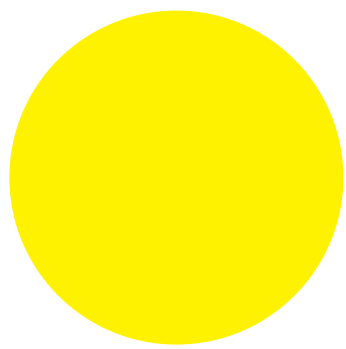


CBI denies Iran oil revenues fell in August

3 >



Iran Daily

Vol. 7918 ● Wednesday, September 03, 2025 ● Shahrivar 12, 1404 ● Rabi' al-Awwal 10, 1447 ● 100,000 rials ● 8 pages



> irandaily.ir

| newspaper.irandaily.ir

| IranDailyWeb

FM spox: E3 leveraging diplomacy as cover for pressure tactics

Parliament vows 'decisive' payback to snapback of sanctions

2 >

Pezeshkian calls for concerted efforts to fight off unilateralism

China honors Iran's right to nuclear energy, nixes coercive measures: **Xi**

2 >



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (L) shakes hands with Chinese President Xi Jinping during a meeting in Beijing on September 2, 2025.
president.ir

Behind scenes of Trump's hostility towards Maduro

Venezuelan president's life in danger?

PERSPECTIVE

4 >



SCO backs Iran's WTO accession to promote fair trading system: Chinese official

3 >



Iran unveils men's weightlifting squad for World Championships

6 >



Sacred, architectural legacy of South Khorasan Province

7 >

18th youth music festival kicks off
Minister calls festival bridge between 'ancient heritage, new creations'

8 >



Pezeshkian calls for concerted efforts to fight off unilateralism

China honors Iran's right to nuclear energy, nixes coercive measures: Xi

International Desk

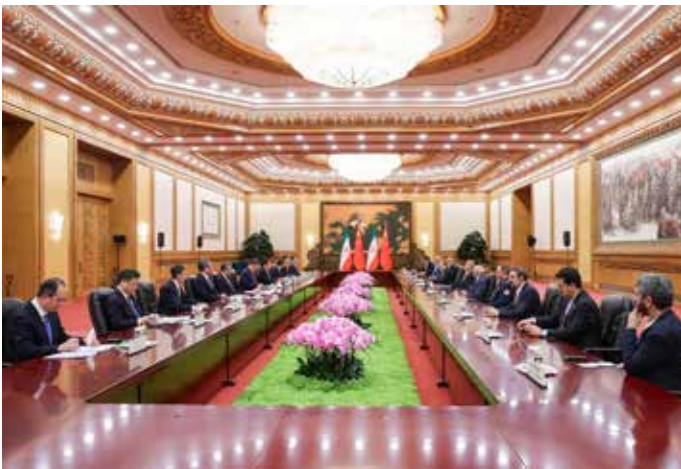
Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on Tuesday met Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing, urging the need to stand up to oppression, aggression, and unilateralism. "Iran seeks a world where the rule of law and relations between nations are based on equality, not on force, coercion, or violations," he said. Pezeshkian said Washington was pursuing unilateral policies without restraint, accusing the US president Donald Trump of giving himself a free hand to intervene in countries across the globe. The high-level meeting took place on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit 2025, against the back-

drop of heightened tensions between Tehran and the West over Iran's nuclear program. In June, Israel launched strikes against Iranian targets, sparking a 12-day conflict in which the United States also hit nuclear sites. More recently, the UK, France, and Germany triggered the UN "snapback" mechanism to restore sanctions on Iran, a move opposed by China and Russia. Xi condemned the strikes on Iran as a blatant violation of international law, stressing that "force is never the way to solve problems." He said Beijing respects Iran's right to peaceful nuclear energy, noting China values Tehran's commitment not to pursue nuclear weapons. "China will continue to uphold fairness and justice ... and back political negotiations as the path

forward," Xi said, adding that Beijing is determined to help shape a solution to the nuclear issue that takes all sides' concerns into account. Pezeshkian, further described China as Iran's "comprehensive strategic partner," vowing to deepen ties regardless of global shifts. Xi echoed the sentiment, highlighting that despite years of Western sanctions, the two countries have managed to keep their partnership alive and are now ready to expand it on a "win-win" basis. In an earlier interview with China Central Television (CCTV), Pezeshkian slammed Europe's snapback move as a "double standard," saying those who broke the 2015 nuclear deal now blame Iran for non-compliance. He stressed

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (6th R) and his entourage meet Chinese President Xi Jinping (6th L) and his cabinet members in Beijing on September 2, 2025. [president.ir](#)

the importance of rallying states aligned with China in resisting unilateralism and not letting Western pressure or sanctions knock them off course. On the same day, Pezeshkian also held talks with Wang Huning, a senior member of China's Communist Party leadership, and a day earlier he met Russian President Vladimir Putin on the SCO sidelines. Pezeshkian told Putin that Washington and its allies were bent on entrenching unilateral-



ism, stressing that bodies like the SCO offered a platform to promote multilateralism. Putin underlined ongoing Moscow-Tehran cooperation, including on Iran's peaceful nuclear activities.

FM spox: E3 leveraging diplomacy as cover for pressure tactics

Parliament vows 'decisive' payback to snapback of sanctions



Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei addresses a press conference in the capital Tehran on September 2, 2025. [IRNA](#)

said Iran would soon announce a unified decision. While details remain under wraps, some lawmakers had previously floated the possibility of Tehran pulling out of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Government spokeswoman Fatemeh Mohajerani, however, cautioned that any withdrawal from international treaties would require comprehensive deliberation by specialized bodies and ultimately the Islamic Republic establishment as a whole.

SNSC chief says Iran pursues rational negotiations

Ali Larijani, the secretary of the Supreme National Security Council (SNSC), asserted in a post on X on Tuesday that it is the United States that continues to obstruct the resumption of stalled nuclear talks with Iran by introducing "unrealizable" demands. "The path for negotiations with the US is not closed; yet these are the Americans who only pay lip service to talks and do not come to the table; and they wrongfully blame Iran for it," he wrote. "WE INDEED PURSUE RATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS. By raising unrealizable issues such as missile restrictions, they set a path which negates any talks." Iran had been engaged in indirect negotiations with the United States before the Israeli aggression on June 13, which was followed shortly by US attacks targeting Iranian nuclear facilities. The 12-day escalation effectively torpedoed the high-stakes talks, leaving the negotiations in a state of limbo ever since. Signaling its willingness to the dialogue, Iran has conditioned the resumption of talks with Washington on receiving assurances of non-aggression throughout the negotiation process, an appeal that, so far, has gone unanswered.

