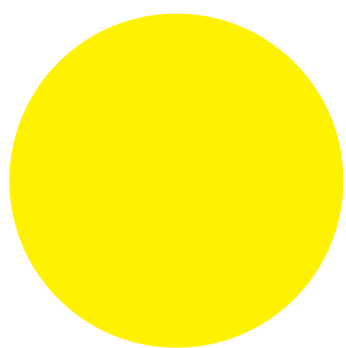


EU urged to honor JCOA role amid snapback push

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Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (3rd R) attends a meeting with senior Hamas officials, including Khalil al-Hayya (2nd L), a member of the movement's Political Bureau in Gaza, during high-level talks in Doha on September 4, 2025.  
● Ministry of Foreign Affairs

## Araghchi reaffirms Iran's support for Palestine against Israeli occupation

Misunderstanding with Qatar 'fully resolved,' FM says

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## Tehran's path to preserve nuclear power, stay ready to negotiate

By Roxana Niknami  
Political analyst

O P I N I O N

The best course for Iran today lies in preserving its nuclear capability while remaining prepared to return to the negotiating table. This dual approach, often called a hedging strategy, offers Iran the flexibility to adapt to shifting international conditions.

Unlike a passive stance, hedging combines preventive measures with a balance of threats, allowing Iran to respond intelligently to global developments.

Europe's decision to trigger the "snapback" mechanism against Iran marked a significant diplomatic maneuver. The three European signatories of the 2015 nuclear deal framed their move as a bid to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons and to restore full international monitoring.

The action cast a shadow over Tehran's relations with Europe and again exposed the limits of the UN Security Council system. Observers argue that politics, a desire to signal loyalty to Washington, and the ambition to revive Europe's influence in regional affairs were also at play. In the coming weeks, both Tehran and the European trio will face a critical juncture. Europe hopes maximum pressure will force Iran back into talks and constrain its nuclear program. Iran, meanwhile, insists on exercising its legal rights while maintaining the hedging approach. The standoff, defined by mistrust on both sides, could shape the future of the nuclear deal and Europe's broader foreign policy in the Middle East.

Europe's snapback decision was driven by both domestic and international factors. European leaders said their main goal was to forestall nuclear proliferation, portraying the move as a preventive measure in response to concerns over Iran's cooperation with the IAEA and speculation about withdrawal from the NPT.

But this came at a political cost. The snapback created a short-term media and diplomatic advantage for Europe, yet it failed to alter Iran's behavior. It underscored miscalculations in Europe's reading of Tehran's strategy.

Other motives were equally important. The snapback offered Europe a chance to reassert itself in Middle Eastern diplomacy, after losing visibility as a mediator between Washington and Tehran and appearing passive during the Gaza crisis. By pressing ahead, Europe signaled to the Trump administration its willingness to align strategically. It also sought to reassure public opinion at home. After the war in Ukraine, many Europeans viewed Iran with increasing hostility, and governments faced domestic pressure to act firmly. Timing also mattered: Europe chose to move before Russia assumed the rotating presidency of the Security Council, avoiding complications Moscow could have introduced.

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# Araghchi reaffirms Iran's support for Palestine against Israeli occupation

Misunderstanding with Qatar 'fully resolved,' FM says

## International Desk

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi held high-level meetings in Doha on Thursday with Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani and senior Hamas officials, including Khalil al-Hayya, a member of the movement's political bureau in Gaza. In his meeting with al-Hayya and other members of the movement's leadership, Araghchi reaffirmed the Islamic Republic's support for the Palestinian nation's legitimate resistance against occupation, emphasizing that this support would continue until the full restoration of Palestinian rights.

The Foreign Minister praised the legendary resilience of the Palestinian people in the face of what he described as Israel's unprecedented crimes.

Referring to the escalation of Israeli actions in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, Araghchi

described the global wave of protests and demonstrations against the Israeli regime's actions as a clear sign of the international community's awakening to the genocide in occupied Palestine.

He stressed the urgent need for continued, coordinated, and comprehensive action by Muslim countries to stop the genocide, deliver humanitarian aid to the besieged population, and prosecute and punish Israeli leaders responsible for these crimes.

Hamas officials provided a detailed update on the situation in Gaza, outlining ongoing efforts to end Israeli hostilities and negotiate prisoner exchanges.

The head of Hamas's Political Bureau emphasized that despite committing the most heinous crimes against the Palestinian people, Israel cannot break their determination to resist and defend their legitimate and legal rights.



Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (3rd L) meets with Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani (3rd R) in Doha on September 4, 2025.

● IRNA

Al-Hayya also underscored the need for global mobilization to lift the siege on Gaza, deliver immediate humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people, and effectively confront the Zionist regime's policy of intensifying occupation, committing genocide in Palestine, and waging war across the region.

In a separate meeting with Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Araghchi discussed strengthening bilateral ties and addressing regional and international developments. The talks focused heavily on the ongoing atrocities in the occupied Palestinian territories.

Speaking to Al-Sharq newspaper later, Araghchi said that bilateral



issues were addressed, particularly the misunderstanding that arose following Iran's missile strike on the US base at Al-Udeid in Qatar. The strike was carried

out in retaliation for American attacks on Iran's nuclear facilities during the 12-day conflict with Israel in June and drew criticism from Doha.

Nevertheless, Araghchi stressed that no rift exists between the two countries, stating that, "The misunderstanding was fully resolved during this visit."

## EU urged to honor JCPOA role amid snapback push

### International Desk

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi urged the European Union to fulfil its responsibilities as coordinator of the 2015 nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), stressing the need to counter attempts aimed at undermining diplomacy.

In a meeting on Thursday in Qatar with EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas, the top Iranian diplomat reminded her of the bloc's role as "coordinator of the JCPOA Joint Commission" under the nuclear accord and UN Security Council Resolution 2231. He said the EU is expected to "live up to its mandate" and work to neutralize actions that run against diplomacy. The talks came against the backdrop of efforts by France, Germany and the UK (collectively known as the E3) to trigger the so-called "snapback" mechanism under the JCPOA, a move that could restore all UN sanctions on Iran within 30 days if no agreement is reached. The two sides also discussed Iran's cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Araghchi reiterated that Iran remains committed to diplomacy and is serious and steadfast in this position.

Kallas underlined that diplomacy and negotiation remain the only way to resolve concerns, calling for more time to be given to diplomatic efforts. Both sides agreed to continue consultations in the coming days and weeks.

Although the EU was not a formal signatory to the 2015 nuclear accord, it acted as coordinator of the Joint Commission tasked with overseeing implementation. Russia and China, the other JCPOA participants, have strongly opposed the move by E3 and, together with Iran, submitted a joint letter to the UN Security Council urging its rejection. According to Araghchi, Moscow and Beijing have also drafted a resolution to counter the European initiative, with Tehran engaged in close consultations to rally support.

**Iran, IAEA delegations hold talks in Vienna**

Amid heated row over the looming snapback of pre-JCPOA sanctions regime against Tehran, the

E3 have specifically called on Iran to resume its cooperation with the IAEA, which Tehran suspended following a 12-day imposed war by Israel in June.

Under parliamentary legislation passed in response, any future cooperation with the IAEA must now be approved by Iran's Supreme National Security Council on a case-by-case basis.

Despite the restrictions, Iran and the IAEA remain in dialogue over new modalities for cooperation. On Friday, the two sides held a fresh round of talks aimed at establishing a revised framework for engagement.

