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A protester holds a flag reading "US-American go home" during pro-Palestinian demonstration titled "Stop the genocide in Gaza! No weapons in war zones! Peace instead of arms race!" at the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin, Germany on September 13, 2025.

● AFP

Snapback; one of many pretexts to pressure Iran

By Mohammad Bayat
Iranian MP

OPINION EXCLUSIVE

In light of the three European powers' move to trigger the snapback mechanism and the potential return of international sanctions on Iran, it is essential to underline that as long as the nation maintains its unity and internal cohesion, neither snapback nor any other form of pressure will succeed in forcing the Islamic Republic to surrender to the hostile agendas of its adversaries. The hostility of the United States and its allies toward Iran and its people is unending. They exploit every opportunity to put pressure on the country; had the snapback not been raised today by France, Germany and Britain, other pretexts would have been sought to pursue their aims and strike at Iran.

Since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, Iran has continually been targeted by the West's and the United States' cruel sanctions and is not intimidated by the activation of the snapback mechanism. This should not be interpreted as passivity or a failure to pursue national rights and vindicate the country's position. Moreover, countermeasures to the sanctions' reimposition have been devised and the country has adopted short-, medium- and long-term plans to offset such conspiracies.

Parliament is fully committed to rise up against the return of previous sanctions or the introduction of new ones, and will act swiftly to pass any legislation aimed at mitigating their impact. Once the government submits relevant bills, Parliament is ready to approve them under double- or triple-urgency procedures. Parliament and the government stand side by side so that not only the snapback but any restrictive measures cannot stop Iran's upward trajectory or impede the country's advances in science and technology.

Iran's diplomatic corps proved highly active during the course of the 12-day war with Israel in June and in its aftermath, delivering a performance that can be judged both acceptable and successful. The round-the-clock efforts and numerous missions undertaken by Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and his colleagues after the conflict to set out Iran's case before the international community produced tangible results, leaving no doubt that

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Israel and its supporters were culpable for waging the war and for the human and material losses it inflicted.

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Larijani urges Muslims to take decisive action against Israeli 'madness'



Ali Larijani
IRNA

International Desk

Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) Ali Larijani called on the Muslim countries to take decisive and practical action against Israel's crimes in the region. "Holding an OIC conference full of speeches without practical results (as happens in Security Council meetings) is, in fact, equivalent to issuing a new order for aggression in favor of the Zionist entity!" Larijani said in a post on X, referring to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). "At the very least, form a 'Joint Operations Room' against the madness of this regime." Larijani added that the move is enough to make the United States change its policy towards the re-

gion. "Since you have done nothing for the hungry and oppressed Muslims in Palestine, at least make a modest decision to avoid your own annihilation!" the Iranian official said. Larijani made the remarks days after Israel launched a targeted attack on the Persian Gulf Arab state, Qatar, to assassinate high-ranking officials of the Palestinian resistance group Hamas. Hamas said five of its members were killed in an Israeli air strike in Qatar's capital on Tuesday, but said that an attempt to assassinate its negotiating team "failed." Hamas said the negotiating team was meeting to discuss the latest US proposal for a cease-fire in the Gaza Strip at a residential compound in Doha when it was badly

damaged by a series of explosions. Qatar condemned the Israeli attack, calling it "cowardly" and a "flagrant violation of international law." Since the beginning its onslaught on the Gaza Strip in October 2023, the Israeli regime has also expanded its aggression to several regional countries including Syria, Lebanon, Yemen, Iran and Qatar. In Gaza, the Israeli attacks have claimed the lives of more than 64,000 people – mostly women and children. Its aggression against Lebanon has also killed more than 4,000 people. The regime also launched an unprovoked aggression against Iran in June, which left nearly 1,100 people dead. Hundreds of people have also been killed in Yemen and Syria.

Iran-Tunisia ties 'shining example' of Tehran's commitment to strong bonds in Islamic world

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi praised good relations between Iran and Tunisia, saying that the relations serve as a "shining example" of Tehran's commitment to expanding strong ties with the Islamic countries.

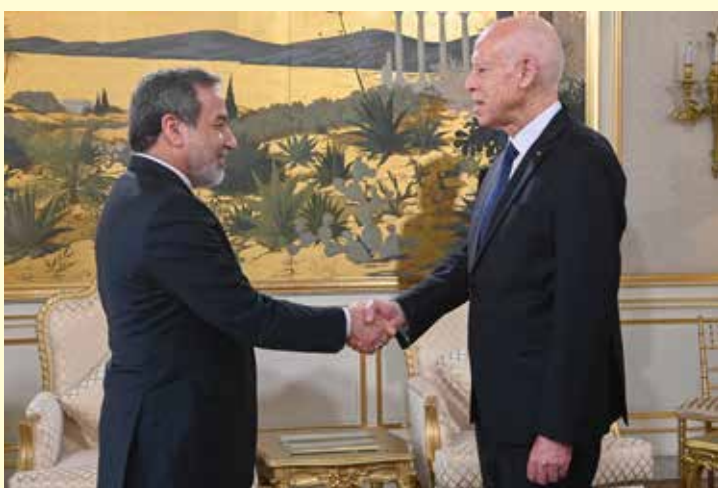
Araghchi made the comments in an article published in Tunisian media.

The publication followed his visit to the North African country, where he met with President Kais Saied and Foreign Minister Mohamed Ali Nafti to discuss key bilateral issues.

Tunisia, he said, has a "high and special position" in Iran's foreign policy, noting that the ties between the two countries, which are rooted in history, are based on "brotherhood, mutual respect, deep religious and cultural commonalities, and common international goals."

The ties of the two countries have witnessed a positive and dynamic development, he said, adding that the historic visit of Tunisian President Kais Saied to Iran in May 2024, which included a meeting with Leader of the Islamic Revolution Seyyed Ali Khamenei, was a turning point that "opened a new chapter of comprehensive cooperation."

Araghchi praised Tunisia for its "resolute, principled stance and valuable support" during the recent Israeli aggression on Iranian soil in June, saying this support showed "the depth of fraternal relations and unbreakable solidarity between the two nations."



