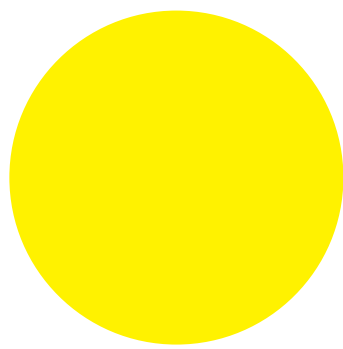


Sovereign wealth
fund makes first
\$300m
oil investment



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Iranian students win 13 medals at US science, innovation exhibition

Sanctions undermine Iran's ability to leverage SCO potential

By Nozar Shafiee
International relations analyst

OPINION

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) carries great credibility thanks to its large membership, growing interest from prospective members, wide geographic scope, population coverage, and collective GDP. Nevertheless, the SCO still appears to be an emerging institution that has not yet reached full maturity. To play a more decisive role on the world stage, its leaders will need to demonstrate political will, move away from a passive or overly cautious posture, and instead push for a more proactive and pioneering approach. Beyond its initial security functions at the time of its creation, the SCO has gradually expanded its mandate to encompass counterterrorism, anti-extremism, and the fight against separatism. It has also been tasked with broader roles, as influential members have called for it to step into international issues more actively. The SCO has not only grown in terms of membership but has also diversified its functions. Unlike earlier regional organizations that were confined to a narrow geographic scope or a specific mission, the SCO represents a form of "new regionalism" with open-ended prospects. Such an organization is bound to expand into economic and security spheres alike. Its activities will not be limited to its immediate neighborhood but are expected to extend to extra-regional domains, gradually transforming the SCO into a body with international reach and multidimensional agendas. Yet, the SCO may face political hurdles on its path to greater effectiveness. Some argue that the organization was designed as a counterweight to NATO or the United States. If that is the case, the membership of India—widely regarded as part of the Western political orbit—could complicate its functionality. Longstanding tensions between India and Pakistan further add to the organization's challenges. On the other hand, there is a more optimistic perspective suggesting that membership in such an organization can help regulate and moderate the behavior of states. In this view, cooperation replaces confrontation, and members define their interests collectively rather than at one another's expense. By this logic, the SCO itself could become a platform for convergence and conflict reduction among its diverse members.

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“SCO Plus” Meeting

中国·天津 Тяньцзинь, Китай Tianjin, China



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (seen on the screen) addresses a summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in Tianjin, China, on September 1, 2025.
president.ir

Pezeshkian at SCO:

Iran eager to find diplomatic solution to nuclear standoff

President puts forth mechanism to reduce impacts of sanctions



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Pezeshkian at SCO:

Iran eager to find diplomatic solution to nuclear standoff

President puts forth mechanism to reduce impacts of sanctions

International Desk

Addressing the 25th Meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Council of Heads of State in northern China's port city of Tianji on Monday, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian pointed to the decades-long dispute over Iran's nuclear program with the West, saying that the Islamic Republic has always been and remains ready to find a diplomatic solution for the peaceful settlement of tensions over its peaceful nuclear program. Pezeshkian said that Europe's decision to trigger the snapback mechanism will only complicate the situation and increase tensions. "We advise the United States and Europe to abandon confrontational approaches and turn to diplomacy

to achieve a balanced and fair solution," he said. Referring to US-Israel's aggression against Iran in June and Europe's threats to activate the so-called snapback mechanism which would reinstate international sanctions against Iran, Pezeshkian said the US and Israel's aggression against Iran showed that the military option is ineffective. The Iranian president also said on Monday that Iran enjoys a unique geographical position in the region, expressing the country's readiness to improve regional cooperation and provide access to the interested countries. Pezeshkian said the Iranian port of Chabahar, which has direct access to the Indian Ocean, would soon be connected to Iran's national railway network, which would mark a

significant development in linking China, Central Asian countries, and Afghanistan to the Indian Ocean. "The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, as one of the important pillars of the multipolarization of the international system, should take practical, clear, and specific steps in two parallel paths to create a more peaceful world and a world conducive to expanding economic cooperation," he added. He proposed the creation of a specialized initiative — the "Accounts and Settlements of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization" — as a practical mechanism to enhance financial cooperation and reduce the impacts of unlawful sanctions on the economic interactions among the member states.

He said the initiative rests on greater use of national currencies in settlements to decrease reliance on the US dollar; the establishment of shared digital infrastructure and the employment of central bank digital currencies to ensure secure and efficient payments and the establishment of a multilateral currency swap fund to assist countries facing sanctions or liquidity shortages. Iran believes that the SCO's 10-year development strategy will be a historic opportunity for expanding cooperation and investment in the sectors of infrastructure, technology, energy, digital economy, climate and environmental changes, as well as culture and science, Pezeshkian said, expressing Tehran's readiness to play an active role in this regard.



International crises

Elsewhere in his address, Pezeshkian described the SCO as the symbol of peace in a world that faces several crises. He said the Israeli-US illegal military aggression against Iran in June, the ongoing massacre of the oppressed people of Gaza and the excessive use of unlawful sanctions against various countries are clear examples of the world's failure to achieve a suitable model for governing the world and stabilizing international peace and security. He called for the formation of a committee comprising of the SCO foreign ministers to address crises threatening regional peace and security through providing operative proposals for crisis management and due responses to violation of



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian addresses the 25th Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in northern China's port city of Tianjin on September 1, 2025.
● [president.ir](#)

sovereignty of member nations. Hosted by President Xi Jinping, the SCO summit officially opened in Tianjin on Monday with the participation of heads of state and delegations from across the world. The two-day summit, which comes as the US has launched a global trade war, aims to set a long-term vision for regional cooperation amid shifting global alliances and growing calls for a new multipolar order.

Top general: Israel's assassination of Yemeni officials clear violation of int'l law



Yemeni honor guards carry the coffins of the country's Prime Minister Ahmed Ghaleb Al-Rahwi and other officials killed in an Israeli strike days earlier, during a funeral procession in Sana'a on September 1, 2025.
● [AFP](#)

The Iranian commander, however, asserted that such atrocities "will never weaken the revolutionary determination and faith-driven resolve of Yemen's valiant fighters." The Yemeni nation has, through its sustained struggle, turned into a symbol of resistance against the global hegemonic system and a source of pride for the global Muslim nation, Mousavi concluded, and vowed continued support for the people on the part of the Islamic Republic. On Monday, Yemen held a funeral for the assassinated officials. Twelve coffins draped in flags were displayed at Sana'a's Al-Shaab mosque, as masked gunmen patrolled the area and thousands of mourners flooded in. It was the highest profile assassination to be announced in months of attacks by Israel during the war on Gaza. Yemen's Armed Forces also fired a missile at an Israeli tanker in the Red Sea on Sunday, reprising a campaign they have waged throughout the Gaza war. The missile landed close to the Liberian-flagged Scarlet Ray with a "loud bang," the UK Maritime Trade Operations monitoring agency said.

as yet another disgrace for the regime, which he called "the ringleader of terror and nurturer of terrorists worldwide." The message came after Israeli airstrikes on the Yemeni capital Sana'a claimed the lives of Prime Minister Ahmed Ghaleb al-Rahawi of the National Government of Change and Construction, and 11 officials serving across various other portfolios. The assaults came in the context of the regime's recurrent raids against the country. The attacks began after Yemen's Armed Forces started staging near-daily operations against sensitive Israeli targets in response to a genocidal war that Tel Aviv had launched on the Gaza Strip in October 2023.