International Desk

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman accused on Tuesday the three European signatories — the European troika or E3 — to the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), of weaponizing diplomacy, saying their real goal is to push Tehran into giving in to one-sided and excessive demands. At a press briefing, Esmail Baghaei stated that France, Germany and Britain have begun proceedings to restore UN sanctions on Iran at the behest of Israel and the United States. The European troika, citing Iran's failure to uphold JCPOA commitments, launched on August 28 the so-called "snapback" mechanism that could reimpose UN sanctions within 30 days. Tehran has denounced the move as illegal, insisting that its scaled-back compliance was a direct response to US sanctions following Washington's withdrawal from the agreement, and to Europe's inability to make up for the economic fallout. Russia and China, also parties to the deal, voiced opposition to the European initiative and instead floated a proposal to extend the current timeline in order to give diplomacy more breathing space. Baghaei said any technical extension of Resolution 2231 falls under the jurisdiction of the UN Security Council, stressing that Tehran is

working closely with Moscow and Beijing to secure outcomes aligned with Iran's national interests. Meanwhile, in a joint letter to the UN Secretary-General and the Security Council president on Monday, the foreign ministers of Iran, China, and Russia rejected the European effort to revive the annulled UN sanctions. The letter argued that the European notification runs counter to the procedures set out in both the JCPOA and Resolution 2231, lacks legal standing, and should be deemed "null and void." In a related development, Iran's Parliament convened a 90-minute closed session on Tuesday to weigh the implications of the snapback. Abbas Goudarzi, the spokesperson of the Iranian Parliament's presiding board, said the legislative body's National Security Committee would hold intensive meetings with lawmakers in the coming days to hammer out reciprocal and strategic responses. "On this matter, all political factions in the Parliament, are in agreement that Iran's response must be decisive, reciprocal, and regret-inducing, so that the cost of the enemy's actions is imposed upon them," Goudarzi added. "All these plans and proposals will be reviewed in the foreseen meetings, and ultimately, the necessary decision will be made." Ahead of the session, Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf

Tehran rejects Arab states claims to Persian Gulf trio islands, Arash gas field

International Desk

Iran's Foreign Ministry categorically dismissed on Tuesday "baseless and legally invalid" claims made in the final communiqué of the 165th meeting of Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) foreign ministers, reiterating Tehran's sovereignty over the three Persian Gulf isles, its rights to the Arash gas field, and the peaceful nature of its nuclear program. The ministry rejected in a statement the GCC's repeated comments regarding Abu Musa, Greater Tunb, and Lesser Tunb claimed by the United Arab Emirates, stressing that the islands are "inseparable parts of Iranian territory."

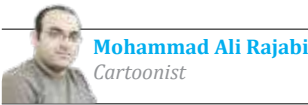
Pointing to the Arash gas field, the ministry reaffirmed Iran's historical rights and said unilateral claims by Kuwait lacked legal basis. It added that a lasting and fair settlement required "bilateral dialogue, joint efforts, and a constructive environment." On the nuclear issue, Tehran reiterated its "legitimate and legal right" to peaceful nuclear energy under the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), dispelling doubts about the nature of its program as unfounded. The GCC, in its final communiqué issued after a ministerial meeting in Kuwait, had repeated claims over the islands, rejected Iran's rights to Arash, and called for any future nuclear negotiations to address the security concerns of its member states.

Tehran stands by Caracas amid flaring US military tensions: Envoy

International Desk

Iranian Ambassador to Venezuela, Ali Chegini, expressed the Islamic Republic's solidarity with the Latin American country in the face of growing US military threats in the Caribbean region. During a meeting with Venezuelan Foreign Minister Yvan Gil Pinto, the Iranian diplomat conveyed Tehran's message of support against threats to peace and security in Venezuela and the wider Latin America-Caribbean sphere. Following the talks, Gil wrote on social media that the two sides had reaffirmed their "strategic alliance, friendship, and cooperation in defense of sovereignty, development, and a multipolar world." He added that both countries trust each

other and remain committed to strengthening bilateral ties and joint action in multilateral forums. The expression of solidarity comes as tensions mount between Caracas and Washington. The US has deployed warships, guided-missile destroyers, and thousands of troops near Venezuelan waters, claiming the move is part of an anti-drug trafficking campaign. Venezuela dismisses that explanation, calling the buildup a direct threat to its sovereignty. President Nicolas Maduro has mobilized more than 4.5 million militia members, warning that any attack would spark an "armed struggle." He has described the US show of force as the gravest security challenge Latin America has faced in a century.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



SCO backs Iran's WTO accession to promote fair trading system: Chinese official

Economy Desk

Members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) voiced in a statement their support for the accession of Iran, Uzbekistan and Belarus to the World Trade Organization (WTO) as part of efforts to promote multilateral trading system (MTS), according to a Chinese Ministry of Commerce official.

In its latest declaration, the SCO Council of Heads of State underlined the importance of boosting trade cooperation among developing and less developed countries and backed the three countries' accession to global markets, the official told the state news agency Xinhua on Tuesday.

The move comes "as part of global meetings in support of a fair trading system based on international rules," he said. The official added that SCO members stressed the need for WTO reform and broader cooperation to deliver "practical outcomes" at the WTO Ministerial Conference in



2026.

The statement coincides with the WTO's

30th anniversary this year. Since its founding, the organization has provided

an "open, stable and predictable" framework for global economic growth and has significantly contributed to trade liberalization and economic development, the Chinese official said.

The official noted that some WTO members recently reached a framework deal on "reciprocal tariffs." SCO members reaffirmed their commitment to core principles such as non-discriminatory trade and urged all parties to respect international trade rules, including those of the WTO.

"Beijing intends to strengthen its cooperation with other SCO members and actively practice genuine multilateralism," the Commerce Ministry official said.

The SCO summit was held on Aug. 31-Sep. 1 in Tianjin, attended by the presidents of Iran, China, Russia, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, as well as the prime ministers of India and Pakistan. Other participants included Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and leaders from Armenia, Malaysia and Indonesia.

CBI denies Iran oil revenues fell in August



International Desk

The Governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) has dismissed speculations that the country's oil export revenues declined in the calendar month ending in late August due to a war in June with the Israeli regime, which reportedly impacted overseas supplies in subsequent months.

Mohammad Reza Farzin stated on Monday that the CBI's provision of hard currency to importers has remained stable in recent weeks, as he refuted claims that an alleged drop in oil export revenues had hindered the top lender's ability to meet demands in the Iranian import market, Press TV reported.

"The currency resources resulting from Iran's oil exports have not changed compared to the previous month, and we expect that these resources will not decline (in the coming months)," Farzin said while speaking in a meeting in the north-western city of Tabriz.

He also said that the government will continue to allocate heavily subsidized hard currency to the imports of basic goods and animal feed.

The CBI spends more than \$1 billion per month on subsidizing the imports of basic goods, medicine, and animal feed at a price of 285,000 rials per US dollar.

That comes as the free market price of the US dollar in Iran is nearly four times that rate at 1,050,000 rials.

