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Demonstrators rally to support the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and to protest the Israeli interception of the Global Sumud Flotilla, near the Colosseum in Rome, Italy on October 2, 2025.

AFP

No time for diplomatic passivity

By M.A. Mokarrami
Journalist, commentator

OPINION
EXCLUSIVE

The activation of the snapback mechanism, which restored UN sanctions against Iran, has opened a new phase in Tehran's foreign and economic policy. While the immediate priority for Iranian officials is to contain the economic repercussions and prevent instability in domestic markets, this is no time for diplomatic passivity. Iran faces the dual challenge of shielding its economy from renewed sanctions and pursuing an active diplomatic strategy to ease pressure and make space for future negotiations. The snapback of sanctions, revived after lobbying by the United States and supported

by Israel, reimposed UN-level restrictions mainly on Iran's nuclear, missile and arms programs. Though the new measures do not directly target most categories of trade, the psychological impact on markets and foreign companies could create a chilling effect. If not managed carefully, this perception could deepen economic uncertainty. To prevent such disruption, Iran needs immediate outreach to its major trading partners. Explaining to foreign companies and chambers of commerce that most ordinary trade in goods is not restricted under the snapback framework is essential. The Foreign Ministry's Economic Diplomacy Department must take a leading role, dispatching teams to reassure partners and reduce the risk of self-imposed overcompliance. Iran's first line of defense lies

in its neighborhood. Turkey, the United Arab Emirates and Iraq remain Tehran's largest regional trading partners and represent a major share of non-oil trade and logistical lifelines. Sustaining these commercial ties requires active engagement: briefing sessions for private companies, joint working groups to clarify trade rules and practical mechanisms to ensure banking and transport channels remain open. Both Ankara and Abu Dhabi have shown pragmatism in their economic dealings with Tehran, while Iraq depends heavily on Iranian energy exports and cross-border commerce. By intensifying consultations, Iran can reduce the impact of the snapback and demonstrate that regional economic interdependence is a shield against external pressure.

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Israeli interception of anti-blockade flotilla sparks global fury

'Act of terror': Iran blasts Israel's attack on humanitarian vessels

International Desk

Israeli navy attacked on Thursday an aid flotilla of 42 vessels sailing toward the Gaza Strip, intercepting them and detaining activists on board. The activists, including European lawmakers, were taking part in a flotilla attempting to break Israel's blockade of Gaza when their vessels were intercepted, drawing widespread condemnation and sparking protests around the world. Hundreds of Israeli police officers earlier in the day were deployed to the southern port of Ashdod in the Israeli-occupied territories to process more than 450 international activists from 46 countries detained by the regime's naval forces in the Mediterranean Sea. The Global Sumud Flotilla was the largest yet to try to break the blockade, and it comes at a time of growing criticism of Israel's conduct in Gaza, where its aggression has laid waste to wide swaths of territory and killed tens of thousands of people. Activists had said they hoped that the

sheer number of boats would make it more difficult for Israeli authorities to intercept them all, but Israel's foreign ministry declared the operation over on Thursday afternoon.

Pro-flotilla rallies

Thousands of people supporting the flotilla took to the streets in several major world cities after news of the interception broke to decry the Israeli operation and the ongoing offensive in the Gaza Strip. Italy's largest union called for a one-day general strike on Friday. While the majority of marches were peaceful, clashes erupted between police and pro-Palestinian protestors in Paris and in Barcelona, Spain. The flotilla was carrying a symbolic amount of humanitarian aid to Gaza. Its main goal, the activists said, remained "to break Israel's illegal siege and end the ongoing genocide against the Palestinian people." Israel has come under intense criticism for how much aid it lets into Gaza and how it distributes the goods. Israel has maintained varying degrees

of blockade on Gaza since the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas came to power in 2007. After the war started in 2023, Israel tightened the blockade but eased up later under US pressure. In March, it sealed the territory off from all food, medicine and other goods for 2 ½ months, contributing to Gaza's slide into famine. The flotilla said it wanted to establish a humanitarian corridor by sea, given the little aid that was reaching Gaza by land. Israel's onslaught on Gaza has killed more than 66,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. Live broadcasts from the activists showed Israeli boats approaching their vessels, spraying them with water cannons and flashing bright lights before troops boarded the flotilla.

Global condemnations

Iran, Turkey, Colombia, Pakistan and others condemned Israel's interception of the aid flotilla. Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baqaei in a statement on



A boat from the Global Sumud Flotilla intercepted by Israeli forces in the Mediterranean Sea off the Gaza Strip waters, is escorted into the southern port of Ashdod on October 2, 2025.

