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Israel borne out to Arabs
as Middle East's
main threat
after Qatar strike

INTERVIEW
EXCLUSIVE

On September 9, Israel carried out an unprecedented air strike on Qatar's capital, Doha, aimed at assassinating political leaders of Hamas. Qatar described the operation as a blatant violation of its sovereignty and as state terrorism, and said it reserved the right to respond. The attack heightened diplomatic and security tensions across the Middle East and fueled fears that hostilities could spread beyond Gaza. Inaction by the United States in response to Israel's strike on Qatar — one of Washington's closest regional partners and host to the largest US military base in the area — has provoked waves of regional and international criticism and concern. The perceived inaction has not only called into question America's credibility as a security guarantor for its allies, it has also left many governments in the region doubting the durability and reliability of the US security umbrella. Emad Abshenas, regional affairs expert, has shared his insights on the matter in an interview with Iran Daily:

IRAN DAILY: What effect will Israel's recent attack on Doha have on regional states' positions toward Israel and the United States?

ABSHENAS: Practically all countries in the region have now realized that Israel is the enemy and that it has no scruples about striking other states in the region. Moreover, the United States is not providing them with protection. Despite having invested huge sums there — running into the trillions of dollars, including roughly \$400 billion invested in the United States just months ago — these states had expected Washington to guarantee their security. Instead, according to published reports, both the US and the UK not only refrained from acting, but also assisted Israel in the attack on Qatar. Those reports indicate that the refueling crews who serviced the Israeli aircraft were British personnel who took off from the very Al Udeid base in Qatar. They also assert that US defense systems were disabled, permitting F-35s to carry out the strike. Military experts are well aware that US aircraft — especially the F-35 — have systems that will not operate without US authorization, and that these aircraft are continuously monitored by the United States so that, in the event of a crash, they can be destroyed quickly to prevent them from falling into enemy hands. For such reasons it can be said that the United States was fully aware of the operation, and that the attack was conducted with US green light.

Qatar has long acted as a mediator for the United States on numerous issues across the Middle East and Africa, and has spent millions — perhaps billions — of dollars advancing US interests in the region. On occasion it even paid the costs for securing the release of American captives. Yet it now finds itself the target of an attack on its soil, at a time when Washington had asked Doha to invite Hamas to mediate — in other words, Qatar had not unilaterally invited Hamas onto its territory. Not only did the United States fail to defend Qatar; it was a partner in the attack. All the defense systems in the Persian Gulf Arab states are administered from Washington, not by those states themselves, and effectively those systems were switched off by the Americans. Had Washington not been complicit or cooperative, it could have closed the aerial corridor used by the Israelis for the strike and prevented them from passing. US cooperation meant it was a partner in the crime.

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Qatar urges world to ditch double standards, punish Israel

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Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (1st L) speaks with his counterparts ahead of a meeting attended by leaders from Arab and Islamic countries in Doha, Qatar on September 14, 2025 to discuss a formal response to Israel's strikes on the Qatari capital last week.

● IRNA



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Top security body says approved Iran-IAEA cooperation pact

International Desk

Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) said in a statement on Sunday that the cooperation document recently signed between Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) had been approved by the council. Earlier this week, Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi inked a new agreement in Egypt to resume cooperation suspended after bombing of Iran's nuclear facilities by Israel and the United States in June. "The text of these arrangements was reviewed by the nuclear committee of the Supreme National Security Council, and what has been signed is essentially the same as what was approved by that committee," the statement read. According to the statement, the nuclear committee, which is composed of senior officials from relevant institutions, has always been authorized by the

SNSC to make decisions. For the new agreement with the IAEA, the committee has acted in accordance with the usual procedure, it added.

The statement also provided a brief explanation on how Iran and the IAEA should cooperate on the three nuclear sites of Isfahan, Natanz, and Fordow which were struck by the US and Israel during the June's aggression. Iran's top security body emphasized that the implementation of the new arrangements agreed by Tehran and the IAEA would be halted if any hostile action is taken against Iran and its nuclear sites, including the restoration of UN sanctions that had been lifted under the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). The SNSC was referring to a move last month by Britain, France, and Germany — known as the E3 — to restore international sanctions by activating the "snapback mechanism". Iran's foreign minister also told



Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (R) and Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency Rafael Grossi (L) shake hands after signing a cooperation document in Cairo, Egypt, on September 9, 2025.
● IRNA

Iranian lawmakers on Saturday that Tehran will implement the agreement with the IAEA only if UN sanctions are not re-imposed on Iran. Back in August, the E3 invoked the mechanism initiating a 30-day deadline for reimposing sanctions lifted under the UN Resolution 2231, which endorses the JCPOA. Iran has repeatedly said that the European trio — known as the E3 — lacks all legal and moral authority to activate the mechanism as they failed to live up to their commitments under the 2015 nuclear agreement after the US unilaterally withdrew from the deal and reimposed sanctions against Iran.



Snapback sanctions manageable, of limited consequence: *Parliamentary report*

International Desk

The Economic Studies Office of Iran's Parliament Research Center downplayed the potential fallout of a snapback of UN sanctions, concluding in a new report that the economic risks would be "manageable and not particularly significant." France, Germany, and the UK on August 28 triggered the snapback mechanism of the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, initiating a 30-day process that could restore UN sanctions previously lifted under the accord. The report, titled "The Snapback Mechanism and the Economic Implications of UN Security Council Resolutions Against Iran," argued that, regardless of the disputed legality of European efforts to trigger the mechanism, a close reading of the resolutions and enforcement measures suggests that their impact would remain limited. According to the findings, the main economic effect would be confined to the reimposition of export controls on dual-use technologies, restrictions Iran has previously learned to work around. The report noted that, with China and Russia unwilling to fully align with Western measures, Tehran would be able to manage the constraints. Inspection regimes outlined in Resolution 1929 also face limitations, the report said. Cargo inspections require the consent of the flag state



and carry the risk of reciprocal Iranian action, making any naval blockade or seizure of Iranian ships highly unlikely. The study further underscored the difficulty of expanding sanctions lists, given that such steps demand consensus within the Security Council and remain vulnerable to Chinese or Russian vetoes. While the United States could still lean on Iran's trading partners, notably China, such pressure would be part of Washington's broader sanctions tool kit rather than a direct consequence of snapback. The Parliament Research Center also stressed that the possible reimposition of UN sanctions would not

lend legal legitimacy to existing US restrictions. Iran's macroeconomic interactions in oil, petrochemicals, and financial settlements are expected to continue largely unaffected, barring short-term "psychological shocks" in asset markets. Those, it adds, could be contained with prudent economic management and coordinated messaging. In addition, unlike US secondary sanctions, which directly target key sectors such as energy and banking, UN measures are primarily proliferation-focused, aimed at constraining Iran's nuclear and missile programs. A snapback, therefore, would not amount to a harsher sanctions regime than Tehran already faces.