International Desk

Iran's top military commander on Monday strongly condemned Israel's recent assassination of senior Yemeni officials as a "horrific war crime and terrorist attack as well as a clear violation of international law." Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces, Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi, in a message to the Yemeni nation said the assassination of Yemeni officials reflects the regime's deep fear of the expansion of the Resistance Axis. By extension, he added, the regime is fearful of growing unity among regional nations in defending the Palestinian cause of liberation from Israeli occupation and aggression. Mousavi said such atrocities serve

Powerful earthquake in Afghanistan kills 800, injures 2,800

Tehran says ready to send humanitarian aid

International Desk

One of Afghanistan's worst earthquakes killed more than 800 people and injured at least 2,800, authorities said on Monday, as rescuers struggled to reach remote areas due to rough mountainous terrain and inclement weather. The disaster will further stretch the resources of the war-torn nation's Taliban administration, already grappling with crises ranging from a sharp drop in foreign aid to deportations of hundreds of thousands of Afghans by neighboring countries, Reuters reported. Sharafat Zaman, spokesperson for the Health Ministry in Kabul, called for international aid to tackle the devastation wrought by the quake of magnitude 6 that struck around midnight local time, at a depth of 10 km (6 miles). "We need it because here lots of people lost their lives and houses," he said. The quake killed 812 people in the eastern provinces of Kunar and Nangarhar; administration spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said. Ziaul Haq Mohammadi, a student at Al-Falah University in the eastern city of Jalalabad, was studying in his room at home when the quake struck. He said he tried to stand up but was knocked over by the power of the tremor. "We spent the whole night in fear and anxiety because at any moment another earthquake could happen," Mohammadi said. Rescuers were battling to reach remote mountainous areas cut off from mobile networks along the Pakistani border, where mudbrick homes dotting the slopes collapsed in the quake. "The area of the earthquake was affected by



Afghan men search for their belongings amidst the rubble of a collapsed house after a deadly magnitude-6 earthquake that struck Afghanistan around midnight, in Dara Mazar, in Kunar province, Afghanistan, on September 1, 2025.
● [REUTERS](#)

heavy rain in the last 24-48 hours as well, so the risk of landslides and rock slides is also quite significant — that is why many of the roads are impassable," Kate Carey, an officer at the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), told Reuters. Casualties could rise as rescue teams access more isolated locations, authorities said. "All our ... teams have been mobilized to accelerate assistance, so that comprehensive and full support can be provided," said Health Ministry spokesperson Abdul Maten Qanee, citing efforts in areas from security to food and health. Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian in a message on Monday expressed condolences to Afghanistan and voiced Tehran's readiness to send humanitarian relief aid.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

Sanctions undermine Iran's ...

However, the SCO has oscillated between these two visions—one pessimistic, the other optimistic—without firmly settling on either path. Such divergence continues to hold back the organization from realizing its full potential. Against this backdrop, Iran's membership in the SCO has clear potential benefits. As a nation-state, Iran already possesses a degree of national power; through bilateral ties, it acquires what can be termed "relational power." By joining a multilateral institution, however, it gains another form of leverage: "institutional power." Membership in the SCO can, therefore, help Iran consolidate this insti-

tutional dimension of its influence. Therefore, joining such a body does not automatically translate into new power. A member state's ability to make the most of an organization depends heavily on its own domestic and international circumstances. For Iran, the reality of ongoing sanctions means it cannot fully exploit the SCO's capacities. Furthermore, many SCO members—despite their political rhetoric—are conservative states that may be unwilling to facilitate Iran's effective use of the organization's potential. An examination of data and outcomes shows that Iran's tangible economic gains from SCO membership remain limited, with the benefits largely con-

fined to the political sphere. If Tehran truly wishes to capitalize on this platform, it must first resolve its international disputes as well as its regional and global challenges. Only then could SCO membership yield concrete economic results. Otherwise, Iran's achievements will continue to be primarily political—such as joint condemnations of US or Israeli actions against the country. Moreover, membership serves a promotional purpose: Iranian officials, including the president, can use SCO summits to articulate Tehran's political stances on issues like the recent 12-day aggression, while expecting statements of support or condemnation from fellow members.



Sovereign wealth fund makes first \$300m oil investment

Economy Desk

Iran's National Development Fund (NDF) has made its first \$300 million investment in an oil project, the head of the fund said on Monday.

Mehdi Ghazanfari, chairman of the fund, said the payment was made as an advance contribution to the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) for the project titled "Rapid Plan for Crude Oil Production Leap of 250,000 BPD," IRNA reported.

Ghazanfari said that the project is the first oil venture by the fund under a new framework, made possible by permission granted from Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei for energy-sector investments. The payment was arranged in less



than 40 days after the Supreme Economic Council's resolution was conveyed to the fund, and the order to transfer the money was sent

to the central bank last Wednesday during Government Week.

The investment agreement was finalized in a joint NDF-NIOC investment committee and confirmed by the Oil Ministry. It was also reviewed and approved at the fund's board meeting, and is expected to be signed soon in the presence of senior officials, the NDF head said.

The crude oil production leap project will be carried out as a joint investment between the NDF and NIOC with participation shares of 80% and 20%, respectively, up to a ceiling of \$3 billion. Repayment of the fund's invested resources will begin once the targeted production increase is achieved.

The NDF is expected to provide at least \$900 million to NIOC for the project by March 2026.

Pezeshkian assures UN chief of Iran's commitment to diplomacy over nuclear issue



President Masoud Pezeshkian (L) shakes hands with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on the sidelines of the SCO summit in China, on September 1, 2025.

International Desk

Iran remains committed to resolving its nuclear dispute through diplomacy, President Masoud Pezeshkian said in a meeting with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Monday, as the latter acknowledged "Iran's right to a peaceful nuclear program."

Iran wants "the existing issues, including the nuclear issue, to be resolved through engagement and diplomatic ways," Pezeshkian said in talks with Guterres on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit in China, president.ir reported.

He also called on the UN chief to adopt clearer stances in condemning Israel's crimes against Palestinians and other countries in the region.

The president added that international organizations, especially the UN, are expected to take more "practical and serious actions" in response to Israel's crimes and warmongering in the region.

At the meeting, Guterres said he believed Iran's intention was not to build a nuclear weapon, adding that "a peaceful nuclear program was Iran's right."

Guterres added that he remained concerned about the possible activation of the JCPOA's "trigger and snapback mechanisms," adding that he had raised the issue in talks with European parties to the nuclear deal, urging them to cooperate with Iran.

In a separate meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Pezeshkian said the "implementation of the comprehensive long-term agreement between Iran and Russia" would pave the way for expanded bilateral ties and cooperation. He added that working within the Eurasian Economic Union framework would also accelerate and facilitate broader interaction between the two countries.

