

38th Moscow Int'l Book Fair opens with Iran literary heritage on display

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US rules, conditions blocking Iran nuclear talks: *Gov't spox*

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Disarming Hezbollah would jeopardize security of Lebanon, entire region

By Mohammad Irani
Former Iranian ambassador to Lebanon

OPINION EXCLUSIVE

Lebanon is grappling with an extremely complex situation over proposals to disarm Hezbollah. Despite mounting regional and international pressure to enforce such a plan, its implementation is far from straightforward. Lebanon is a country built on a sectarian framework defined under the Taif Agreement that ended its 15-year civil war. The political system rests on a delicate balance among three major sects: Christians, Sunni Muslims, and Shia Muslims, each holding a share of power. Any move that disregards the collective interests of these communities risks triggering fresh crises and destabilizing the country. The issue of disarming Hezbollah has gained urgency in recent months under external pressure from the United States, the Zionist regime of Israel, and Saudi Arabia, alongside internal calls from Christian parties opposed to Hezbollah. A plan recently tabled by Washington envisages the full disarmament of Hezbollah, followed by the deployment of the Lebanese army in the south and, ultimately, the demarcation of precise borders with Israel. However, this proposal clashes with UN Security Council Resolution 1701 and earlier agreements between Hezbollah and Israel. Hezbollah has therefore objected to the incomplete implementation of past deals and insists no new plan can proceed until existing commitments are fully honored. In the Lebanese government's latest session, which approved the disarmament of Hezbollah, Shia ministers walked out in protest. This move disrupted the sectarian balance of the cabinet, effectively rendering any decision taken without the participation of one community unlawful and unenforceable. Nevertheless, Washington continues to push Beirut to carry out this decision, despite the fact that Lebanon's sectarian consensus rejects it. Statesmen across the political and sectarian spectrum warn that such an approach would only complicate matters further. They argue that any resolution must be pursued through dialogue and peaceful negotiation — the only viable path to a settlement.

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Pezeshkian calls for pushback against 'bullying', unilateralism

Iran-China convergence serving as 'solid basis for expanding cooperation': **Official**

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Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (2nd row, 3rd L) poses for a group photograph with world leaders including Russia's President Vladimir Putin, China's President Xi Jinping and North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un – all in the front – before a military parade marking the 80th anniversary of victory over Japan and the end of World War II, in Beijing's Tiananmen Square on September 3, 2025.

SPUTNIK



Minister: Oil sales up by 21,000 bpd in first four months of year

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Mo'menimoqaddam grateful after Iran beats odds to retain world title

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Local games to enhance social bonds, tourism

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Saudis view relations with Iran as 'strategic, essential': *Ambassador*

Tehran-Riyadh security talks ongoing

INTERVIEW

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