At Muslim gathering on Doha strike, Gaza war

Qatar urges world to ditch double standards, punish Israel

International Desk

Qatari Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani urged the international community on Sunday to "stop using double standards" and punish Israel for its "crimes." Abdulrahman Al Thani was speaking at a preparatory meeting on the eve of an emergency summit of Arab and Islamic leaders organized by Qatar after Israel carried out an unprecedented air strike on Hamas leaders in Doha. "The time has come for the international community to stop using double standards and to punish Israel for all the crimes it has committed, and Israel needs to know that the ongoing war of extermination that our brotherly Palestinian people is being subjected to, and whose aim is to expel them from their land, will not work, no

matter what false justification is provided," the prime minister said.

Qatari prime minister said that the Israeli attack must be met with fierce and firm measures. According to Qatar's Foreign Ministry spokesman, Majed al-Ansari, Monday's meeting of Arab and Islamic leaders will consider "a draft resolution on the Israeli attack on the State of Qatar." Among the leaders attending will be Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani. Palestinian President Mahmud Abbas arrived in Doha on Sunday, on the eve of the summit. On September 9, the Israeli regime launched a strike on Qatar's capital, assassinating five officials of Palestinian Hamas resistance group as well as a Qatari security officer.

AEOI: Iran seeking approval of resolution against attacks on nuclear sites

International Desk

Spokesman of Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Behrouz Kamalvandi said on Sunday that Tehran is seeking the approval of an Iran-proposed resolution condemning attacks on nuclear facilities at a meeting of the UN atomic agency. Kamalvandi, who has traveled to Vienna to take part in the 69th General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), said that the Iranian delegation will consult with representatives of other countries to get their sup-

port for the approval of the resolution. Referring to the June's bombing of Iran's nuclear facilities by the US and Israel, the Iranian official said, "Attacks on nuclear facilities create a serious problem for the NPT treaty and other international regulations and are not an issue solely related to Iran." He also pointed to the US efforts to block the approval of the resolution, saying that Washington has threatened the IAEA's member states and the agency that if Iran-proposed resolution is approved, it will cut off its assistance to the UN agency.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

Tehran dismisses G7 allegations as 'baseless, unfounded'

International Desk

The Iranian Foreign Ministry rejected "baseless and unfounded" allegations raised against the Islamic Republic in a statement issued by the members of the Group of Seven (G7) Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) and its associate members. Member states of the G7 Rapid Response Mechanism, together with G7 RRM associate members (Australia and New Zealand), accused the Iranian intelligence forces of conducting "transnational repression and other malign activities." In a statement on Sunday, the ministry condemned the G7 allegations as baseless and a mere attempt to divert attention, emphasizing that making false accusations against individuals tasked with protecting Iran's

national security constitutes a clear misrepresentation of the truth. The statement characterized the political and economic forum's approach as a disingenuous attempt by the same entities whose unlawful and destabilizing actions in various areas, especially in West Asia, have fostered lawlessness and intensified insecurity. The statement emphasized that the United States and other G7 nations — including Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the United Kingdom — should be held responsible for their detrimental impact on both regional and global stability, particularly due to their involvement in the Israeli regime's gross violations of international law, including international humanitarian law and human rights in Palestine, along with their support for infamous terrorist organizations.

At a time when the Zionist regime, receiving complete backing from the US, the UK, Germany, France, and other supporters of the anti-Iranian declaration, is committing massacres and genocide in the occupied Palestinian territories and waging constant wars against regional states, the release of such anti-Iran statements serves no other function than to divert public attention from "the crime of the century" and to obscure the sponsors' involvement in genocide, the statement noted. The Iranian Foreign Ministry underscored that the sponsors of such "irresponsible statements" should relinquish their obsolete colonial and supremacist attitudes and rectify their erroneous and unlawful policies regarding Iran and the region, rather than continuing to engage in blame-shifting.



Southern gas field secures \$600m investment for 20-year development

Economy Desk

Iran signed a \$600 million contract on Sunday to develop and operate the Madar gas field in the southern province of Bushehr, aiming to boost output and attract investment into the country's energy sector.

The agreement was signed by senior oil industry officials, including Hamid Bovard, deputy oil minister and head of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC); Hamidreza Araqi, chairman of the state-owned Oil Industries Engineering and Construction (OIEC) group; and Saeed Zarandi, chief executive of Mobarakeh Steel Company, IRIB reported.

The 20-year project is expected to yield about 65 billion cubic meters of natural gas and 127 million barrels of gas condensates.

Planned works include completing 20 wells – 19 new and one workover – as well as building wellhead facilities, 70 kilome-



Hamid Bovard (c), head of the NIOC, shakes hands with Hamidreza Araqi (r), chairman of the OIEC group, following the signing of a trilateral contract on the development of Madar gas field in Tehran on September 14, 2025.

● ALI KHALILI/SHANA

ters of flowlines, 33 kilometers of production pipelines, and units for metering, separation and water treatment.

In addition to accelerating the development of the Madar field, the project is estimated to create new opportunities for steel industry participation in upstream oil and gas.

The plan is also projected to generate roughly \$16.7 billion in revenue for the government over the life of the contract.

Officials said the scheme also aims to maximize recovery from the field, create jobs in underdeveloped areas of the Province of Bushehr, and draw new investment into Iran's oil and gas sector.



Tehran, Islamabad open joint commission meeting to strengthen trade, economic links

Economy Desk

Iran and Pakistan will open the 22nd meeting of their Joint Economic Commission in Tehran today, focusing on expanding bilateral trade and economic cooperation. Pakistan's Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan arrived in the Iranian capital at the head of a high-level delegation on Sunday to attend the two-day meeting, which is being co-chaired by Iran's Minister of Roads and Urban Development Farzaneh Sadegh and Kamal Khan, Mehr reported.

Talks are aimed at boosting cooperation in trade, investment, banking, energy, industry, transport and infrastructure, as well as promoting social, cultural and provincial exchanges.

The two neighbors agreed in 2025 to raise bilateral agricultural trade to \$3 billion over the next two years.

In reviewing the current situation and development opportunities in the field of imports and exports between the two countries, Reza Nourani, a member of Iran's Chamber of Commerce, said Iranian exports to Pakistan reached about \$606 million between March and June 2025, while imports from Pakistan stood at \$281 million.

Nourani said the long-delayed Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline could provide a stable energy source for Pakistan and deepen cooperation. He also noted that new cross-border markets under construction would help facilitate legal trade and curb smuggling.

He further highlighted the negative impact of international sanctions, identifying inadequate transportation and logistics infrastructure at border crossings as a major obstacle to expanding trade with Pakistan. According to Nourani, overcoming these challenges requires a set of strategic measures, including the development of joint border markets, the establishment of shared financial and banking mechanisms, the signing of new trade agreements, and the promotion of joint investments in energy, agriculture, and industrial sectors.

Tunisia touted as 'key gateway for Iranian exports' to North Africa: TPO



Economy Desk

Iran is seeking to revive a long-dormant trade agreement and reconvene a joint economic commission with Tunisia, a move Iran's Trade Promotion Organization official said could turn the North African country into "a key gateway for Iranian exports" to the region. Mohammad Sadeq Qanadzadeh, deputy head of TPO, told ISNA that restoring the pact and deepening ties with Tunis would allow Iran to tap into Tunisia's port and economic capacity and open a new route for regional commerce.

"Tunisia, with its political stability and trade potential, can become the gate-

way for Iran to North African markets," he said, adding that it remains the only African country with which Iran has a trade agreement.