Speculations about Iran's declining oil revenues came last month after unconfirmed reports suggested that there had been a fall in the country's oil exports following a 12-day war with the Israeli regime that ended in late June.

Oil Ministry officials have dismissed the reports, saying Iran's oil exports remained almost unchanged even at the height of the war with Israel, and despite the restrictions on shipping in the Persian Gulf caused by the war.

Minister lauds cooperatives as key to economic resilience, inclusive growth

Economy Desk

Iranian Minister of Cooperatives, Labour and Social Welfare Ahmad Meydari said on Tuesday that cooperatives play a central role in economic resilience and inclusive growth, urging governments and institutions to consider the issue at the heart of their policies and efforts.

Speaking at the second International Conference on Cooperative Economics in Tehran, Meydari said expanding cooperatives requires "a complete ecosystem ranging from financial and legal sectors to judicial and administrative ones," mcls.gov.ir reported. He called for their development at both national and global levels, stressing that, "The youth are the biggest force for transformation and must be harnessed as the leaders of today and tomorrow."

Meydari urged active participation of the private sector and civil society organizations in partnership with governments "not as recipients of aid, but as the main actors in the cooperative arena." He warned that conventional policies would fail without embracing the culture of cooperation. "If the documents and efforts of the United Nations and other institutions have not yielded results, the reason is ignoring this culture," he said.

The conference comes against the backdrop of the United Nations naming 2025 as the "International Year of Cooperatives." In a June 24, 2024



General Assembly resolution, the UN invited all countries and international organizations to establish national committees and mobilize public and private sector capacities to advance the theme.

Meydari also drew on a parable to emphasize the value of solidarity with a metaphor from 'the story of the pigeons caught in a net,' the first lesson of which, translated into more than 200 languages over 2,700 years ago, is that there is no room for dispute and the freedom of each depends on the freedom of the other.

"Just as the pigeons were able to lift the net through cooperation, humanity today also needs coordinated collective action to escape war, poverty and global crises," the minister said.

"If we accept the spirit of cooperation and remain committed to our responsibilities, we can realize this year's motto," Meydari added. "We will be able to build a better world with cooperatives, because only through cooperation can we lift the net."

Iran's largest rooftop solar plant commissioned in Khorasan Razavi



Economy Desk

Iran inaugurated its largest rooftop solar power plant on Tuesday in the Chenaran industrial zone of Khorasan Razavi Province, with a capacity of 4.5 megawatts, a provincial official said.

According to Javad Khodaei, the senior advisor to the provincial governor, the launch of the rooftop solar facility in Chenaran set a new record in the scale and capacity of such plants nationwide, IRNA reported.

"This plant, with a significant capacity of 4.5 megawatts, was built on a 90,000-square-meter site and completed within six months," said the deputy head of the Renewable Energy Committee of Khorasan Razavi.

The northeastern province now "holds the title of the largest rooftop solar power plant in the country, as earlier rooftop units exceeding 2 megawatts had also been built here, with previous records likewise belonging to Khorasan Razavi."

The province currently ranks first

in Iran for rooftop solar capacity, the official said, adding that industrial investment in rooftop plants offers "an economic, intelligent and sustainable solution" to tackle energy imbalances in the industrial sector.

Khorasan Razavi has taken "major steps" toward becoming a national hub for renewable energy, he said. More than 40 megawatts of rooftop solar plants are already connected to the grid in the province.

There is the unbalanced growth between power production and consumption over the past decade in the county. According to Energy Ministry, "In the last 10 years, electricity production has increased 13-fold while consumption has risen 23-fold, leading to a grid imbalance."

The government had granted all administrative departments a deadline — effective June 21 — to supply part of their required electricity from solar energy. It has also offered incentives for industries to build dedicated power plants, particularly solar farms, to cover part of their own demand.

IRICA chief says non-oil trade hits \$44b in five months

Non-oil imports plunge 16.3%, exports dip 6%

Economy Desk

Iran's non-oil trade reached 76.54 million tons worth \$43.94 billion in the first five months of this year (began on March 20, 2025), the country's customs chief said on Tuesday, adding that exports rose just 0.07% in volume

but fell 6% in value, while imports dropped 5.4% in weight and 16.3% in value. Faroud Asgari, deputy economy minister and head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), said non-oil exports during the period rose 0.07% in volume but fell 6% in value

compared with last year. Imports dropped 5.4% in weight and 16.3% in value, IRNA reported. Of the total, 61.33 million tons worth \$20.92 billion were exports, while imports amounted to 15.21 million tons worth \$23.02 billion. Asgari said petrochemical

shipments stood at 21.88 million tons worth \$8.64 billion, marking a 12% decline in volume and 13% drop in value. Key exports included natural gas, liquefied propane, petroleum bitumen, liquefied butane and methanol. On the import side, main items were "gold in raw

form," feed corn, sunflower seed oil, rice and soybeans. China, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates, Turkey, Afghanistan, Oman and Pakistan were the top destinations for Iranian exports. The UAE, China, Turkey, India, Germany, Russia and the Netherlands were the main sources of imports.



Behind scenes of Trump's hostility towards Maduro

Venezuelan president's life in danger?



The US President Donald Trump (L) and his Venezuelan counterpart, Nicolás Maduro
● LINDSEY BAILEY/AXIOS

PERSPECTIVE

Less than a year ago, the Venezuelan government announced plans to mend fences with the United States. However, the country is now threatening to give Americans a nightmare. In recent weeks, the Trump administration, which Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro had pinned his hopes on, has, under the pretext of combating drug cartels and terrorist groups, sent US warships to Caribbean waters. The order issued by Trump authorizes US military presence in foreign land or waters, marking one of Washington's sternest moves against

Venezuela that poses a serious threat to Maduro's regime. Seven warships and a nuclear submarine have entered Caribbean waters to send a clear message that President Trump is not joking around. Citing protection of US borders and countering the surge of migrants from South America, Trump allowed warship deployments and more extensive operations against Venezuela. The US has long been at odds with Maduro's leftist government and has refused to recognize his authority since the 2019 elections. During that election, opposition candidate Juan Guaidó emerged with Western-leaning ideas and economic

reform dreams, winning notable support due to his charisma, but Maduro ultimately held on to the presidency in Caracas. This nearly four-year-long standoff between the two led the West to recognize Guaidó as Venezuela's rightful president from the early days while dismissing Maduro. With Trump's arrival at the White House, the long-smoldering tensions blew up again. Since March 2025, Trump intensified pressure by imposing a 25% tariff on Venezuelan oil imports through Executive Order 14245. Concurrently, 200 Venezuelan prisoners were transferred from the US to El Salvador. When prisoners were

exchanged between the US, El Salvador, and Venezuela in July — with tens of American prisoners freed and some Venezuelan political prisoners returning home — there were hopes for an improvement. However, only a month later, the US doubled the bounty on Maduro from \$25 million to \$50 million, practically throwing down the gauntlet.

