

Tehran proposes
roadmap to \$10b trade
target with Islamabad

3 >



Pezeshkian at Doha meeting:

Israel emboldened after aggression on Iran

'Words alone cannot end Israel's genocide'

2 >



The screengrab shows Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian addressing the 2025 Arab-Islamic emergency summit in Doha, Qatar on September 15, 2025 after an Israeli attack on the Arab nation last week.

Iran says will not cave in to pressure to relinquish nuclear rights

Attacks on nuclear sites damage IAEA credibility: Atomic chief



Head of Atomic Energy Organization of Iran Mohammad Eslami speaks during the 69th regular plenary session of the International Atomic Energy Agency at its headquarters in Vienna, Austria on September 15, 2025.

AFP

International Desk

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami said on Monday that recent attacks by Israel and the

United States on Iran's nuclear facilities have damaged the credibility of the UN nuclear agency's safeguards system. Addressing the 69th General Conference of the International

Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Eslami said, "The agency is at a critical historical juncture."

"What we have witnessed was not only a criminal and cowardly act against Iran but also a direct assault on the credibility of the agency and the integrity of its safeguards system."

The AEOI chief underlined that Iran will not cave in to pressures and will not abandon its inherent and legitimate rights under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and international law.

"The enemies of Iran must understand that nuclear science and technology are deeply rooted in Iran and will not be eradicated by military operations, assassination, or aggression.

The goal of the Zionist regime is not only to destroy Iran's nuclear facilities but has always been to undermine the path of diplomacy and peace," the Iranian official said.

Eslami said Israel attacked Iran's facilities on the pretext of preventing Iran from building nuclear arms while the regime has not joined the NPT, has obstructed the realization of a nuclear-weapon-free Middle East, and is expanding its nuclear arsenal even further.

"Unfortunately, these actions, which violate international law, are carried out with the support or inaction of some Western countries," he added.

Following a 12-day aggression against Iran in June, which saw

Israel and the United States bomb residential areas, military and nuclear sites across Iran, Tehran decided to suspend its cooperation with the IAEA.

Iran expressed anger at the IAEA for paving the way for Israel's attack by censuring the country the day before Israel's aggression with a damning report in May that claimed Tehran was in breach of the NPT.

Fury then followed when the watchdog did not condemn attacks by Israel and the US on Iran's nuclear facilities. In July, Iran passed a law suspending cooperation with the agency.

However, the two sides agreed last week in Egypt to resume co-operation.

Israeli strike on Qatar to prompt Arab States to rethink security ties

INTERVIEW EXCLUSIVE

Following an unprecedented Israeli airstrike on Qatar on September 9 to assassinate senior Hamas officials, Doha convened an emergency summit of Islamic leaders. The attack took place despite Qatar being a key US ally and home to Washington's largest military base in the region. The silence, and in the view of some analysts, tacit complicity of the US, has raised alarm bells among America's Arab partners. The extraordinary summit is seen as a litmus test for Islamic solidarity in the face of unfolding developments and a possible redefinition of both regional and extra-regional alignments.

In an interview with Omid Khazani, a university lecturer and international affairs analyst, Iran Daily, weighed in on the implications:

IRAN DAILY: Do you believe Israel's strike on Qatar, a close US ally, could shift the outlook of Arab states in the Persian Gulf that have military pacts with Washington?

KHAZANI: The Israeli strike is significant on several fronts. Qatar has long been regarded as one of America's close partners in the Middle East, hosting the US Central Command and the largest American airbase in the region. For three decades it also maintained a form of unofficial, non-aggression understanding with Israel—without formal diplomatic ties. Yet this did not stop Israel from targeting Qatar.

This raises tough questions for the seven Persian Gulf Arab states about how much they can really count on Washington. A key issue is why the US, despite having the most advanced air-warning systems at its Qatar base, failed to intercept the attack. Questions are now being asked: was Washington aware of the strike, and did it tacitly approve it? It is almost unthinkable that such aggression took place without US knowledge, given the number of American personnel and citizens on Qatari soil.

Washington has claimed it was informed too late to act and could not pass on a timely warning to the Qataris. But this explanation will only fuel doubts among Persian Gulf states about the reliability of US security guarantees. The situation is reminiscent of the major assault on [Saudi Arabia's] Aramco during Donald Trump's first term, when Washington refrained from retaliation. Given that Qatar was the destination of the US president's second official foreign trip, the symbolism makes this strike even weightier than the Aramco attack. The fallout will be substantial. Still, whether Qatar or its Persian Gulf neighbors will undergo a paradigm shift in relations with Washington is doubtful. They are unlikely to abandon their US alliance outright, as their security still depends heavily on it. However, cracks have appeared, and these states are now expected to diversify their "security portfolio" by also turning an eye eastward, in particular toward China. China has been pouring major investments into the Persian Gulf, and such economic commitments often come with implicit security guarantees. Persian Gulf capitals are likely to explore Beijing as an additional pillar of security, much as Saudi Arabia, in the wake of the Aramco strike, invited Russia for talks and expressed interest in purchasing Russian weaponry.

Page 2 >



Wrestling World
Championships:

Zare' retains superheavyweight dominance as Iran bags triple medals

6 >



Untold chapters of Iranian
women's creativity

Female voices 'inseparable' from Iran's art narrative: Museum chief

INTERVIEW EXCLUSIVE

8 >

Pezeshkian at Doha meeting:

Israel emboldened after aggression on Iran

‘Words alone cannot end Israel’s genocide’

International Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on Monday strongly condemned last week’s Israeli attack on the Qatari capital, saying that the regime has been emboldened after aggression on Iran.

“Unfortunately, the terrorists ruling Tel Aviv, have been emboldened by the impunity they felt after a similar betrayal to diplomacy in June during the aggressive war against the people of my country,” Pezeshkian told Arab and Muslim leaders gathered in Doha to discuss the Israeli attack on the Arab country.

Pezeshkian said the September 9 attack on Qatar, which targeted a meeting of the leaders of Palestinian resistance group Hamas, was a planned assault by the regime aimed at undermining diplomatic efforts to end its genocide in Gaza.

Top Hamas leaders had gathered in Doha to discuss a US cease-fire proposal in the Gaza Strip.

The Iranian president described the Israeli attack as a “blatant and shameful” declaration that “today military power, not the law, is the deciding factor.”

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Decades of immunity

Pezeshkian said that the onslaught on Qatar, which resulted in the death of five members of Hamas, is the result of decades of immunity granted to the Israeli regime by certain Western powers.

For a long time, the world has witnessed the construction of a “fortress of support around this regime,” which has been built by US vetoes, European trade agreements, and the “paralysis of the international judicial systems,” he said.

The Iranian president also denounced the international community’s inaction over Israel’s crimes in the region, saying that over the past two years, the regime has killed more than 64,000 Palestinians in Gaza and the world only watches and expresses condemnation and Israel’s “killing machine continues its work” and has now reached Qatar.

Pezeshkian pointed to Israel’s attacks on several Muslim countries in 2025, saying that

Israel’s crimes are part of a strategy of ethnic cleansing and expansionism that is supported by the US and certain Western countries.

Call for practical measure

The Iranian president underlined that, “Words alone cannot end genocide. We must isolate the aggressor, cut off their weapons and funding, and hold their leaders accountable” in international courts.