Iran has recently established a shipping line to North Africa after years of absence and sees Tunisia as a potential hub for distributing goods across the region.

The push follows a recent diplomatic upswing between Tehran and Tunis. During a visit to Tunisia earlier this month, Iran's foreign minister Abbas Araghchi met the country's president and foreign minister, announcing an agreement to hold a new session of the joint economic commission and to

strengthen cooperation in trade and tourism.

Iranian officials say reviving the commission could not only boost exports but also serve as a bridge for greater regional integration. They see expanded cooperation, including tourism links and port facilities, as essential to deepening Iran's presence in North Africa.

Call for raising share of imports

Rouhollah Latifi, spokesman for the Trade Development Commission of Iran's House of Industry, Mine and Trade, told ISNA that Iran's share of Tunisia's imports remains "insignificant" despite strong political ties. He pointed to opportunities in crude oil, steel products and automobiles, while stressing the need to improve transport infrastructure, financial mechanisms and product marketing.

Tunisia conducts about \$26 billion in foreign trade annually, exporting around \$20 billion and importing the rest. Latifi said Iran must carve out a place in this import basket, which is now dominated by Italy, China, France, Turkey and Algeria.

According to the official, Iran's exports to Tunisia saw a sharp rise in the first five months of this Persian calendar year (began on March 20). Steel product exports jumped to 18,000 tons worth

\$7.5 million from just 291 tons valued at \$372,000 in the same period a year earlier. This is while in 2023, Iran's total exports to Tunisia were about \$4.5 million. Other shipments included pharmaceuticals and spare parts.

Such progress, he said, shows the potential for broader trade if the commission is revived and agreements are implemented.

Latifi said Tunisia's agricultural, mineral and energy sectors, along with its proximity to European consumer markets, present major opportunities for Iran. He highlighted copper wires, petroleum derivatives and vehicles as sectors where Iran could compete, while noting that Tunisian exports such as olive oil and textiles could also complement bilateral trade.

He added that copper concentrate from Tunisia could supply Iranian producers, while nearby countries like Morocco and those with manganese reserves could further expand the scope of cooperation.

Latifi urged the development of banking ties, barter mechanisms and stronger promotion of Iranian products through exhibitions and trade events. "If we resolve transport, marketing, financial and tariff issues, we can take advantage of the existing capacities," he said.

Israel borne out ...

How could the current situation play out to Iran's advantage?

Page 1 > All states in the region — particularly the Persian Gulf Arab monarchies — have been left deeply uncertain about whether the United States will continue to guarantee their security vis-à-vis Israel. A great deal of skepticism has been sown; rulers may avoid airing the debate publicly, but the populations of those countries are now alert to what has transpired. This is especially true at a time when [Israeli Prime Minister] Benjamin Netanyahu has openly raised the idea of creating a "Greater Israel" in an interview with an Israeli domestic

outlet, signaling an intention to occupy parts of several regional states — Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Egypt, Sudan and others.

Under these circumstances it is obvious that regional actors have been forced to conclude that the region's security can only be guaranteed by the region's own states. The proposal that Iran advanced during [former President Hassan] Rouhani's term — to form a regional security coalition to look after the region's security collectively — has come back into circulation among regional capitals, with a renewed emphasis on states collaborating to provide for their own secu-

urity and no longer placing trust in the United States. The argument is that foreign forces should withdraw from the region because their presence is not only unhelpful but detrimental to regional interests.

For decades Iran has advanced this very argument. Attempts were made to portray Iran as the enemy rather than Israel, but it has now become clear to many that Israel is the principal threat and that Iran is a friend to many of these states — a partner they can rely on.

Could this attack affect current pressures to disarm the "Axis of Re-

sistance" and Hezbollah?

The attack itself has made plain that Israel seeks to strike other regional states, and only those countries that possess the capacity to resist and defend themselves will be able to stand up to Israel. States that lack that capacity will face destruction. Some commentators frame the issue around Hezbollah specifically, but Israel's broader aim appears to be pinning on the Lebanese army a mission that the Israeli military failed to accomplish during the 66-day war — namely, to disarm the resistance forces so Israel can then manufacture a pretext for action. It is well understood that falsehoods

can be circulated to justify aggression, as is happening now in Gaza, where mass killings are taking place with the backing of the United States and Western powers. If Lebanon is attacked and its population is subjected to mass violence, the same pattern can be expected: the United States and European states will stand behind Israel. So long as resistance exists in Lebanon, the people will retain a degree of security; if resistance and its weapons are removed, there should be no doubt that Israel would not hesitate for a moment before launching an assault and carrying out mass killings under various pretexts.

Expansion of Israeli terrorism from Gaza to Doha

Is region finally waking up?

ANALYSIS

For years, some Arab countries in the region pointed fingers at Iran as the main actor fanning the flames of instability in the Middle East by supporting resistance groups. This narrative, blaming Tehran as the source of regional crises, was not just echoed in Arab and Western media but was also used as a tool to shore up hardline and hostile policies against Iran in some official circles. These states sometimes turned a blind eye to or tacitly justified even Israel's repeated attacks on Iranian soil, scientists, and security infrastructure, viewing them as the price of the Islamic Republic's regional policies and Tehran's support for the Axis of Resistance.

However, developments over the past two to three years have shown that everyone will sooner get their turn as targets. Israeli military operations and terrorist attacks are now not only aimed at Iran and resistance groups in Lebanon, Gaza, and Yemen but have also spread to targeting America's Arab allies in the Persian Gulf. This reality has thrown a wrench into the previous calculations of some Arab governments, confronting them with the question of whether leaning on Washington as a security partner truly guarantees stability or, on the contrary, represents a fresh threat against themselves.

A glance at the Syria dossier offers a clearer picture of Israel's expansionism. The Zionist regime, which repeatedly carried out bombings and terrorist operations in Syria aimed at opposing Bashar al-Assad, the former president, and what it called Iran's presence and influence there, has kept up the same path even after the end of the Ba'ath Party rule in Da-



mascus. By hammering away at Damascus and Aleppo airports, logistics centers, and military installations through repeated air strikes, Tel Aviv has shown its project is not limited to confronting Iran or Hezbollah but pursues a broader goal: eroding any indigenous power in the Arab world and pursuing territorial expansion and occupation.

Today, Arab countries are gradually catching on that the very accusation they repeated for years against Iran now applies more than ever to the Israeli regime. If, until recently, Tehran was falsely accused of jeopardizing Middle Eastern stability through

its regional policies, Israel, by attacking Washington's Arab allies and, in its latest move, violating Qatar's national sovereignty and bombing a safehouse of the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas in the capital, has shown that it is the real source of instability and state terrorism in the region.

Furthermore, the normalization of relations between some Arab governments and Israel under the Abraham Accords now faces serious questions. What was promoted as a "warm peace" and economic-security cooperation has now lost its shine in light of Tel Aviv's hostile actions. Even among Arab societies, popular

opposition to any rapprochement with Israel has gained ground, and the political legitimacy of governments emphasizing normalization with Tel Aviv has come under more scrutiny than ever before.