A new war on horizon?

Whether a fresh conflict is imminent in South America remains to be seen. Even within Trump's circle, few seem to know why he suddenly decided to send off submarines and 4,000 troops to Venezuela's coast. It's clear the



Venezuela has lodged a formal complaint with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, accusing the US of violating the UN Charter, and is trying to push the issue diplomatically. The US accuses Maduro of leading the Cartel of the Suns — a two-decade-old drug trafficking cartel branded as terrorist by Washington. Colombia's leftist president, aligned with Maduro, dismissed these accusations, calling the cartel a fabricated excuse by right-wing extremists to overthrow governments that don't bow to them.

US opposes Maduro's power — especially after placing a \$50 million bounty on him. Even the Biden administration was dissatisfied with leftist rule in Venezuela. Yet, the military buildup — ostensibly to fight terrorism and drug cartels — reveals Trump, who considers himself worthy of a Nobel Peace Prize, is ready to roll the dice on a new war in the Western Hemisphere. The American fleet headed for Venezuela's shores includes three guided-missile destroyers and at least one attack submarine, sailing out to deliver a message to Maduro, who has been jacking up military drills to face the US threat. According to National Interest, the US military has sent a sizable force and equipment to the Southern Command area, including P-8 Poseidon surveillance planes, thousands of Marines, and the amphibious landing ship USS Iwo Jima, plus three Arleigh Burke-class destroyers (USS Gravely, USS Jason Dunham, and USS Sampson). These destroyers aren't just for tracking down traffickers but also serve as a deterrent against any possible military reaction from Venezuela. The Arleigh Burke-class destroyers are the backbone of the US Navy, coming into service since 1991, capable of a wide range of missions — from anti-surface and anti-submarine warfare to ballistic missile defense. The Aegis Combat System, powered by the AN/SPY-1D(V) radar, enables tracking hundreds of targets over 300 kilometers away and engaging multiple threats simultaneously. Their arsenal includes thousand-mile-range Tomahawk missiles, 5-inch guns, Phalanx Close-In Weapon Systems, and advanced electronic warfare gear.

Venezuela's response

Vice President Delcy Rodríguez warned the US that any military aggression against the Latin American country would be met with fierce resistance. Rodríguez threatened that those thinking of invading should know it would backfire badly. She called on the US warmongers to calm down and accused them of aiming to seize Venezuela's riches. Clearly, Venezuela is not throwing in the towel. Defense Minister Vladimir Padrino recently revealed enhanced drone deployments and naval patrols along Caribbean coasts. Maduro himself, outfitted in combat gear at a recent military exercise, declared Venezuela is stronger and more prepared than ever to defend its sovereignty. The meticulously broadcast drills showcased troop parades, shooting practice, and simulated attacks on targets.

Venezuela has lodged a formal complaint with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, accusing the US of violating the UN Charter, and is trying to push the issue diplomatically. The US accuses Maduro of leading the Cartel of the Suns — a two-decade-old drug trafficking cartel branded as terrorist by Washington. Colombia's leftist president, aligned with Maduro, dismissed



Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro (C) meets with US special envoy Richard Grenell (L) in Caracas, Venezuela, on January 31, 2025.
● VENEZUELA'S PRESIDENTIAL PRESS OFFICE

these accusations, calling the cartel a fabricated excuse by right-wing extremists to overthrow governments that don't bow to them. Maduro and his government firmly push back on drug cartel support allegations, claiming continuous efforts to combat

trafficking at their borders. Maduro believes the US aims to pull off political engineering in Venezuela. White House spokeswoman Karoline Leavitt openly stated that the US sees Maduro not as a legitimate president but as "a fugitive head of this drug cartel".

What's really going on?
Some analysts believe the US is ultimately after Venezuela's vast oil reserves. Latin America's left frequently interprets recent events through this lens. Since Venezuela holds the world's largest oil reserves, this angle isn't far-fetched. In the early months of Trump's

tenure, he restored Chevron Corp's ability to pump oil in Venezuela. Meanwhile, Marco Rubio, US secretary of state with Cuban roots, kept up the fight against Maduro and played a pivotal role in Trump's Venezuela policies. Some observers say Rubio stirred the pot between Caracas and Washington.

The US prefers that Maduro throws in the towel and hand over power peacefully. They even hope discontented military officers and Maduro's inner circle might deliver him for the \$50 million bounty. Yet, despite Venezuela's dire economic and political crises, these hopes remain

elusive. Trump branded Maduro a terrorist, and some suggest the assassination of the Venezuelan president might even be an open file on the US president's desk.

The article first appeared in Persian on KhabarOnline news agency.

No compromise on Iran, Venezuela



US President Donald Trump against the backdrop of American military equipment
● THE CRADLE

By Ted Snider
Columnist

OPINION

US President Donald Trump has repeatedly stressed the need for both Russia and Ukraine to make difficult but reasonable compromises if progress is to be made toward peace. He has expressed hope that Russian President Vladimir Putin "will be good" and that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky will "show flexibility as well". But Trump has shown no such sign of flexibility or compromise when it comes to his conflicts with Iran and Venezuela. Rather than engage in give and take and nuanced steps towards compromise, Trump has thrust maximalist demands on his interlocutors that are backed by military threats. Somewhat ironically and hypocritically, this is the negotiating tactic associated with Russia

that Trump is critical of and hoping to change. Mark Galeotti recently wrote of the "Russian negotiating style going back to Soviet days. Rather than a mutual dance of small concessions, inching towards agreement, the Kremlin tends to maintain ludicrous, even insultingly excessive demands until the last minute." But, despite Iran showing willingness to compromise, the US has shown none. Iran has reportedly expressed willingness to discuss two versions of a compromise on its civilian nuclear program. Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has said that "there were several ideas for a win-win solution." One would see Iran export or convert its highly enriched uranium and limit future enrichment to 3.67% while agreeing to maximum transparency and inspections in cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Another would see Iran fold its nuclear program

into an international consortium that would allow Iran to enrich uranium but deny it access to the full enrichment process by distributing various roles in the process across different member states, who would likely include Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. The various member states could assist the IAEA by keeping a watchful eye on each other. The United States, though, has neither accepted either of these compromises nor taken them as the starting point for further negotiations. Instead, they have stuck to their maximalist demand that Iran entirely give up its civilian enrichment program: a program that Iran has a legal right to as a signatory to the nuclear nonproliferation treaty. Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has recently despaired of negotiating with the US in this manner, complaining that "they want Iran, with its great histo-

ry, and its people, with all their honor and glory, to obey the US." Negotiations are not possible when one side demands the other "submit to their commands" rather than work toward a compromise agreement: "Those who argue, 'Why don't you hold direct negotiations with America and resolve your issues?' - in my opinion, they too are only seeing what's on the surface. That is not the essence of the matter. This is not a matter that can be resolved." Despite Iran's compromises and America's intransigence, it is Iran that is being punished. A recent meeting between Iran and France, the UK, and Germany "ended without a final outcome" on how to avoid snapback sanctions that would mean a return to wide-ranging UN sanctions on Iran. The return to sanctions would be the result of the US and its junior partners in Europe deeming that Iran has returned to noncompliance with the 2015