He added, “However, these measures will not be effective without efficient unity. The Zionist regime has counted on our divisions.”

He said that attack on Doha showed that no Arab or Muslim country is safe from Israel’s acts of aggression. “Tomorrow, it could be the turn of any Arab or Islamic capital.”

Qatar’s emir also said Monday that Israel had sought to derail Gaza talks by striking Hamas negotiators in his country, and that its premier dreamt of an Arab world under Israeli influence.

“Whoever works diligently and systematically to assassinate the party with whom he is negotiating, intends to thwart the negotiations... Negotiations, for them, are merely part of the war,” Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani said.



The screenshot shows Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian addressing the 2025 Arab-Islamic emergency summit in Doha, Qatar on September 15, 2025 after an Israeli attack on the Arab nation last week.

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Israel’s ‘dangerous illusion’

He also said Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu “dreams of turning the Arab region into an Israeli sphere of

influence, and this is a dangerous illusion.”

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.

Qatar has been a key regional mediator in negotiations between Hamas and Israel, whose prime minister, Benjamin Net-

anyahu, threatened on Wednesday to try to kill Hamas leaders in Qatar again if Doha “does not expel” the group’s officials.

On the sidelines of the gathering in Doha, Pezeshkian met with the heads of states from Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Lebanon and Tajikistan, exchanging views on various issues, not least the ongoing regional and international developments.

Iran says will ...

Iran’s Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) said on Sunday 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.

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.”

Addressing the opening day of the agency’s annual General Conference, IAEA chief Rafael Grossi said it was time to implement the deal “to restore confidence” and allow the agency “to continue our work in spite of all these difficulties.”

“Now it’s up to... Iran and us to implement” the deal that “summarizes the technical measures, the practical steps that we need... to resume this indispensable work in Iran,” Grossi said in his speech.

Eslami said that following the attacks on the nuclear sites, “continued cooperation with the agency will be pursued through new arrangements once the security concerns of our nation and our nuclear facilities are addressed.”

“Currently, no provision has been provided for the safeguards agreement as to how to continue engagement on the very critical situations following the aggression and continuation of threats against nuclear sites and facilities,” he said.

But he added that Iran “remains a state party” to the NPT treaty despite passing a law that halted cooperation with the IAEA.

Israeli strike on ...

A similar trend could unfold now, especially given China’s rapid advances in military technology, displayed in its recent parade.

At the same time, Persian Gulf Arab states’ attitudes toward Iran may soften. For years, Tehran has warned that “security cannot be bought” and argued that true stability must be home-grown, secured by the countries of the region themselves. The events in Qatar have, in some ways, vindicated that narrative. While the depth of any shift in Persian Gulf perceptions of Iran remains to be seen, the attack has opened the door to a more nuanced view of Tehran than in the past.

Do you think this incident will affect the normalization process with Israel? Will it block or delay it?

Without doubt, the Abraham Accords were already under pressure after the events in the Gaza Strip and the wave of global condemnation directed at Israel. That made normalization a tough sell for any government, let alone Arab or Islamic states. Now, after this unprecedented attack on an Arab country, Israel is trying to cast itself as a regional hegemon, even speaking of a “Greater

Middle East” project. In this context, the push for normalization is bound to lose steam. We have already seen the UAE, a signatory of the accords, scale back its ties with Israel, suspending Israeli participation in the Dubai Air Show, for example. The implications will now spread much further. For Persian Gulf Arab states, security has always been the top priority, and that trust has now been badly shaken.

The entire premise of the Abraham Accords was that Israel would be a partner and Iran the common enemy, with Israel offering protection against Tehran’s alleged hegemonic ambitions. This strike has turned that narrative on its head. Setting aside the atrocities and genocide in Gaza, any state seeking to normalize with Israel must also convince its own public opinion. The Qatar strike is a genuine game changer, not only for regional security debates but for the very peace frameworks being promoted.

Given that Israel targeted Hamas leaders in Doha, what future do you foresee for Hamas’s political bureau in Qatar?

Qatar’s hosting of Hamas leaders was never merely a small-state policy

choice—it was part of an international understanding that Doha would act as a channel for dialogue. Qatar has long been something of an exception in the Middle East: maintaining close ties with Iran, excellent relations with the United States, informal links with Israel, and intimacy with Hamas. Its unique position as a mediator was recognized internationally.

Israel has now torn up that unwritten agreement, undermining a consensus that even NATO members such as France, the UK and Canada condemned in the strongest terms. Qatar also hosted Taliban leaders, and much of the Afghan transition process took place through talks facilitated in Doha.

Ultimately, it will be for Qatar to decide whether to continue down this path. That will depend on whether Doha can secure guarantees from the international community—be it the West, NATO or the UN. Israel, for its part, has already made clear it sees no restraints on targeting Hamas leaders. Given how central security concerns are for Qatar and the Persian Gulf Arab states, hosting Hamas’s leadership is likely to be scaled back significantly, or else continued in a much more limited form under international guarantees.

Araghchi: Iran stands with Muslims against Israeli ‘scourge’ terrorizing region

International Desk

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said Tehran is resolute to stand with all Muslim nations in the face of the Israeli scourge that is terrorizing the region. Araghchi, who was in the Qatari capital of Doha for the Arab-Islamic summit, made the remark in a post on his X account on Monday.

Araghchi said he is in Doha to convey the Iranian people’s “clear message” on their support for Muslim nations, Press TV reported.

“Iran stands with Qatar and indeed all Muslim brothers and sisters, particularly against the scourge that is terrorizing the region,” the top Iranian diplomat emphasized.

On Tuesday, the Israeli regime launched missiles at a residential area in Doha, targeting Hamas’s leaders, who were meet-

ing to discuss a deal proposed by United States President Donald Trump to end Israel’s two-year genocidal war on Gaza. Top Hamas leaders survived the attack; however, five members of the Gaza-based resistance group and a Qatari security officer were killed.

Araghchi said the Muslim world should take an “effective and collective” measure to counter Israel’s warmongering against Islamic countries, end the genocidal war in Gaza, and punish the regime’s leaders. He was speaking in a Sunday meeting with Qatari Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani, which was held on the sidelines of a preparatory meeting of the Arab-Islamic summit. The top Iranian diplomat reiterated Tehran’s firm and principled stance on denouncing the Israeli regime’s strikes in Doha.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Tehran proposes roadmap to \$10b trade target with Islamabad

Economy Desk

Iran's Minister of Roads and Urban Development Farzaneh Sadegh Malvajerd on Monday proposed that Tehran and Islamabad draw up and sign within three months a roadmap to meet a \$10 billion bilateral trade target, which was agreed during the Iranian president's visit to the Pakistani capital earlier in the month. Addressing the opening of the 22nd Joint Economic Commission in Tehran, Sadegh Malvajerd said, "This route requires strengthening banking ties and establishing a secure, mutually agreed financial channel," while urging ministers to finalize the roadmap. Bilateral trade reached \$3.129 billion last year, she added, with \$2.423 billion in Iranian exports to Pakistan and \$700 million in Pakistani exports to Iran. Sadegh Malvajerd said the commission's work could serve as a starting point to boost those figures closer to the countries' potential. The meeting, held after a three-year pause, was billed by officials as an opportunity to strengthen cooperation across trade, banking, transit, energy, agriculture and culture. At the meeting, Pakistan's

Commerce Minister Jam Kamal Khan underlined that while both countries have strong economic potential, current trade remains far below that capacity, and that specialized committees, chambers of commerce and the joint commission are key to raising exchanges.