On the other hand, the increase in Israeli attacks on Arab countries' soil has practically created a glaring contradiction between Tel Aviv's slogans about regional security and its actual behavior. This contradiction is especially a wake-up call for governments that for years had put their hopes on Israel within security alliances. If this trend continues, it could not only prompt a rethink of their for-

eign relations but also lay the groundwork for redefining the balance of power in the Middle East.

It seems the region's future depends more than ever on Arab countries' ability to wrap their heads around the reality that the United States, contrary to its claims, is no one's security guarantor. The more this understanding takes hold, the higher the chances of opening the doors for dialogue and security-political cooperation between Iran and its Arab neighbors.

The article first appeared in Persian on IRNA.



Qatari people are shocked to see smoke billowing after an Israeli strike on a building in the capital, Doha, on September 9, 2025.

● JACQUELINE PENNEY/APPTV



Israeli military operations and terrorist attacks are now not only aimed at Iran and resistance groups in Lebanon, Gaza, and Yemen but have also spread to targeting America's Arab allies in the Persian Gulf. This reality has thrown a wrench into the previous calculations of some Arab governments, confronting them with the question of whether leaning on Washington as a security partner truly guarantees stability or, on the contrary, represents a fresh threat against themselves.

Losers of attack on Doha



By Salahuddin Khadiv
Political analyst

OPINION

The entire Hamas leadership in Doha managed to escape unharmed from the recent Israeli strike. Given the widespread global condemnation of this attack, Israel's failure in this regard amounts to a major political blow.

In a historical comparison, the resulting fiasco could be likened to the Suez Canal War of 1956. Back then, after Gamal Abdel Nasser nationalized the canal, it became the target of a joint invasion by Britain, France, and Israel. Although Egypt was quickly routed militarily, under president Truman's reprimand and Khrushchev's missile threat, the aggressors were forced to back down swiftly. Israel was called out by the two superpowers of the time, and Egypt scored an extraordinary political victory, reshaping the political landscape of the Middle East.

It now appears that Hamas — and certainly not Qatar — has snatched an accidental political win. Its leadership was targeted by a surprise attack while gath-



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (c) and his senior cabinet and intelligence officials watch the progress of the air strike on Doha, Qatar, on September 9, 2025.

ered to go over a US cease-fire proposal.

So, what role does the US play in this? When the White House initially said it was in the loop beforehand and informed the Qatari government, does that not also mean Hamas was tipped off? Why did the US both greenlight the attack and indirectly

give Hamas the heads-up? Likely, it was to put the squeeze on the movement's leaders to accept Trump's latest plan — with a warning that even Doha is no longer off-limits.

With all this, the main loser in the affair is Israel, followed by Qatar. Tel Aviv now finds itself under unprecedented pressure

from global public opinion and its European allies. Its political capital and soft power have been worn down over the past two years, and the Tuesday bombing was the final nail in the coffin. Qatar, one of the Persian Gulf's economic powerhouses, has been hit twice in the past three months — once by Iran for hosting the

US, and now by Israel for hosting Hamas. These contradictory roles are part of the political ambition of a newly rich country, but apparently one that does not fit the bill given its tiny population and size.

The article first appeared in the Persian-language newspaper Arman-e Emrooz.



When the White House initially said it was in the loop beforehand and informed the Qatari government, does that not also mean Hamas was tipped off? Why did the US both greenlight the attack and indirectly give Hamas the heads-up? Likely, it was to put the squeeze on the movement's leaders to accept Trump's latest plan — with a warning that even Doha is no longer off-limits.

After bombing, time to demystify ‘Qatar lobby’

 By Ben Freeman
Author

ANALYSIS

On Tuesday, September 9, Israel bombed Doha, killing at least five Hamas staffers and a member of Qatari security. Israeli officials initially claimed the US green-lit the operation, despite Qatar hosting the largest US military in the region. The White House has since contradicted that version of events, saying the White House was given notice “just before” the bombing and claiming the strike was an “unfortunate” attack that “could serve as an opportunity for peace”. The fallout from the bombing is still unclear, but the US decision to merely chalk up Israel’s attack on a major non-NATO ally to an “unfortunate” attack should at least put to rest one persistent myth: that the Qatar lobby holds more sway over the US than the pro-Israel lobby in Washington.

The “Qatar lobby” is oftentimes invoked as an epithet by pro-Israel hawks to explain away why Americans are suddenly skeptical about Washington’s support for Israel. In an August interview, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu recently blamed Qatar for what he claimed was an increase in antisemitism among the American conservative commentariat. They “spent billions on American universities, vilifying, vilifying Israel, vilifying Jews, and also, frankly, vilifying the United States... and all that was left to accumulate primarily in academia, you know, and from there, it sort of distributes itself elsewhere,” Netanyahu argued. In this, Netanyahu was parroting a trope spread by pro-Israel — and some Israeli cabinet-funded — organizations that shifts the blame for nationwide pro-Palestine protests away from the Israeli military’s civilian slaughter and forced starvation in Gaza to Qatar, which allegedly has pushed US college students down a path of raging antisemitism.

The problem with this story is that, while Qatar has spent billions of dollars on American universities, nearly all of that money has gone to American universities within Qatar. In fact, more than 90% of Qatar’s more than \$6 billion in higher education funding has explicitly been earmarked to fund higher education in Qatar, where American college students are a distinct minority at schools overwhelmingly filled with Qatari’s and expats living in the country.

Undeterred by this simple fact, Netanyahu and pro-Israel groups have continued to spread the tale that Qatar’s higher education spending is driving students on US college campuses down an antisemitic road. Perhaps no organization has done this more often than the Institute for the Study of Global Anti-Semitism (ISGAP). The institute’s scholars have repeatedly testified to Congress about Qatari funding causing antisemitism, despite ample evidence that their research on this topic is, at best, flawed. Just as importantly, the organization has not publicly disclosed that it had been funded by the Israeli cabinet as recently as 2020.



Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Qatar Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani (front-2nd L) stands with several of his ministers during the opening of the 33rd edition of the Doha International Book Fair in Doha, Qatar, on May 9, 2024.

● NOUSHAD THEKKAYIL/NURPHOTO

This exemplifies the inherent contradiction of Qatar’s influence in America: While the Middle East monarchy does have enormous influence in America, its alleged omnipresence is often wildly exaggerated by Qatar’s critics. Nick Cleveland-Stout and I sought to demystify Qatar’s influence in America in our just-released Quincy Institute brief, “Qatar’s Influence in America.” We found that in just eight years — after being nearly invaded by then rivals Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates — Qatar has transformed from something of an afterthought in the influence game to one of the biggest players around. Just consider the highlights of this massive operation that we document in the brief:

- Qatar currently has more than two dozen Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA) registered lobbying and public relations firms working for it.
- Scores of revolving door all-stars have been lobbying for the Qatari’s, headlined by former representatives Tom Davis (R-Va.), Jim Moran (D-Va.), Tom Reynolds (R-N.Y.), and Bart Stupak (D-Mich.).
- No country’s lobbyists report more in-person meetings with policymakers than Qatar.
- Qatar is the third most gen-

erous foreign donor to think tanks in the US.