Iran and Tunisia, he noted, have consistently shared aligned positions on the international stage, including firm opposition to foreign interference, strong support for the Palestinian cause, and a joint rejection of efforts to normalize relations with Israel. The top Iranian diplomat acknowledged that while political ties with Tunisia have historically been "positive and constructive," the two nations have yet to fully capitalize on their significant economic potential. Araghchi stated that a "long leap" in bilateral trade would require "double determination," but expressed optimism that the firm resolve of both nations' senior officials promises a bright future for economic relations. According to Araghchi, enhancing tourism cooperation through the recent cancellation of bilateral visas, establishing direct flights,

and convening a new session of the Joint Economic Commission are among the effective steps that could strengthen economic ties between Iran and Tunisia. He also expressed Iran's readiness to cooperate with Tunisia in various fields by utilizing its experiences, technical knowledge and indigenous technologies. Araghchi also underscored the importance of enhancing cultural and artistic exchanges, particularly in cinema, music, handicrafts, and sports, to deepen mutual understanding and strengthen people-to-people ties between Iran and Tunisia.

macy has discharged its responsibilities well, and major decisions in this domain are, without doubt, taken in coordination with and with the assent of Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, the Supreme National Security Council and the heads of the branches of power, to secure the maximum benefit for the nation.

Fresh worldwide rallies denounce Israel's genocide in Gaza

International Desk

Mass protests swept cities in many countries on Saturday and Friday as demonstrators denounced Israel's genocide in Gaza, demanding an immediate end to the war which has killed more than 64,000 Palestinians since October 2023.

In New Zealand, about 50,000 people joined the March for Humanity in Auckland, waving Palestinian flags and chanting anti-war slogans such as "Don't normalize genocide" and "Grow a spine, stand with Palestine."

Protesters called for sanctions on Israel and an end to the blockade on the Gaza Strip, which has caused a famine that has killed 420 people, including 145 children.

Around 15,000 also gathered in the German city of Berlin under the banner "Stop the Genocide in Gaza."

German actor Dieter Hallervorden, rapper Masiv aka Wasim Taha and Sahra Wagenknecht, co-founder and co-leader of the left-wing populist party Sahra Wagenknecht Alliance (BSW) delivered speeches during the rally.

In Spain, anti-Israel protests turned Spanish Vuelta cycling race into a diplomatic battleground. With Palestinian flags in hand, the protesters censured Israel's military campaign in Gaza. "The protests were born from the idea that our only chance to defend human rights regarding Israel is the Spanish Vuelta," Prieto, 48, said. "It is an international spotlight for us to say that we are against what Israel is doing."



Cyclists ride as Pro-Palestinians protesters hold Palestinian flags during the 20th stage of the Vuelta a España 2025 in El Escorial, Spain, on September 13, 2025.

PIERRE-PHILIPPE MARCOU/AFP

Since the beginning of the regime's genocidal war on Gaza, Spain has taken one of the strongest positions against Israel of any European nation. Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez joined Ireland and Norway in recognizing a Palestinian state last year, and Spain became the first European country to ask a UN court for permission to join South Africa's case accusing Israel of genocide.

Weekly protests continue to grow in Germany and the UK despite tighter government restrictions. In Morocco, demonstrations were held in 56 cities on Friday. Crowds in Rabat rallied outside parliament to demand accountability from Israeli leaders and express solidarity with Palestinians.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Snapback, one of...

It is expected that the Foreign Ministry will maintain this momentum and take care not to hand the United States and its allies any pretext that could be exploited to pursue their malign schemes and harm the country. In continuing the nation's diplo-

matic activity, great caution must be exercised: errors in the conduct, language and decisions of Iran's delegation in negotiations and political interactions should be reduced as far as possible so that enemies cannot seize on them as a lever to damage the country's interests. To date, the Islamic Republic's diplo-

macy has discharged its responsibilities well, and major decisions in this domain are, without doubt, taken in coordination with and with the assent of Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, the Supreme National Security Council and the heads of the branches of power, to secure the maximum benefit for the nation.

Iran voices ‘practical commitment’ to renewables at IRENA meeting

Economy Desk

Iran's representative to the 29th meeting of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) Council said the Islamic Republic is practically committed to achieving a sustainable energy transition and development of clean energy. The Iranian delegate underlined Tehran's determination to expand renewables and cited concrete steps such as boosting solar and wind power capacity and implementing energy efficiency projects in residential and industrial sectors, IRNA reported.

These measures, the official said, demonstrate Iran's "practical commitment" to advancing a sustainable energy transition.

The council meeting, held in Abu Dhabi on September 11-12, brought together more than 400 participants from 169 member states to discuss energy security, supply chain diversification and global renewable energy strategies.

For the first time since the agency's establishment, the Islamic Republic of Iran has joined IRENA's Council, a de-

velopment the delegation described as a sign of the country's growing role in international clean energy cooperation and its national strategy to harness renewable resources.

Iran's nominal renewable electricity generation capacity reached 2,000 megawatts in early July. By comparison, the country's overall nominal power generation capacity stood at 94,649 megawatts by the end of the first months of the current Iranian calendar year, which began on March 20, 2025, edging close to the 95,000-megawatt mark. Despite recent expansion, the renewable share remains relatively modest in the country's total energy mix.

The push for renewables is also embedded in Iran's Seventh Development Plan, which mandates the construction and commissioning of 12,000 megawatts of new renewable power capacity over five years. In parallel, the government has set a target of boosting renewable electricity generation capacity by 30,000 megawatts during its four-year term, which began in last June.



IRNA

Pistachio exports fetch \$1.7b despite EU restrictions



Economy Desk

Iran generated \$1.7 billion in foreign currency earnings from pistachio exports last year after resolving technical disputes that had prompted the European Union to consider a ban on the trade, deputy agriculture minister said, as reported by ILNA.

According to Mohammad Mehdi Boroumandi, the country has 600,000 hectares of pistachio orchards. The crop, known for its drought tolerance and resis-

tance to salinity, is considered a strategic export product with comparative advantage in global markets.

The European Union had set a six-month deadline for Iranian pistachio exporters to review their consignments and comply with health standards and sanitary requirements. After the six-month review period of the quality of Iranian pistachio exports, the EU lifted the restrictions and confirmed that shipments could continue without obstacles.

Meanwhile, foreign exchange revenues from horticultural exports rose from \$2.9 billion to \$4.3 billion under President Masoud Pezeshkian's government, driven by what the deputy minister for horticulture affairs at the ministry described as stronger agricultural diplomacy.

For the first time, Iranian citrus fruits were exported to China and apples to the Philippines, Boroumandi said.

Despite unprecedented drought, sanctions, a weaker currency and higher farming costs over the past year, agricultural production still rose about 6% from the previous year, the official said.

In tropical fruits, banana output nearly doubled to 340,000 tons from 180,000 tons. Still, Iran imported 622,000 tons of bananas worth \$700 million last year.

Pilot projects to raise yields are under way in Sistan and Baluchistan and Hormuzgan provinces, with plans to expand banana cultivation by 5,000 hectares, Boroumandi said, adding that the expansion will help cover a significant share of domestic demand in coming years.