Transport and transit cooperation

Iran's minister of roads and urban development, citing the importance of transport cooperation, emphasized the need to develop border infrastructure, increase parking capacity at the Mirjaveh and Taftan crossings, and build the Zahedan-Taftan-Quetta railway line. Sadegh Malvajerd highlighted plans to launch shipping links between Karachi's Port Qasim and Gwadar and Iran's Chabahar and Bandar Abbas ports, and said planners have mapped out a monthly ECO freight train on the Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul corridor as a strategic regional rail project. On energy and communications, Sadegh Malvajerd said Iranian firms stood ready to export agricultural products and that the 132-kilovolt Pelan-Jiwani transmission line would



Iran's Minister of Roads and Urban Development Farzaneh Sadegh Malvajerd (center, top) and Pakistan's Commerce Minister Jam Kamal Khan (center, bottom) co-chair the 22nd Joint Economic Commission in Tehran on September 15, 2025.

● IRNA

be formally commissioned. She also pointed to plans to connect fiber-optic networks and deepen telecommunications cooperation. Pakistan's Kamal Khan also emphasized the development of border markets, exports of technical and engineering services, livestock rearing and agriculture. Kamal Khan said Pakistan can share expertise in irrigation and modern agricultural technologies and highlighted renewable energy — particularly solar and wind — as a basis for sustainable bilateral and regional development. He described transport as a central axis for cooperation, saying improved road, rail and maritime links could help make Iran a gateway to South Asia and the Middle East. He urged investment in innovation, digital economy and innovation centers to boost employment, economic growth and international competitiveness.



Iran registers 13 new products with World Intellectual Property Organization



● IRNA

Economy Desk

Iran has registered 13 new products with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), bringing the total number of globally recognized Iranian goods to 87, a senior industry ministry official said. Mehdi Mirsalehi, adviser for international affairs at the Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade said the registration process began in 2010 with the recognition of handwoven carpets from various regions of the country. Since then, 31 regional carpet types, along with ag-

ricultural, mineral and stone products, have been added to the list, he added. The registrations are based on Iran's accession to the Lisbon Agreement in 2004, IRNA reported. According to the official, the 13 newly registered products include Nahbandan Andalusite stone, Bahari agate from Ferdows, green granite from South Khorasan, Paeizi agate from Seh-Qal'eh, South Khorasan bentonite, South Khorasan fluorite, golden columnar basalt from Sarbisheh, magnesite from Zahedan and Khash, handwoven Yalmeh carpet from Aliabad Dehaqan in Fars Province, Aq Qala iodine from Golestan, Kashan rosewater, and grapes and apples from Urmia in West Azarbaijan. Mirsalehi, who represents Iran at the WIPO said global registration gives Iranian products key advantages, including exclusive branding rights that prevent third countries from re-exporting them under different names. "When a product is registered, Iran's name will always remain attached to it, and even the end consumer will know the product belongs to Iran," he said. He added that the recognition also helps create exclusive market advantages for Iranian goods that can supply regional and global demand. This, he noted, increases competitiveness, raises export prices, and strengthens the role of such products in driving domestic production and trade growth. The WIPO, one of 15 UN specialized agencies, was established in 1967 in Stockholm to promote intellectual property rights. Based in Geneva, it covers industrial property such as patents, trademarks and designs, as well as copyright for literary, artistic and audiovisual works. The organization plays a key role in fostering innovation and protecting IP worldwide.

NIGC in talks with Turkey on gas deal extension; eyes Russian, Turkmen imports

Economy Desk

The National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) said on Sunday that exports to Turkey under an existing supply deal will continue until 2026, and that talks are underway to extend the contract beyond that date. NIGC head Saeed Tavakkoli told reporters that Ankara has also expressed readiness to renew the deal, and that Turkey's imports of liquefied natural gas (LNG) would not affect its long-term gas purchases from Iran, Tasnim reported.



Talks with Russia and Turkmenistan

Tavakkoli said Tehran is also holding talks with Russia and Turkmenistan on importing gas, with a meeting scheduled this week with Russian energy officials. He noted that no final agreement has yet been reached on volumes, which depend on Iran's pipeline transmission capacity. Iran's Ambassador to Russia Kazem Jalali said last week that the two sides have made significant progress on transferring gas to Iran as part of their joint energy cooperation. "One of the important matters agreed upon between Tehran and Moscow in joint energy cooperation is the gas transfer to Iran, and initial steps have been taken. It is now on the verge of finalization," he said. According to the envoy, the two countries must first reach an agreement on price and "once that's finalized, the entire operation can proceed." The forthcoming deliveries stem from a deal inked in April 2025 between Tehran and Moscow, which in turn followed a memorandum of understanding signed between the Russian state-run energy giant Gazprom and its Iranian counterpart, the NIGC.

Energy shortages

Tavakkoli, speaking on the sidelines of the closing ceremony of the 10% energy consumption reduction campaign, warned that Iran faces a structural gas imbalance, with demand outstripping supply, and said efficiency programs are essential to easing pressure on the system. "Campaigns to cut energy use by 10% and any

move that corrects household and commercial consumption patterns can be very effective in reducing the gas shortfall," he said. The shortage this winter is forecast at 300-400 million cubic meters per day, Tavakkoli said, adding that fuel supply coordination meetings are already underway. He said Iran has taken steps to secure liquid fuel for power plants and is working to complete scheduled overhauls at gas refineries on time. He noted that 73% of Iran's energy mix comes from gas and that 83% of the country's power plants rely on it, compared with a global average of 20-23%. "If we continue with the current model, the gas industry will shift from being purely industrial to becoming a security issue," he said, pointing out that 95-96% of Iran's population is connected to the gas grid. The government is pursuing efficiency plans in the household sector with investment packages, including distribution of high-efficiency heaters and upgrades to boiler rooms and heating systems. But Tavakkoli cautioned that cutting consumption only during the winter peak does not solve the year-round imbalance, which requires systematic use of high-efficiency equipment. He added that in 2023, the warmest autumn in 50 years, gas use was split between industry (34%), power plants (34%), households (25%) and transport and other sectors (7%). The government's Seventh Development Plan targets a 55% efficiency rate for power plants, raising questions over whether current gas consumption in the sector aligns with international standards.

'Illusion' of Iran's weakened regional standing

Official: Israel posing threat to West Asia's peace, security

INTERVIEW

Since October 7, 2023, when Palestinian resistance groups launched Operation Al-Aqsa Storm, the West Asia region has gone through markedly different days. The Zionist regime's expansionist ambitions have not been confined to the Gaza Strip or proposals like the forced displacement of Palestinians but have extended to sporadic attacks on Lebanon, Syria, Yemen, Iran, and, most recently, Qatar. The developments following October 7 have shaken up many regional equations. In light of these changes, the Islamic Republic of Iran has also tried to navigate its regional policies to safeguard its national interests. Following the martyrdom of Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, the late secretary-general of Lebanon's Hezbollah group, and rising whispers in Lebanon about the necessity to disarm Hezbollah, how has Tehran's relationship with this resistance group shaped up? Has Iran's regional power taken a hit in the past two years? What impact have the Zionist regime's expansionist moves had on relations among regional countries and the Persian Gulf states? These questions were put to Mehdi Shushtari, assistant foreign minister for West Asian and North African Affairs, in an interview, parts of which are translated below:



Mehdi Shushtari



The photo shows an Iranian flag waving in the wind while a rocket is being launched into the sky in the background.