- Multiple Trump administration officials have previously worked for Qatar, including Lee Zeldin, the director of the Environmental Protection Agency, and Kash Patel, the director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Patel’s boss — Attorney General Pam Bondi — was a registered foreign agent for Qatar until 2021.
- Trump’s family and companies have also inked billions of dollars in deals with the Qatari’s. And, of course, Qatar gifted the president a luxury jumbo-jet dubbed “the Palace in the Sky”.

At the same time, Qatar has been doing a lot of things that are quite beneficial for US interests, most notably serving as a mediator for conflicts around the world, including in Afghanistan, Congo, Darfur, Lebanon, Yemen, and, of course, Gaza. All of this led The Guardian to dub Qatar “The global capital of diplomacy”. Our analysis of all FARA-reported political activities conducted by Qatar’s lobbyists since the Israel-Gaza war began revealed that Qatar’s lobbyists spend much of their time touting Qatar’s mediator prowess and sending a clear, yet unspoken, message: While Israel is dragging the US into wars, Qatar is trying to end them.

For instance, a one-pager distributed to media contacts by GRV Strategies, on behalf of Qatar, states that “Over the past year, Qatar has worked tirelessly with the United States, Egypt, and other international partners to de-escalate the crisis in Gaza, mediating between Israel and Hamas to try to end the bloodshed, ensure humanitarian aid reaches innocent Palestinian civilians, and secure the release of hostages.” Another Qatari firm, Lumen8 Advisors, facilitated Qatar’s Prime Minister appearing on Tucker Carlson in a segment entitled, “War with Iran? The Prime Minister of Qatar Is Being Attacked in the Media for Wanting to Stop It.” Carlson was far from the first conservative commentator Qatar’s lobbyists and public relations firms have courted. As early as 2017, Qatar’s agents have been targeting MAGA influencers, with one of the architects of Qatar’s influencer campaign explaining to the Wall Street Journal that, “We want to create a campaign where we are getting into his [Trump’s] head as much as possible.” This is at least partially why Netanyahu’s disdain for Qatari influence overlaps with his aggressive attacks on any conservative who doesn’t recommend unflinching US sup-

port for Israel. Despite Netanyahu and pro-Israel groups’ attacks, however, more and more conservatives are publicly speaking out against Israel’s war on Gaza and questioning how Israel fits into the “America First” mantra. Just recently, for example, at a National Conservatism Conference panel, Curt Mills, editor of The American Conservative, argued, “Why are these our wars? Why are Israel’s endless problems America’s liabilities?... Why should we accept America First — asterisk Israel? And the answer is, we shouldn’t.” Yet, while there’s currently significant alignment between US interests and Qatar’s interests — namely, peace and stability (i.e., not letting Israel pull the US into wars) — this isn’t cause for ignoring Qatar’s influence in the US. As we write in the brief, “Qatar’s unprecedented access to and influence on Trump, at the very least, presents a risk of the president putting personal gain over national gain when it comes to Qatar.” While their efforts did not help stave off an attack from the more influential Israel, that is no reason not to keep a watchful eye on Qatari influence in America.

The article first appeared on Responsible Statecraft.



The various lounges, kitchens, and bathrooms of the luxury jumbo-jet, dubbed “the Palace in the Sky,” are connected by a luxurious staircase. The plane was gifted by Qatar’s royal family to US President Donald Trump as a replacement for the current Air Force One plane.

● AMAC AEROSPACE



While Qatar has spent billions of dollars on American universities, nearly all of that money has gone to American universities within Qatar. In fact, more than 90% of Qatar’s more than \$6 billion in higher education funding has explicitly been earmarked to fund higher education in Qatar, where American college students are a distinct minority. Undeterred by this simple fact, Netanyahu and pro-Israel groups have continued to spread the tale that Qatar’s higher education spending is driving students on US college campuses down an antisemitic road.

FIVB Men’s Volleyball World Championship: Iran stunned by Egypt in Pool A opener



Egyptian outside-hitter Abdelrahman Elhossiny (17) hits a spike during a 3-1 victory over Iran at the FIVB Men’s World Championship in Pasay City, Philippines, on September 14, 2025.

Sports Desk

Iran and Italian head coach Roberto Piazza were given a reality check in their opening game at the FIVB Men’s Volleyball World Championship, suffering a 3-1 loss (17-25, 25-16, 23-25, 20-25) to Egypt in Pool A in Pasay City, Philippines, on Sunday. Egyptian outside hitter Ahmed Shafik chipped in a game-high 18 points, with Abdelrahman Elhossiny (17 points) and Seif Abed (12) also finishing in double figures, as the African champion celebrated only its fifth win in 15 competitive meetings with the Asian powerhouse. Prolific opposite-spiker Ali Hajipour topped the scoring chart for Iran with 17 points, followed by outside-hitter Pouria Hosseinkhanzadeh, who scored 12, while star outside-hitter and captain Morteza Sharifi had a quiet day at the SM Mall of Asia Arena with eight points. “I really don’t know what to say. We lost today and we are

very upset. We didn’t expect the result to turn out this way. We need to realize where we are; this tournament is the second-most important volleyball event in the world after the Olympics,” Sharifi said after the game. We all need to wake up and understand what must be done from now on. I can only apologize to the dear people of Iran; I have nothing more to say except to ask for their forgiveness. We are all ashamed of today’s performance. “Egypt started very well and without mistakes, while we were poor with our serves. We only realized where we were in the final set, which was too little too late. I hope we can make up for it in the upcoming games and not let the Iranian people down,” added the Iranian captain. Asked if Iran still fancies its chances of advancing to the knockout phase, Sharifi said, “Nothing is certain yet, and we can still turn things around.

Many top teams have also lost their opening game. God willing, we will be able to recover, though we won’t stand a chance if we keep playing the way we did today.” Iran, which produced a decent run of performances under Piazza at the Volleyball Nations League preliminaries earlier in the summer – despite failing to progress to the quarterfinals – was widely regarded as the favorite to win the group, also featuring the Philippines and Tunisia, ahead of the World Championships. However, Piazza’s men will now have to bounce back from the first-day setback in their next two outings if they are to advance to the round of 16 as one of the top two in the group table. Iran will be back in action on Tuesday against Tunisia, before taking on the host on Thursday. Tunisia came out on top in straight sets (25-13, 25-17, 25-23) in the tournament’s curtain riser on Saturday.