IAC plans to boost overflight traffic with airspace control upgrade

Economy Desk

The head of Iran Airports and Air Navigation Company (IAC) said the country plans to raise the number of international overflights through its skies by at least 50% once it completes a major upgrade of its national airspace control center.

Currently, about 730 flights pass daily through Iranian airspace, compared with more than 2,000 over Turkey, said Mohammad Amirani, the company's managing director, IRNA reported.

"By modernizing equipment and advanced systems at the control center, we can sharply increase the capacity to handle international flights and strengthen the country's foreign currency revenues," he said.

Amirani, reviewing the company's activities over the past year, highlighted "major infrastructure projects, localization of navigation equipment, upgrading of airport services, and strengthening safety against external threats."

First homegrown civil radar launched

For the first time, Iran has developed and deployed a fully homegrown MSSR civil radar, built in cooperation with Isfahan University of Technology, the Navigation Communications Department, and the Aviation Operations Division, the official said.

The system was installed at Abadan Airport, allowing part of Iranian airspace to be monitored with domestically produced technology.

Amirani said the achievement was significant given that the aviation sector has long



been a prime target of foreign sanctions, particularly in access to navigation and ground guidance systems.

He added that the company has sought to meet essential needs by relying on domestic expertise and knowledge-based firms.

Smart program at 10 int'l airports

Amirani also announced the launch of a smart airport initiative, beginning with 10 of the country's international airports, aimed at optimizing passenger services. The program will later expand to other airports, prioritized by passenger volume. To support the initiative, an ASQ unit has been established to monitor airport service quality, with the goal of improving traveler satisfaction and reducing waiting times.

Tehran, Tunis to revive economic commission, push for permanent flights

Economy Desk

Iran and Tunisia have agreed to resume meetings of their joint economic commission after years of suspension and are working on plans to establish permanent direct flights between the two countries, Iran's ambassador to Tunis said.

The decision followed Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi's visit to Tunis last Wednesday, during which he met his counterpart, Mohamed Ali Nafti. "Extensive discussions were held on bi-

lateral issues," Ambassador Mirmasoud Hosseinian told ISNA.

Direct charter flights between Iran and Tunisia have been launched in recent months, operating twice weekly on Sundays and Wednesdays. With the introduction of a 15-day visa waiver, around 1,000 Iranian tourists are estimated to have traveled to Tunisia during this period, Hosseinian said.

He added that both foreign ministers stressed the need to establish a permanent direct route and explore mech-

anisms to make it sustainable. "Political relations between the two countries are currently at a good level, but economic ties are not in a favorable situation, mainly due to geographical distance and a lack of familiarity among traders with each other's capacities," the ambassador noted.

He said Tunisia's leading role in olive oil and date production offered promising areas for cooperation with Iran.

Economic commission to reconvene in Tehran

Hosseinian said the two sides



Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (L) meets with his Tunisian counterpart, Mohamed Ali Nafti, in Tunis on September 10, 2025.

● ISNA

agreed that their joint economic commission, dormant for years, would soon be reconvened in Tehran under the leadership of the countries' trade ministers.

The foreign ministers also underlined the importance of strengthening cooperation in tourism.



Tehran's responsible diplomacy

Why working with IAEA is to Iran's advantage

On Tuesday, September 9, Cairo played host to the signing of a crucial agreement between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Following the June attack on Iran's nuclear facilities, this agreement laid out a new framework for cooperation between the agency and Tehran, turning over a new chapter in the record of Iran's responsible engagement.

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi set off for Egypt Tuesday and met with Rafael Grossi, IAEA director general, which upped the chances of finalizing a "modality" (i.e., framework). This modality had been hammered out between the Iranian delegation and the agency team in Vienna days before. It was designed to lay out how to cooperate with the IAEA concerning the return of inspectors, inspection procedures, and verification of Iran's nuclear sites, considering both the enacted law by Iran's Parliament and the reality of the June attack.

After nearly four hours of negotiations between Araghchi and Grossi, a document was signed that, according to the foreign minister:

a) Its agreed practical steps to implement safeguards are fully in line with the law passed by the Iranian Parliament.

b) It addresses Iran's concerns and provides a framework for continued cooperation.

c) While safeguarding Iran's legitimate rights, it keeps up cooperation with the agency within an agreed framework.

d) It establishes a practical mechanism for collaboration that strikes a balance between Iran's unique security conditions and the IAEA's technical requirements.

Grossi described the document as "an important step in the right direction," and Kaja Kallas, the EU's foreign policy chief, called it "a crucial step for nuclear diplomacy".

Taking this pivotal and welcome step required reaching a mutual understanding between the two sides — a grasp of changed conditions post the June attack, of Iran's concerns and objections to how the IAEA managed Iran's nuclear dossier, and of factions in Tehran who, though not representing the official government stance, oppose any cooperation with the agency and even suggest quitting the NPT altogether. Iran needed the agency to tune in to these concerns so it can get back to the negotiating table and finalize the Cairo modality, an understanding the agency's director general announced on Monday on the sidelines of the IAEA Board of Governors meeting. The Iranian foreign minister emphasized in his press remarks that the talks were grounded in a shared understanding that safeguard activities must be maintained while Iran's legitimate security concerns are given due consideration.

With this background in mind, Hassan Beheshtipour, a senior expert on international and nuclear affairs, further explained the various aspects of the agreement between Iran and the IAEA as follows:



By Hassan Beheshtipour
International relations expert

OPINION

While the IAEA director general should focus solely on technical and legal issues, he sometimes steps into the political arena, which has caused problems. However, the actions or even mistakes of certain individuals, including the Director General Grossi, should not be used as an excuse to call into question the entire IAEA as an institution. The agency is the only international body monitoring countries' nuclear activities, and undermining its credibility among the public would ultimately backfire on Iran.

We have consistently emphasized, based on the NPT — one of the foundational treaties in the nuclear domain — that pursuing peaceful nuclear energy is Iran's rightful entitlement. Engaging with the IAEA is not an option but an unavoidable necessity, especially since we aim to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

Cooperation with the agency benefits Iran by cutting off excuses from the US,

Europe, and Israel for adventurism. The more clashes and negative reports from the IAEA on Iran pile up, the tougher the international atmosphere becomes against us. Currently, the IAEA Board of Governors' meeting is underway from Monday, lasting five days. Should a resolution against Iran be passed in this session, conditions will undoubtedly heat up further. In particular, this agreement was aimed at heading off the passing of an anti-Iran resolution at the IAEA Board of Governors' meeting on September 8–12 and building up a positive environment around Iran.