Putin said Russia and Iran were in constant contact on various aspects of the international agenda, including Iran's nuclear program.

He also noted that trade between the two countries rose 13% in 2024 and grew 11.4% in the first half of this year alone.

Pezeshkian also held talks with the prime minister of Pakistan during which he expressed Iran's readiness to work with Pakistan "in various fields to bring peace, prosperity, and double tranquility to the two nations and the nations of the region."

Shehbaz Sharif stated that Iran and Pakistan, as two members of the Islamic bloc in the region, can and indeed need to cooperate in achieving lofty Islamic goals.

"All Muslims and Islamic countries must unite against the genocide and crimes of Israel in Gaza and the violation of Palestinian rights, and defend their rights loudly," he underscored.

In his meeting with the President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon, Pezeshkian evaluated the course of interactions between the two countries in recent years as positive, saying, the cooperation between the two sides in recent years has been advancing and expanding in all areas of transit, trade, tourism, science, and public relations.

National post wins 2024 Asia-Pacific innovation award for robotics tech



Economy Desk

Iran's National Post Company won the 2024 Asia-Pacific Postal Union (APPU) innovation award after introducing a smart robotics technology that has boosted efficiency, speed and accuracy in mail processing.

The APPU monthly magazine praised Iran Post's achievement in a recent report, noting that the company secured the "Innovation Award of the Asia-Pacific Postal Business Forum 2024" through the introduction and deployment of the smart robotics system, IRNA reported.

First launched in March 2023, the technology was designed to improve operations at mail sorting centers. Within seven months, it processed more than 2 million items with 100% accuracy and created the capacity to handle 30,000 parcels daily bound for 64 destinations.

The system consumes less energy than traditional mechanized solutions, can process letters and packages weighing up to 7 kilograms, and has reduced the required workforce per shift from 30 to 7. The work environment was also designed to allow employees with reduced physical ability to operate within the system.

At the Tehran sorting and exchange center, 55 robots simultaneously process up to 3,000 postal items per hour in a limited space. A second phase of the project is underway with 25 robots being deployed in Kermanshah Province in West of the country.

Iran Post said the project's main goals are to increase speed and accuracy in sorting, improve operational efficiency and service quality, and build an intelligent infrastructure aligned with new technologies in the postal industry.

Official: Iran not to give financial process data to FATF

Economy Desk

Iran will not provide information on its financial processes to the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), a senior official from the Economy Ministry said, outlining the country's position on its long-standing dispute with the global watchdog.

Hadi Khani, head of Iran's Financial Intelligence Unit at the ministry, said, "It has not been decided to give any information on the country's financial processes to FATF," IRNA reported.

He added that FATF's recommendation on financial transparency requires countries to improve their infrastructure, laws, regulations and processes to achieve transparency within their own systems.

"We are not dealing with an entity called FATF in this case, and there is no plan for financial, commercial, or monetary interactions with FATF," Khani said. Instead, he described Iran's FATF case as "management of a multi-layered architecture and a complex network of countries, regional and international institutions, and even specialized organizations, all of which have legislated FATF recommendations and are implementing them, while actively participating in updating those recommendations to serve their own interests."

Iran has not held a formal platform in FATF regional groups and remains outside their

structures, Khani noted, saying this had limited its role. About 28 countries currently have action plans with the task force, but Iran was placed on the blacklist after failing to complete its agreed corrective program on time, he added.

That led FATF to call on all countries to impose restrictions on Iran and its nationals until shortcomings were resolved.

The secretary of the Supreme Council for Preventing and Combating Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing emphasized that in FATF's 35-year history, its recommendations and rules have been continuously updated with active participation of member states.

"For whatever reason, we in the country could not manage this challenge with internal consensus during the given time," Khani added, attributing the main flaw to the fact that perhaps the FATF issue in the country was diverted from being a technical and legal matter to other dimensions.

Whereas, like many other countries, Iran should have created structures and teams, launched precise technical, legal, and expert discussions on FATF recommendations, identified opportunities and threats, made use of the opportunities and devised strategies for the threats, similar to all other countries that are engaged with FATF in this process, he suggested.

Notice of tender for export sale No. Z/1404/13
Golgohar Mining and Industrial Company

Hereby Golgohar Mining & Industrial Co. announces selling and export 70,000 metric tons of Iron Ore Concentrate (%Fe:66.50 ave) on basis of F.O.B at Rajaei Jetty Bandar Abbas - Iran. Interested bidders should find tender documents at Golgohar website: www.geg.ir. All bids on conformity to tender instructions must be submitted no later than 09:00 A.M. on 09. Sep.2025 to Golgohar complex in sirjan (50 km in shiraz road). Bidders are invited to the transactions commission department of the seller with an introduction letter of interested buyer and personal identification of the representative. Tender results shall be announced at 09:00 A.M. on 09.Sep.2025 at the office of the Seller.

Analysis %		
%Fe Ave	66.50	
%FeO	Min 24	Max 28
%P Max	0.05	
%S Max	1.1	
%SiO2 Max	3.0	
%Al2O3 Max	0.7	
%CaO Max	0.9	
%MgO Max	2.5	
%Moisture Max	5.0	
Size ave	80%<0.48 mm	

GOLGOHAR MINING & INDUSTRIAL CO.

Notice of tender for export sale No Z/1404/14
Golgohar Mining and Industrial Company

GOLGOHAR MINING & INDUSTRIAL CO.

E3 has once again fallen back on sanctions

Sign of strength or crisis in role-playing?



British Prime Minister Keir Starmer (L), French President Emmanuel Macron (C), and German Chancellor Friedrich Merz meet on a train bound to Kyiv, in Shegyni, Ukraine, on May 9, 2025.

● LUDOVIC MARIN/POOL



This move also signals Europe's willingness to deploy diplomatic and legal levers in the Security Council to constrain Russia's partners. In other words, snapback against Iran forms part of Europe's broader strategy to wear down Russia's capacity and legitimacy globally. European officials have repeatedly called for a "coordinated and decisive action" against Tehran, citing unproven claims of Iranian military involvement in the Ukraine war.

ANALYSIS

The European Troika's decision to start the process of activating the snapback mechanism against Iran must be analyzed beyond the nuclear dispute and the JCPOA framework. This move reflects multiple layers of geopolitical developments, great power competition, Europe's internal pressures, and a crisis in its international role. While Europe portrays itself as a defender of a "rules-based international order," the reality is that this decision serves more as a political tool to improve relations with Washington, send a message to Moscow, and redefine Europe's global role, rather than a strictly legal or technical obligation.