● TASNIM

Lebanon has made a comeback in the headlines. Recently, the discussion around Hezbollah's disarmament has become prominent in both local and regional, as well as international media. Meanwhile, we witnessed Mr. Larjani's trip to Beirut. Firstly, could you kindly lay out the agenda of this trip? What was the purpose behind it?

SHUSHTARI: After his appointment as secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, Dr. Larjani planned and carried out visits to Iraq and Lebanon. The choice of these two countries as his first destinations stems from Iran's very close ties with both.

After all, our historical relations with Lebanon go back centuries. The Lebanese prime minister recently mentioned in an interview with a Saudi Arabian media outlet the deep-rooted and longstanding nature of Iran-Lebanon relations and Lebanon's desire to maintain and strengthen these ties. The relationship covers various areas: cultural links from the past, religious bonds between Iran and Lebanon, and commercial relations, including the travel of traders, religious pilgrims, and tourists. So, this background is well established.

Developments in Lebanon are a concern for the Islamic Republic of Iran and the entire region since Lebanon is targeted by the Zionist regime's aggression and occupation. Many regional and international players keep a close eye on Lebanon's situation, and Iran's attention to this issue is in line with broader regional and international concern.

At the same time, Iran's fundamental stance, which has always been stressed, is that Lebanon's internal matters, including the question of the Resistance's weapons and how Lebanon utilizes what is, in the end, a tool of power, capability, and deterrence, are purely Lebanese issues.

We absolutely oppose any external parties trying to butt in and impose plans on Lebanon. During Dr. Larjani's trip, he took the opportunity in official meet-



ings with Lebanon's top officials — the president, the parliament speaker, and the prime minister — to clearly spell out Iran's position to clear up any possible misunderstandings that may have existed before the visit. It was a good occasion for frank, close, and friendly talks, which was one of the trip's key goals. At the same time, we emphasized that any issue inside Lebanon is a Lebanese matter, and we encourage our Lebanese friends to bring up the recently raised topics within the framework of national dialogue.

To our Lebanese friends, including political parties and the government, we expressed Iran's viewpoint and hope they take steps forward on this path and be able to resolve their differences and is-

suues through dialogue. We are ready to assist in facilitating talks and achieving a national consensus if Lebanon requests our support.

You mentioned Iran's readiness to help. Do we also bring this up in our talks with Hezbollah? What is the current state of dialogue between Iran and Hezbollah?

Hezbollah is an influential political force on Lebanon's scene, particularly for its role in resisting occupation and freeing Lebanese territories from the 1980s onward and during subsequent wars. All Lebanese political factions acknowledge Hezbollah's prominent role in driving out occupiers and resisting them. As a key po-

litical actor within Lebanon, Hezbollah maintains close ties with many countries, including Iran.

However, our links are not limited to Shia groups or Hezbollah. We have long-standing relations with nearly all political forces in Lebanon — across Shia, Sunni, Christian, and Druze communities — and maintain a meaningful yet close distance with all. We can leverage this capacity if Lebanese parties wish, helping to set the stage for dialogue, consensus, and national agreement. The important point is that the decision must be Lebanese-made and free from foreign interference.

We have witnessed increased Israeli attacks on Yemen. Israel and the US still equate targeting Ansarullah (the Houthis) with countering Iran and what they call "Iran's regional influence". How does ongoing hostility and the need to counter it feature in Iran's diplomatic activities in the region?

Ansarullah is an effective, independent political force in Yemen, making its own decisions. The support for Gaza's people and the Palestinian resistance is a decision Ansarullah took on its own, choosing how to provide it based on its capabilities, limitations, and circumstances.

This equally applies to other resistance forces in the region — including Lebanon's Hezbollah, which promptly jumped into the Gaza support front after October 7, and resistance groups in other countries — all have made fully independent decisions.

Meanwhile, the Islamic Republic of Iran maintains close ties with Yemen's government, led by Ansarullah. The Zionist regime's attacks or the expansion of conflict into Yemen and the region naturally form a key focus of Iran's consultations with regional countries because we strongly believe — and the region now rightly realizes



During Dr. Larjani's trip, he took the opportunity in official meetings with Lebanon's top officials — the president, the parliament speaker, and the prime minister — to clearly spell out Iran's position to clear up any possible misunderstandings that may have existed before the visit: We emphasized that any issue inside Lebanon is a Lebanese matter, and we encourage our Lebanese friends to bring up the recently raised topics within the framework of national dialogue.



Lebanese President Joseph Aoun (R) shakes hands with Ali Larjani, secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, in Beirut, Lebanon, on August 13, 2025.

● LEBANESE PRESIDENCY PRESS OFFICE



— that Israel does not even stick to agreements it has signed. As we saw in Gaza, Israeli attacks resumed during cease-fires. In Lebanon, despite cease-fire deals, occupation and assaults carry on. In Syria, attacks intensify and new territories are occupied. In Yemen, the violence has escalated. This clearly shows that the Zionist regime keeps up its long-standing expansionist strategy in the region, especially amid the changes of the past two years.

In fact, this issue has turned into a common ground for many regional countries. Naturally, as the Islamic Republic of Iran, while condemning these attacks, we hold talks with regional states to put a stop to the Zionist regime's war machine. This threat targets not only Palestine, Gaza, and Lebanon but also Syria, Iran, Yemen, and other countries across the region. This shared sense of danger from Israel as a threat to regional peace and security has now snowballed into a mutual feeling among regional nations.

How do you think the approach and perspective of Arab countries in the region toward continuing the normalization of political ties with the Zionist regime have shifted after October 7 and the ongoing Zionist aggression against the Gaza Strip? Can we simply say previous efforts have been delayed, or will the Arab states in the region exercise more caution?

The normalization process, or the so-called Abraham Accords, was a US-Zionist plan that some regional countries jumped on board with at the time, signing agreements and opening up relations. What the Islamic Republic of Iran has always spoken out about is that the very essence and nature of this regime is based on occupation, aggression, and the usurpation of rights of the Palestinian people and other nations in the region. Therefore, one cannot put stock in the regime's promises. The regime's presence in the region, whether it's consolidating or expanding, is not a source of security but rather puts regional security at risk.

The events of the past two years have only backed up Iran's view further. The Zionist regime has not followed through on any of its promises. Today, talk revolves around the full occupation of Gaza, annexation of the West Bank or occupied territories — possibly even the entire West Bank or most of it.

A few days ago, an extremist Israeli minister pitched a plan to the security cabinet to exert control over 82 percent of the West Bank, except for tiny cantons supposedly under Palestinian control. This stance, reflected in recent Knesset legislation, fundamentally rules out the formation of a Palestinian state anywhere or in any form. These facts clearly lay out what the Zionist regime is after and its expansionist goals. This existential threat to the entire region and to its security and stability has dramatically ramped up, especially over the past two years — and indeed over decades.