Reza Najafi, Iran's ambassador and permanent representative to international organizations in Vienna, previously stated that the discussions would build on earlier negotiations and seek to define future collaboration in accordance with the statute passed by the Iranian parliament.

Last week, IAEA inspectors were granted limited access to Iran to oversee the refueling of the Bushehr nuclear power plant, and departed after completing the mission, with no indication of broader engagement.

## 'Breach of UN charter': Iran urges accountability over nuclear site attacks

### International Desk

Amir Saeid Iravani, Iran's ambassador and permanent representative to the United Nations, called on the international community to condemn attacks on its nuclear facilities and hold the perpetrators accountable, warning that such actions carry risks comparable to those posed by nuclear weapons testing. Speaking on Thursday at the High-Level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly marking the International Day Against Nuclear Tests, Iravani said the "reckless attacks" carried out by Israel in June — later joined by the United States — deliberately targeted nuclear sites under International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards.

Israel struck multiple locations inside Iran, while the United States bombarded the country's three main nuclear facilities in Natanz, Fordow and Isfahan before a ceasefire took effect on June 24. Iravani stressed that these facilities are devoted exclusively to peaceful purposes under Article IV of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and accused both governments of blatant violations of international law, including the principles of the UN Charter.

Stressing that the June attacks constitute "a blatant violation of international law, including the principles of the UN charter," he said such belligerent moves are considered a "direct assault on the foundations of multilat-



The undated photo shows Amir Saeid Iravani, Iran's ambassador and permanent representative to the United Nations, addressing a high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly.

● IRNA

eralism, undermine confidence in disarmament and non-proliferation frameworks, and pose a grave threat to international peace and security."

Iravani also denounced Israeli attacks on Iranian cities hosting International Monitoring System (IMS) stations, warning that such operations endanger technical staff, compromise verification infrastructure, and obstruct the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization's (CTBTO) objectives.

He said it would be "hypocrisy and a double standard" to condemn nuclear testing while ignoring attacks that carry similar consequences.



**Mohammad Ali Rajabi**  
Cartoonist

## US sanctions three Palestinian rights groups over ICC cases

### International Desk

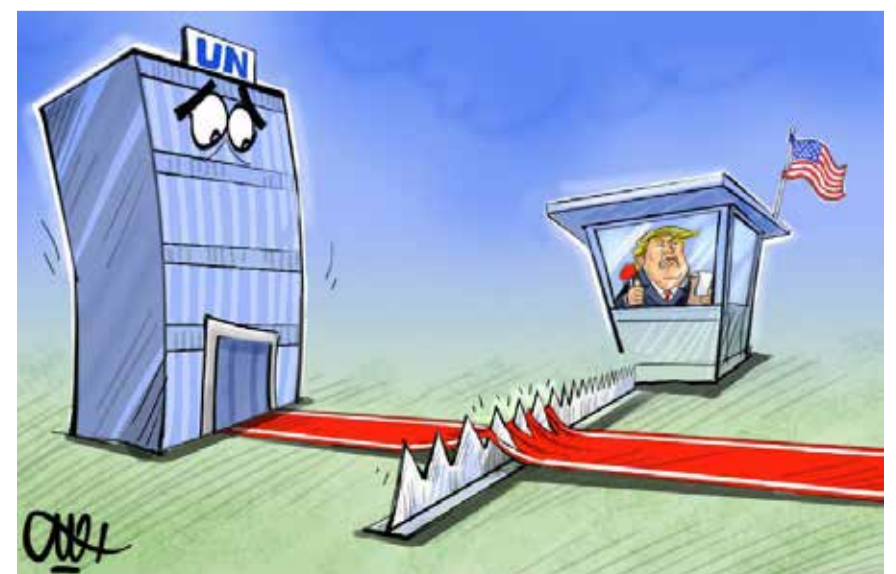
The US State Department on Thursday added three prominent Palestinian rights groups — Al-Haq, the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR), and Al-Mezan Center for Human Rights — to its sanctions list, accusing them of involvement in what it claimed to be the "illegitimate targeting of Israel" by the International Court of Justice (ICJ). US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said later that the organizations

were sanctioned for "directly engaging in efforts by the ICC to investigate, arrest, detain, or prosecute Israeli nationals, without Israel's consent."

The Trump administration had earlier sanctioned the ICC in response to its probe and arrest warrants issued against Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former minister of military affairs Yoav Gallant for alleged war crimes in Gaza. All three Palestinian groups had submitted evidence in the case.

In a joint statement, the three groups condemned the "draconian sanctions" as a "cowardly, immoral, illegal and undemocratic act" amid what they described as genocide against Palestinians.

The US had previously sanctioned the prisoner rights group Addameer in June, followed in July by measures against the Palestinian Authority and the Palestine Liberation Organization, while simultaneously lifting sanctions on Israeli settlers and organizations accused of violence.



# Iran, China step up cooperation in renewables, power storage tech

## Economy Desk

A senior Iranian energy official said on Thursday that the Islamic Republic has launched close cooperation with Chinese companies in the fields of smart grid technologies, gas-insulated switchgear, energy storage systems and other related technologies, with some production lines already operating inside the country. Mostafa Rajabi Mashhadi, CEO of Iran Power Generation, Transmission and Distribution Company (Tavanir), told a joint meeting with Chinese state and private firms that, "It is necessary to use modern technologies in renewable energy, electric storage systems and pumped-storage power plants," calling for the expansion of technical cooperation and transfer of up-to-date know-how to Iran, IRNA reported.

Rajabi Mashhadi said Iran was taking serious steps to expand solar energy, adding that the use of storage systems was essential for renewable growth. Pumped-storage plants would also help



stabilize Iran's vast and diverse electricity grid, he said, noting that the Energy Ministry was explicitly pursuing such projects to ensure renewable development did not cause disruptions.

## Technical knowledge transfer

Tavanir has sought in past projects not only to import equipment but also to bring technical expertise into the country. Cooperation with China was expect-

ed to go beyond supplying equipment and accelerate localization of technologies, the Tavanir head said.

Reciprocal visits of expert teams and sharing operational experiences would be "an important step in deepening cooperation," he added.

During the meeting, the Chinese side cited two active contracts with Iran – a 1,500-megawatt project and a \$600 million package – and voiced interest in financing and developing new joint projects in the energy sector.

Several Iranian power equipment and battery manufacturers also attended the session to discuss technical knowledge transfer and plan future collaboration.

In January, Tehran and Beijing reached an initial agreement on Chinese investment in Iran's renewable energy sector, with a Chinese company set to cover 70 percent of the investment.

Last week, China invested \$70 million in a 200 MW solar power plant in Iran's Bushehr Province in south of the country.

**Oil tanker vehicles to be equipped with monitoring systems within two years: NIORDC**



## Economy Desk

Iran's National Iranian Oil Refining and Distribution Company (NIORDC) has launched a major "smart supply chain" project as part of its digital transformation, with plans to install real-time monitoring systems on all of the country's oil tanker vehicles within two years, a company official said on Friday.

Farzad Barzegar, adviser to the NIORDC managing director, said the initiative prioritizes close monitoring of pipelines, tankers and refineries to boost efficiency and curb risks, including fuel smuggling. "All of the country's oil tankers will be equipped with real-time monitoring systems within two years," he said, ILNA reported.

Until the 1990s, oil transfers to refineries, refining operations, nationwide fuel distribution, and construction of refineries, pipelines and telecom networks were handled separately. But in 1991, the NIORDC was created to integrate those activities, Barzegar said.