One of the main drivers behind the Troika's move lies in the transatlantic relationship. After the US withdrew from the JCPOA in 2018, Europe tried to keep the deal alive without Washington by creating financial mechanisms like INSTEX and providing political backing to Tehran. However, the failure of these initiatives laid bare Europe's heavy dependence

on the US for economic and security matters. By pulling the snapback trigger, Europe aims to show it is at the forefront of pressure tactics against Iran, thus remaining a reliable strategic partner for Washington. Implicitly, this also seeks to brush off accusations of appeasement of Tehran, claims often promoted by Zionist lobbies and Republicans in the US.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei called out the humiliating encounter of the US president with European leaders in the White House Oval Office, stating: "The E3 are demonstrating what passes for a 'credible' negotiating partner in the so-called 'rules-based international order,' where might makes right and where the 'violinist' dictates the rules of the game. Their decision to trigger the re-imposition of terminated Security Council resolutions on Iran is driven not by legal necessity or sound judgment, but as Marco Rubio admitted in his press statement of 28 August 2025, signifies their obedience to the NSPM-2 dated 2 February 2025 of the United States (a non-participant of the JCPOA, the tremendous spoiler

& violator of JCPOA that chose to unilaterally withdraw from JCPOA in 2018 that caused a chain of subsequent vicious events up to now)."

In an article titled "Europe Just Made War with Iran More Likely," Trita Parsi, executive vice president of the Quincy Institute, wrote, "The E3 now insists Tehran return to talks, yet they make no parallel demand that Washington refrain from bombing again." He emphasized that when the European Troika was created in 2003, "its purpose was to prevent the Bush administration — fresh off its disastrous and illegal invasion of Iraq — from launching another war, this time against Iran."

The second layer of this decision is rooted in the battlefield and geopolitical shifts from the Ukraine war. From the Troika's perspective, Iran, due to claimed military cooperation with Russia, has become part of the Eastern European war equation. Allegations of drone shipments to Russia, denied by Tehran, have become symbolic of an Iranian-Russian strategic alliance in Western narratives. By pulling the snapback lever, Europe is effectively

exacting "political payback" from Iran.

This move carries two messages: one for Tehran, underlining the political weight this issue holds for Europe; and one for Moscow, signaling Europe's willingness to deploy diplomatic and legal levers in the Security Council to constrain Russia's partners. In other words, snapback against Iran forms part of Europe's broader strategy to wear down Russia's capacity and legitimacy globally. European officials have repeatedly called for coordinated and decisive action against Tehran, citing unproven claims of Iranian military involvement in the Ukraine war.

Another key factor hardening Europe's stance against Iran relates to the Palestine issue and Tehran's backing of the Resistance Axis. Following October 7, 2023, and the outbreak of the Gaza war, Europe effectively sided with the US as a principal political, security, and even propaganda supporter of Israel. Europe's longstanding commitment to Israeli security was reinforced by widespread internal and external pressure after

the Gaza war, pushing the continent toward a tougher posture against Resistance supporters. From Brussels' viewpoint, Iran is not only a nuclear and geopolitical challenge but the main backer of groups threatening Israel's existence. Against this backdrop, snapback activation can be seen as part of a broader European strategy to demonstrate loyalty to Israeli security and counter the Axis of Resistance. This move, coinciding with the Ukraine war and US pressure, has given new political and ideological dimensions to Europe's approach toward Iran. NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte, in June 2025, while Iran faced overt Israeli aggression, stated at a NATO meeting: "When it comes to NATO's stance on Iran's nuclear programme, allies have long agreed that Iran must not develop a nuclear weapon... My biggest fear would be for Iran to own and be able to use and deploy a nuclear weapon." Earlier, Donald Trump praised the following message from Rutte posted on the "Truth Social" platform, referencing US strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities: "Congratulations and thank you for your decisive action in Iran, that was truly extraordinary, and something no one else dared to do. It makes us all safer."

A principal aspect of the European Troika's move is its identity dimension. In recent years, the European Union has faced a fundamental question more than ever: "Who are we, and what role do we play in the global order?" Europe's soft power decline, marked by the migration crisis, internal rifts from Brexit, the rise of far-right movements, and failure to handle the COVID-19 pandemic, has shaken its status as a model of governance and unity. Dependency on NATO and the US, especially amid the Ukraine crisis, has shown Europe cannot handle security challenges around it independently without NATO's umbrella and US leadership, calling its strategic autonomy into question. Meanwhile, sidelined in international diplomacy — while China and the US dominate key issues — Europe often acts as a spectator or follower. In this context, activating snapback offers Europe a chance to step back into the spotlight as an influential player. Though ostensibly justified as a measure to contain Iran, this move is in fact an attempt to answer the crisis of diplomatic identity and revive the lost image of an impactful Europe.

The Europeans' snapback is more a reflection of strategic confusion amid the need to keep Washington on board, worry over Moscow, and the desire to resuscitate their international standing than a sign of real power and unity. Europe has again chosen to lean on pressure and confrontation instead of diplomacy and engagement — a path whose ineffectiveness in the Iran dossier has been proven time and again. The likely outcome of this approach is not crisis resolution but its deepening and the further widening of geopolitical rifts worldwide.

The article first appeared in Persian on IRNA.



NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte addresses a press conference a day prior to a meeting of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) in The Hague, the Netherlands, on June 23, 2025.

● JOHN THYS/AFP



Europe’s Iran snapback dangerous escalation



US President Donald Trump (back) meets with European leaders in the Oval Office of the White House on August 18, 2025.
● WHITE HOUSE



By Eldar Mamedov
Middle East affairs expert

OPINION

The E3 — France, Germany, and Britain — on Thursday triggered the 2015 Iran nuclear deal’s “snapback” mechanism, initiating a 30-day countdown to the automatic reinstatement of United Nations Security Council sanctions on Iran.

The move was immediately met with strong approval from Washington. Secretary of State Marco Rubio stated, “The E3... initiated a process to reimpose UN sanctions on Iran. Snapback sanctions are a direct response to Iran’s continuing defiance of its nuclear commitments. The United States supports the E3’s decision and urges Iran to engage in serious diplomatic negotiations.” French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot likewise insisted the move does not spell the “end of diplomacy,” but is rather a bid to force dialogue.

That is a dangerous fantasy. The very premise of the E3’s action — that Iran is the sole violator of the deal — is a profound distortion of history. It was the United States that first withdrew from the deal in 2018, inflicting se-

vere economic damage on Iran through a “maximum pressure” campaign instituted under the Trump administration. At the time, the E3 issued political declarations in support of the agreement but failed to back them with actions that honored their own obligations. Instead, they de facto fell in line with Washington’s extraterritorial sanctions against Iran.

In the face of this European failure, Tehran took actions of its own. As Iranian international law expert Reza Nasri noted on X, “Iran acted under Article 36 of the JCPOA, lawfully reducing its commitments as remedial steps to press the other parties to meet theirs.” Now, he argues, European countries “have the audacity to present Iran’s lawful reaction as clear violations in a cynical ploy to justify the reinstatement of Security Council sanctions” — a move that enjoys full American endorsement.