Even countries outside the region, like some European states, have spoken out against these actions of this extremist ruling cabinet in the occupied territories and voiced opposition to the full occupation of Gaza or annexation of the West Bank. Today, loud voices worldwide are calling out these moves.

You pointed to European countries' stance, which can be said to be unprecedented or nearly so since they demanded an independent Palestinian state. Do you think the current situation on the ground is tilting the atmosphere toward collective international support for establishing this state? Or can we still not confidently speak on this, given Western countries' relations with the Zionist regime?

The key factor is the willpower to carry through on the demand or discussion about forming a state.

Do you see that will emerging in Western countries?
Currently, there is still outright opposi-



tion from both the Zionist regime itself, the US, and some Western countries to recognizing a Palestinian state, despite more than 140 countries recognizing such a government today. Of course, they acknowledge a Palestinian government in principle as a political entity in occupied Palestine, but in practice, the Zionist regime wipes out even the smallest steps toward establishing that state.

The expansion of settlements, especially the new ones in occupied Al-Quds and the West Bank officially declared in the past few weeks, destroys any small grounds for creating a Palestinian state with even limited geography. Therefore, the most serious obstacle to Palestine's statehood is the Zionist regime's political and practical opposition, backed by US support — and so the US also stands opposed. This remains the most significant stumbling block to forming a Palestinian state today.

Declarations of recognition or support for Palestine's statehood by some European countries are commendable political positions, but whether they have the ability and determination to force it on the Zionist regime, we have yet to see that in practice.

After October 7, 2023, and the Resistance's developments, Western media circulated the narrative — and this has also been used to justify recent European Troika actions — that Iran's regional position has been affected due to what has occurred in the past nearly two years. How do you assess Iran's regional standing post-October 7?

It is mostly an illusion, a media stunt by the US-Zionist axis and sometimes the West to paint a picture that the Resistance Axis and the Islamic Republic of Iran have been weakened.

I'll just highlight two points as indicators of Iran's status. One is diplomacy: Iran's current relations with regional countries, the mutual visits, consultations, and shared views on many regional issues reflect an active and dynamic diplomacy that means Iran is presently in one of its best periods of relations with regional states.

We are pressing ahead with Saudi Arabia after the Beijing agreement, making progress across bilateral ties. Our relations with Egypt are also moving forward. With other regional countries — in the Persian Gulf, Iraq, the Levant, North Africa, and major Islamic countries like Turkey and Pakistan — our relations continue to gain ground.

The unified stance of regional countries against the aggression of the Zionist regime and the US towards Iran, coupled with support for Iran and condemnation

of the illegal, overt aggression by these forces, shows a growing consensus. These are signs of strong, forward-moving relations between Iran and regional countries.

Where previously we had cut diplomatic ties or had downgraded relations with some regional countries in the past two years, these have been patched up or upgraded; There are many such examples.

Therefore, our diplomatic situation in the region is far better than before. A shared understanding and mutual recognition of key issues is taking root between Iran and regional states. This reflects the strength of Iran's diplomacy and its influential regional standing.

On the defense front, during the 12-day recent aggression, Iran's armed forces, exercising the right of self-defense against clear violations of sovereignty and territorial integrity, gave a powerful response right up to the final moments before attacks ceased. We witnessed this strength in our legitimate defense.

This also shows that the Islamic Republic of Iran has kept up its defensive and legitimate military power, which remains a key element of Iran's strength and must be further bolstered to counter any future aggression or possible attacks.

You referred to some concepts that help with our next question: first, the need to hammer out regional initiatives; second, a shared understanding among countries of the region; and third, common threats felt between Iran and its neighbors. While three years ago, Iran's designation of some actors as threats was not widely accepted regionally, has all this combined created real momentum toward a joint security pact in West Asia and the Persian Gulf? Do you think the cur-

rent situation opens the door wider for such a pact?

In my view, it is still too soon to talk about a joint security pact among regional countries, but the groundwork is certainly better laid than before. Of course, this requires prerequisites. First comes a shared understanding, which must be cultivated across various levels in the region — through initiatives, proposals, and frameworks that build up mutual awareness of common threats to the entire region as well as mechanisms to ensure security, stability, and peace — both among think tanks, elites, and at official state levels.

The first step must be achieving this shared understanding, then moving to a common conceptual framework — one along the lines of what Iran has emphasized over the years regarding collective security arrangements. Iran has submitted various proposals and repeatedly stressed that its view toward regional security and stability is intra-regional.

We need to bring together regional countries toward a common initiative and understanding. I believe the environment for this is more ripe today than ever before and calls for operational initiatives at multiple levels: scholars and elites must sit down and hash out these subjects in joint meetings, and official bilateral and multilateral talks should also be held. First, a shared understanding must be reached, followed by a shared vision of the future and a framework for arrangements. If all these conditions are met, over a reasonable and forward-looking time frame, we can hopefully move toward collective security or a joint security pact, God willing.

The full interview first appeared in Persian on IRNA.



Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (front-R) speaks with his Turkish counterpart, Hakan Fidan, at the council of foreign ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation in Istanbul, Turkey, on June 21, 2025. In a joint declaration following the meeting, the organization condemned "the aggression of Israel" against Iran.

● YASIN ARGUL/AFP

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A few days ago, an extremist Israeli minister pitched a plan to the security cabinet to exert control over 82 percent of the West Bank, except for tiny cantons supposedly under Palestinian control. This stance, reflected in recent Knesset legislation, fundamentally rules out the formation of a Palestinian state anywhere or in any form. These facts clearly lay out what the Zionist regime is after and its expansionist goals.

Israeli finance minister Bezalel Smotrich gestures toward a map of the West Bank that showcases his proposal for Israel to annex 82 percent of the West Bank during a press conference at the regime's finance ministry in Al-Quds (Jerusalem), occupied territories, on September 3, 2025.

● YONATAN SINDEL/FLASH90

Wrestling World Championships:

Zare' retains superheavyweight dominance as Iran bags triple medals

Sports Desk

It was business as usual for Amirhossein Zare' at the Wrestling World Championships as the Iranian defended his superheavyweight title in Zagreb on Sunday. Ahmad Mohammadnejad Javan and Kamran Qasempour added further medals to Iran's freestyle haul on the second day of the competition, finishing with a silver and bronze respectively. Zare' rounded off his emphatic run in the 125kg class with a 5-0 victory over European champion and Olympic bronze medalist Giorgi Meshvildishvili of Azerbaijan in the final showpiece. The Iranian was awarded the first point through a passivity caution for his opponent and then scored on a takedown, followed by a gut wrench, with seconds left in the first period before controlling the proceedings in the second to secure his third gold medal in four editions of the Wrestling Worlds. "I'm grateful that this [winning

the title] has happened for the third time," said the Iranian, who has now won six major medals, including a 2022 world bronze, since his making his seniors breakthrough in 2021.

"I just hope to keep winning gold medals for as long as I wrestle. This third one feels just as good as the others, and I dedicate it to the people of Iran," Zare', who also has Olympic silver and bronze medals under his belt, added.

Sunday's triumph came as a bit of relief for the Iranian after last year's heartbreak against his familiar Georgian foe Geno Petrashvili in a thrilling superheavyweight final at the Paris Olympics.