The NIORDC official said that after 35 years, the company had reached a point where, given the scale of its fuel supply and distribution operations, digitalization and smart management of Iran's petroleum supply chain had become a top priority.

## Agriculture minister refutes 90% water consumption claims \$3b trade balance improvement reported

## Economy Desk

Iran's agriculture minister said the sector consumes far less water than widely claimed and has managed to boost output and exports despite persistent drought and resource shortages.

Gholamreza Nouri-Qezeljah told state TV on Thursday that actual water consumption in agriculture is about 45 billion cubic meters, not the 80% to 90% of national water resources often cited, ISNA reported. "The claim that 80 to 90 percent of water resources are used in agriculture does not match reality," he said, adding that with industrial growth, rising population and greater demand for drinking and industrial water, agriculture's share had dropped significantly.

Under the Seventh Development Plan, the Energy Ministry is required to allocate about 77 billion cubic meters of water annually to agriculture, but this year's supply has not even reached 42-43 bcm, he said. Many regions have faced water shortages and a 60% cut in irrigation, one of the main reasons for lower wheat production.

Persistent drought over the past five years has drastically reduced surface and groundwater levels, putting Iran in an extremely critical water situation. According to studies and official statistics spanning six decades, this is the worst water year on record due to the absence of effective rainfall.

## \$3b trade balance improvement

The minister also said that de-

spite challenges, agriculture shifted from a 2.4% contraction to 3.2% growth last year, equal to a 5-6 percentage point swing, according to the Statistical Center of Iran. Exports rose about 32% in value while imports dropped 6%, improving the agricultural trade balance by some \$3 billion to minus \$8 billion, from minus \$11 billion, he said. In the first four months of the calendar year (began on March 20, 2025), exports grew a further 11%, keeping agriculture a leading non-oil export sector.

## Production gains

According to the minister, sugar output rose 28% last year, while tropical fruit production jumped 54%, results the ministry said showed self-sufficiency targets in these products were achieved.



able.

Nouri-Qezeljah put the agriculture sector's share of GDP at about 6 percent, but said the real figure was above 15% when related upstream and downstream activities were included, contributing to a one-percentage-point boost

to the overall economy.

He said that despite shortages of water, energy and electricity, Iranian farmers and producers had managed to maintain growth in production and exports by relying on efficiency, modern knowledge and indigenous expertise.

## Chamber member urges lifting barriers to exports of engineering services



## Economy Desk

A senior Iranian business leader called for removing obstacles hindering the export of technical and engineering services by "capable Iranian companies," saying sanctions and Iran's blacklisting by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF)

have sharply limited their global reach despite strong technical capacity.

Ali Nabavi, head of the Construction and Engineering Services Commission of Iran's Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture, told IRNA that Iranian firms were competitive

in transmission lines, oil, water, electricity and gas projects. But unlike goods exports, engineering services cannot bypass sanctions through indirect routes, he said, since in most countries governments act as employers and require costly bank guarantees. For example, he said, a Turkish firm pays about 0.5% to issue a guarantee, while an Iranian company faces costs of 3% to 4%. "Iranian engineers are technically competent and have successfully completed overseas infrastructure projects without reports of failure or abandonment," he said.

## Chamber ready to establish int'l framework for exports

Nabavi stressed that engineering services require strong diplomacy, as projects are long-term and vulnerable to political or international disputes. He added that the sector needs a dedicated private-sector body, arguing the Trade Promotion Organization is

too overstretched. The chamber, he said, is ready to establish and oversee an international framework for such exports.

Engineering services, he noted, can generate more foreign currency revenue than oil exports. "If 10 Iranian companies at standard level manage to export services and each implements just two projects abroad, the foreign exchange revenue will exceed the country's total oil exports," he said.

The chamber member voiced hope that expanding banking channels and easing sanctions could help Iran tap into markets in Eurasia and the BRICS group for engineering service exports. Iran has no formal role in FATF regional groups and was placed on the watchdog's blacklist after failing to complete its corrective plan. That led FATF to call on all countries to impose restrictions on Iran and its nationals until shortcomings were resolved.



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# Tehran's comprehensive diplomacy in first year

## From crisis management to broadening new horizons

### ANALYSIS

The first year of the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs under the “national unity” government kicked off amid one of the most sensitive and critical phases in contemporary Iranian history; a time when the Zionist regime and the United States tried to carry out 12 days of attacks aiming to shake up the country's security and stability. Under such circumstances, Iran's diplomatic apparatus was handed a tough mission, including keeping a lid on the crisis, neutralizing the political and legal consequences of this aggression, and at the same time holding onto and building up the Islamic Republic of Iran's standing on the international stage. This complex mission was shaped by a strategy based on “comprehensiveness, agility, and influence,” which ended up delivering significant achievements.

### From confronting aggression to political, legal initiatives

During the imposed war, the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs sought to forge a global consensus against the US and Israel's aggressions by leveraging multi-level diplomacy. More than 10 official letters from the foreign minister and Iran's permanent missions in New York, Vienna, and Geneva were sent to the United Nations (UN), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). Following these moves, emergency meetings of the UN Security Council and the IAEA Board of Governors were called to order on Iran's agenda. The outcome of these efforts was the condemnation of the Zionist regime's aggression by over 120 countries and international organizations — an unprecedented consensus that proved Iran's diplomacy can step up and play a decisive role in times of crisis. Simultaneously, legal reports and documentary evidence regarding the crimes committed by the Zionists, especially in attacks against civilians and the martyrdom of women and children, were gathered and logged in at the Human Rights Council. This legal documentation, also recorded at the UN, placed Iran not just as a defender of its national interests but also as an advocate for international justice.

Supporting the Palestinian people and the Resistance Axis formed another cornerstone of Iran's diplomacy during this period. The Foreign Ministry played an active role in calling together extraordinary meetings of the foreign ministers of the OIC and took the initiative in holding a joint summit of Arab-Islamic leaders in Riyadh — a meeting focused on condemning Israeli aggressions and strengthening political backing for the Palestinian resistance. Moreover, the Islamic Republic of Iran registered a bill at the International Court of Justice to ensure the Zionist regime's crimes are pursued within an international legal framework. In line with this, Foreign Minister Araghchi kept up multiple con-



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (back-R) and Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (back-L) attend a meeting with the personnel of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Tehran, Iran, on July 26, 2025.

president.ir

tacts with counterparts in Islamic countries, and through a visit to Beirut and meetings with the Resistance leaders, tightened up the battlefield and political coordination. At the same time, Iranian missions abroad kept up public awareness through World Quds Day events and extensive media activities, keeping the issue alive in public opinion about Palestine's plight and Iran's role.

In relations with Europe, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs worked to keep the lines open and even enhance engagement. Over 50 contacts by the foreign minister and 12 by President Pezeshkian were made with European officials. After a three-year pause, Iran's new ambassador was sent to the UK, and diplomatic immunity was restored to three Iranian consulates in Germany. On the economic front, Iran's pharmaceutical and agricultural exports to Europe continued despite sanctions pressure, highlighting the flexibility of the country's economic diplomacy.

Thus, in its first year, the Foreign Ministry not only fought back against threats from a defensive stance but, with legal, political,

and media initiatives, also laid the groundwork for strengthening Iran's role and position in international affairs. This performance in political and security diplomacy paves the way for a sustained, active, and impactful diplomatic course in the coming years.