Russia, another JCPOA signatory, similarly believes the E3 has forfeited the legal right to invoke snapback. A senior Russian diplomat deeply knowledgeable about the issue told The American Conservative that Moscow views some European actions as unilateral violations of the agreement, such as the EU’s ex-

tension, in October 2023, of an arms embargo against Iran that had been set to expire. Such acts, the diplomat argued, contravene the terms of both the JCPOA and UN Security Council Resolution 2231, which codified it into international law. This criticism reflects a perception of profound hypocrisy and illegality at the heart of the European move. Of course, this is only the latest Western action against Iran that raises tensions and undermines international law. The US–Israeli strikes on Iran during the 12-day war in June shattered the last vestiges of trust, leading Tehran to expel IAEA inspectors. It is precisely this tinderbox of provocation and reaction that Europe has now chosen to escalate with its snapback ultimatum. This week’s move was hardly surprising, however. The E3/EU, after all, blamed Iran for Israeli attacks on its territory. German Chancellor Friedrich Merz even praised Israel for doing the West’s “dirty work” — that is, bombing Iran.

Even if Tehran sees the Europeans’ gambit for what it is — an unwarranted escalation of tensions — its response is likely to be measured, at least initially. As Iran analyst Rouzbeh Parsi of Sweden’s Lund University

notes, Tehran has significantly toned down its rhetoric regarding the repercussions of a potential snapback. Whereas earlier it had threatened a withdrawal from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi recently stated that “negotiations with the IAEA on resumption of inspections are ongoing”. Parsi says that Tehran, by signaling that the E3 stands to lose whatever influence and leverage it has by taking this route, likely aims to contain the political fallout primarily to its relationship with the three European nations.

This position was made clear in the official response. Araghchi characterized the E3’s move as “unjustified, illegal, and lacking any legal basis”. While firmly stating that Iran would respond “to protect and secure its national rights and interests,” he notably left the door to diplomacy open, expressing hope that the three European countries would “correct this wrong move appropriately in the coming days by adopting a responsible approach and understanding the existing realities”.

However, this calibrated response comes at a steep domestic political cost, empowering Iranian hardliners who that ar-



As Iranian international law expert Reza Nasri noted on X, “Iran acted under Article 36 of the JCPOA, lawfully reducing its commitments as remedial steps to press the other parties to meet theirs.” Now, he argues, European countries “have the audacity to present Iran’s lawful reaction as clear violations in a cynical ploy to justify the reinstatement of Security Council sanctions” — a move that enjoys full American endorsement.



Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi against the backdrop of Iranian, British, German, French, and Russian flags
● PRESS TV

gue diplomacy with the West is futile — a case for which the E3’s action provides powerful corroboration.

In addition to reasonable demands — such as full IAEA access to Iranian nuclear sites and disclosure of stockpiles of highly-enriched uranium — one of the E3’s central conditions is the resumption of Iran’s negotiations with the US. Yet the E3 is itself a party to the JCPOA and, presumably, capable of diplomatic autonomy. There is no reason it should condition its own stance on bilateral talks between Washington and Tehran, other than a deliberate outsourcing of its own agency.

And while Rubio urges Iran to engage in “serious diplomacy,” there are no signs that Washington itself is pursuing it. In fact, the US and Iran were already engaged in talks when Israel struck Tehran in June, seemingly with a green light from President Donald Trump. Those talks had faltered over the Trump administration’s insistence on the Israeli red line of no uranium enrichment for Iran, as opposed to no weaponization. Tehran never accepted and shows no signs of accepting that demand now, even as one of the UN resolutions the E3 has snapped back imposes a ban on Iran’s enrichment.

Ultimately, as Nasri concludes, “The crux of the matter is that the US has outsourced its Iran policy to Netanyahu, and the E3 — deprived of strategic autonomy — are reduced to executing Israel’s wanton agenda at the expense of truth, fairness, integrity, diplomacy, and international law.”

But there is more to it: Europe itself may actually prefer the hawkish route as a means of punishing Iran for its support of war in Ukraine, while invoking snapback will do nothing to address that specific grievance. On the contrary, it likely will only push Tehran further into Moscow’s embrace.

There is an alternative. Instead of executing a failed US–Israeli agenda, Europe should champion an extension of UN Security Council Resolution 2231 — which suspended sanctions and is due to expire in October — to create space for a reciprocal easing of tensions and an interim deal. Russia and China have, in fact, tabled a relevant resolution to that effect. In essence, it seeks the same goal the E3 claims to pursue — buying more time for diplomacy — but without setting unrealistic conditions virtually guaranteed to result in a diplomatic impasse.

According to the Russian diplomat, privately, the E3 diplomats have already indicated that they intend to block the Russian–Chinese effort.

If the E3’s goal is to rein in Iran’s nuclear program, avoid war, and peel Tehran away from Moscow, then its gamble is a profound miscalculation. It sacrifices long-term leverage for a short-term show of force, threatens to inflame Tehran’s domestic political tensions, and risks a future where Europe has no seat at the table whatsoever. By triggering snapback, the E3 isn’t preventing a nuclear Iran or a war.

The article first appeared on The American Conservative.

FIVB Men's U21 World Championship: Iran fights back against Italy to retain crown

Sports Desk

Iran bounced back from an early setback to defeat Italy 3-1 and secure back-to-back titles at the FIVB Volleyball Men's U21 World Championship in Jiangmen, China, on Sunday.

In a repeat of the 2019 and 2023 finals – which the Asian side had won both in five sets – the Italians marched to a 25-15 victory in the opening set. However, Iranian young guns swiftly returned to their familiar best, winning the next three sets 25-18, 25-22, and 25-14 to seal the country's third trophy in the history of the competition.

"We dedicate this success to the Iranian people, who are going through tough times, and I just hope we have given them something to cheer about," Iranian captain Mohammadmani Alikhani said after the game.

"From the very beginning, our ultimate goal was to win the title, and I'm glad that we have now achieved it. We had to go through a lot along the way, and just as our head coach said, we cried during training so that we



Iranian players celebrate after a 3-1 victory over Italy at the FIVB Volleyball Men's U21 World Championship final in Jiangmen, China, on August 31, 2025.
● FIVB

could laugh today after becoming champions," added the outside hitter.

Alikhani's teammate Ali Mombeini was also thrilled to see "six months of hard work pay off,"

adding, "Every game felt like a final for us, though victories in some, like those against South

Korea and the United States [in the semifinals], were even sweeter." Iranian outside-hitter Matin Hosseini stole the show at the Jiangmen Sports Center, contributing a game-high 18 points, courtesy of 10 kills, five aces, and three blocks. With Iran leading 14-11 in the fourth set, the 19-year-old prodigy stepped behind the service line and ignited a 7-0 run – powered by four aces – as his team capped off a dominant campaign in Jiangmen with a clean sweep of eight victories.

Prolific opposite Pouya Ariakhah finished a fourth game in double figures, chipping in 15 points, while Italian duo Tommaso Barotto and Pardo Mati had 14 points apiece.

Sunday's triumph extended Iran's winning streak in this age group to a remarkable 29 games over four years under head coach Gholamreza Mo'menimoqaddam – during which the country also claimed successive Asian under-20 titles either side of the world U21 crown in 2023.

There was further glory for the Iranian team in the awarding ceremony as Hosseini was

named the Most Valuable Player of the competition, while securing a place in the Dream Team as the joint Best Outside-Hitter – alongside American Sean Kelly, who helped his team to a historic bronze medal in the tournament. Hosseini rounded off the competition with 112 points, including 81 in attack, 13 from blocks and 18 from service, averaging more than 12 points per match.