Taremi on debut double in Olympiacos win

Sports Desk

Iranian striker Mahdi Taremi got off to a dream start to life in the Olympiacos shirt as he scored twice on his Greek Super League to inspire his team to a 5-0 home victory over Panserraikos. Introduced as a 69th-minute substitute for Moroccan Ayoub El Kaabi, Taremi, who joined Olympiacos from Inter Milan before the international break, made an instant impact by winning a penalty 13 minutes later, only to see Turkish Yusuf Yazichi denied from the spot by Uruguayan

goalkeeper Tinagli. However, Taremi opened his Olympiacos account with two minutes left on the clock. Released behind the backline by Daniel Podence, the Iranian striker rolled the ball past goalkeeper Francisco Tinagli from the edge of the six-yard box for the home side’s fourth goal of the night at the Karaiskakis Stadium. Taremi sealed his brace in third minute of stoppage time, heading home Yazichi’s cross into the roof of the net. El Kaabi, Francisco Ortega, and Po-

dence were also on the scoresheet as Jose Luis Mendilibar’s side moved atop the top-flight table with a perfect record after three rounds of matches. “This was a fantastic night for me, and I’m delighted that I was able to make our fans happy. That’s what matters most to every player here. I always give my absolute all for the team; I fight for the shirt in every game. Sometimes I score, sometimes I don’t, but I will never stop giving everything until the final whistle,” the Iranian striker said after the game. The last time Taremi scored more than once in a competitive club game was in May 2023, when he netted four for Porto in a league victory over Famalicão. Having bagged 91 goals and provided 56 assists in 182 appearances to become Porto’s third all-time top scorer, the 33-year-old Iranian signed for Inter as a free agent last summer but endured a below-par first season in Nerazzurri colors. Taremi managed only three goals – including double spot-kicks – and nine assists in 43 appearances across all competitions last term, with his sole strike from open play coming in a 3-2 loss to archrival Milan at the Supercoppa Italiana final in January. Next for Taremi and Olympiacos is a home game against Cypriot champion Pafos in their UEFA Champions League opener on Wednesday.



Iranian striker Mahdi Taremi celebrates his first goal for Olympiacos during a 5-0 victory over Panserraikos in the Greek Super League at the Karaiskakis Stadium, Piraeus, Greece, on September 13, 2025.

Persian Gulf Pro League: Persepolis, Foolad share the spoils



Persepolis striker Thievy Bifouma (23) is seen in action against Foolad Khuzestan skipper Sasan Ansari during a 1-1 draw in the Persian Gulf Pro League at the Shahr-e Qods Stadium, Tehran, Iran, on September 13, 2025.

Sports Desk

Persepolis and Foolad Khuzestan played to 1-1 stalemate in the third round of matches at the Persian Gulf Pro League at Tehran’s Shahr-e Qods Stadium on Saturday. Ali Alipour gave Persepolis the lead in the 43rd minute, playing a one-two with Thievy Bifouma before his low effort from the edge of the box found the bottom corner – a third league goal in as many games in the new season for the Capital Reds’ striker. The Reds’ advantage, however, was short-lived as Foolad winger Mohammadreza Soleimani bagged the equalizer with a point-blank header from an Abolfazl Razzaqpour set-piece three minutes after the break. The result took Persepolis to third in the Iranian top-flight table with five points, while it secured the first point of the campaign for Yahya Golmohammadi’s Foolad. Persepolis will play away to Chadormalou, which leads the Reds in the table on goal difference, on Friday, while Foolad will host Khaybar – the surprise leader in the table – in Ahvaz. Elsewhere on Sunday, Chadormalou played to a goalless home draw against Malavan. Shams Azar came from behind to salvage a

point in a 1-1 draw against Paykan at home. Afshin Sadeqi put the visitors in front midway through the first half, only to see Housman Rabizadeh draw the home side level with 20 minutes left on the clock. In Isfahan, Omid Latifi found the net in the 35th minute before Hassan Shoshtari doubled the lead from the spot in the 67th minute as Zob Ahan defeated Mes Rafsanjan 2-0 at the Fooladshahr Stadium. Sunday’s results came after defending champion Tractor had routed Iralco 4-1 – thanks to Domagoj Drozdek’s first-half hat-trick – on the preceding night to get off the mark in the new season, following a first-day 1-0 loss to Esteghlal and a goalless draw at Mes Rafsanjan. In Ahvaz, Mohammad Sharifi scored the only goal of the game as Esteghlal was stunned at Esteghlal Khuzestan by a 1-0 scoreline – the Tehran Blues’ first defeat of the league campaign. 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 – the same result played out between Golgozar and Sepahan in Sirjan. French signing Enzo Crivelli opened his account for Sepahan by converting a VAR-awarded penalty in the 60th minute to cancel out Omid Hamedifar’s 12th-minute strike for the home side.

Iran international Torkaman joins Esteghlal futsal team

Sports Desk

Iran national team player Maral Torkaman joined Esteghlal women’s futsal team ahead of the new Iranian Pro League season. Torkaman, 22, was an integral part of the Women’s Team Melli during May’s AFC Asian Cup in China, where she found the net on six occasions to finish as the tournament’s top scorer. Two-time champion

Iran had to settle for a third-place finish in the competition, following a last-four setback against Japan, but still managed to secure a place in the inaugural FIFA Futsal Women’s World Cup – starting November 21 in the Philippines. Torkaman, who joins from Palayesh Naft Abadan, is the second national team player to sign a contract with the Tehran Blues in recent days following Nas-taran Moqimi.

The new season of the Women’s Futsal Pro League will get underway

on Thursday with Esteghlal taking on Iranzamin Malard at home.



Evolution of Iranian languages



The Iranian languages, a branch of the Indo-Iranian family within the larger Indo-European language group, have a rich and complex history that spans thousands of years. Various languages are spoken in Iran, making its linguistic landscape fascinating and diverse, with over 200 million speakers spread across a wide geographical area. The most widely spoken Iranian language is Persian, which has about 84 million speakers in Iran, Afghanistan (where it is known as Dari), and Tajikistan (where it is referred to as Tajik). Persian is particularly notable for its rich literary tradition and is the language of many classical poets, including Rumi, Hafez, and Ferdowsi. In addition to Persian, which is the official language in Iran, Azerbaijani (Turkic), Kurdish, Lori, Baluchi, Gilaki, and Mazandarani are among the languages spoken in the country. Arabic is also spoken primarily by the Arab people in Khuzestan Province, destinationiran.com wrote. Modern Iranian languages spoken in the Iranian plateau and surrounding areas are classified into two main categories:

Western Iranian

Farsi: Also known as Persian, this is the modern form of the Persian language that evolved from Middle Persian.

Kurdish: Spoken by Kurds across Iran, Turkey, Iraq, and Syria.

Lori and Bakhtiari: Spoken in the southwestern region of Iran.

Tati: Spoken in the Republic of Azerbaijan and parts of Dagestan.

Taleshi: Spoken in the Republic of



Azerbaijan and northwest Iran.

Mazandarani and Gilaki: These languages are spoken along the southern coast of the Caspian Sea and are part of the northwest Iranian dialects.

Eastern Iranian

Tajiki: Spoken in Tajikistan and parts of Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Kazakhstan.

Ossetic: Spoken by the Ossetians in central Caucasasia, it continues the western Scythian dialects.

Baluchi: Spoken in Sistan and Baluchestan Province, and an area extending from Iran to Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Pashto: While dominant in Afghanistan, it is classified as part of the Eastern Iranian languages.

History

The Iranian languages, as a branch of the Indo-Iranian family, can be categorized into four phases: Proto-Iranian (circa 2000 BCE), Old Iranian (until approximately 400 BCE), Middle Iranian (400 BCE-

900 CE), and New Iranian (post-900 CE). These stages reflect the linguistic evolution shaped by migrations, cultural shifts, and interactions with neighboring languages.