### Economic diplomacy: from BRICS to Iran Expo

In its first year, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs prioritized economic diplomacy as one of the main pillars of the country's foreign policy. The international situation, sanction pressures, and the nation's growing economic need for regional and global ties led the diplomatic apparatus to adopt an active, multi-layered approach focusing on diversifying trade partners and utilizing regional economic organizations' capacities.

Membership in economic pacts and forums, as well as expanding Iran's role in existing organizations, gained special importance in this trajectory. Iran's official membership in the BRICS group in January 2025 marked a turning point in foreign economic policy as this bloc, recognized as

an emerging economic power, opened up avenues for financial, banking, and investment cooperation between Iran and major Asian and Latin American economies.

Simultaneously, in May 2025, the free trade agreement with the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) went into effect, opening the door to easier trade exchanges with member states. Meanwhile, in the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), Iran took on a more active role and pushed for structural reforms and long-term plans aimed at improving its regional economic standing. Iran's presence also stepped up in the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation as well as the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), where Tehran, as host of key meetings, sent a clear message demonstrating its seriousness about expanding multilateral cooperation.

The Iran Expo 2025 was another highlight in the ministry's economic portfolio. This event, with the participation of 1,210 Iranian companies and over 3,100 foreign traders from 112 countries, represented an unrivaled opportunity



During the imposed war, more than 10 official letters from the foreign minister and Iran's permanent missions in New York, Vienna, and Geneva were sent off to the United Nations (UN), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. Following these moves, emergency meetings of the UN Security Council and the IAEA Board of Governors were called to order on Iran's agenda. The outcome of these efforts was the condemnation of the Zionist regime's aggression by over 120 countries and international organizations — an unprecedented consensus that proved Iran's diplomacy can step up and play a decisive role in times of crisis.

to showcase Iran's export capabilities. Iran Expo not only drew widespread coverage in the media but also served up a platform for signing new trade contracts and expanding cooperation networks between domestic and international businesses.

In energy and transportation, the ministry actively followed through on strategic projects. The launch of Turkmenistan's gas swap through Iran to Turkey stood out as a major achievement that, beyond economic benefits, bumped up Iran's geopolitical standing in energy. Electricity imports from Turkmenistan were extended, and talks to renew the gas contract with Turkey continued. Regionally, 90% of the third electricity transmission line from Armenia to Iran was also completed. Advancing the North-South International Corridor and the Rasht-Astara railway project were top priorities, with ongoing negotiations around financing and execution. The development contract for Chabahar port with India also moved into its operational phase, leading to new partnerships in transit and maritime infrastructure between the two countries.

### Balancing in Caucasus, linking in East, presence in Africa, Latin America

The good neighborliness and regional engagement policy was among the Foreign Ministry's most important activities in the first year of the national unity government. This policy, anchored in the principles of “neighbors first” and “broad regional engagement,” effectively unlocked significant political, economic, and cultural capacities in Iran's surrounding environment and lifted relations with neighboring and regional countries to a new level.

Within this framework, the Iranian president's and foreign minister's foreign visits played a pivotal role. The president traveled in his first year to Iraq, Qatar, Oman, Pakistan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, and Armenia, with practical follow-up on bilateral and regional issues prioritized at every stop. A tangible outcome of this policy was the complete abolition of visas between Iran and Tajikistan, facilitating travel and boosting cultural and economic exchanges. Meanwhile, Iran and Uzbekistan agreed to wipe out road tolls between the two, directly opening up road trade and easing transit. The Iran-Turkey Joint Economic Commission also met during this period, initiating talks on preferential tariffs and broadening trade exchange.

In the Caucasus, the Foreign Ministry stuck to a balanced policy. The foreign minister's visits to Baku and Yerevan and direct talks with both countries' leaders sent out clear signals of Iran's determination to support regional stability and security. Infrastructure projects like completing the Iran-Armenia power transmission line were pushed forward, and agreements on energy and transit with Azerbaijan were



Iran's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Amir Saeid Iravani (2nd-L) attends an emergency meeting of the United Nations Security Council at the UN's headquarters in New York City, US, on June 13, 2025, the day Israel attacked Iran unprovoked.

EDUARDO MUNOZ/REUTERS

signed off on. In Central Asia, beyond economic engagements with Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, ties with Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan spread out through bilateral and regional meetings. Engagement with regional powers was also a key pillar of regional policy. In January 2025, the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership Treaty between Iran and Russia was signed; a treaty covering diverse economic, military, and political dimensions, marking a significant upgrade in Tehran-Moscow relations. Moreover, a monetary agreement and banking network connection between the two countries were implemented, laying the groundwork for reducing reliance on the dollar and euro. Iran's cooperation with China also picked up steam, with Iran, Russia, and China jointly issuing a statement in support of Iran's nuclear rights — an action that strengthened Iran's standing within the Eastern bloc. The development contract for Chabahar port with India was also formally put into play, opening up a new route for Iran to connect with South Asian markets. In East Asia and Oceania, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs kept up an active policy. Political consultation meetings were held with Japan, South Korea, Australia, Malaysia, Thailand, and other countries, creating fertile ground for new cooperation in agriculture and technology with China and the Philippines. Iran's defense industries' presence at military exhibitions in Indonesia, Malaysia, and Vietnam not only showcased Iran's capabilities but also deepened defense and security ties with regional countries. Africa secured a special place in Iran's foreign policy. The third Iran-Africa Economic Cooperation Conference was convened in Tehran in the past year, attended by representatives from 31 African countries. Agreements were hammered out in medicine, pharmaceuticals, agriculture, and telecommunications between Iran and African nations. The foreign minister's and president's visits to Egypt and the beginning of the normalization process with Cairo marked a historic milestone, signaling a new chapter in Tehran-Cairo relations after decades of severed ties. In Latin America, Iranian diplomacy was also in full swing. Cooperation with Venezuela expanded in the fields of medicine, energy, and information technology, while new joint projects kicked off. Iran's defense industries also made their mark at Brazil's military exhibition, showcasing domestic defense products and technologies. This presence, especially on a continent where Iran has long sought to build up relations, was a sign of Tehran's fresh approach to expanding interregional cooperation. Taken together, these initiatives demonstrated that the good neighborliness and regional policy of the national unity government went beyond mere slogans and translated into tangible achievements across diplomacy, economy, energy, culture, and security. Iran managed to patch up relations with neighboring countries, boost strategic partnerships with emerging powers, and cement its foothold on other continents such as Africa and Latin America. These achievements illustrate that the diplomatic apparatus has been able to push foreign policy beyond geographic borders limited to Iran's immediate neighborhood and paint a new picture of the country as an active, balanced, and forward-thinking

player in regional and international arenas.