”

Trump has shown no such sign of flexibility or compromise when it comes to his conflicts with Iran and Venezuela. Rather than engage in give and take and nuanced steps towards compromise, Trump has thrust maximalist demands on his interlocutors that are backed by military threats.

nuclear agreement, even though Iran is legally allowed to leave the agreement since the US left it and broke it first. The US is being equally unwilling to compromise with Venezuela; Though it is less clear what Venezuela needs to do to compromise short of accepting the regime change the US has long sought. At the beginning of August, Trump signed a directive to use military force, instead of law enforcement, to fight drug cartels in Latin America. That directive allows the possibility of military operations in Venezuelan waters and on Venezuelan soil. According to one US official, the American naval assets can be used "as a launching pad for targeted strikes if a decision is made". Trump has designated several drug cartels, including Venezuela's Cartel de los Soles, as foreign terrorist organizations. The US State Department says they constitute "a national-security threat beyond that posed by traditional organized crime". Secretary of State Marco Rubio says that this allows the US "to use other elements of American power, intelligence agencies, the Department of Defense, whatever, to target these groups." This means the US can take military action against Venezuela. Furthermore, the Trump administration asserts that Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro is the head of the Cartel de los Soles and has offered a \$50 million reward for information leading to his arrest. Despite the charge against Maduro having been discredited, the designations place Venezuela and its president in the crosshairs of the US military. On July 27, Rubio declared that "Maduro is not the President of Venezuela and his regime is not the legitimate government... Maduro is the leader of the designated narco-terrorist organization Cartel de Los Soles." Toward this end, over the past weeks, the US has sent waves of military ships and planes to the international waters on the edge of Venezuela. Those assets include three Aegis guided-missile destroyers, several P-8 spy planes, and at least one nuclear-powered fast attack submarine. The ships house 4,500 US service members, including 2,200 marines. In response to what it sees as a threat, Venezuela has announced the planned deployment of a 4.5-million-person strong militia. Maduro accused "the empire" of having "gone mad and has renewed its threats to Venezuela's peace and tranquility". While Trump demands compromise from Ukraine and Russia to stop their war, he seems unwilling to compromise in a manner that potentially risks two more wars.

The article first appeared on Antiwar.com.



A Colombian police officer walks in front of a banner offering a reward for information leading to the arrest of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro (L) and Interior Minister Diosdado Cabello, in Villa del Rosario, Norte de Santander Department, Colombia, on August 23, 2025.
● SCHNEYDER MENDOZA/AFP

Iran unveils men's weightlifting squad for World Championships

Sports Desk

Iran weightlifting head coach Behdad Salimi named a 10-man squad for the upcoming IWF World Championships – starting October 2 in Forde, Norway.

Former Olympic silver winner Ali Davoudi, who collected triple world medals last year, will headline the Iranian roster, chasing glory at the +110kg contest.

Joining Davoudi in the super-heavyweight class is Ayat Sharifi, who will compete fresh off a double-gold-winning campaign at the Asian Championships in May.

Alireza Mo'eni and Ali A'ali-pour will be the Iranian contestants in the 94kg division, looking to build on an impressive run in major events over the past nine months.

The Iranian duo won three world medals between them last December, before collecting five medals – including triple golds – at the Asian event. Iran will be represented by three weightlifters at the 110kg category.

Alireza Nasiri will be the Iranian to watch in the division, after the young prodigy made a clean sweep of three world junior golds in April.

Mahdi Karami will also be among the favorites in the class, having bagged the snatch and total bronzes at the previous edition in Manama.

Abolfazl Zare' completes the Iranian trio in the 110kg contest, stepping onto the platform on the back of a snatch gold and double silvers at this year's World Junior Championships. Abodollah Beiranvand – an Asian snatch silver winner last

year – will vie for success in the 79kg contest, while Amir-mohammad Rahmati and Illiya Salehipour, who three Asian junior medals last year, will compete in the 88kg event.

Making his debut at the World Championships as the Iranian head coach, Salimi will hope to see his squad improve on last year's edition, where the country collected 10 medals but managed only a single gold through Alireza Yousefi, who will miss the Forde event with a knee injury, in the super-heavyweight clean & jerk contest.



Iranian weightlifter Ayat Sharifi, pictured during a training session in June, will compete in the +110kg contests at the IWF World Championships.

● IWFIR



Sa'adat receives Iran call-up after injury blow to Esmailnejad

Sports Desk

Iranian opposite-spiker Bardia Sa'adat received a late call-up by national team head coach Roberto Piazza after star player Amin Esmailnejad suffered an ankle injury on Sunday, making him a major doubt for the upcoming FIVB Men's Volleyball World Championship.

Esmailnejad, who was Iran's top scorer in the Volleyball Nations League preliminaries earlier in the summer, was forced out in the second set during a 3-1 friendly victory over Qatar in Doha.

Early assessments showed no fracture in his twisted ankle, but he could still be sidelined for three to six weeks to fully recover from the injury.



● FIVB

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.

Sa'adat was also part of Iran's VNL roster, contributing double figures in three outings – including a team-high 24 points during a five-set loss to Slovenia in Week 1 in Rio de Janeiro.

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.

Iran beach soccer up to fifth in World Ranking

Sports Desk

Iranian beach soccer national team moved up by one spot to sit fifth in September's BSWW World

Ranking – released by Beach Soccer Worldwide, the sport's international developmental body, on Monday. Iran collected 2508.5

points to overtake Spain in the global ranking, retaining the top spot among the Asian teams.

Japan (8th), the United Arab Emirates (10th),

Oman (12th) and Saudi Arabia (21st) followed Iran in the list of Asian member states.

Iran lifted a record fourth AFC Asian Cup trophy in Pattaya, Thailand, in March – thanks to an 8-1 victory over Oman in the final showpiece – but missed out on a last-four place at May's FIFA World Cup in Seychelles after a 4-3 setback against Belarus, having claimed a second bronze medal in last year's edition in Dubai.

The top four of the World Ranking remained unchanged, with Brazil, which beat Belarus in the final for a record-extending seventh World Cup title, on top with 5024.75 points.

Following Brazil in ranking are Portugal (3616pts), Italy (3375), and Belarus (3114).