Hosseini's teammate Taha Behboudnia was one of the two Best Middle Blockers, with Emran Kookjili and Morteza Tabatabaei claiming the Best Setter and Best Libero prizes, respectively.

The Dream Team also featured Italy's Barotto, who earned recognition as Best Opposite, while Mati completed the middle blocker pairing.

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 against Argentina (3-1), China (3-0), and USA (3-0) for a place in the final showpiece.

Taremi joins Greek champion Olympiacos



● OLYMPIACOS FC

Sports Desk

Iran international striker Mahdi Taremi left Inter to embark on a new chapter in his career, signing a two-year contract – worth £2.2 million – with Greek top-flight champion Olympiacos.

The move ends to weeks of speculation surrounding the future of 33-year-old Iranian, who joined Inter last summer as a free agent from Porto but endured a below-par campaign in Nerazzurri colors.

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 fielded him in the starting XI for some of the big occasions in the Champions League. However, the introduction of new head coach Cristian Chivu in June marked the beginning of the end for the Iranian talisman. The Olympiacos deal marks the fourth spell in European club football for the Iranian, who was first

introduced to the continent with Portuguese club Rio Ave in 2019.

A former player of Persepolis in his home country and Al Gharafa in Qatar, Taremi was the leading marksman in the Portuguese Primeira Liga in his sole season with Rio Ave, finishing with 21 goals and five assists in 37 games before signing for Porto.

The pinnacle of his club career came with Porto, where the Iranian scored 91 goals and provided 56 assists in 182 appearances – becoming the club's third all-time top scorer.

During his four seasons with the Dragons, he helped the Portuguese heavyweight lift seven domestic trophies, including a league and cup double in the 2021/22 campaign.

While a move from Serie A to Greece might be seen as a step backward for Taremi, he will still fancy his chances of shining in Europe's elite clubs' competition when Olympiacos returns to the UEFA Champions League.

Olympiacos will begin its campaign with a home game against Cypriot champion Pafos on September 17, and will then take on Arsenal (A), Barcelona (A), PSV (H), Real Madrid (H), Kairat (A), Bayer Leverkusen (H), and Ajax (A) in the league phase.

Iran's Alamian win men's singles title at WTT Feeder event

Sports Desk

Iran's Noshad Alamian won the men's singles title at the WTT Feeder event in Olomouc, Czechia, on Sunday.

Alamian defeated Indian world No. 82 Harmeet Desai 3-2 (11-9, 6-11, 11-8, 9-11, 11-8) to walk away with the prize at the OMEGA Sport Center.

Alamian's younger brother, Nima, and teenage prodigy Benyamin Faraji, as well as Amirmahdi Keshavarzi and Mohammadjavad Sohrabi were the other Iranians in the men's singles draw in Olomouc.

Faraji suffered a last-16 defeat against Noshad, while Nima fell short against Japanese Sota Noda in the same round. Sohrabi, meanwhile, had his campaign finished in the first round after a defeat against Yuto Muramatsu of Japan, with Keshavarzi beaten in five games by Spanish Albert



● WTT

Vilardell in the second round. There was further glory for Noshad as he teamed up with his brother to reach the men's doubles final, only to settle for a runner-up finish after a 3-1 setback (11-7, 4-11, 11-9, 11-9)

against the Japanese duo of Noda and Yuto Abe.

Alamian brothers began their campaign with a straight-game victory over Slovakia's Jakub Zelinka and Alexander Valuch, and then came from behind to

beat the Spanish duo of Rafael De las Heras and Diego Lillo in a five-game thriller before defeating Japan's Ryuusei Kawakami and Kazuki Yoshiyama 3-1 (11-6, 10-12, 14-12, 11-7) for a place in the final showpiece.

Esmailnejad gives Iran injury scare ahead of World Championship

Sports Desk

Iran head coach Roberto Piza was dealt a massive blow in his team's preparation for the upcoming FIVB Men's Volleyball World Championship after star opposite Amin Esmailnejad suffered an ankle injury during a 3-1 victory (25-22, 25-21, 23-25, 25-21) over Qatar in Doha on Sunday.

Esmailnejad, who was Iran's top scorer in the Volleyball Nations League preliminaries earlier in the summer, was forced out of the game in the closing stages of the second set. Early assessments, however, brought positive news for the Italian coach, showing

no fracture in his twisted ankle. The Iranian will still have to

undergo an MRI scan today to determine the timeline for his return to action.

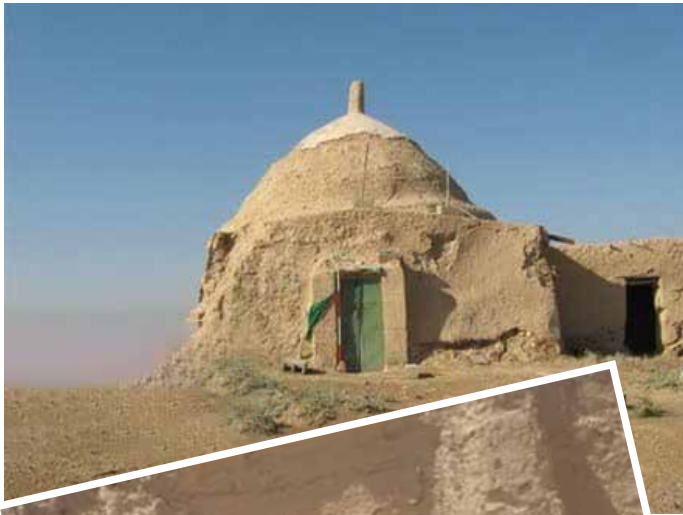


● volleyball.ir

Iran will begin its campaign at the World Championship against Egypt in Pool B on September 14, and then faces another African test in Tunisia two days later, before taking on host Philippines on Sept. 18.

The top two of the group will progress to round of 16. Iran will be looking to build on a decent run in the Nations League, during which Piazza's men won six out of 12 games to finish eighth in the preliminary table but ultimately missed out on a place in the quarterfinals, as China – second from bottom in the standings – automatically qualified as the host of the VNL Finals.