**Public, cultural, and think-tank diplomacies**

Another major thread of foreign policy in the first year of the national unity government was strengthening public, cultural, and think-tank diplomacies. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs was well aware that in today's world, international relations are not just played out at the official government-to-government level, but public opinion, academic elites, media, and cultural institutions also hold sway in international equations. Accordingly, the diplomatic apparatus sought to boost Iran's narrative regarding regional and global developments by using cultural and "soft" tools, alongside official policymaking, to deploy face-to-face and public diplomacy. In the media domain, the ministry kept up weekly spokesperson briefings, issued numerous statements and press releases, and produced multimedia content aiming to get across Iran's stance clearly and transparently worldwide. Exclusive interviews with the Iranian foreign minister and ambassadors in international media, especially during the imposed 12-day war, formed part of this strategy that largely helped to set the record straight against distorted enemy narratives. On the cultural front, the ministry focused sharply on expanding Iranian studies and the Persian language worldwide. Supporting Persian language chairs in universities, strengthening Iranology centers, and sending professors and researchers abroad were part of these efforts. Moreover, over 30 Iranian Film Weeks and 60 cultural exhibitions were held across various countries, showcasing Iranian art, cinema, handicrafts, and literature. Cooperation with friendship associations and signing sister-city agreements between Iranian cities and foreign counterparts also added another dimension to cultural bonds. Alongside these activities, international Qur'an competitions, Islamic Unity Conferences, and interfaith meetings with Muslim and non-Muslim scholars were lined up, receiving wide attention in host countries. Together, these efforts both bolstered Iran's cultural identity and improved the country's image in global public opinion. Sports diplomacy was also put on the agenda, with Iranian sports teams sent off to various countries and friendly matches organized to capitalize on sports as a tool for cohesion and cultural exchange. Likewise, Iranian Cultural Weeks in Asian, African, and European countries — featuring music and performing arts — laid out the country's rich cultural diversity more prominently on the international stage. In the think-tank sphere, the ministry sought to build up systematic and constructive engagement with international elites and researchers. Organizing the Tehran Dialogue Forum was among the most important initiatives in this area. This event, bringing together 250 foreign delegations and 20 foreign ministers and senior officials from various countries, turned into a venue for discussion and exchange on major regional and global issues, demonstrating that Iran can be not only a diplomatic host but also a hub for think-tank and expert dialogues. In this vein, Track II meetings between diplomats, academics, and specialists were also held, helping to bridge gaps in mutual under-



standing and open up informal cooperation channels. Moreover, reviving the ministry's School of International Relations under the new conditions was a key step in training skilled human resources. After several years of hiatus, permission to enroll students for the 2025–2026 academic year was given, and new programs to train a new generation of diplomats were mapped out. Hence, the Foreign Ministry was not only active in operational foreign policy but also invested in academic and research fields to strengthen the intellectual and human foundations of Iranian diplomacy's future. All in all, these measures revealed that Iran's diplomatic apparatus in the first year of the national unity government clearly grasped the fact that foreign policy is not confined to hard politics and official dealings; Soft and cultural tools also play a vital role in shaping Iran's standing. Consequently, strengthening public, cultural, and think-tank diplomacy became an inseparable part of Iran's foreign policy — one that could, in the long run, beef up the Islamic Republic's soft power and solidify its place in the global community.

**People's diplomacy: from Parliament to Iranians abroad**

One major dimension of the ministry's activities in the first year was expanding interaction with the Parliament and providing effective services to Iranians living abroad. The Foreign Ministry picked up on the fact that to succeed in foreign policy, close coordination with the legislative body and effective support for the large diaspora community are vi-

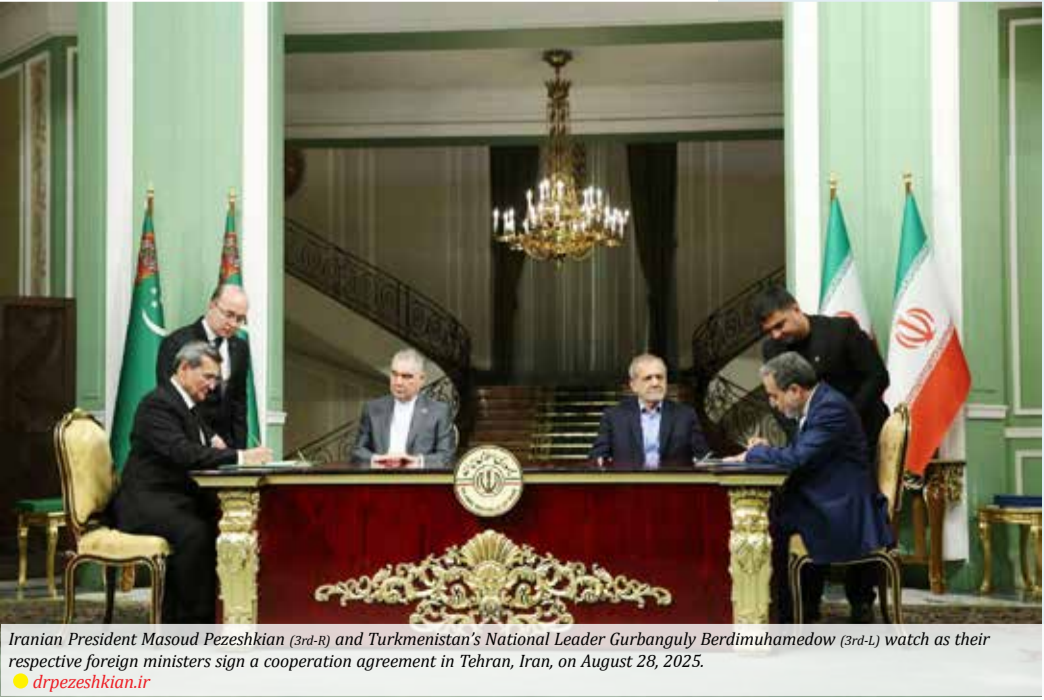
tal. Accordingly, various initiatives in parliamentary diplomacy, consular affairs, and support services were put in motion. In parliamentary diplomacy, cooperation between the Foreign Ministry and Parliament stepped up, with the ministry playing an active role in planning and coordinating MPs' foreign trips. Over 120 parliamentary delegations were dispatched abroad with the ministry's coordination during the year, and representatives participated in international parliamentary assemblies such as the Inter-Parliamentary Union and regional forums. At the same time, the ministry rolled out a fresh policy for supporting Iranians abroad. New supportive regulations were approved and implemented, return facilitation for nationals during the imposed 12-day war was carried out, and opportunities for direct meetings between expatriates and senior officials were created. The launch of the "Porsesh" (in Persian: Question) website also offered up a new channel for Iranians abroad to directly raise issues and concerns and receive prompt, official responses. Practically, freeing Iranian prisoners in countries like Thailand and Malaysia was among the standout achievements of this year, made possible by the persistent efforts of Iranian missions and the diplomatic apparatus. Also, health insurance for foreign nationals was put into operation, representing a significant step toward organizing migrant affairs and easing consular challenges. In consular services, the Foreign Ministry worked to speed up and simplify services for Iranians abroad. Increasing the number

Iran's diplomatic apparatus in the first year of the national unity government clearly grasped the fact that foreign policy is not confined to hard politics and official dealings; Soft and cultural tools also play a vital role in shaping Iran's standing. Consequently, strengthening public, cultural, and think-tank diplomacy became an inseparable part of Iran's foreign policy — one that could, in the long run, beef up the Islamic Republic's soft power and solidify its place in the global community.

of centers issuing smart national ID cards to 49 Iranian missions overseas was part of this policy, making it easier for expatriates to access identity services. Furthermore, passport issuance, certificates, and official document processes were sped up, and electronic infrastructure in missions was expanded — measures warmly welcomed by Iranians living abroad. These efforts showed that the diplomatic apparatus fully understood the vital role of Iranians abroad. The large diaspora community worldwide is not only a part of the country's human and economic capital but also plays an undeniable role in public diplomacy and Iran's international image. For this reason, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs sought in its first year not only to iron out everyday issues for this community but also to tighten their ties with the homeland. In short, alongside official government diplomacy, parliamentary and consular diplomacy became a key part of Iran's foreign policy. Extensive coordination with Parliament and special attention to Iranians abroad demonstrated that the national unity government's foreign policy adopts a comprehensive view of national power, seeing diplomacy not just as a tool for government-to-government engagement but as a means to lock in the Iranian community both inside and outside the country.