"That tough experience at the Olympics was really painful, and I'll never forget it," said Zare'. "I made mistakes myself. For the last 13 months, I've only been focused on training – so that my next medal would be gold and to make up for those mistakes."

The latest triumph reaffirmed Zare's spot among



Freestyle wrestler Amirhossein Zare' celebrates with the Iranian flag after winning the 125kg title at the World Championships in Zagreb, Croatia, on September 14, 2025.
● IAWFIR

the top 100 most decorated wrestlers of all time, placing him alongside fellow Iranians Abdollah Movahed, Gholamreza Takhti, Rasoul Khadem, Hamid Sourian, and Hassan Yazdani. At 24, Zare' still has years of glory ahead of him, with his

sights already set on the elusive Olympic crown in Los Angeles in three years. "I'll keep grinding, keep pushing, until I get better and finally win that Olympic gold," Zare' said. Elsewhere, former under-23 and junior world bronze

medalist Javan marked his senior debut at the World Championships with a silver medal in the 61kg division. An Asian bronze medalist in March, Javan, 21, enjoyed an impressive run to the final showpiece – including a last-gasp 3-2 win against North

Korean Kim Kum-hyok in the semifinals – but was always the second best in Sunday's showdown against Russian former Olympic champion Zaur Uguev, competing as a neutral athlete, who secured a superiority win (11-2) to clinch his third world gold.

Qasempour, meanwhile, recovered from a last-four 7-0 setback against American Zahid Valencia on the preceding night to make quick work of Indian Mukul Dahiya by superiority (10-0) and finish his 86kg campaign with a consolation bronze.

"Thank God I'm not going to return to Iran empty-handed, I just hope this medal brings joy to my people," Qasempour, a two-time world 92kg champion, said after the bout.

Citing an illness in the days leading to the competition, Qasempour added: "I don't want to come up with excuses but God knows how I've been feeling recently. I just hope to make up for missing the gold in the future."

The morning session of Day

2 in Zagreb was one to forget for Iranian wrestling, as none of the country's four contestants in action managed to reach to the final in their respective events.

Representing the country in the 57kg class, Ali Mo'meni suffered a second-round exit after a shock fall defeat against Mexican Roman Bravo-Young.

Younes Emami, meanwhile, suffered a comprehensive 11-4 loss to Kota Takahashi of Japan in the 74kg quarterfinals but remained on course for a third bronze medal of his career after the Japanese progressed to the final.

Four-time world medalist Mohammad Nokhodi fell to an 8-3 setback against Georgios Kougioumtsidis of Greece in the 79kg last four, while reigning Asian champion Amirhossein Firouzpour failed to reach the final on his World Championships debut following a semifinal defeat (11-6) against Russian Amanula Gadzhimagomedov in the 92kg category.

AFC Champions League Elite:

Tractor to open campaign against Shabab Al Ahli

Sports Desk

Persian Gulf Pro League champion Tractor will get its AFC Champions League Elite campaign underway today against Emirati champion Shabab Al Ahli at Dubai's Rashid Stadium. Tractor got off to a slow start to its domestic title defense, suffering a 1-0 home loss to Esteghlal before sharing the spoil with Mes Rafsanjan in a goalless stalemate before the international break, but head coach Dragan Skocic will hope to see his team build on Friday's 4-1 victory over Iralco, during which Croatian striker Domagoj Drozddek bagged a first-half hat-trick. Friday's win, however, proved costly for Tractor and the Croatian coach as integral winger Mahdi Torabi was forced out with an injury at halftime and missed the Dubai visit. The good news for Skocic is that Iran international goalkeeper Alireza Beiranvand is available for selection for the first time this season after his four-month ban – handed by the Iranian Football Federation – was suspended by the Court of Arbitration for Sport on Saturday. Meanwhile, Shabab Al Ahli –



● tractor-club.com

sitting atop the UAE Pro League table with seven points in three games – will step onto the pitch fresh off a hard-fought 1-0 win against 10-man Baniyas on Thursday. Prolific striker Sardar Azmoun, who played a pivotal part in the title-winning run last season, is yet to feature for the club in the new campaign due to an injury and will likely miss today's game, but his Iran international teammate Saeid Ezzatollahi is contention for a start after returning from an injury setback against Baniyas.

The two clubs were part of the AFC Champions League Two

last season, with both crashing out in the quarterfinals. The sides have history in the Asian elite clubs' competition, having met twice in the 2015 group stage with both winning one apiece, before Shabab Al Ahli went on to finish as the runner-up.

The Dubai-based side will head into the match on a nine-game unbeaten run against teams from Iran, while Tractor, which won its maiden domestic top-flight last season, also has a streak to protect – having not suffered defeat in its last five encounters against teams from the UAE.

FIVB Men's Volleyball World Championship:

'Wounded' Iran desperate to bounce back against Tunisia

Sports Desk

Iran will be eager to recover from a first-day defeat against Egypt at the FIVB Men's Volleyball World Championship when taking on another African test in Tunisia in Pasay City, Philippines, today.

Widely regarded as the favorite win Pool A – also featuring the host country – ahead of the tournament, Roberto Piazza's men were given a reality check in their opening game, suffering a 3-1 loss (17-25, 25-16, 23-25, 20-25) to the reigning African champion on Sunday.

"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," Iran captain Morteza Sharifi, who had a quiet day at the SM Mall of Asia Arena with eight points, 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," added the star outside hitter.

Italian coach Piazza, meanwhile, warned his men of the enormous task in the today's must-win game.

"Iran's team must recover its energy and the players have to find self-belief. At the moment, the team is like a wounded, bleeding



Iranian setter Arshia Behnejad serves the ball during a 3-1 loss to Egypt at the FIVB Men's Volleyball World Championship in Pasay City, Philippines, on September 14, 2025.
● MOJTABA ZAKIZADEH/VOLLEYBALL.IR

animal that must be healed as soon as possible," said the Italian ahead of a training session on Sunday.

"The team needs to regain its harmony and the players need to support one another, because the next game against Tunisia is a crucial one. We know perfectly well that we're in for a tough, difficult match, and in my opinion, it will be even harder than the game against Egypt," added the Italian.

"We know how we need to play tomorrow, and the players are fully aware of the mindset we must have for this game.

"Our only focus tomorrow must

be on the next ball, not the final result or anything else. Japan was defeated by Canada today – a result nobody would have believed possible at the World Championship. That just shows how unpredictable this tournament can be."

Iran will be hoping to be in the top two of the group after Thursday's game against the Philippines to progress to the round of 16.

Tunisia got off to a flying start in the Philippines, beating the host in straight sets (25-13, 25-17, 25-23) in the tournament's curtain riser on Saturday.

Asian Men's U-17

Handball Championship:

Iran demolishes Maldives in opener

Sports Desk

Iranian boys got off to an emphatic start at the inaugural Asian Men's U-17 Handball Championship, hammering Maldives 65-4 in the Group D opener in Amman, Jordan, on Monday. Ali Ghayour Mohammad Kes-

havarz chipped in a joint game-high eight goals, with the former receiving the Man of the Match prize after the game.

Saleh Hesezhadeh and Danial Mirhosseini contributed with seven goals apiece.