Proto-Iranian

The Iranian languages descend from Proto-Iranian, which evolved from Proto-Indo-Iranian, a reconstructed ancestor shared with the Indo-Aryan languages (e.g., Sanskrit). Proto-Iranian emerged after the split of Proto-Indo-Iranian, likely in the early 2nd millennium BCE. During this time, Iranian tribes migrated and settled across vast regions, including southeastern Europe, the Iranian Plateau, and Central Asia. Recent genetic studies link Proto-Indo-Iranian speakers to the Yamnaya culture (circa 3000 BCE) from the Pontic-Caspian Steppe, whose migrations facilitated the spread of Indo-European languages. The influence of Proto-Iranian is evident in the cultural and linguistic heri-

tage of the Iranian people. Many cultural and religious concepts, particularly those in Zoroastrianism, have roots in the Proto-Iranian language and the worldview of its speakers.

Old Iranian

The Old Iranian period is characterized by the emergence of two directly attested languages: Old Persian and Avestan.

Old Persian: Spoken in southwestern Iran, particularly known from the Bisotoun Inscription, commissioned by Darius the Great. By the 4th century BCE, Old Persian was transitioning into Middle Persian, as evidenced by grammatical errors in later inscriptions.

Avestan: The sacred language of the Avesta, the Zoroastrian scriptures, includes Old (Gathic) and Younger Avestan. Old Avestan is linguistically archaic, comparable to Vedic Sanskrit, while Younger Avestan, though later, retained archaic features due to its liturgical use.

Other dialects: Less documented,

Median and Scythian contributed to regional linguistic diversity.

Middle Iranian

The Middle Iranian period witnessed the diversification of Iranian languages into Western and Eastern groups:

Western Middle Iranian

Middle Persian (Pahlavi): The administrative and literary language of the Sassanid Empire, with notable texts including the Pahlavi scriptures of Zoroastrianism and the Shahnameh (Book of Kings), an epic work in New Persian reflecting many Middle Persian elements.

Parthian (Arsacid Pahlavi): Another significant Middle Iranian language spoken in the Parthian Empire (247 BCE-224 CE), serving as a lingua franca across a vast territory and used in royal inscriptions, administrative documents, and literary works. Parthian employed the Aramaic script, which influenced the development of writing systems in other Iranian languages.

Eastern Middle Iranian

Bactrian: Spoken in Bactria (modern-day Afghanistan), this language is another important Middle Iranian language. Inscriptions and documents in Bactrian, written in the Greek alphabet, provide valuable insights into the region's history and culture during the Kushan Empire (1st to 3rd centuries CE).

Sogdian, Khwarezmian, Saka, and Khotanese: These notable Middle Iranian languages include Sogdian, which was a primary commercial language along the Silk Road, used extensively for trade and communication between different cultures.

Zaman Khan Bridge; a reflection of Sassanid architecture

Iranica Desk

Zaman Khan Bridge is a historic structure built in honor of one of the commanders of the Qashqai clan, spanning the Zayandeh Rud River. Located twenty-two kilometers north of Shahr-e Kord, the capital of Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari Province, the bridge measures thirty meters in length

and twelve meters in height. As one of the historical monuments of Saman Town, Zaman Khan Bridge features two arches and is supported by three natural stone bases. A path connects Lilbeigi village to one of the arches. Historically, the bridge served as a vital passage for nomads and the travels of the Qashqai clan.

It was commissioned by Zaman Khan, the head of the Nafar family from the Ilbeigi clan, who belonged to a Turkish-speaking group within the Qashqai of Fars Province and was a notable commander under the Safavid kings. Ilbeigi village was once a favored destination for Safavid royalty. The current structure of Zaman Khan Bridge is the result of nu-

merous repairs and restorations over the years. It underwent repairs during the Safavid era and was restored twice by the elders of Ilbeigi. The most recent restoration included the addition of wall stones to enhance the bridge's strength. Architecturally, Zaman Khan Bridge bears similarities to structures from the Sassanid dy-

nasty, with many comparing it to the Dez Bridge in Dezful. The engineering of the bridge remains impressive even today, featuring two arches. The central pier is rotated thirty degrees from the water flow axis, and strategically placed windows help reduce the weight of the structure, preventing potential damage. Constructed primarily from

bricks, Zaman Khan Bridge employs pointed barrel vaults along with plaster and sarooj — a type of water-resistant mortar — contributing to its durability. Additionally, the rock foundation on which the bridge is built helps mitigate the forces of the Zayandeh Rud River, protecting the bridge from erosion and damage.

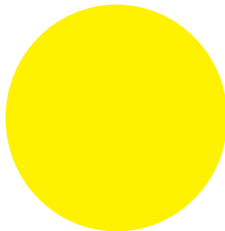


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Dubai hosts ‘Iran Fest’ to display cultural, community ties

Arts & Culture Desk

Tens of thousands of Iranian expatriates packed Dubai’s Expo City on Saturday for the first ‘Iran Fest,’ a large-scale celebration of Iranian culture and its enduring friendship with the United Arab Emirates. The festival, staged at the Dubai Exhibition Centre, offered a vivid showcase of traditional music, cuisine, arts, and handicrafts, reflecting the historical and social bonds linking the two nations, IRNA reported. Organized by the social initiative Emirates Loves Iran in collaboration with the Dubai Police, the event went beyond entertainment to underscore the contributions of the Iranian community in the UAE. Attendees experienced live performances by acclaimed Iranian artists including Homayoun Shajarian, and Ali Ghamsari, alongside exhibitions of Iranian arts, cooking demonstrations, and displays of traditional handicrafts. Children, families, professionals, and people of determination all joined, emphasizing the community’s integral role in the UAE’s multicultural fabric. “This evening, we are reminded that Iran

and the UAE are not just neighbors across the waters of the Persian Gulf – we are companions in a long, shared journey across history,” said Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, UAE Minister of Tolerance and Coexistence. “For centuries, our peoples have traded, shared stories, interwoven families, and worked together to foster peace, stability, and security. This gathering proves that our friendship is strong and continues to thrive.” Alireza Mahmoudi, the newly appointed Consul General of Iran in Dubai and the Northern Emirates, marked his first public appearance at the festival. He highlighted the historical presence of Iranians in the UAE, noting that the community, once estimated at 500,000, now numbers around 800,000. Mahmoudi described the UAE as a “second home” for Iranians and praised Emirati leaders for their support in fostering integration and mutual understanding. The festival also offered a platform for Iranian entrepreneurs and businesses, including visitors flown in from Iran, to display

products ranging from ethnic clothing to culinary specialties. Food and cultural experiences played a central role in the event. Visitors sampled Iranian spices, kebabs, and other traditional dishes while engaging with martial arts demonstrations from Dubai’s first Pahlavani studio. The tear-shaped wooden clubs and synchronized performances attracted significant attention, adding an interactive layer to the cultural showcase. Rashed Al Tamimi, director of Emirates Loves Iran, described the festival as “a message of love and appreciation” and a reflection of the UAE leadership’s vision for an inclusive society. “Today, we are shedding light on inspiring stories and sharing them with the world, demonstrating how love and diversity can be foundations for progress and stability. To the Iranian community, we say you are not guests. You are partners in this homeland.” The event also highlighted opportunities for tourism and economic collaboration between the UAE and Iran. Both countries have long-standing ties in sectors such as trade, energy, industry, aviation, and entre-



preneurship. Cultural events like Iran Fest reinforce these connections, showcasing the potential for collaboration in tourism, while promoting mutual understanding and people-to-people engagement. For many attendees, the festival was both a cultural and emotional experience. Yusuf Astaraki, who has lived in Dubai for

25 years, said, “We have a thriving Iranian community here. We can enjoy everything from home, from our food to our culture, and still be part of an international society.” Mostafa Moradi, a recent arrival from Iran, echoed the sentiment, expressing gratitude for the peace and prosperity he found in the UAE.