**Looking back on past 12 months**

A review of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' performance in the first year of the Pezeshkian government shows that it has been able to make headway on multiple critical fronts simultaneously. Politically and security-wise, Iranian diplomacy successfully rounded up global consensus against the June aggression by the Zionist regime and the US, and seriously backed the Resistance Axis and the Palestinian people. Economically, joining international pacts, holding joint commissions, and hosting major economic exhibitions turned diplomacy into a tool for economic growth and expanded regional ties. In neighborhood and regional policies, Iran, by adopting a balanced and active approach, enhanced relations with neighbors and emerging powers and cemented its position across Asia, Africa, and Latin America. In public and cultural diplomacy, leveraging soft, cultural, media, and think-tank instruments, Iran rolled out a fresh image in global public opinion. Meanwhile, attention to Iranians abroad, development of consular services, and expansion of parliamentary diplomacy reflected a holistic view of national power, tying foreign policy closely with the Iranian community both at home and abroad. Ultimately, in its first year, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was able to turn around Iran's foreign policy amid security crises and sanction pressures, setting it on a path of dynamism and impact. Although many of these achievements require continuation and completion in the coming years, they have undoubtedly laid down new foundations for raising the Islamic Republic's standing in the international arena. Accordingly, it can be said that the diplomatic apparatus not only got through serious challenges but also carved out new opportunities for Iran's foreign policy future.



The full article first appeared in Persian on IRNA.

# Esmaeilnejad, Karimi ruled out as Iran confirms roster for World Championships

## Sports Desk

Italian head coach Roberto Piazza named Iran's 14-man squad for the upcoming FIVB Volleyball World Championship – starting Friday in the Philippines.

The Asian powerhouse was dealt a massive blow ahead of its eighth appearance at the flagship international event as two key Iranian players are ruled out of the competition with injury.

Star opposite Amin Esmaeilnejad, who was Iran's top scorer in the Volleyball Nations League preliminaries earlier in the summer, suffered a twisted ankle during a warmup victory over Qatar last Sunday and is expected to be sidelined for three to six weeks.

Iranian setter Mohammad-Javad Karimi will also miss the world event with a strained muscle in his leg.

Bardia Sa'adat received a late call-up by Piazza last week to replace Esmaeilnejad in the national team squad.

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 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 the host 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.

The following is the Iranian squad for the World Championship:

Setters: Arshia Behnejad, Ali Ramezani  
Outside hitters: Morteza Sharifi, Amirhossein Esfandiar, Pouria Hosseinkhanzadeh, Ali Haqparast, Ehsan Daneshdoust

Middle Blockers: Mohammad Valizadeh, Yousef Kazemi, Isa Naseri  
Opposite Spikers: Bardia Sa'adat, Ali Hajipour

Liberos: Arman Salehi, Mohammadreza Hazratpour.



● MOJTABA ZAKIZADEH/volleyball.ir

## World Wushu Championships: Iran's Banitalebi wins taolu bronze



Iran's Shahin Banitalebi (2nd R) poses on the podium with his taolu bronze at the World Wushu Championships in Brasilia, Brazil, on September 4, 2025.  
● iranwushufed.ir

## Sports Desk

Iran's Shahin Banitalebi won a first medal for the country at the World Wushu Championships in Brasilia, Brazil, bagging a bronze in the men's taolu contests. Banitalebi scored 9.733 points to finish third in the nandao event on Thursday.

Lau Chi Lung of Hong Kong grabbed the gold with 9.763 points, while his compatriot Deng Longteng registered 9.740 points to settle for the silver. Mostafa Hassanzadeh was the other Iran participating at the nandao event, but missed out on the podium, finishing fifth

with 9.726 points.

This was a second medal-winning campaign for Banitalebi at a major event in less than a month after the Iranian had walked away with the nanquan/nangun at the Chengdu World Games in China in August.

Elsewhere in the Brazilian capital, Iranians enjoyed a perfect run across different weight classes in the sanda competitions.

Shoja Panahi defeated Uzbekistan's Avazbek Muhammadjonov for a place in the men's 65kg quarterfinals, while Erfan Moharrami (70kg) and Soheil Mousavi (80kg) also progressed

to the last eight in their respective events.

Mahdi Moradi got off to an emphatic start in the 90kg class, knocking out Serdar Jorakulyev of Turkmenistan in less than 40 seconds.

In the women's draw, Seddiqeh Daryaei (65kg), Soheila Mansourian (70kg) – a bronze medalist at The World Games – and five-time world champion Shahrbanou Mansourian (75kg) advanced to the semifinals in their respective events.

The 17th edition of the World Championships will continue at the Ulysses Guimarães Convention Center until Sunday.

## CAFA Nations Cup: Iran held by Tajikistan but advances to final showpiece

## Sports Desk

Iran relinquished a two-goal in the second half to share the spoils with cohost Tajikistan in a 2-2 draw at the CAFA Nations Cup in Hisor on Thursday.

The stalemate was still enough for Team Melli to finish atop the Group B table with seven points and progress to Monday's final at the Olympic City Stadium in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

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table – equal on four points with second-placed India, which played to a goalless draw with Afghanistan earlier in the day.

Ittihad Kalba winger Mohammad-Mahdi Mohebbi bagged a second goal in his third international cap, finding the net from close range on the rebound in the 38th minute.

Rostov striker Mohammad Mohebbi surged forward down the left flank before slotting home from inside the box to double Iran's advantage two minutes after the break.

A blunder by Payam Niazmand allowed Tajikistan to pull one back through Shahrom Samiev, whose tame effort slipped through the Iranian goalkeeper's hands and crossed the goal line in the 57th minute.

Zoir Dzurboyev drew the home side level 20 minutes later, heading home Parvizzdzhon Umarbayev's cross from the edge of the six-yard box.

"We made it to the final, but we were far from perfect. We wasted too many chances after scoring the second goal and our intensity dropped. We became complacent, and that's when we got punished by a single error. That incident turned the game on its head," said Irania head coach Amir Qalenoee, who also blamed his senior players, as well as Uzbek referee Akhrol Riskullaev, for "making too many mistakes."

Qalenoee still gave Niazmand his full support, saying: "Every great goalkeeper in the world makes mistakes. Tajikistan's keeper was also at fault for the first goal. Payam is one of our best keepers and a huge asset between the posts alongside Alireza Beiranvand, and Seyyed Hossein Hosseini."



● CAFA



● CAFA

## FIBA U16 Asia Cup: Iran beaten by New Zealand, misses out on last four

## Sports Desk

Iranian boys' run at the FIBA U16 Asia Cup came to an end in the quarterfinals after a 92-69 loss to New Zealand in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, on Friday.

Noah Duncan's 15 points, coupled with 10 rebounds, led the scoring chart for New Zealand, which saw five of its 10 players on the court,

finish in double figures.

The result took New Zealand to its fourth successive entry into the medal rounds and also secured a place for the country at next year's FIBA U17 World Cup in Turkey.

Alireza Rashid had a consolation game-high 23 points for Iran, who now have to be content aiming for a better finish than the sixth place

they achieved in Qatar two years ago.

Iran began its campaign with an 87-43 win against Saudi Arabia and then cruised past Kazakhstan (90-41) before suffering a 86-67 loss to Japan to finish runner-up in Group D and progress to the knockout playoffs, where Iran routed Malaysia 102-62 to head into the quarterfinals.