Thursday strongly condemned the Israeli move, describing it as a "blatant violation of international principles" and "an act of terror." The Turkish Foreign Ministry described the interception as an "act of terrorism" and a severe breach of international law in a statement late

Wednesday. The detention of activists was part of Israel's "ongoing aggression," the Pakistani Foreign Ministry said, adding that Israel's blockade of Gaza had caused "immense suffering" for more than two million Palestinians in the strip.

Pezeshkian decries lack of Muslim unity vis-à-vis regional tragedies

International Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian denounced lack of unity among Muslim countries in the face of tragedies in the West Asia region, including what is happening in the Gaza Strip. Addressing a meeting with intellectuals and political, social, and cultural activists of Hormozgan Province in Bandar Abbas on Thursday, Pezeshkian criticized the exploitation of Muslim disunity by the region's adversaries, who seize the region's oil, gas, and mineral resources while supplying weapons designed to fuel conflict among Muslim nations. "The Zionist regime, with a small population, kills women and children before the eyes of hundreds of millions of Muslims, and the reaction of some governments at best is mere condemnation. Some even secretly sit beside those criminals and exchange pleasantries," he said. "If Muslims were united, such atrocities would not occur," said the president, as the Israeli genocidal war on the Gaza Strip has killed more than 66,200 people, internally displacing almost all of the population, and causing a dire humanitarian situation

in the past two years. The Iranian president also referred to the country's situation after the recent reimposition of international sanctions on the country under pressure from the United States and European powers, calling for unity and reliance on faith and the people in the face of threats and sanctions. Pezeshkian urged officials and citizens alike to trust in domestic capabilities and the support of the populace to maintain momentum despite pressures. "The enemies think that by assassination they can bring our nation to its knees, while thousands of more worthy people are ready to take up this flag," he said, referring to the decades-long assassination campaign by the United States, Israel, and other terror groups supported by them against Iran. One of the latest assassination plots occurred in June when the Israeli regime launched an unprovoked aggression against Iran, targeting top military commanders and scientists, also killing hundreds of civilians. Pezeshkian also pointed to the illegal sanctions imposed against the country over its peaceful nuclear program, saying



that they cannot block the path for the nation. "Those who fear sanctions do not believe that one can continue the path by relying on God and the people." The comments come as the UN Security Council restored the anti-Iran sanctions that had been lifted under the 2015 nuclear deal on Sunday. The sanctions will again freeze Iranian assets abroad, halt arms deals with the Islamic Republic and target the country's defensive missile program. The sanctions came back as part of a so-called snapback mechanism that three European parties to the deal used after they accused Iran of non-compliance with the agreement despite their own failure to adhere to their part of the commitments.

Tehran-Moscow strategic partnership treaty comes into effect

International Desk

The 20-year Comprehensive Strategic Partnership deal finalized between Iran and Russia in January took official effect on Thursday, marking a significant step towards strengthening their bilateral ties. The treaty, signed by Russian President Vladimir Putin and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian in Moscow on January 17, aims to expand economic, diplomatic and military cooperation between Moscow and Tehran and will likely act as a counterbalance to illegal Western sanctions. Iran's Foreign Ministry in a statement on Thursday praised the implementation of the treaty, noting that it embodies the commitment of both countries' leaders to enhance relations across various fields based on mutual respect, good neighborliness, and shared interests. The ministry called the treaty a turning point in the history of the two countries' relations, which can help expand bilateral relations in various areas ranging from defense, energy and finance to agriculture, science, and technology. The Russian Foreign Ministry also issued

a statement on the implementation of the treaty, saying, "The pact is evidence of the strategic choice made by the political leadership of Russia and Iran in favor of further strengthening our friendly and good-neighborly relations, which meets the fundamental interest of our two nations." The document sets key benchmarks "for priority spheres of bilateral cooperation in the long term," the ministry added. "It envisages efforts to strengthen cooperation in the international arena amid the evolving multipolar world order, including close coordination at major multilateral associations, and joint efforts towards consolidating stability and security in the region while countering common challenges and threats." The treaty provides the legal framework for the long-term development of cooperation in areas ranging from defense, energy, finance, and transportation to industries, agriculture, culture, science, and technology. Iran and Russia, as two close and strategic allies, have deepened relations in various fields, despite heavy Western sanctions.