● FIFA

CAFA Nations Cup:

Qalenoey rues 'lack of prep' as Iran hits three past India

Sports Desk

Iran head coach Amir Qalenoey said he would take responsibility for his side's lack of match sharpness at the ongoing CAFA Nations Cup despite a 3-0 victory over India in its second Group B outing on Monday. The Asian powerhouse dominated from the off against the minnow opposition at the Hisor Central Stadium but still had to wait until the hour mark to break the deadlock through Amirhossein Hosseinzadeh, who squeezed the ball past Indian goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu.

Persepolis striker Ali Ali-pour netted his first international goal in the 89th minute, pouncing home on the rebound after Mahdi Taremi's effort came off the post.

Taremi found himself on the scoresheet deep into stoppage time, when he latched onto a precise pass from Alireza Jahanbakhsh before dispatching a com-

posed finish to seal the win. The victory left Iran, which had beaten Afghanistan 3-1 on the opening day, on top of the group table, with India and cohost Tajikistan trailing Qalenoey's side by three points.

"Before I talk about the match, I need to address my own mistake and admit that we should have come into this tournament with a better preparation," Qalenoey said after the game. "Some of our players have played three matches in the past 10 days, while we made 18 changes to the national team roster for this competition, which is why we should have had four or five training sessions in Tehran before heading to the tournament. As I said, this is my failure as the head coach.

On Monday's performance and result, Qalenoey said: "India sat deep with nine or 10 players in its own half, looking to hit us on the counter-attack. However, our team also took on a very good shape in

our defensive third. Unlike the previous match, we reduced the space between our lines, and didn't give them any opportunities.

"In the second half, we understood India's approach a bit better. The substitutions made an impact, and we found the goals," added the Iranian.

"It's always more difficult to compete against teams with this kind of setup and high motivation because they have incredible work rate and multiple defensive layers; they simply don't want to concede. I just want to give credit to my players for delivering a much-improved performance compared to the previous game despite being very tired."

Next for Iran is a final group game on Thursday against Tajikistan, which beat Afghanistan 2-0 later on Monday.

The group winner will progress to the final showpiece at Tashkent's Olympic City Stadium on Monday.



Iran's Majid Aliyari (19) is seen in action during a 3-0 win against India at the CAFA Nations Cup in Hisor, Tajikistan, on September 1, 2025.

● FFIRI

Sacred, architectural legacy of South Khorasan Province



Grand Mosque of Ferdows
● fargah.ir



Grand Mosque of Mian Deh
● lastsecond.ir

Iranica Desk

South Khorasan Province, with its rich heritage of grand mosques, Husseiniehs (buildings designed specifically for gatherings of Shia Muslims for religious practice), shrines, and mausoleums of Imamzadehs (descendants of Imams), is far more than just a tourist destination. It is a place to return to one's roots and establish a profound connection with spirituality. This province, while preserving its historical authenticity, stands as one of the most pristine regions for religious tourism in the country, fully prepared to welcome pilgrims, researchers, and enthusiasts of Islamic culture. At a time when cultural identity gains ever greater importance, safeguarding and promoting these invaluable treasures is not only a national responsibility but also a golden opportunity to advance sustainable tourism development within this desert province.

Grand Mosque of Ferdows: It is a lasting monument dating back to the 7th century AH, representing one of the most prominent examples of Khorasani architectural style. This magnificent structure, characterized by its tall qibla (prayer

niche), surrounding prayer halls, and columns, vividly displays the exquisite artistry and authentic architecture of Iran. The distinctive brickwork on the base of the ivan, combined with the elegant interplay of brick and tile, bestows upon this religious building a particularly majestic grandeur.

Grand Mosque of Qaen: Situated in the city of Qaen, the mosque, featuring two entrances from the northeast and northwest, pointed arches, angled corridors, and a stunning main courtyard, is recognized as one of the most beautiful symbols of religious architecture. The harmonious blend of architectural design and structural solidity, enhanced by simple yet impactful decoration, creates an atmosphere imbued with spirituality and inspiration.

Grand Mosque of Sarayan: It boasts an ivan soaring to a height of 13 meters, two prayer halls, and a stucco mihrab adorned with Surah Al-Fatiha. It stands among the most exquisite religious structures from the Safavid era. The intricate muqarnas (stalactite) works on the ivan's ceiling and the ribbed vaults of the western night hall elevate this mosque to the status of a complete artistic



Shokatiyeh School of Birjand
● funzi.co

masterpiece.

Grand Mosque of Hendevan: The monument is among the most magnificent and oldest historic-religious buildings in Darmian, situated in a village bearing the same name. It is also one of the most distinguished mosques from the Timurid period. Its central domed chamber is ingeniously constructed on a quadrilateral base employing squinches that skillfully transform the shape from square to circle and finally to the dome. This mosque serves as a testament to the exceptional ingenuity of Iranian architects in adapting

to the climate while implementing Islamic engineering techniques.

Grand Mosque of Afin: Located in a village sharing its name, this mosque, with its pointed arches and domed chambers crafted using squinches, is attributed to the Seljuk period. Despite partial destruction of the main ivan, the overall architecture remains a vivid reflection of the grandeur and beauty of the Islamic era in eastern Iran.

Grand Mosque of Mian Deh: The mosque located in a village with the same name in Boshruyeh features a southern ivan, ar-

cades supported by brick columns, a large northern hall, and an exquisite inscription in Thuluth script. It exemplifies the harmonious integration of local and traditional architecture with Islamic motifs. The design reveals the architects' mastery over both aesthetic principles and the religious functions of the building.

Grand Mosque of Khushf: Situated within the historic fabric of Khushf, the Grand Mosque of Khushf is distinguished by halls supported by quadrilateral columns and four-segmented domes. The Abdolkhaleq hall, the oldest section of

the mosque, contains six columns and twelve domes, creating a serene and spiritual environment for worship.

Mausoleum of Bozorgmehr Qaeni: Bozorgmehr Qaeni, a renowned mystic of the 4th and 5th centuries AH, is interred in a mausoleum designed with a cruciform layout and four ivans. The exquisite stucco work beneath the dome, the artistic muqarnas, and the harmonious combination of stone, plaster, and brick collectively elevate this structure to the status of a unique architectural masterpiece.