# Unique experiences awaiting visitors in Yazd during summer



Kuhestan Park  
jabama.com



Dowlatabad Garden  
safarmarket.com

**Iranica Desk**

Summer presents a unique season and a valuable opportunity to discover lesser-known aspects of Yazd Province. During this time, Yazd reveals a different side to tourists; despite the intense desert heat, it offers exceptional chances to experience tranquility, authenticity, and economic savings, according to the deputy head of Yazd Province's Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Organization. Seyyed Alireza Salarhosseini explained in an interview with ISNA that one of the most notable features of traveling to Yazd in this season, particularly in September when the heat begins to ease, is the peacefulness of the tourist

areas. He noted, "Unlike the busy tourist seasons, Yazd's streets and historical sites are much quieter in the summer, allowing visitors to enjoy the grandeur of the windcatcher architecture, qanats, and adobe houses in peace and without crowds." He further highlighted that accommodation and transportation costs drop significantly during summer, with discounts sometimes reaching 40 to 50 percent. This makes summer an economically attractive option for travel enthusiasts. Salarhosseini also emphasized that Yazd's architecture naturally provides effective measures to counter the heat. "Staying in eco-lodges and traditional hotels, which are often built underground or



Amirchakhmaq Complex  
visitiran.ir

adjacent to windcatchers, offers visitors an authentic experience of tradition-

al coolness and showcases the ingenuity of Iranians in adapting to the desert

climate." He added, "Local drinks and snacks, such as Yaz-

di Faloodeh, traditional distillates like rosewater, bitter orange blossom, mint, and other regional delicacies are not only refreshing but also tell the story of the culture and lifestyle of the people in this area." He continued to describe Yazd's summer tourist attractions as having a special charm of their own. "Night explorations within the historic fabric and adobe alleyways, café visits after sunset in traditional settings, leisurely walks in renowned gardens such as Dowlatabad and Pahlavanpour, qanat tours, and participation in cultural, local, and ceremonial events offer unique experiences that are truly distinct to this season." He also pointed out that

the cooler, rural highlands surrounding Yazd create an ideal environment for agricultural and culinary tourism. Offering practical advice, he recommended travelers prepare adequately with light cotton clothing, hats, sunglasses, and sunscreen for their visit. Regarding the best times for outdoor activities, Salarhosseini advised that early mornings and post-sunset hours are optimal. He also mentioned that museums and indoor historical sites are suitable for exploration during the hotter hours of the day. He stressed, "Summer in Yazd is not a limitation for travel but rather a valuable opportunity to uncover lesser-seen dimensions of this world heritage city."

## Nusha village; a hidden paradise above clouds

**Iranica Desk**

Whenever the topic of greenery, beauty, and forested areas comes up, the first place that comes to mind is Mazandaran Province. A land where each part is different from the other, creating many beautiful memories for travelers or those who visit. This time, we will share the story of a beautiful, pristine, and untouched village called Nusha with you. Although reaching this village can be somewhat challenging, its attractions excite and uplift the spirit. To get to this village, one must travel along a scenic route known as the Dohezar Forest Road. The

village is located 55 kilometers from the city of Tonekabon at an altitude of 2,100 meters above sea level. This elevation causes the village to be surrounded by clouds, painting a picture of paradise for visitors, IRNA wrote. Interestingly, no vehicle has yet reached this village's doorstep; the only ways to arrive are by horse, special mountain motorcycles, or on foot. However, it is advised to bring enough equipment and supplies and to travel in groups for safety. In the nature of this region, while walking, you will witness beautiful rivers and springs, and you can enjoy their fresh, pure water and breathe in the

clean air. However, reaching this village takes approximately six hours. During the journey, you will pass by the Nusharud River, which originates from the region's mountains. Along the route, there are about four springs, and the villages of Miam Lat and Nil Kelayeh are located on the way to Nusha. Due to the hiking and mountain trekking conditions, this path is not suitable for disabled people, especially the elderly and children, and requires youthful strength. Determining the age of Nusha village is challenging, but based on research and the discovery of historical artifacts, pottery, and agricultural tools, it dates back

nearly 2,000 years. However, archaeological studies are still needed to confirm the age and authenticity of this beautiful village. In the local language, Nusha means the cool morning breeze, which is a very fitting name for this beautiful village in the district of Tonekabon. This village is only habitable for four months of the year, and during the rest of the time, due to the intense cold and snowfall, living there is not possible. This four-month period begins in late May and ends in early September. Next to the village, there is a spring that tourists visit during

their trip. Usually, after spending time in the village, travelers head towards the spring and walk alongside the flowing water until they reach Miankouh, another summer village along the way. Those who travel to Nusha should know that the beauty of the area is not limited to just staying in the village; the entire road and surrounding mountains are full of charm and attraction. Due to the nature of the route to this village, it is best to spend the night in this summer resort, which enjoys very pleasant weather during the summer. There is no entrance fee or any other cost to access this village.

Spending holidays in such a scenic place allows tourists to gain incredible energy in the pure tranquility of the area, away from the noise and hustle of the city. The beautiful nature of Nusha village has made it a popular destination for many photographers who capture unique scenes. Travelers to Nusha should know that the beauty of this area is not limited to the village itself; the entire road and surrounding mountains are also full of charm and attractions. Nusha is known as a land above the clouds and may be one of the dreamiest places anyone wishes to see.



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# Tehran eyes role as health tourism hub for Islamic countries

## Arts & Culture Desk

Tehran is on track to become a regional hub for medical tourism among Islamic countries, Majid Zangooei, secretary general of the Islamic Countries Health Tourism Development Center, said at the Fourth International Conference on Health Tourism in Tehran. The gathering, held at the IRIB International Conference Center, drew medical experts, policymakers, and business leaders to discuss how Iran could turn its long-standing medical achievements into a new growth industry, IRNA reported. Organizers pitched the idea of naming Tehran the “capital of health tourism” in the Islamic world, calling it a rare opening for the country’s tourism sector. Zangooei said outdated attitudes still weigh down Iran’s health economy. Despite “real capacities” at hand, he

argued, restrictive views continue to block comprehensive growth. He urged the government to step back and allow professional guilds such as the Iranian Medical Council to take the lead. He also called for broader engagement by students and young specialists in international projects, saying that active involvement could curb brain drain. “With existing potential in Islamic countries, Europe and Africa, stronger backing is essential,” he said. Zangooei pointed to the Tehran Municipality as one of the most forward-looking partners in fostering entrepreneurial activity in the sector. Mohammad Raeiszadeh, president of the Iranian Medical Council, said the country’s doctors have what it takes to make Iran a trusted destination for patients abroad. With 220 boards and 400 active members, the council offers a strong base of support, he noted.



Secretary General of the Islamic Countries Health Tourism Development Center Majid Zangooei speaks at the Fourth International Conference on Health Tourism in Tehran on September 4, 2025.  
● IRNA

He cited advances in cardiac surgery, ophthalmology and new treatment techniques as proof that Iran has reached global benchmarks. The mix of modern hospitals, quality hotel facilities, and cultural attractions, he said, gives the country “a real chance” to draw in foreign patients. “Alongside economic investment, we should be a messenger of peace and friendship for the region,” Raeiszadeh said. He added that Iran’s rich record in medicine, dating back centuries, stands out against other civilizations and deserves wider recognition. Both speakers pressed for clear regu-



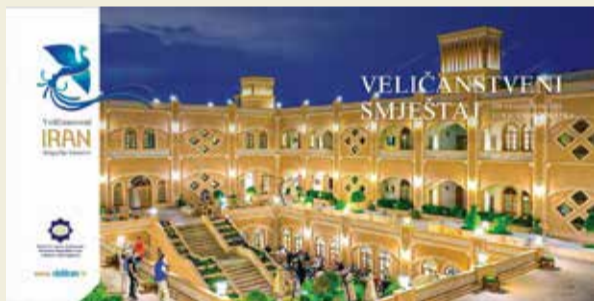
lations and legal frameworks from the government to help the industry flourish. With the right policies, Raeiszadeh

said, Iran could move up the ranks of international health tourism destinations.

