economic viability. Bandpey stressed that if international conditions stabilize and “trust-building” continues, the country could even exceed its official goals.

Iran, Tajikistan push Persian literary ties with 3.4m ‘Shahnameh’ print run

Art & Culture Desk

Iran’s National Library chief Gholamreza Amirkhani met Tajikistan’s ambassador in Tehran, Nizomiddin Zohidi, on Thursday, stressing plans for joint workshops, researcher exchanges and wider access to archives, the Iranian body said. The talks reflected growing cultural and linguistic cooperation between the Persian-speaking neighbors, ISNA reported. Both officials said historic ties should be translated into practical programs in libraries, publishing and preservation. Amirkhani called Tajikistan “not just a neighbor” but part of “a shared civilizational sphere.” Amirkhani praised Dushanbe’s ongoing project to distribute Ferdowsi’s ‘Shahnameh’ (The Book of Kings) nationwide, calling it a “valuable step” for Persian heritage. He recalled the 2017 establishment of an “Iran Room” at National Library of Tajikistan in Dushanbe, saying the space now needed fresh momentum and stronger academic exchange. Zohidi said Tajikistan aimed to print and distribute 3.4mn copies of the epic poem, much of it produced in Iranian printing houses. He noted that about 40 train wagons of books had already been shipped, adding: “We hope every Tajik family will have a two-volume Shahnameh by the end of the year.” The envoy outlined five proposals, including sharing expertise in restoration, exchanging manuscripts, enabling online researcher access, holding joint workshops and strengthening Tajikistan’s cultural corner in Tehran’s National Library. He also sought Iranian help to compile a full index of



Women prepare copies of the Persian epic 'Shahnameh' for free distribution in different cities of Tajikistan.
● asiaplustj.info

works on Tajikistan published in Iran. Zohidi urged cooperation on archival matters, stressing that in Tajikistan the archive and library are separate institutions requiring greater ties with Iran. He also suggested next year’s 150th anniversary of Tajik writer Sadriddin Aini be marked with a commemoration in Tehran. Both sides pointed to recent high-level visits, including Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian’s trip to Dushanbe this summer, as laying the groundwork for what the ambassador described as “a new page” in cultural ties.

Iran should use ...

For this reason, it would be a mistake to assume the snapback has no impact. The political consequence would be more severe. Iran would be branded as a violator of international law under Chapter VII of the UN Charter. Under the JCPOA framework, enrichment had been legitimized and even capped at 3.67%. But with the return of Resolution 1929, Iran would be required to halt enrichment altogether. Another outcome would

be the difficulty of lifting sanctions again. One of the JCPOA’s most significant achievements was the cancellation, on its very first day of implementation, of six Security Council resolutions against Iran. Yet once the snapback is triggered, those resolutions will be revived, placing Iran once more under Chapter VII. To exit that situation a second time, Tehran might be compelled to grant greater concessions. This is why Iran should not to allow the snapback

to take effect. Preserving the JCPOA, even in a limited form, can still prevent sanctions from returning. If confidence-building is required, Iran could temporarily agree—whether for a few months or even several years—to certain restrictions on enrichment. This would not only help break through the current political deadlock but also allow Tehran to rebuild damaged facilities and thereby restore enrichment capacity in practice.

Tehran hosts int’l gemstone fair with focus on exports, cultural industry

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran opened its second International Exhibition of Gemstones, Machinery and Related Industries in Tehran on Thursday, an event officials described as a “strategic opportunity” to expand exports and deepen economic diplomacy. The four-day fair runs through Aug. 31 at the Tehran International Exhibition Center. The showcase brings together domestic and foreign players in the gemstone sector, from

jewelers and miners to machinery makers and research institutes. Organizers say the gathering not only highlights Iranian craftsmanship but also aims to forge international links in a niche yet lucrative global market valued in the billions of dollars, IRNA reported. Farzad Ojani, head of commercialization and marketing at the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, said the fair provides a platform for artists and entrepreneurs while promoting

“innovation and scientific progress.” He added, “This exhibition is more than a display of stones. It is a bridge for knowledge exchange and a step toward stronger trade partnerships.” The ministry has given free booths to 20 artists from Tehran, East Azarbaijan and Khorasan Razavi provinces to encourage wider participation. Alongside displays of precious and semi-precious stones, the program features technical seminars, product launches and discussions on emerging



technologies in gemstone processing.