FM spox slams G7 supportive statement on anti-Iran sanctions

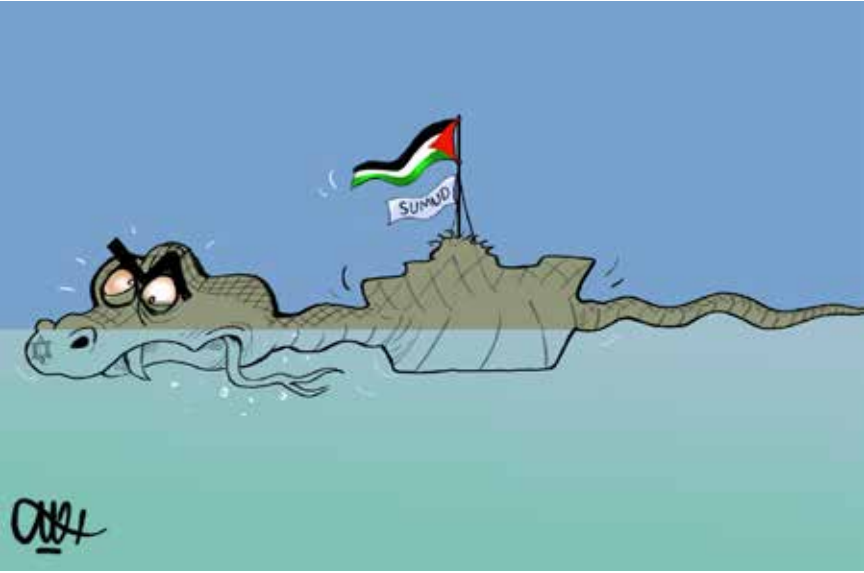
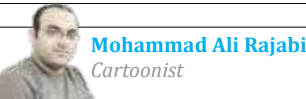


International Desk

Iran's Foreign Ministry in a statement on Thursday censured the G7's support for the reimposition of UN sanctions against Tehran, saying that the group's move will not change the "illegal and unjustified" nature of the sanctions. The ministry's spokesman Esmail Baqaei said the G7's support for the "illegal and unjustified" move by the United States and three European countries to reinstate terminated UN Security Council sanctions amounted to an endorsement of a violation of international law.

The ministry's reaction followed a statement by the G7 Foreign Ministers and the High Representative of the EU on Wednesday, which welcomed the E3 activation of the snapback regime reimposing United Nations Security Council (UNSC) sanctions and other restrictions against Iran. Baqaei underscored that this stance by the G7 cannot change the "illegal and unjustified" nature of the action, which he said abused the dispute resolution mechanism of the 2015 nuclear agreement between Iran and world powers. On September 19, the 15-member Security Council failed to adopt a resolution that would have prevented the re-imposition of UN sanctions on Iran after the three European parties to the 2015 nuclear deal — France, Germany and Britain — triggered the "snapback" mechanism and accused Tehran of failing to comply with the agreement known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

A subsequent resolution, which sought to grant a six-month extension to both the JCPOA and Resolution 2231, also failed to pass at the Security Council on Friday. The ministry's spokesman described the G7's claim that the three European countries and US had repeatedly offered Iran "diplomatic avenues in good faith" as a "complete lie." He stated the claim was a "distortion of the truth," recalling the Israeli military aggression against Iran and a subsequent direct US strike on its nuclear facilities in June, which occurred during diplomatic negotiations. Baqaei said that the US administration is the primary factor behind the current situation due to its illegal and unilateral withdrawal from the JCPOA in 2018. Failure by the three European parties to the nuclear deal to fulfill their commitments as well their support for the US-Israel aggression against Iran contributed to the current situation, the Iranian official said.



Central bank vows currency measures to shore up sliding rial

Economy Desk

Central Bank of Iran announced measures on Thursday to stabilize the currency after the rial weakened to about 1,180,000 per US dollar on the unofficial market in Tehran, with traders also quoting the euro at 1,386,500 rials and the pound at 1,591,200. The bank said it will increase the supply of foreign currency banknotes starting today as part of efforts to stabilize the market, IRNA reported.

The move came roughly a week after the United Nations re-imposed snapback sanctions against Tehran under the 2015 nuclear deal, adding to pressure from recent measures by the European Union, Canada, the United States and Britain.

The CBI said that from Saturday it will also raise the allocation of hard currency for imports, with a focus on small-scale imports, to meet the country's trade financing needs and respond to demand from local merchants. Under the new arrangement,

traders will be able to settle payments not only through transfers but also in cash, according to the bank.

The required banknotes will be provided by exporters and the central bank itself, the statement added.