The European Union has set three clear conditions: reaching an agreement with the IAEA, settling the status of 408 kilograms of uranium enriched up to 60 percent purity, and starting direct negotiations with the US. Iran has so far effectively ticked off the first two; The agreement with the agency has been achieved, and naturally, with this in place, the enriched uranium issue should also be resolved.

If conditions allow, there is a slight chance that the activation of the "snapback" mechanism could be put off for six months, though this does not mean

the complete abandonment of extending Resolution 2231. If the US does not veto this path — especially considering South Korea, as the Security Council's rotating president, has submitted a resolution — there may be hope for a breathing space. In my view, while this agreement raises the odds for a six-month delay in the mechanism, given the US's persistence and Israel's provocations, its activation remains likely. Opponents of cooperating with the IAEA fall into several camps: One group insists on quitting the NPT outright and pursuing nuclear weapons regardless of consequences, claiming this would ensure security. I disagree because I believe nuclear weapons bring no safe haven to any country. Even Israel, which possesses nuclear arms, remains vulnerable to Iranian missile strikes. The history of India-Pakistan tensions also reveals that nuclear deterrence works only when both sides hold nuclear weapons — mutual possession can prevent use, but when only one side does, deterrence fails, and conventional warfare remains possible.

The proposal to exit the NPT and develop nuclear weapons would cause us



Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (R) and Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Rafael Grossi shake hands after signing an agreement mediated by Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty (C) to resume nuclear inspections on the Iranian nuclear program, at Tahrir Palace in Cairo, Egypt, on September 9, 2025.

● DPA



The European Union has set three clear conditions: reaching an agreement with the IAEA, settling the status of 408 kilograms of uranium enriched up to 60 percent purity, and starting direct negotiations with the US. Iran has so far effectively ticked off the first two; The agreement with the agency has been achieved, and naturally, with this in place, the enriched uranium issue should also be resolved. If conditions allow, there is a slight chance that the activation of the "snapback" mechanism could be put off for six months.



Vehicles pass next to a billboard displaying a picture of nuclear centrifuges and a sentence reading in Persian, "Science is power, and the Iranian nation will not relinquish its religion and knowledge," at the Enghelab Square in Tehran, Iran, in August 2025.

● X

serious trouble. This move could even cost us the support we currently enjoy from countries like China and Russia, who might take a different stance under such circumstances. Another camp of opponents doesn't call explicitly for leaving the NPT or making weapons, but argues that until there are

guarantees that the US or Israel won't attack Iran, cooperation should not be expanded. They claim that allowing IAEA inspections of sites struck in attacks would give adversaries insight into how successful their strikes have been. That is why they oppose cooperation with the agency. The third group supports "nuclear am-

biguity". They hold that until final decisions about a potential war with Israel and US threats are made, the situation should be kept ambiguous. However, this policy puts Iran in a tough spot; Nuclear ambiguity leads to ongoing uncertainty and oscillation between war and peace — a condition recently criticized

by the Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution, who stressed that Iran should not remain stuck in a limbo of neither war nor peace. It is in Iran's interest to work with the IAEA and to draw a distinction between a person's errors or politicization efforts — such as cases involving Mr. Grossi or

espionage allegations — and the agency's overall performance. We must press ahead with cooperation to take the wind out of the sails of American, European, and Israeli detractors.

The article first appeared in Persian on IRNA.



Rafael Grossi, the director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency
● JOE KLAMAR/AFP

By Kamran Yeganegi
Foreign policy expert

O P I N I O N
E X C L U S I V E

Since its founding, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has been presented as a neutral, technical institution tasked with ensuring the peaceful use of nuclear energy and verifying states' commitments under the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Yet, the conduct of its current Director General, Rafael Grossi, raises pressing questions about whether the agency is still capable of acting impartially or whether it has become a political instrument in the hands of powerful states. In a recent press conference, Grossi once again refused to condemn the assassinations of Iranian nuclear scientists — acts that are not only violations of international law but also direct assaults on the very principles of scientific independence and human rights. His justification — that commenting on such violence "is not something that as director general of the IAEA falls within my purview" — represents not neutrality but a profound dereliction of duty with far-reaching consequences for global scientific security.

Critical analysis
Grossi's explanation was that condemning such crimes would amount to "political criticism". This reasoning is deeply flawed for three reasons. First, the IAEA's mandate is not limited to technical inspections or drafting periodic reports. The Agency was created to ensure nuclear safety, security, and confidence-building among member states. When scientists working under international law are assassinated, silence from the director general undermines the very foundation of the agency's mission. Second, such silence implicitly normalizes violence against the scientific community. If the IAEA cannot issue even a minimal moral condemnation when human lives are taken, the message to the world is chilling: International

protection for scientists is selective, conditional, and subject to political bargaining. Third, the IAEA's double standards are glaring. The Agency has repeatedly issued strong statements on various issues involving certain countries. Yet, when it comes to the cold-blooded murder of scientists, Grossi suddenly claims neutrality. This inconsistency exposes his position to be not of impartial diplomacy, but of selective silence aligned with political pressures.

Evidence, examples
Iran has, over the past two decades, maintained extensive technical cooperation with the IAEA — from allowing intrusive inspections to hosting multiple technical discussions in Tehran and Vienna. Despite sanctions and political challenges, Iran has consistently declared its commitment to NPT safeguards. Yet, what has been observed in practice

are repeated delays in restoring verification activities and the instrumentalization of Iran's nuclear file for political ends. One of the starkest examples is Grossi's refusal to condemn the assassination of Dr. Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, a senior Iranian scientist. That 2020 attack drew condemnation from many governments and independent international voices, yet the IAEA — the body most directly linked to protecting nuclear scientists and peaceful research — remained silent. This silence damaged the agency's credibility and emboldened those who use violence as a political tool. A journalist questioning Grossi correctly pointed out that all nuclear scientists worldwide should not trust the director general now and must always watch their backs. This remark encapsulates the crisis of confidence the IAEA is now facing.