Cultural, architectural legacy of Hendijan in Khuzestan Province



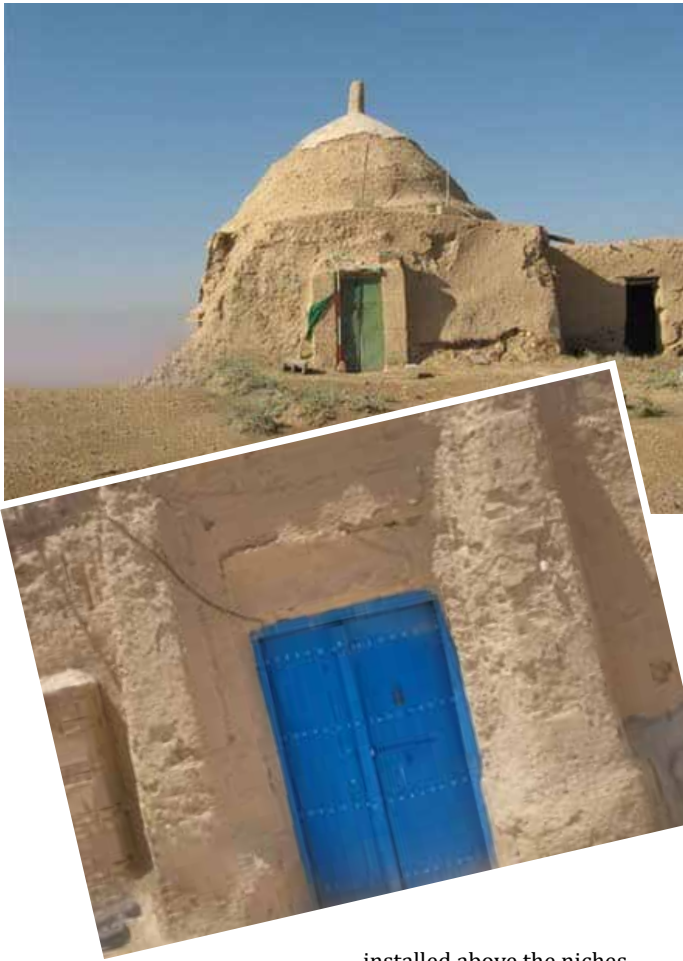
Iranica Desk

The city of Hendijan in Khuzestan Province is rich in history, featuring a multitude of sites and structures that are scattered throughout various parts of the county and in numerous villages. According to evidence and documented records, the most enduring and architecturally significant structures in Hendijan date from the late Qajar period, although the oldest remaining buildings have origins that trace back even further to the late Safavid era. One notable example is the old market, which once boasted a vibrant and historic fabric. Unfortunately, over the past 20 to 30 years, this market has completely vanished, with all the original shops replaced by modern commercial establishments. Local residents believe that many of these shops are approximately 300 years old, as they belonged to the ancestors of current inhabitants. Based on this oral history and available evidence, it can be inferred that Hendijan was at least from the late Safavid period a prosperous and lively city, complete with a grand mosque. Although travel writers suggest that the city was inhabited even before that time, no concrete archaeological

or historical evidence currently confirms this earlier habitation, chtn.ir wrote. In addition to markets and shops, many other structures remain, including traditional houses, mosques, and tombs. Historically, the city also had numerous other notable edifices such as an old bathhouse built during the Qajar period. There used to be a pier and a school called Shoukat School, both of which are fondly remembered by the elders of Hendijan; however, nothing of these structures remains today. The main construction materials used in these buildings include brick, baked clay, plaster, wood, reed mats, and Kahgel — a traditional mud plaster — applied in a consistent manner across most structures. Decorative architectural features comprise latticework in windows, perforated brickwork, alcoves, and niches with semi-circular or arch-shaped designs, with some decorations enhanced by tiles. Doors and window frames are predominantly made of wood, with wooden doors often embellished with metal fittings. The typical layout of historic houses features an entrance gateway leading into a central courtyard or square-shaped vestibule, locally called a Dar-

vazeh. Surrounding this central space are various rooms and functional areas, all arranged around the courtyard. Depending on the size of the house, these can be built on one, two, or three sides of the courtyard. The primary materials for construction include brick or baked clay, with interior surfaces coated in plaster and exteriors finished with kahgel, the traditional mud plaster. The roofs of all the spaces—whether the vestibule, the porch, or the rooms—are flat, with the ceilings inside supported by wooden beams, reed mats, reeds, or narrow wooden planks. According to Hassan Mashayekhi, a prominent figure in Hendijan, older buildings are notable for their decorative wooden ceiling patterns arranged in diamond shapes that were once painted. After passing through the entrance gateway, most houses include a vestibule or Hashti, which often divides the entrance space into two sections. This is achieved by two doors on either side of the Hashti, leading to different rooms. In some houses, the rooms are interconnected via a wooden door, while another door opens directly into the courtyard. Flooring varies; some houses feature brick

floors, while others are tiled. Additionally, a staircase typically provides access to the roof, allowing residents to reach and utilize the rooftop space. The most notable remaining historical mosques in Hendijan include the Bahraini Mosque, the Shah Anbar Mosque, and the Jaame Mosque. Two other ancient mosques, each over 200 years old, once existed in Hendijan but no longer remain. The key architectural elements of Hendijan's mosques are the courtyard, the prayer hall, the mihrab, the minbar, and, in one instance, a windcatcher (badgir). The construction materials commonly used are brick, plaster, reed mats, and wooden beams (chandul). All these mosques feature flat roofs; below the roof, reed mats and wooden beams are employed for structural support. Notably, none of these mosques are built with domes. An important aspect of Hendijan mosques is that they never included internal toilets, reflecting the traditional design norms of the region. The Jaame Mosque, located in the old bazaar, can be linked to the late Safavid period. It has a nearly square prayer hall supported by a central pillar. On the northeastern and southwestern



sides of the mosque, two openings are situated beneath the ceiling, allowing air to enter and cool the interior. Their facing placement across the two walls creates airflow and draft, which is considered an architectural innovation in Hendijan. Both the Bahraini and Shah Anbar Mosques, dating from the late Qajar period, share similar plans. Upon entering the courtyard of each, the prayer hall is located on the left side, characterized by a rectangular shape and a flat roof. Opposite the entrance door, the mihrab is situated. These mosques are built from brick, with interior walls finished in plaster. Decorative niches and semi-circular recesses are incorporated into the prayer hall walls, with shelves

installed above the niches. The Bahraini Mosque was constructed by a Bahraini merchant who came to Hendijan for trade. Its precise date of construction is unknown, but it is estimated to be over 200 years old. The original main entrance, which was made of clay, has been lost; the current entrance, featuring brickwork and a minaret, was added during recent times. The Shah Anbar Mosque is approximately 110 years old. The architecture of tombs in Hendijan differs significantly from that of mosques. Unlike mosques, which have flat roofs, all historic tombs in Hendijan are crowned with domed roofs. These domes are predominantly double-layered brick structures, with their interior surfaces covered in plaster and decorated with intricate plasterwork.

Halim; embodiment of patience, culinary art



Halim is a beloved, nutritious, and energizing dish popular in Iran and several Middle Eastern countries. It is traditionally made from pelted wheat and meat, most often lamb. A defining feature of Halim is its unique, elastic texture, achieved by constantly stirring the mixture during the long cooking process. Once cooked, it is typically garnished with oil and aro-

matic spices, predominantly cinnamon. Interestingly, the name Halim means patience in Persian, reflecting the patience and care needed to prepare this dish. The cooking process starts with draining and thoroughly cooking the pelted wheat until soft. Meanwhile, the meat is cooked separately with onions until tender. After cooking, the meat is carefully



removed from the bones and shredded finely. The final step combines the cooked wheat and shredded meat, then spices are added, and the mixture is simmered until the flavors meld together. The entire process generally takes between 8 to 10 hours, requiring slow cooking and attention, visitiran.ir wrote. In Iran, Halim is enjoyed in various ways depending on

personal preferences. Some people prefer it sweetened with sugar and cinnamon, while others like it savory with salt. It is sometimes served with additional toppings such as sesame seeds, syrup, or sarshir — a creamy dairy product. A modern variant known as turkey Halim uses turkey meat and has a lighter color and flavor than traditional Halim.