## Nine-volume ‘Splendid Iran’ published in Bosnian

### Arts & Culture Desk

Iran’s Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts on Friday released a nine-volume book series titled ‘Splendid Iran’ in Bosnian, with both print and digital editions presented by the Iranian cultural center in Sarajevo. The collection marks the first time the series has been translated into a language shared by countries of the former Yugoslavia. Already available in 16 languages on the “Visit Iran” website, the series highlights Iran’s cultural wealth and natural diversity while offering readers a closer look at everyday life, IRNA reported. Each volume introduces a different facet of the country, from “A Splendid Feast” on Iranian cuisine and



“Splendid Religions” on sacred sites, to “Splendid Nature” exploring mountains, deserts and seas. Other titles cover heritage, destinations, events, accommodations and Iran’s most celebrated highlights. The food volume runs through 14 chapters of regional dishes, desserts and drinks. It urges readers not only to try well-known stews such as Ghormeh Sabzi and Fesenjan, but also sweets like Gaz and Sohan.

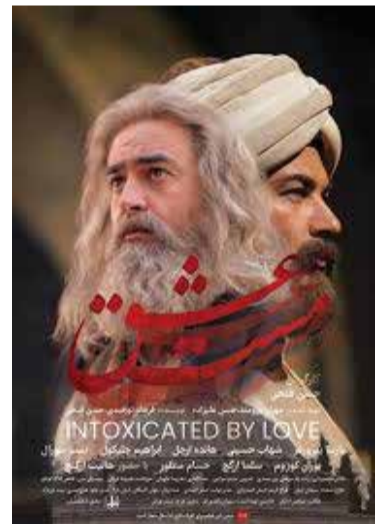
“Chefs in Iran display a rich variety of flavors,” the preface notes, adding that dining is “an opportunity to discover” styles of cooking and table traditions. Another volume, Splendid Religions, presents mosques, churches, synagogues and fire temples as a blend of art and architecture, adorned with tilework, mirrorwork and calligraphy. It describes Iran as home to followers of Islam, Christianity, Judaism,

Zoroastrianism and Mandaeism, alongside ancient cults such as Mithraism. Iran, ranked tenth worldwide with 29 UNESCO World Heritage sites, dedicates an entire booklet to its registered treasures. The series also points readers to festivals, creative cities, boutique hotels and natural attractions ranging from Mount Damavand to the southern seas. Physical copies are displayed at the Iranian cultural gallery in Sarajevo, while the e-books are accessible through the center’s official portal. The project, Iranian officials said, aims to showcase Iran’s “splendid” mosaic of history, culture and hospitality, offering an affordable journey with “unforgettable memories to share.”

## Iran’s hit film ‘Intoxicated by Love’ set for int’l release in Turkey, Europe

### Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian director Hassan Fathi’s ‘Intoxicated by Love,’ a box office success at home last year, will be released in Turkey and 10 European countries starting October 17, the film’s producers said on Friday. The feature, which tells the story of the poet Rumi and his bond with Shams Tabrizi, became Iran’s top-selling non-comedy in 2024. Its upcoming rollout marks the first step in a wider global launch across Asia, the Arab world and the Americas. Shot in Istanbul, Konya and other Turkish cities, the film stars leading Iranian and Turkish actors including Shahab Hosseini, Parsa Pirouzfar, Hande Erçel, Halit Ergenç and İbrahim Çelikkol. The late Morteza Poursamadi was behind the camera as director of photography. The film will open on 250 screens in Turkey before moving on to Persian Gulf states, East Asia, Russia, the United States, Canada and South America. The international distribution is being handled by Istanbul-based Content Turkey.



Alireza Ghorbani performs the theme song, with music composed by Fahir Atakoğlu. Producers Mehran Boroumand and Hassan Alizadeh said the blend of “spiritual” and “cinematic” elements in the soundtrack was designed to capture both Iranian and international audiences.

## Tehran’s path to ...

From an economic standpoint, Europe incurred virtually no cost. Iran plays no role in Europe’s energy supply chains, and trade ties are negligible. Politically, however, the move was costly, showing Europe’s misjudgment of Iran’s response and making trust harder to rebuild. Europe expected Iran to cave—to reduce uranium stockpiles, increase cooperation with the IAEA, or return unconditionally to negotiations with Washington. None of that happened. What, then, are Iran’s options? Neither extreme path will succeed. A rush to build nuclear weapons or a complete retreat from its nuclear program would both be dead ends. A hedging strategy offers the only viable solution: retain nuclear capability while staying open to dialogue. This enables Iran to maintain strategic flexibility, manage European pressure, and balance threats. It also allows Iran to secure its national interests without resorting to either escalation or capitulation. This strategy includes preventive measures, man-

Page 1 >

aging the effects of sanctions, building economic and social resilience, and strengthening strategic partnerships with countries such as Russia and China. Limited options like threatening to withdraw from the NPT or closing the Strait of Hormuz are neither effective nor sustainable. North Korea’s experience shows that leaving the NPT and brandishing nuclear threats without real operational backing only creates costs without results. Unlike North Korea, Iran faces a hostile adversary—Israel—on its doorstep, which makes such tactics even riskier. Hedging, by contrast, is rational and practical. It keeps the door to negotiations open, strengthens resilience, and preserves nuclear capability as leverage. In today’s polarized world, where Iran is already perceived as a structural adversary in Europe, hedging provides the only realistic framework. It offers Iran the means to protect its interests, maintain diplomatic flexibility, and balance threats while avoiding the pitfalls of both confrontation and submission.

## Tehran, Tokyo hold talks on research cooperation in housing, urban development

### Social Desk

Iranian and Japanese officials met in Tehran to explore closer cooperation in road, housing and urban development research, according to Iran’s Ministry of Roads and Urban Development. The talks brought together Ghazal Raheb, head of Iran’s Road, Housing and Urban Development Research Center, and head of the economic section at Japan’s Embassy in Tehran, along with other senior delegates, IRNA reported. The meeting underscored Tehran and Tokyo’s longstanding scientific partnership, which has included joint training programs on seismic design of steel structures. Officials said the new round of talks aimed to “step up” joint research, share expertise and



strengthen resilience in construction and urban planning. Atefeh Jahanmohammadi, head of the center’s structures and buildings division, gave a detailed account of past collaboration, highlighting the knowledge-transfer program on earthquake-resistant design. She urged that the exchange continue, stressing Japan’s “valuable experience” in building safety and disaster resilience.

The Japanese official welcomed the initiative and called for broader work between the two sides in engineering, architecture, urban development and transportation. International research partnerships, he said, could “pave the way” for overcoming technical challenges facing both countries. Raheb described the Tehran-based research center as the ministry’s think tank, active for five decades in scientific, technical and educational projects. She voiced readiness to expand cooperation with foreign partners, including Japan, and to export Iranian engineering services. She noted that past programs with Japan’s Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry and the Japan Cooperation Center for the Middle East had been “a successful model.”