Broader implications
The issue goes far beyond Iran. Today,

scientists around the world — from Asia to Africa, from Latin America to Europe — are engaged in sensitive nuclear research. If the assassination of Iranian scientists goes uncondemned, tomorrow researchers in other countries may be targeted with the same impunity. Grossi's silence is not a local issue; It is a global precedent that erodes the protective shield international institutions are supposed to provide. From the perspective of international law, the silence is indefensible. The United Nations Charter enshrines the right to life and security as fundamental principles. The IAEA's own statute emphasizes the agency's responsibility to promote peaceful nuclear work and protect the integrity of its mission. By failing to condemn assassinations, the director general undermines both the UN system and the IAEA's founding principles. Furthermore, this pattern of selective behavior undermines the trust of member states. Once confidence in the impartiality of the agency is eroded, the cooperative framework of safeguards collapses. Without trust, the IAEA risks losing its unique position as a credible global arbiter of nuclear safety and security. The IAEA today stands at a crossroads. It can either return to its founding principles — impartiality, justice, and the protection of scientific security — or it can continue down the path of double standards, eroding its legitimacy and becoming little more than a political instrument. Grossi must recognize that silence in the face of the assassination of Iranian scientists is not silence toward one country alone. It is silence that potentially leaves every nuclear scientist vulnerable, from Asia to Africa and beyond. Such silence cannot be defended legally, morally, or institutionally. If the IAEA wishes to restore its credibility, it must prove that its standards are not politically selective but grounded in law, ethics, and professional responsibility. Otherwise, the agency will risk devolving into precisely what many already suspect: not a neutral guardian of nuclear safety, but a political tool manipulated by the agendas of a few powerful states.



The IAEA's double standards are glaring. The Agency has repeatedly issued strong statements on various issues involving certain countries. Yet, when it comes to the cold-blooded murder of scientists, Grossi suddenly claims neutrality. This inconsistency exposes his position to be not of impartial diplomacy, but of selective silence aligned with political pressures.



International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi (front-2nd R) looks at a poster of five assassinated Iranian nuclear scientists during his visit to an exhibition showcasing Iran's peaceful nuclear achievements in Tehran, Iran, on April 17, 2025.
● TASNIM

Persian Gulf Pro League:

Drozdek hits hat-trick as Tractor gets off the mark with Iralco rout

Sports Desk

Tractor striker Domagoj Drozdek scored a first-half hat-trick as the defending champion hammered Iralco 4-1 at home on Friday to record its victory of the new Persian Gulf Pro League season. The Croatian kept his composure to lob goalkeeper Mohammad Khalifeh after being released behind the Iralco backline by Danial Esmailifar in the ninth minute. He then doubled Tractor's lead 10 minutes later by slotting home Mahdi Torabi's low cross into the six-yard box. Drozdek's third of the afternoon at the Bonyan Disel Stadium came in the 41st minute, when he tapped in Mahdi Hashemnejad's cross on the far post. Behrouz Nowruzifard pulled one back for the visitors with right before the interval, but Albanian summer signing Regi Lushkja restored Tractor's three-goal cushion in the 62nd minute, rounding off a well-worked counter-attack. The victory was a morale-boosting result for Tractor, which had been beaten at home by Esteghlal (1-0) on the open-

ing day of the campaign before playing to goalless stalemate away to Mes Rafsanjan, ahead of the club's first game at the new AFC Champions League Elite season against Shabab Al Ahli on Tuesday. However, Croatian head coach Dragan Skocic was dealt a massive blow after integral winger Torabi left the pitch with an injury at halftime and will be a major doubt for the Dubai visit. Elsewhere, Esteghlal suffered a first defeat of the season, falling to a 1-0 loss against Esteghlal Khuzestan in Ahvaz. Spanish goalkeeper Antonio Adán kept out a Hamid Bouhamdan's long-range free kick, but Mohammad Sharifi found the net on the rebound in the 34th minute, as Esteghlal Khuzestan came out on top against the Tehran Blues at home for a second consecutive season. Both sides finished the game with 10 men after Bouhamdan received his marching orders for a second bookable offense in the 78th minute, while Iran international fullback Ramin Rezaeian was shown a straight red for

headbutting in the fifth minute of stoppage time. Stellar summer signing Munir El Haddadi, introduced as an 86th-minute substitute, came close to finding an equalizer for the visiting side with his first touch of the ball, only to see his effort from outside the box come off the bar. Meanwhile, Khaybar and newly-promoted Fajr Sepasi remained unbeaten in their impressive start to the season, sharing the points in a 1-1 draw at Khorramabad's Takhti Stadium. Farshid Esmaili put Fajr in front with a composed finish in the 29th minute, before Ehsan Hosseini drew the home side level on the hour mark. Sepahan missed out on a first win of the season after a 1-1 away draw against Golgozar Sirjan. Former Esteghlal midfielder Omid Hamedifar's effort from the edge of the box went in off Sepahan center-back Mohammad-Amin Hazbavi's leg to give Golgozar the lead inside 12 minutes. Golgozar midfielder Alireza Alizadeh was sent off midway through the first half with two bookings



Tractor striker Domagoj Drozdek (25) celebrates with teammates after scoring during a 4-1 victory over Iralco at the Persian Gulf Pro League in Tabriz, Iran, on September 12, 2025.
● MEHRVARZ AHMADI/NASRNEWS

inside four minutes, but the home side thought still managed to find a second goal through Reza Ja'fari in the 43rd minute, only to see it chalked off by the VAR for a foul on a Sepahan player in the build-

up to the strike. French signing Enzo Crivelli opened his account for Sepahan by converting a VAR-awarded penalty in the 60th minute, as Moharram Navidkia's team,

which had Omid Nourafkan dismissed with 18 minutes remaining, avoided a second successive defeat following a home setback against Persepolis before the international break.

Asian Cadet & Junior Judo Championships:

Iran ends seven-year drought with three medals



● IRJF

Sports Desk

Iran's wait for a medal at the Asian Cadet & Junior Judo Championships came to an end after seven years as the country collected a silver and double bronzes at the competition in Jakarta, Indonesia. Iranian girl Samira Khakhah defeated Jordanian Taleen Khader and the host's Sashenka Fatimah to reach the final showpiece in the cadet -63kg event, but had to settle for silver medal after a setback against South Korean Hong Dain. Amirhossein Nazari finished his campaign with consolation bronze in the men's cadet -90kg category, recovering from a first-round loss

to Jeon Minseok of South Korea to beat opponents from Kyrgyzstan and Kuwait before coming out victorious against Chinese Taipei's Guo Chang-Yu to share the third podium with Inomjon Bakhodirov of Uzbekistan. A second cadet bronze for the country came in the men's +90kg class, where Mohammadpouria Banaeian defeated Aliasghar Malekzadeh in an all-Iranian third-place bout. Banaeian began his campaign with an impressive win against South Korea's Kim Jaemin but suffered a loss to Uzbekistan's Alibek Durdiev, who went on to beat Mongolia's Munkhbagana Galsandamba in the final showdown.