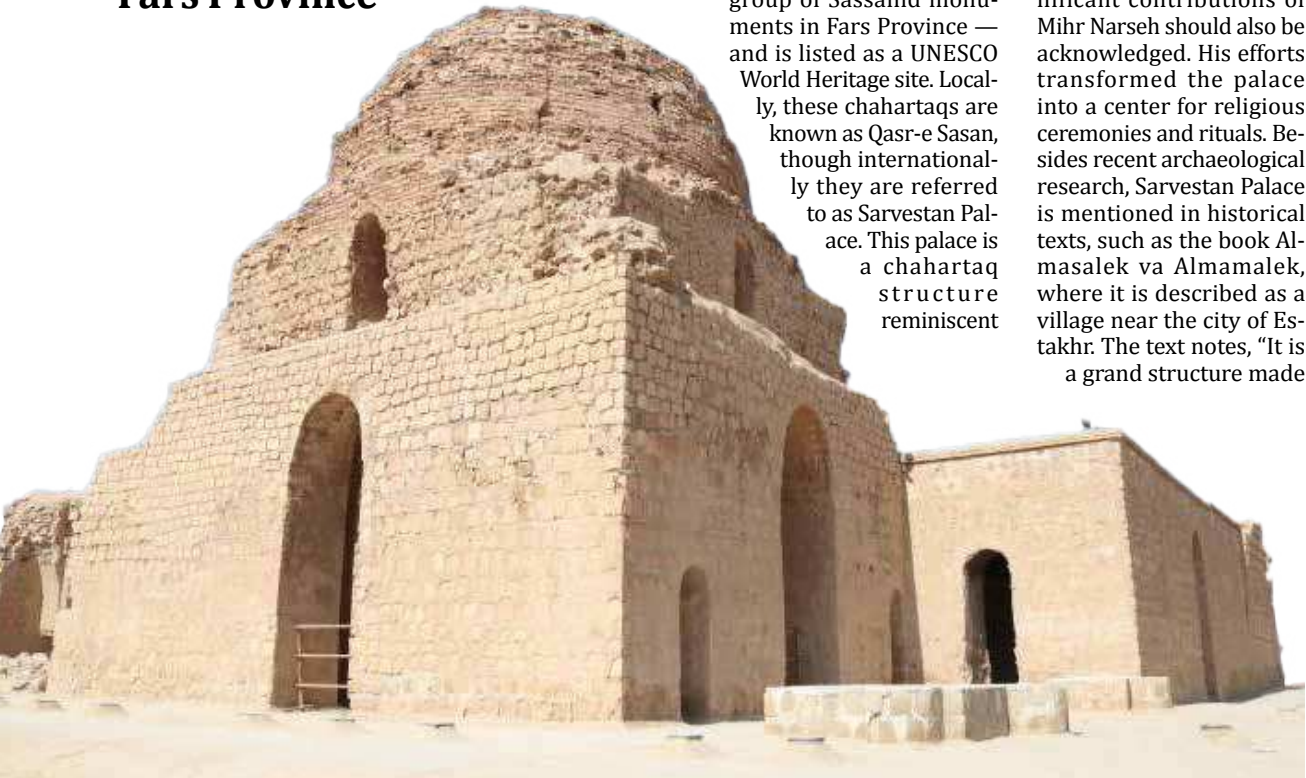
Holy Shrine of Hazrat Hussein ibn Musa al-Kazim (PBUH): The holy shrine of Hazrat Hussein ibn Musa al-Kazim (PBUH), the brother of Imam Reza (PBUH), is located in the city of Tabas. Historical records indicate that the original edifice was constructed in the 5th century AH and subsequently underwent restoration and reconstruction in the 13th century AH. Although it was completely destroyed in the earthquake of 1978, it was meticulously rebuilt through the dedicated efforts of Astan Quds Razavi Foundation. This restoration included the main

shrine and the surrounding arcades. Today, the shrine annually welcomes a large number of pilgrims and tourists, serving as a significant spiritual and cultural landmark.

Shokatiyeh School of Birjand: The building, distinguished by its artistic stucco decorations, niches, convex domes, and entrances incorporating native Yazd architectural styles, stands as one of Iran's earliest modern educational centers. Currently, it functions as the Imam Reza Hosseiniyeh. Beyond being a symbol of culture and religion, this building documents the historical evolution of the educational system in eastern Iran.

Navab Hosseiniyeh of Birjand: With a legacy spanning over four centuries, Navab Hosseiniyeh in Birjand is among the oldest and most magnificent religious gathering places in the province. Founded by a benevolent lady from the Khazimeh family, it has withstood the test of time and successive damages. The presence of historical inscriptions and numerous endowment deeds bears testimony to the irreplaceable role this institution has played in the religious life of the region.

Artistic, structural mastery of Sarvestan Palace in Fars Province



The Sassanid Palace of Sarvestan, featuring two grand chahartaq structures, is recognized as part of the Sassanid Axis in Fars — a group of Sassanid monuments in Fars Province — and is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site. Locally, these chahartaqs are known as Qasr-e Sasan, though internationally they are referred to as Sarvestan Palace. This palace is a chahartaq structure reminiscent

of the fire temples from Iran's pre-Islamic era. The structure was built during the reign of Bahram Gor, though the significant contributions of Mihr Narseh should also be acknowledged. His efforts transformed the palace into a center for religious ceremonies and rituals. Besides recent archaeological research, Sarvestan Palace is mentioned in historical texts, such as the book Al-masalek va Al-mamalek, where it is described as a village near the city of Estakhr. The text notes, "It is a grand structure made



● visitiran.ir

from stone and plaster and includes columned vaults, many iwans, rooms, and corridors." The palace's main façade faces south, featuring a central terrace flanked by two smaller terraces. The main terrace connects to a large hall, believed to be the main hall, followed by four courtyards. On its northern side, another

terrace links to the surrounding yard via steps. The remaining domes of the palace benefit from squinches, architectural elements that strengthen the domes. Stone pillars also continue to support the ceiling, underscoring the palace's significance to the Sassanids and their advanced artistry and architectural science. Notably, the sophisticated

design of Sarvestan Palace has led specialists to consider it one of the earliest architectural achievements that influenced the Gothic style, which later flourished in Europe. French architect André Godard compared Sarvestan Palace to Firuzabad Palace, noting it is similar but smaller. The palace is constructed primarily from stone and plaster.



18th youth music festival kicks off

Minister calls festival, bridge between ‘ancient heritage, new creations’

Arts & Culture Desk

18th National Festival of Youth Music Festival opened Tuesday at Tehran's Roudaki Hall, drawing 1,640 young musicians competing across traditional Persian, regional folk, Western classical and composition categories through September 17. The competition serves as an artistic testing ground for evaluating the country's music education standards while spurring greater effort among budding musicians, according to festival organizers. This year's event carries a budget of nearly \$60,000, doubling last year's allocation.

Culture and Islamic Guidance Minister Abbas Salehi praised the festival as bridging "ancient heritage and new creations," calling it proof that art remains "the language of solidarity and future-building in Iran."

Deputy Minister for Artistic Affairs Nadereh Rezaei told contestants they represent "Iran's unparalleled musical treasures." The opening day spotlighted Azerbaijani regional music.