Iranian boys will take on Syria in their second outing today,

before facing Asian handball powerhouse South Korea on Wednesday.

The two finalists of the 13-team event will qualify for the 1st IHF Men's U-17 Handball World Championship, scheduled to take place in Morocco from October 24 to November 1.



● IRIHF

Role of technology in sustaining Sistan and Baluchestan Province's identity

Iranica Desk

In recent years, the focus on preserving and promoting the cultural heritage, language, and indigenous arts of Sistan and Baluchestan Province has intensified more than ever before. This region, with its rich ethnic diversity, multiple languages, unique customs, and ancient rituals, stands as a valuable asset whose proper preservation and continuation are crucial for fostering unity and sustainable development in the area. Safeguarding this heritage demands a combination of scientific and cultural efforts, the integration of modern technologies, and close cooperation among responsible institutions to protect it from distortion and instability. Cultural experts emphasize that cultural heritage is not merely a historical symbol but a vital factor in reinforcing collective identity and social cohesion. Essential strategies include targeted planning focused on educating future generations, producing digital content, and organizing festivals and cultural workshops, all of which must be addressed as top priorities. The role of media in this endeavor is particularly influential, as accurate and effective representations of cultural heritage are key to preventing the region's culture from fading into oblivion, chntn. ir wrote. Zohreh Shami, a local arts expert from Sistan and Baluchestan Province, explained that in border communities, indigenous arts, traditional clothing, local music, and cultural rituals collectively form the identity of the region. She emphasized that showcasing these elements through cultural programs, festivals, and both national and international events is essential to authentically represent the region. She further noted



● borna.news



● khaneyema.nobin.tv

that by harnessing digital technologies, this heritage can be effectively conveyed through multimedia content, films, and online educational platforms aimed at younger generations. Creating such content not only preserves and expands the region's cultural legacy but also familiarizes young people with their identity, instilling in them a sense of pride. Shami stressed that the continuous and sustainable preservation of cultural heritage requires close and purposeful

collaboration among cultural and media institutions. Additionally, education and promotion within schools and universities must begin early to ensure that this heritage remains vibrant and alive in future generations. Mowlavi Abdolmalek Shahnnavazi, a cultural expert in Khash, highlighted the integral role of religion and culture, stating that religion, language, and local rituals are inseparable components of the region's identity. He underscored the im-



● khaneyema.nobin.tv



● khaneyema.nobin.tv

portance of maintaining these values dynamically through various cultural and religious programs. Traditional ceremonies, local events, and religious festivals serve as vivid examples of activities that contribute significantly to the preservation of this heritage. Shahnnavazi further elaborated that with media development, these rituals and beliefs can be broadcast through visual, audio, and written formats, reaching audiences at national and international levels. He also emphasized the

crucial cooperation of regional scholars and cultural elites to transmit the region's religious and cultural heritage coherently and impactfully. He added that the combination of religious, cultural, and artistic activities strengthens regional cohesion and demonstrates that cultural identity is one of the foremost factors for unity and development. In this process, the active participation of local people and cultural activists is of great importance and should be contin-

uously fostered. Experts agree that digital technologies play an essential role in transmitting cultural heritage. The production of visual content, motion graphics, practical applications, and the use of social networks offer unique opportunities for introducing and promoting local arts. Virtual training sessions, online workshops, and cultural campaigns amplify the impact of these activities and underscore the necessity for coordination among cultural and educational institutions. Meanwhile, continuous education and promotion of the region's authentic arts in schools, universities, and cultural centers are vital for the sustainable transmission of this heritage. The proper utilization of modern technologies allows cultural heritage to be communicated to future generations through diverse and engaging formats, enhancing its influence at both national and international levels. Overall, the integration of modern technologies and comprehensive education stands as the primary strategy to ensure cultural sustainability and strengthen regional identity, which will play a pivotal role in future sustainable development and social cohesion. Protecting and promoting cultural heritage, pursued in an integrated and purposeful way, can be the key to success in regional and national development. Harnessing new technologies, maintaining continuous education, encouraging active public participation, and implementing strategic policies collectively pave the way for preserving cultural identity and reinforcing regional unity. These concerted efforts not only keep the heritage alive but also establish a firm foundation for sustainable economic and social growth.

Enduring craft of woodturning in Iran

Iranica Desk

Woodturning, known in Persian as Kharrati, is a traditional handicraft of Iran in which a piece of wood is cut using a horizontal cutting machine. In fact, woodturning is the art-craft of cutting and shaping the wood by its rotation in the lathe machine. Kharrati is an Arabic word and its root is "khar" which according to the Dehkhoda word encyclopedia means cutting and smoothing of the wood. In regard to the history of woodturning, it should be mentioned that there are reliefs of throne, royal stool and censer in the remaining of Persepolis that indicate the craft of woodturning. Jean Chardin, the famous French traveler, was touched by the skills of the Iranian wood turners, saying, "The craft of woodturning is a mechanical art in which the Iranians have successfully prospered." The primary material of woodturning is white poplar wood. But other kinds of wood are also used. High density and strength of the wood makes it possible for finer and more durable products



● ichoob.ir

to be made. After White poplar, Walnut, Alder, European ash, White Willow, Plane, Mesquites, Pear and Maple are mostly used. In Dezful, the woodturning artists use the wood from a kind of local tree. The first step of woodturning, is choosing and cutting the desired piece of wood to the in-

tended size. After the piece is cut, it should be completely dry to be ready for the next step. In the past, the pieces were put in a frame that turned them around their axis by mechanical pedals but today there are electric machines which make the process much easier for the craftsmen. Another tool



● ichoob.ir

of woodturning are kinds of chisel. The piece is tightly put in the opening of the machine. Then as it rotates fast around its axis, the chisel is pushed to the wood to cut and shape it. The final step is to file and polish the piece from outside and inside and is done by grinding machines. Today products are coat-

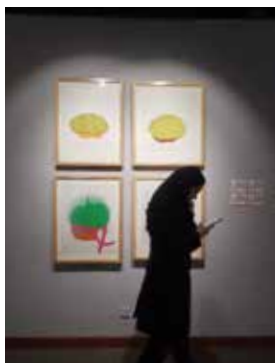
ed with a layer of polishing oil which makes them shinier, and occasionally they are painted, too. Objects such as couch legs, lamps, hookah hoses, railings of the stairs in modern houses are produced by woodturning. Several Iranian cities are renowned for their woodturning craftsmanship, where the tradi-

tion has flourished both historically and in modern times. Torbat-e Heydarieh in northeastern Iran has seen a revival of woodturning arts, with local artisans producing finely crafted objects that reach international markets. Khuzestan Province is another key center; here, skilled craftspeople work with local woods, to create functional yet artistic items such as lamp stands, stair railings, and hookah components. Cities like Isfahan, Shiraz, Yazd, and Dezful also hold great importance in this craft, where woodturning integrates into broader woodworking and marquetry traditions. The dense and resilient woods native to these regions, combined with the artisans' mastery, enable the creation of beautifully detailed, long-lasting pieces. This fusion of traditional techniques with modern tools ensures woodturning remains a vibrant and respected part of Iran's handicraft heritage, with products sought after both domestically and abroad for their cultural authenticity and artistic excellence.