Elsewhere, Iran's Abolfazl Nazari (-55kg) and Yassin Parhizgar (-60kg) missed out on the podium, falling to defeats in the third-place showdowns in their respective boys' categories, while Sobhan Hakimi finished seventh in the -73kg class. The competition will continue with the junior contests today, with Hanieh Abbaszadeh (-57kg) and Mahshid Safari (-63kg) representing Iran in the women's draw, while Hossein Bakhshi (-73kg), Amirhossein Valizadeh (-73kg), Matin Yaqoubkish (-81kg), Amirabbas Choupan (-90kg), Alireza Nikseresht (-100kg), and Mohammad-Mahdi Elmi will vie for glory across different men's divisions.

Iran to go all out for futsal glory at Islamic Solidarity Games, Shamsaei says

Sports Desk

Iran futsal head coach Vahid Shamsaei said he would name a full-strength squad for the Islamic Solidarity Games as the country has set its sights on the ultimate prize at the multi-sport event, starting November 7 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. "We will face strong opponents in the Islamic Solidarity Games, including futsal powerhouses like Morocco and Kazakhstan. Success in this tournament is of paramount importance to Iran's Ministry of Sports and National Olympic Committee," Shamsaei told Varzesh3 of his approach to team selection. The Iranian futsal great recently named a provision-

al roster for the upcoming events, including the AFC Futsal Asian Cup qualifiers in Kuantan, Malaysia. A winner of a record 13 Asian titles, Iran will begin its qualification campaign against Bangladesh in Group G next Sunday, before taking on the United Arab Emirates two days later at Kuantan's Stadium Tertutup Sukpa. Iran will face Malaysia on the final day of the group fixtures on September 24, with the top team of the group table progressing to next January's finals in Indonesia, while the second team will hope to qualify as one the best seven runner-up finishers across the eight qualification groups.

There were some surprise absentees in the Iranian list, with Asian Player of the Year Saeid Ahamdabbasi and Salar Aqapour omitted. Saeid is a valuable asset for Iranian futsal. However, he has struggled with consistency after his latest surgery, and I feel he needs time to peak his best form. He has also missed three games in the current Iranian league season. The players' health must be our top priority," Shamsaei said of his decision not to name his prolific player in the squad. "That said, we still have very high expectations of him. If Saeid can prove his form and performance in the coming period, the national team will

be open to a player of his caliber. In my opinion, he needs more rest to fully recover, then focus on increasing his fitness. If he can regain the quality that meets our expectations, we will certainly call upon him," added the Iranian. "Aqapour, meanwhile, could have pushed through with an injection, but why would we risk him and potentially aggravate his injury all at once? We've given Salar rest so he can play the rest of the season with greater fitness and, more importantly, be available for the upcoming tournaments. This is on the condition that he also delivers his best possible performances in the league."



● AFC

Impact of eco-lodges on culture, economy of Kurdistan Province



IRNA

Iranica Desk

When stepping into an eco-lodge nestled in the heart of the villages of Kurdistan Province, you are not merely entering a building; you are embarking on a profound journey into the vibrant core of the culture and natural beauty of this land. The moment you open your eyes, you are greeted not by the incessant honking and chaos of urban traffic, but by the absolute tranquility that envelops the air. You refresh yourself by washing your hands and face with cool, crisp water, then open the window to breathe in the fresh, pure air—untainted by the smoke and fumes of the city. Before you stretches a breathtaking panorama of towering mountains, lush deep green valleys, and flowing rivers that extend as far as the eye can see. Instead of the acrid scent of smoke, the warm, inviting aroma of freshly baked bread wafts from the clay oven, enveloping you in a comforting embrace. Silence pervades the surroundings, broken only by the crowing of the local rooster, melodious bird songs, and the gentle sound of a woman pressing dough against the stone walls of the traditional oven, ISNA wrote. Here, you experience the true essence of staying at an eco-lodge in the heart of Kurdistan, where life flows with genuine simplicity and beauty, offering you the chance to distance yourself for a few precious days from all that alienates you from nature. The stone walls, wooden windows adorned with colorful stained glass, and sturdy wood-

en ceilings each carry stories from the past, giving you an unparalleled opportunity to immerse yourself in a lifestyle filled with authenticity and timeless charm. Eco-lodges transcend being mere places to stay; they serve as vital engines driving the local economy and youth employment. These lodges generate both direct and indirect job opportunities, encouraging rural youth to remain in their hometowns instead of migrating to big cities, thereby empowering them to create their own businesses and contribute meaningfully to their communities. Activities fueled by eco-tourism, such as cooking, tour guiding, and selling handicrafts and local agricultural products, flourish in this nurturing environment. Furthermore, eco-tourism has fostered reverse migration; young people who once left for cities seeking work are now returning upon recognizing the economic potential of their villages. By establishing lodges or engaging in related enterprises, they actively contribute to revitalizing their village economies. This cyclical economic growth not only sustains rural populations but also preserves local customs and indigenous cultures. Teymour Khaledi, deputy head of the Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Organization of Kurdistan Province, highlighted that the development of eco-lodges in Sanandaj has been a pivotal strategy for strengthening the local economy, safeguarding indigenous culture, and fostering sustainable employment. Over recent years, this sector has witnessed remarkable growth, with 56 eco-lodges established across

various parts of Sanandaj. In an insightful interview with ISNA, Khaledi explained that these lodges have not only created direct employment opportunities for their owners and builders but have also enhanced the sale of local products — such as handicrafts, food items, souvenirs, traditional bread, dairy products, and honey — by attracting tourists to the villages. This has generated significant indirect employment for other villagers as well. He further emphasized the role of eco-lodges in facilitating reverse migration: some residents who previously had to leave their villages and relocate to Tehran or other provinces in search of jobs have returned due to the newly created employment opportunities. These individuals have rejoined their families and are actively involved in local affairs — a profoundly positive change that is especially meaningful for household heads who once endured the hardships of separation from home and loved ones. Khaledi noted that tourists from Tehran and other regions now visit these lodges to experience traditional rural life and connect with authentic Kurdish culture. The money that was previously spent outside the province now directly flows into the local village economy. This effective economic model has garnered public approval and inspired hope among rural youth to stay and build a more sustainable future. Despite noteworthy advancements in establishing eco-lodges and easing accommodation deficiencies, Khaledi acknowledged that infrastructural challenges persist. These in-