Halim is not an everyday meal but is traditionally prepared for special occasions and ceremonies. It is often cooked and distributed as Nazr, a practice of sharing free food with the community, especially during the religious month of Muharram. It is also commonly prepared during gatherings for rain prayers. Besides ceremonial uses, Halim is a popular break-

fast dish served in restaurants and is highly valued during the holy month of Ramadan for its energy-rich composition, perfect for starting or breaking the fast. Halim is eaten in many other countries, including India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Turkey. Additionally, the dish has evolved over time with different versions and variations.



Archaeologists unearth 100 historic coins in central Isfahan

Arts & Culture Desk

Archaeologists in Isfahan uncovered 100 coins during the second season of excavations at the historic Kamar Zarrin site, a discovery officials say could point to the presence of an old trading house.

The announcement was made on Monday by Amir Karamzadeh, director general of the provincial cultural heritage, tourism and handicrafts department, IRNA reported.

The find adds weight to the theory that Kamar Zarrin, on the city's northern edge, once served as a bustling commercial hub. Researchers believe more relics may lie beneath the soil, offering a rare glimpse into Isfahan's economic past and cultural exchanges in the Islamic era.

Karamzadeh said 35 of the coins were unearthed on August 31 alone, calling the number "remarkable." While most pieces appear to date back to Islamic dynasties, experts plan to clean and examine them in laboratories before assigning a precise age.

The excavation permit, originally limited to 40 days, has been extended by the Research Institute of Archaeology, allowing teams to keep digging in front of Kamar Zarrin Mosque. "This opportunity lets us dig deeper and piece together more details of the region's economic and cultural history," Karamzadeh said.

Two years ago, bulldozers clearing ground for a planned street exposed remnants of ancient structures, forcing construction

to halt and paving the way for joint archaeological work by the cultural heritage institute, Isfahan's urban renewal agency, and the Art University.

In the first season of digs, researchers uncovered a decorated water system dating from before the Mongol invasion, a pottery kiln, late Islamic architectural walls, stone foundations, brick floors thought to be Seljuk, and a carved stone basin.

Under a plan drawn up by Isfahan Municipality Renovation & Restoration Organization (IMR&RO), the Kamar Zarrin passage is expected to be turned into an open-air museum, displaying finds such as gilded tiles, distinctive pottery, and now coins that have come to light in the second round of exploration.



● IRNA

ADVERTISEMENT

Mammut Digital Receives National Excellence Award at the National Industry and Mining Day Conference



Mammut Digital was honored with the National Excellence Award in Digital Transformation, Artificial Intelligence, and Software at the National Industry and Mining Day Conference, held on August 25 at the IRIB International Conference Center in Tehran.

The event was attended by President Masoud Pezeshkian, Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade Seyed Mohammad Atabak, and senior government and private sector leaders. From among nearly one million active businesses in the country, Mammut Digital was recognized as one of the nation's top companies for its achievements in advancing digital innovation. During the ceremony, 17 leading companies across various industries were introduced, and their CEOs were recognized. Mammut Digital was selected for its commitment to developing data-driven solutions, software, artificial intelligence applications, and digital transformation initiatives.

Urgency of Expanding the Role of the Digital Economy in Industry

Omid Hashemi, CEO of Mammut Digital, who received the award and certificate of recognition from the Minister of Industry, Mine and

Trade, emphasized that this honor marks the beginning of a new chapter in Mammut Digital's international growth. He stated: "Our goal is to collaborate with technology-driven companies both domestically and internationally, accelerating digital transformation across industries to expand the share of the digital economy."

Outlining the company's roadmap, Hashemi identified four strategic priorities for Mammut Digital:

- Developing software products and data analytics, particularly in the field of connected vehicles
- Delivering intelligent platforms for transportation and logistics
- Expanding digital solutions and artificial intelligence tools
- Promoting data-driven practices in production, business, and industry management

This year's National Industry and Mining Day Conference featured 1,300 nominated companies out of approximately one million active businesses nationwide. Mammut Digital's recognition brought a prestigious honor to the Mammut Industrial Group.

Iranian students win 13 medals at US science, innovation exhibition



Social Desk

Iranian student teams struck gold at the 2025 America Innovation Invention Exhibition, receiving 13 medals including three golds in competitions held from August 15-22 in the United States, according to team supervisor Mehdi Rashidi-Jahan.

The international event brought together 177 teams from 46 countries, with Iranian students holding their own against powerhouse nations including the United States, Japan, Britain and South Korea. The exhibition, backed by tech giants Google and Microsoft, served as a showcase for cutting-edge innovations from the world's brightest young minds. Iranian teams swept up three gold medals for groundbreaking projects. Ilia Majidzadeh Heravi and Parsa Karimi Yazdi took top

honors with their "CommuniMate" smart application, designed to tackle communication barriers faced by deaf individuals.

A five-member team from Valeh Educational Institute clinched gold for their magnetic gear system analysis, while another Valeh team earned the third gold for their pneumatic muscle improvement project.

The silver medal haul included four innovative solutions. Teams developed an AI-powered smart waste sorting system called "EcoNet Bin," a modular smart pharmacy platform, nanocomposites with herbal extracts for dental applications, and an EEG signal analysis system for seizure prediction. Six bronze medals rounded out Iran's medal tally. Projects ranged from cancer research using GABA compounds to biodegradable antimicrobial packaging, from an AI nanny robot for remote child monitoring to hydrogel treatments for diabetic mouth wounds. Students also earned recognition for new herbal nanogels targeting skin cancer cells and a child safety system using Internet of Things technology.

"This outstanding achievement once again demonstrates the scientific capabilities of Iranian teenagers and youth on the international stage," Rashidi-Jahan said.

Tehran to host int'l travel, ecotourism fair

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts said on Monday that the eighth international travel and ecotourism fair aka Oca Fair will run from September 3 to 7 at Tehran's Shahr-e Aftab International Exhibition Center, bringing together domestic and foreign companies across the outdoor and adventure travel industry.

The exhibition has grown into one of the country's most popular trade shows for camping, off-

road driving, ecotourism and related equipment, drawing youth, travel enthusiasts and professional outfitters, ISNA reported. Officials said this year's edition will spread over more than 13,000 square meters of net space and 30,000 square meters in total, with specialized booths promoting responsible travel, domestic tourism and environmental awareness.

The fair will be divided into four main halls, showcasing camping and mountaineering gear, off-road vehicles, four-wheel drive

cars and nature tourism equipment.

"Specialized tourism desks" will take part to exchange expertise and support local operators, according to Mostafa Fatemi, director-general of domestic tourism development at the ministry. Fatemi noted the event is designed to cut down "foreign currency outflow" by encouraging Iranians to explore their own landscapes. "This exhibition reflects not only adventure but also a culture of sustainable travel," he said.