Untold chapters of Iranian women's creativity

Female voices 'inseparable' from Iran's art narrative: *Museum chief*



Reza Dabirinejad

7 Sadeq Dehqan
Staff writer

INTERVIEW EXCLUSIVE

The exhibition 'In Women's Words' is now on view at the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art, showcasing works by Iranian women artists across generations.

Featuring 121 pieces by 65 female artists, the show spans a century of women's contributions to Iran's modern and contemporary art. Drawn from the museum's rich collection, the works include portraits, landscapes, abstraction, and socially engaged themes.

The exhibition opened on July 23 and runs through September 22, except Mondays and public holidays.

On this occasion, Iran Daily sat down with Reza Dabirinejad, director of the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art, to discuss the purpose of the show and the broader role of women in Iran's artistic history.

IRAN DIALY: What was the goal behind mounting 'In Women's Words' and how would you describe the presence of women in contemporary Iranian art?

REZA DABIRINEJAD: When we speak of the history of contemporary Iranian art, one of its key features is the presence of women—or more precisely, women's social presence in different arenas, including the arts. Before the past century, women's participation in artistic circles was not especially prominent. But as the decades moved forward, women became increasingly active across fields of education, artistic creation, and even in running galleries. In fact, women's presence in the past

century has been so strong that it is impossible to separate them from the history of contemporary Iranian art. Since one of the missions of museums is historiography, and the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art is active in recording and documenting the history of contemporary art, it is only natural for the museum to address this area. With the collection we hold, it becomes possible to provide the audience with a comprehensive and complete narrative in this regard.

As can be seen in 'In Women's Words,' there are many female figures in the history of Iran's art who are little known, whose names have rarely been mentioned, and whose faces and artistic styles are unfamiliar even to many people in our country. Part of this situation stems from the fact that we have always tended to focus on famous, well-known artists, while others have had fewer opportunities to be seen.

On this basis, in 'In Women's Words' we tried to offer a comprehensive narrative of women's art in the modern and contemporary era. Beyond the artistic quality of the works, we thought about which women, based on their art, were able to earn a museum-level standing and have their works included in the collection of the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art.

At the same time, in this exhibition it is possible to observe the thematic progression of women's art across different periods and generations. The exhibition covers early areas of women's artistic activity such as the "Pioneers" and continues to enduring subjects of art history such as portraiture and depictions of nature.

In some sections, attention is given to social themes, where women artists sought to address social issues through their art. Overall, the exhibition aims to present parts of the untold and unseen

history of contemporary Iranian women's art and of the museum's collection. More than half of the works are being displayed for the first time. We see works by 65 women artists, many of whom have rarely been introduced and remain unfamiliar to audiences.

Over the past one hundred years, and in different periods, what social subjects have Iranian women artists most often addressed?

This exhibition allows for a comparative look at women's works across eras, so that we can see what subjects they paid attention to, what they did not address, and in which areas they appeared stronger.

For example, in the early 2000s, a group called Dena was formed. This was the first all-female group in the history of Iran's modern art, founded on the basis of collective activity among women artists. In this way, in different periods, women have chosen certain themes and, through them, have shaped pages of Iran's modern artistic history.

In some periods, women showed a strong inclination toward abstraction; in other times, they turned to other subjects. Why women in each era gravitated toward particular themes is a matter for critics and analysts to study. In some works, especially in certain periods, we see attention to areas such as identity or the use of symbols. Taken together, these tendencies—studied by researchers, critics, and even audiences—help us arrive at a more accurate understanding of contemporary Iranian women's art.

From a social standpoint, how do the artistic approaches of Iranian women differ from those of men? What concerns have women primarily expressed in their works?

By looking at the works of women in

this exhibition, we realize that they have moved forward in step with men in terms of social subjects. One cannot claim that women lagged behind men in certain areas. On the contrary, it can even be said that in some fields, such as abstraction and depictions of nature, women have presented stronger works than men. However, in areas like symbolism, their presence is less visible. The reasons for this must be explored by researchers and critics.

It is important to remember, though, that our analysis here is based on the museum's collection, and it is possible that many works by women artists with such features have not entered our holdings. This itself is open to discussion, as questions remain about which fields the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art has built a comprehensive and authoritative collection of women's works and which areas are less represented, requiring collection strengthening.

It should also be noted that remaining unknown is not limited to women artists; some significant male artists also remain little known. But if we compare men and women overall, we see that fewer women have reached the artistic summit or achieved recognition in Iran's modern art history. Still, as the country's contemporary history has progressed, this imbalance has moved closer to equilibrium. In fact, this exhibition is essentially a review of the less visible parts of women's art in contemporary Iranian history.

Considering the social restrictions that women have faced in some periods of modern Iranian history compared with men, are these limitations reflected in the quantity or quality of their works?

Perhaps based only on the works in our museum's collection, it is not possible

to make a definitive judgment. But contrary to assumptions, it seems women's works did not move strongly in the direction of slogans. Moreover, women did not speak much about themselves. Contrary to the common belief that women's art in our society should be centered on freedoms and restrictions, what is evident in their works is that they have engaged less with gender-based or personal concerns.

What is the reason for this?

It seems women were pursuing a broader vision and did not look at issues solely from the perspective of restrictions or a purely female viewpoint. Our women artists tried to raise broader and more general questions. On this basis, traces of restrictions are less visible in their works, and it cannot be said that they created art based on limitations.

What is the main message of 'In Women's Words,' which includes a selection of one hundred years of work by Iranian women artists?

The outcome and message of 'In Women's Words' is the untold story of Iranian women's art. The exhibition brings forward figures who, along with their works, had until now been little seen, creating an equal opportunity for contemporary women artists who have each played a role in the making of Iran's modern and contemporary art. In my view, the exhibition shows how our artists have opened their own paths, how they have moved through different artistic domains, and how they have broken ground in various fields. From another angle, viewers of the show can clearly see the social subjects, abstraction, and aspects of daily life that women artists in different periods have paid attention to, and how these themes have been reflected in their works.

Iran's 'Autumn Dream' honored at ABU radio festival



IRNA

Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian director and actor Fereydoon Mehrabi's radio drama 'Autumn Dream,' based on Nader Ebrahimi's novel 'Once Again the City I Loved,' received a Special Mention in the Radio Play category at the 2025 ABU Asia-Pacific Radio Festival.

Mehrabi adapted the original novel into a radio play, capturing its romantic and poetic essence. He aimed to create a reflective and impactful atmosphere through sound, stating, "Nader Ebrahimi's words always captivate me; I designed a

story that preserves the novel's content while adding my preferred dramatic and auditory elements," IRNA reported.

He emphasized the importance of modernizing traditional radio acting techniques, guiding actors to build atmosphere, rhythm, and connection.

The production's success was bolstered by the cast's exceptional performances, transforming even the most challenging moments into compelling segments. Audience feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, with many expressing deep appreciation for the piece.

Mehrabi expressed pride in representing Iran on the international stage, stating, "I'm grateful that this success was achieved for me and my country."

Mehrabi plans to direct a new radio drama featuring ten English-speaking actors, with himself taking on one of the roles. He hinted at adapting a renowned global literary work, promising more details soon.

He concluded with a message to aspiring radio dramatists, "I hope to collaborate with fellow enthusiasts of auditory storytelling to create remarkable works."