clude poor road conditions, limited flight options at airports, absence of regular public transportation to villages, inadequacies in public services, and insufficient financial and banking support for developing these units. He urged related organizations — including the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, the general governorate, the Plan and Budget Organization, the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development, banks, and other relevant bodies — to deepen their commitment to infrastructure development so that Kurdistan Province's tourism potential can be fully realized. He underscored that one key reason for the success of eco-lodges in Sanandaj lies in their incorporation of traditional architecture and local cultural elements in their design, construction, and management. In sharp contrast to urban hotels, these lodges provide tourists with an authentic experience of local lifestyle — from indigenous architecture and regional cuisine to traditional music, Kurdish clothing, hospitality customs, and the social traditions of the region. Moreover, he elaborated that public perception and participation concerning tourism, along with the presence of travelers in villages, are deeply cultural issues that demand coordinated and persistent efforts by cultural, educational, and media institutions nationwide, founded on the rich native culture of Kurdistan. Khaledi emphasized that education, awareness programs, and cultivation of a culture of hospitality in villages must be handled with special care

and attention to generate the necessary synergy for the advancement of this burgeoning industry. Tourism experts, he noted, identify several key focus areas critical to sustainable development in tourism sector of the province: improving access roads to tourist destinations, increasing domestic and international flight connectivity, offering low-interest loans to entrepreneurs, conducting extensive national and international promotional campaigns for the province's attractions, and providing special support to private investors. Avat Makari, head of the Advertising and Marketing Group at Kurdistan Tourism Department, described eco-tourism as the most affordable and uniquely immersive form of tourism, tracing its roots back to Canada in 1990 before expanding further in the United States. In a detailed interview, Makari traced the origins of Kurdistan's eco-tourism to the establishment of the province's first eco-lodge in Dulab village. He defined eco-tourism as fundamentally rooted in sustainable development, with many income-generating activities directly linked to daily life and the intangible heritage of the region. Makari highlighted eco-tourism as a prime opportunity for small rural family businesses, where guests stay within hosts' homes and properties, sharing meals and cultural experiences. He classified eco-tourism as a form of responsible tourism where hosts and tourists jointly commit to preserving natural environments and the cultural fabric of the local communities.

Education is a vital and inseparable aspect of eco-tourism, Makari stressed, particularly as local people become living repositories of indigenous customs, traditions, and knowledge, which they transfer to visitors. Makari further underscored the importance of developing intangible heritage, insisting that eco-lodge managers should be thoroughly knowledgeable about the cultural and social elements unique to the region — such as local games, traditional medicine, regional music genres, rituals, religious and historical customs, and forgotten local trades — serving as skilled narrators in conveying these rich aspects to tourists. He emphasized that these managers must possess not only deep cultural insight but also strong interpretive and storytelling skills to ensure travelers can carry the customs and rituals of the region back home with meaningful understanding. Makari also explained that tourism comprises several phases: the decision-making process to travel, arrival at the destination, departure, and finally the tourist's enduring commitment to promoting the destination and protecting the environment and local culture. He reiterated eco-tourism's dual role in generating local income and attracting investment to stimulate and sustain the tourism industry. Makari highlighted one of eco-tourism's most positive effects: reverse migration, whereby young people returning to rural areas reside in their birthplaces and become dedicated guardians of their ancestral cultural heritage.

Nature-inspired motifs make Gabbeh of Bushehr distinct, artistic

Gabbeh is one of the most beloved handicrafts, widely found in nearly all the villages and even in some cities of the Bushehr Province. For many families, Gabbeh weaving may serve as their primary or secondary source of income. While Gabbeh resembles a carpet, it differs distinctly in motifs, size, colors, and the use of long, thick wefts. The motifs and patterns of Gabbeh diverge notably from those of traditional carpets. Gabbeh often lacks margins or symmetry, and many of its motifs resemble children's paintings—simple, primitive, yet deeply inspired by nature and their surroundings. The patterns of Gabbeh originate from

the memory of the weavers themselves, who enjoy complete freedom to incorporate any motif and place it wherever they wish within the design. A key difference from carpets is also reflected in the color palette used in Gabbeh. A significant portion of Gabbeh is woven with wool in its natural, raw colors. The Bushehr Gabbeh typically features plain backgrounds in hues of white, cream, brown, black, and grey, with patterns rendered in black, red, dark blue, and other similarly rich colors. The weavers are predominantly women and girls, each with a unique set of motifs in mind that they skillfully bring to life through their weaving. Overall, the defining characteristic of Bushehr

Gabbeh is its traditional patterns, which have evolved over generations into artistically valuable designs, visitiran.ir wrote. The wool used for Gabbeh weaving is sourced from locally bred sheep. Today, the primary markets for Bushehr Gabbeh are European countries and the Arab States of the Persian Gulf. In response to this demand, weavers have begun dyeing wool using herbal pigments — such as orange, blue, green, and yellow — for use in the backgrounds of these pieces. The motifs on such products often depict animals and doll-like figures, adding to their charming and distinctive appeal.



yjc.ir



Pezeshkian calls for sweeping educational overhaul to meet modern needs

Social Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on Saturday urged a fundamental re-design of the country's schools, saying the education system must evolve into a "living organism" that blends teaching with sports, culture, and technology. Speaking at a government session on education reform, Pezeshkian pressed for a model that goes beyond "four or five classrooms" to serve the demands of a young and growing population, president.ir reported. He said schools should provide libraries, sports facilities, teamwork resources, and digital tools to keep pace with global standards. "The education system must nurture a capable generation," he said. "Our children deserve the best quality education so they can become committed profes-

sionals in their homeland." Pezeshkian warned that past decisions were often based on "unfounded" ideas and not rooted in the realities of a rapidly changing world. He called for planning that reflects both global benchmarks and Iran's social and economic conditions. That, he said, requires close coordination between ministries, local education officials, and urban planners. The president emphasized the need to upgrade electronic infrastructure, including online learning platforms, smart boards, and digital content. He singled out the state-run "SHAD" educational network, saying it must be strengthened to prevent students from falling behind. With 16 million pupils nationwide, Pezeshkian said budgets should cover teacher training, digital equipment, and vocational education while taking into



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (c) addresses a government session on education reform in Tehran, on September 13, 2025.
● president.ir

account the financial limits of families. He argued that vocational schools and technical training must be better aligned with the labor market to prevent a glut of graduates in oversaturated fields like law and engineering. "Education should prepare students to work, to cooperate, and to innovate," he said, stressing that hands-on skills and teamwork are just as vital as classroom instruction. Pezeshkian also urged education officials to weave schooling into urban development, insisting that every new city plan should designate space for schools. Local directors of education and school



construction, he added, must "draw up joint strategies" instead of working in isolation. He said that Iran's future depended on

investing in human capital. "If we stop, we will fall behind," he said. "We must show the right path and build a system that our children will not want to leave."