Competition proved fierce during preliminary rounds held from August 6 through early September. From the initial pool, 217 contestants advanced in traditional

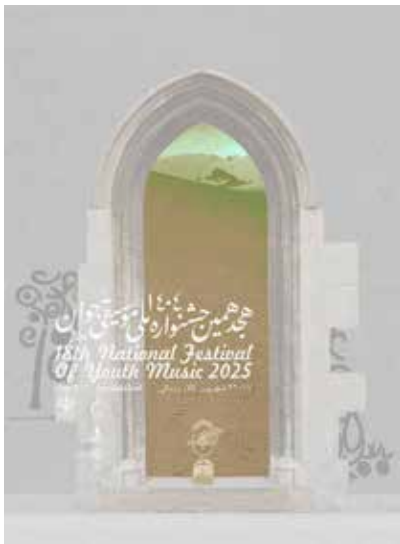
Persian music, 272 in regional categories and 116 in Western classical sections. Ninety-two judges evaluated submissions across all disciplines.

Winners will walk away with substantial rewards beyond recognition. First-place finishers receive \$1,440, second place \$1,200 and third place \$960. The festival secretariat also plans to produce 20 documentary films featuring performer highlights.

Officials aim to broaden the festival's reach by broadcasting select performances on state television. Support for winners includes master classes with distinguished instructors and formation of musical ensembles spanning regional, traditional and classical genres.

The Iran Music Association organized the event with backing from the Culture Ministry's music office and artistic affairs department. Age groups range from 15-18 years for contestants born between 2006-2009, 19-23 years for those born 2001-2005, and 24-29 years covering births from 1995-2000.

Festival director Hamidreza Ardalan oversees programming that encompasses Persian classical traditions, regional folk styles from across Iran's diverse provinces, Western classical repertoire



and original compositions.

The competition format reflects international standards for musical contests, requiring adherence to specific rules and protocols. Organizers stressed that participants should maintain motivation regardless of outcomes, noting that when over 100 contestants compete in single instrument categories, mathematical reality limits winners.



Regional sections showcase Iran's musical diversity, from Azarbaijan's distinctive sounds to Kurdish, Mazandaran, Lorestan, Khorasan, Kermanshah, Golestan and southern coastal traditions. Western classical categories span guitar, violin, viola, cello, brass and woodwind instruments, recorder and piano. Eighty-eight artists serve as judges across various specialties, bringing de-

cadres of performance and teaching experience to evaluations. The secretariat implemented multiple safeguards to ensure fairness and accuracy in assessments.

Festival organizers expressed gratitude to all participants who submitted works, emphasizing that the primary goal remains elevating musical quality and enriching the art form rather than merely securing contest rankings.

Persian music heir Shajarian to take classical vocals to Tehran streets



Persian classical vocalist Homayoun Shajarian speaks during a press conference in Tehran on September 1, 2025.

● MEHR

Arts & Culture Desk

Renowned Persian classical vocalist Homayoun Shajarian announced he will perform a free street concert at Tehran's Azadi Square on September 5, marking the first time in years he has secured permits for an outdoor public performance in Iran's capital.

The son of legendary Persian master Mohammad Reza Shajarian said the evening concert represents the fulfillment of a "years-long dream" to bring traditional music directly to the streets, ISNA reported.

Officials from multiple government agencies have signed off on the unprecedented event, which could pave the way for similar performances by other Iranian artists.

Speaking at a news conference, Sha-

jarian said the show will kick off at 10 p.m. to minimize disruption to city traffic. The performance will feature the 30-member Siavash Orchestra and run without restrictions or prohibitions, he emphasized.

"We've been chasing this opportunity for eight years," Shajarian told reporters. The singer acknowledged that staging the concert poses greater challenges than mounting "10 regular concerts" due to logistics and sound equipment needs for the open-air venue.

The multi-billion rial production will include state-of-the-art audio systems to reach audiences potentially standing blocks away from the main stage. Shajarian said he will waive his per-

formance fee, though orchestra members will receive standard compensation.

The concert will open with 'Diar-e Asheghan' (The Homeland of My Loves) and close with 'Morph-e Sahar' (Bird of Dawn), featuring pieces from Shajarian's recent repertoire that audiences know by heart.

Sahar Forouzan, Shajarian's program manager, said they had initially explored staging the concert at Azadi Sports Complex or the ancient ruins of Persepolis.

The singer voiced hopes that Tehran will increasingly hear "music instead of car horns" as cultural programming expands throughout the city. He stressed the concert operates in-

dependently of any political organization.

The performer also revealed that over 300 unreleased works by his late father remain in archives, with plans to release them in collections of ten. Mohammad Reza Shajarian, who died in 2020, is widely considered the most influential Persian classical vocalist of the modern era.

Standing room only tickets remain free, with no reservations required. Organizers plan online streaming for those unable to attend in person.

"If my father were alive today, he would take tremendous pride in the people of his country," Shajarian said, reflecting on his father's enduring legacy among Iranian music lovers.

French festival awards Iranian short film poster

Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian filmmaker Leyli Rasouli's short 'Corps Are Not Buried with Knives' unveiled its official poster as the work clinched the Best Poster award at the Greenflash International Film Festival in France.

The drama, written and directed by Rasouli and produced by Ali Kalhor, follows the journey of Shirin, a young woman searching for her missing brother. Along the way she encounters "tragic" events that alter her life. The film casts

a spotlight on family ties and personal crises through what the director calls a realistic and human lens, IRNA wrote.

The cast includes Pouya Beigi, Rasouli herself, Keyvan Azad, Milad Safavi, Reza Barzan, Amirmansour Monfared and Hamidreza Nouri.

The award comes as Iranian independent cinema continues to gain recognition abroad, often praised for its pared-down storytelling and focus on intimate social themes. Rasouli described the poster launch and the French honor as a milestone,



saying it reflects the film's "spirit and depth."

Spox: No legal ban on women receiving motorcycle license

Social Desk

Iranian government spokesperson Fatemeh Mohajerani said on Tuesday there is no legal restriction on issuing motorcycle licenses to women, citing the presidential legal affairs office, though current law still limits the permits to men. She told reporters at her weekly briefing at the Ministry of Cooperatives Labour and Social Welfare that the government had not drafted any bill on the matter because it sees no legal barrier to licensing women. A previous parliamentary proposal, she added, had failed to

advance.

"Our country has many capable women who skillfully operate everything from tractors in rural areas to aircraft, buses and heavy vehicles," Mohajerani said, stressing the administration would welcome a resolution to what she called a problem. Vice-President for Women and Family Affairs Zahra Behrouz-Azar said on August 31 that the government believes no new law is needed for women to ride motorcycles and that inter-agency coordination was under way.

"Women's motorcycling is no different from their work as pi-

lots or drivers. We already see women active in national, international and aviation transport, and it is natural they need motorcycles for daily mobility," Behrouz-Azar said, adding that legal reviews had been carried out since the start of the current administration.

She emphasized that existing regulations are sufficient and that implementation only requires cooperation among authorities. Behrouz-Azar also noted safety concerns, saying women tend to drive cautiously and use helmets, which she said could improve road safety overall.