Atshani’s ‘My Little Moon’ awarded at South Texas Int’l Film Festival



Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian-American filmmaker Ali Atshani’s feature film ‘My Little Moon’ won the Best International Feature

Film Award at the 11th South Texas International Film Festival (STXIFF) on September 13. The festival, held at the Edinburg Arts, Culture &

Events Center, showcased a diverse array of global cinema from September 10 to 13, inn.ir reported. Atshani’s film, shot in Los Angeles and Iran, tells the compelling story of two teenage girls who form a deep online friendship—one that crosses borders and cultures. One girl is from the United States, the other from Iran, and together they show that love and friendship know no boundaries, regardless of physical distance or global inequalities. ‘My Little Moon’ has garnered significant recognition on the festival circuit. It

has been an official selection at the 24th Santa Fe International Film Festival and the Hollywood International Diversity Film Festival. Also, it was a finalist at the Open World Toronto Film Festival and the VVilfmf Kids and Teens International Film Festival. These accolades highlight the film’s compelling storytelling and its ability to bridge cultural divides. The film features a talented cast, including Natalia Polo, Nicole Amato, Brent Kublick, Matthew Firman, and Elnaz Bagheri. The film was produced by American Brightlight Film Productions.

Iran shortlists five films for 2025 Oscar submission

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran’s Farabi Cinema Foundation unveiled five films shortlisted to represent the country in the Best International Feature Film category at the 98th Academy Awards. The selection followed a comprehensive review of 84 eligible entries by a nine-member committee, including prominent Iranian filmmakers such as Narges Abyar, Shabnam Moghaddami, and Fereydoun Jeyrani. The committee first identified a set of works for a second round of evaluation before narrowing the list to five nominees. Among the contenders are ‘The Old Bachelor,’ ‘Woman and Child,’ ‘Raha,’ ‘Call me Ziba,’ and ‘Cause of Death: Unknown.’

Two of these, ‘The Old Bachelor’ and ‘Woman and Child,’ had already circulated in industry circles and among critics as potential frontrunners. The selected films span a range of themes and styles, highlighting contemporary Iranian cinema’s depth and diversity. ‘Woman and Child,’ directed by Saeed Roustayi, has already drawn international attention following its nomination for the Palme d’Or at the 2025 Cannes Film Festival. It explores family dynamics and societal pressures, a narrative that has resonated with audiences both inside Iran and abroad. The final decision on Iran’s official Oscar submission will be made after further deliberations, with the announcement expected



ed in the coming weeks. The selection process underscores Iran’s continued effort to present its cinematic achievements to the global stage. The Farabi Cinema Foundation remains a central institution in promoting Iranian film, ensuring that the country’s diverse voices are seen and heard internationally.

Tehran hosts ‘Art Against War’ exhibition honoring Mansoureh Alikhani

Arts & Culture Desk

The ‘Art Against War’ exhibition opened in Tehran on Sunday, featuring 24 paintings by Iraqi artists created in tribute to Iranian painter Mansoureh Alikhani, who was killed in an Israeli airstrike on June 13. The exhibition is a collaborative ef-

fort between the Iraqi art collective Bait al-Jamal and Iranian cultural institutions. It aims to honor Alikhani’s legacy and condemn the violence of war. The artists, including Zahra Hassan, Resal Ahmad, and Sajad Karim, gathered in Baghdad for a week-long workshop to produce

these works. Their creations reflect themes of resistance, resilience, and the enduring power of art in the face of conflict. Alikhani, born in 1966 in Noshahr, Iran, was known for her evocative depictions of Iranian identity and spirituality. She held degrees from Al-Zahra and Soore universities

and taught at the Arts University of Kashan and Soore University. Her untimely death has left a void in the Iranian art community, but her spirit continues to inspire. The exhibition will be open to the public from September 15 to 20 at the House One Gallery of Art Bureau.



Notice of tender for export sale No Z/1404/16

Golgohar Mining and Industrial Company

Hereby Golgohar Mining & Industrial Co. announces selling and export 70,000 metric tons of Pellet (%Fe:65.00) on basis of F.O.B at Barco Jetty Bandar Abbas - Iran. Interested bidders should find tender documents at Golgohar website: www.geg.ir. All bids on conformity to tender instructions must be submitted no later than 09:00 A.M. on 23. Sep.2025 to Golgohar complex in sirjan (50 km in shiraz road). Bidders are invited to the transactions commission department of the seller with an introduction letter of interested buyer and personal identification of the representative. Tender results shall be announced at 09:00 A.M. on 23.Sep.2025 at the office of the Seller.

GOLGOHAR MINING & INDUSTRIAL CO.

| Analysis % | | |
|---------------|---------|------|
| Fe | 65.00 | Min. |
| FeO | 1.0 | Ave |
| P | 0.04 | Max |
| S | 0.01 | Max |
| SiO2 | 3.5 | Max |
| Al2O3 | 0.7 | Max |
| CaO | 0.9 | Max |
| MgO | 2.5 | Max |
| CCS (kg/p) | Ave 250 | |
| 8-16 mm% | Min 90 | |
| -6 mm% | Ave 5 | |
| A.I% | Max 3.8 | |
| T.I% | Min 95 | |
| Prosity% | 19-24 | |
| Reducibility% | Min 90 | |

Notice of tender for export sale No. Z/1404/17

Golgohar Mining and Industrial Company

Hereby Golgohar Mining & Industrial Co. announces selling and export 140,000 metric tons of Iron Ore Concentrate (%Fe:66.50 ave) on basis of F.O.B at Rajaee Jetty Bandar Abbas - Iran. Interested bidders should find tender documents at Golgohar website: www.geg.ir. All bids on conformity to tender instructions must be submitted no later than 09:00 A.M. on 23. Sep.2025 to Golgohar complex in sirjan (50 km in shiraz road). Bidders are invited to the transactions commission department of the seller with an introduction letter of interested buyer and personal identification of the representative. Tender results shall be announced at 09:00 A.M. on 23.Sep.2025 at the office of the Seller.

GOLGOHAR MINING & INDUSTRIAL CO.

| Analysis % | | |
|---------------|-------------|--------|
| %Fe Ave | 66.50 | |
| %FeO | Min 24 | Max 28 |
| %P Max | 0.04 | |
| %S Max | 1.0 | |
| %SiO2 Max | 3.0 | |
| %Al2O3 Max | 0.7 | |
| %CaO Max | 0.9 | |
| %MgO Max | 2.5 | |
| %Moisture Max | 5.0 | |
| Size ave | 80%<0.48 mm | |