Minister: Iran-Russia ties lay groundwork for multipolar world



Iran's Culture and Islamic Guidance Minister Abbas Salehi (L) speaks at St. Petersburg State University, Russia, on September 13, 2025.
● IRNA

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's Culture and Islamic Guidance Minister Abbas Salehi told professors and students at St. Petersburg State University on Saturday that cooperation between Tehran, Moscow and other like-minded states is helping shape what he called a "genuinely multipolar world." Speaking during an academic forum, Salehi argued that cultural and educational

exchange is as vital as political and military alignment in building a new balance of power. He described St. Petersburg, with its 301-year-old university, as "a city of knowledge and culture," and urged closer collaboration between Russian and Iranian institutions, IRNA reported. Salehi's trip to Russia came at the invitation of Culture Minister Olga Lyubimova for the XI St. Petersburg International Unit-

ed Cultures Forum.

Since arriving on Sept. 10, he has met Russian officials, toured the State Hermitage Museum, addressed a conference of Orientalists, and joined prayers at the city's historic Grand Mosque. His remarks at St. Petersburg University underscored how cultural diplomacy underpins Iran's outreach to Russia at a time when both countries face Western sanctions. "The foundation of a multipolar world is cultural," he told the gathering. "It means understanding that values and ideas worth learning are not confined to one land, even if that land sees itself as superior." He warned that a unipolar order had emerged from "a narrow economic theory," sidelining the traditions of nations and pressing others into conformity. By contrast, he said, diversity in culture fosters balance. Salehi reminded his audience that Iran and Russia have been more than neighbors. "For centuries, we have been in conversation," he said, noting that formal diplomatic relations stretch back 500 years, while literary and artistic exchanges predate them. He cited the popularity of Russian classics in Iran, pointing out that "Tolstoy's works

were among the bestsellers" at this year's Tehran International Book Fair, one of the Middle East's largest cultural events. He stressed that new generations in both countries should not be cut off from their shared heritage. "Western media are shaping new tastes and promoting other cultures," he said. "The risk is that young people in Iran and Russia may grow up without knowing their own great writers and artists." Salehi said the closeness between the two nations was not simply the product of sanctions or geopolitics. "We have been near each other always," he told students, adding that Persian printing presses once operated in St. Petersburg and helped circulate newspapers back in Tehran. Russia's early adoption of modern technology, he noted, influenced Iran's cultural modernization. Digital media, he said, now opens another door. "We no longer need the BBC or CNN to show us each other," he remarked. "Iranian and Russian bloggers and citizen journalists can offer a real picture." He also praised Russian scholarship in Iranian studies, highlighting "over 10,000 works" produced by leading Orientalists in

the past two centuries.

Salehi proposed practical steps to strengthen ties, including new chairs in Persian and Russian studies at universities, joint research programs in anthropology and arts, and direct translations of modern literature. He also called for more exchanges in cinema, music and theater. "Every day in Iran at least one Russian play is staged," he said, adding that Russian symphonies by Tchaikovsky remain staples for Iranian audiences. Iranian poetry has also inspired generations of Russian writers, he reminded his hosts. "Pushkin and Tolstoy drew from Persian literature," he said. "And Russian giants like Dostoevsky and Chekhov shaped our own intellectual life." Salehi described this as "mutual inspiration" and proof that the two nations share "a love of beauty, grandeur and art." The minister concluded with a warning against letting relations rest only on politics or trade. "Those bonds are fragile," he said. "When ties are rooted in culture and in people's hearts, economic and political relations become deeper and more enduring."

Iran pavilion named best at Guangzhou tourism fair

Arts & Culture Desk

The Iran pavilion was named the best stand at the China International Tourism Industry Expo (CITIE) in Guangzhou on Saturday, organizers said, after drawing crowds with historical motifs, traditional designs and cultural performances. The award marked Iran's first showing at CITIE, now in its 17th year, and underscored Tehran's efforts to step up its cultural footprint in China's fast-growing tourism market. More than 40 countries and regions are taking part in this year's three-day event (September 12-14) in southern Chin, IRNA reported. CITIE's deputy director handed the plaque to Mohammad Hos-

sein Soufi, head of the Iranian delegation and managing director of the Touring and Automobile Club of Iran. Soufi called the recognition a tribute to his team's focus on "aesthetics, cultural themes and direct interaction" with visitors. "We are pleased that our presence boosted the number of people coming to the expo," he said. "This event was a valuable opportunity to introduce Iran." The pavilion featured eight Iranian travel companies, a handicraft artisan, traditional clothing displays and Iranology workshops. Its vibrant design helped turn it into one of the most visited stands, according to organizers. Soufi said Iranian representatives also floated proposals for



future editions, including separating business talks from performances to give professional agencies more room to engage. The suggestions were welcomed by the Chinese hosts, he added. Local and national Chinese media highlighted Iran's participation, coverage that Soufi said reinforced his country's standing in international tourism exhibitions and opened the door to deeper exchanges with China.

Persian arts, handicrafts on display at Greek Thessaloniki Int'l Fair

Arts & Culture Desk

The 89th Thessaloniki International Fair, which opened on September 6 and runs through September 14, is featuring a special exhibition of Iranian art and handicrafts, drawing attention from visitors and cultural enthusiasts. The showcase, organized by Iran Embassy in Greece in partnership with its cultural center and the private company Almas Neshan, highlights the country's centuries-old artistic traditions, IRNA reported. The Iranian pavilion, located in Hall 16, booth A02, presented what organizers called a "rich heritage" of art and authenticity. Visitors were drawn to intricate ceramics, detailed wood carvings, miniatures and other handicrafts that, according to the embassy, show the

country's centuries-old artistic traditions. The warm reception from local and international guests underscored the enduring appeal of Iranian craftsmanship on the global stage. Iran's cultural center used the event to broaden exchanges with Greek institutions. Meetings with professors, researchers and students from Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and Ionian University were described as a "valuable platform" for strengthening academic and cultural cooperation. Iran's participation, according to the organizers, aimed not only to promote its art but also to serve as a bridge for wider people-to-people ties. "Direct exchanges and constructive talks," the cultural center said, could pave the way for deeper cooperation between the two countries. The Thessaloniki International Fair,



regarded as Greece's most prestigious trade exhibition and a major commercial event in Southeast Europe, is held annually with the support of HELEX-PO, the country's national exhibition body. This year's fair focuses on trade, innovation and foreign investment, providing companies from around the world with opportunities to introduce products, expand exports and forge new partnerships.