The rial has fallen about 26% against the dollar in the past two months, with the exchange rate climbing from around 930,000 rials in early August to 1,175,000 rials by October 2, following a succession of negative headlines.

CBI Governor Mohammad Reza Farzin told business leaders in Isfahan that the sharp rise of the dollar in the free market did not reflect the currency's real value, but what he called a "fear rate" instilled by Iran's enemies.

"Otherwise, the average real rate of the dollar is around 920,000 rials, and yesterday in the 'secondary market' currency was traded at this price between exporters and importers," Farzin said.

He added that higher figures circulating on social media

were "unrealistic and the result of false excitement and psychological operations by enemies to maintain uncertainty in society."

The CBI governor has also ruled out any plans to increase official exchange rates, pledging to maintain the preferential rate until the end of the year (March 20, 2026) while keeping foreign currency reserves accessible, Ettelaat newspaper reported on October 2.

Speaking at a meeting in the Western city of Tabriz, Farzin outlined three main pillars of the CBI's foreign exchange and monetary policies in late-night meetings with forex players, entrepreneurs and media: Stabilizing exchange rates, opposing unification of rates and increases in official rates, and planning for "economic resilience under difficult conditions".

He rejected rumors about exchange rate unification. "We have no plan to increase the IRR700,000 exchange center rate or eliminate the IRR285,000 preferential rate." He said the policy aims to pre-



vent inflation transmission to goods and services, noting that experience has shown any increase in these rates causes sharp jumps in basic commodity prices.

Iran resumes power exports to Afghanistan, Pakistan as domestic demand eases



Economy Desk

The head of Iran's Power Generation, Transmission, and Distribution Company (Tavanir) announced on Friday that the Islamic Republic had resumed electricity exports to Afghanistan and Pakistan after a drop in domestic demand.

"Electricity exports to Afghanistan and Pakistan have resumed after a reduction in internal needs," said Mostafa Rajabi Mashhadi, managing

director of Tavanir, according to IRNA.

He said exports to the two neighbors currently stand at 150 megawatts, while imports from Armenia and Turkmenistan amount to about 450 megawatts. "Exports will remain at this level unless there is a special development in immediate relations with neighboring countries," Rajabi Mashhadi added.

Electricity shortages have emerged over the past de-

cade in the county, with power production and consumption growing at unequal rates. According to Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi, "In the last 10 years, electricity production has increased 13-fold while consumption has risen 23-fold, leading to a grid imbalance."

In late August, the Tavanir chief told IRNA that Iran's electricity exports had dropped to nearly zero due to domestic imbalances between supply and demand. Exports are allowed only when internal needs are fully met.

In recent months, Iran's power imports have been more than five times its exports, aimed at maintaining grid stability and covering peak summer consumption. Large-scale electricity exports to Iraq, once a major buyer under international contracts, have been completely halted, while sales to Afghanistan had continued only at minimal levels under contractual obligations.

Iran, Kazakhstan agree to boost rail freight, expand China transit corridor

Economy Desk

Iran and Kazakhstan signed an agreement on Thursday to expand rail freight transport between the two countries and facilitate the transit of goods to third markets, Iran's Ministry of Roads and Urban Development reported on its website.

The memorandum of understanding was signed in Almaty by Jabbar Ali Zakeri, Iran's deputy transport minister and head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways, and Nurlan Aldibergenov, chairman of Kazakhstan Railways.

The deal aims to develop rail cooperation, increase competitiveness, and ensure favorable conditions for cargo and transit shipments across both countries, the report said.

Under the agreement, rail freight volumes between Iran and Kazakhstan are expected to rise significantly, with plans to expand container transport along the strategic China-Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Iran (KCTI) corridor and to launch rail shipments of Iranian minerals to China via Kazakhstan.



Head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways Jabbar Ali Zakeri (L) and Chairman of Kazakhstan Railways Nurlan Aldibergenov hold a memorandum of understanding for photographers after signing in Almaty, Kazakhstan, on October 3, 2025.

The document also emphasizes transport safety, faster delivery, mutual rail services, streamlined customs interactions, electronic data exchange, and special unified tariffs to strengthen the competitiveness of transit routes. It sets a target of one million tons of annual transit freight and includes measures for double-sided container loading.

According to the Iran's Ministry of Roads and Urban Development, rail traffic between the two countries has already

surged in 2025.

In the first eight months of the year, total freight reached 815,200 tons, four times higher than the same period a year earlier.

This included 664,700 tons of exports, a fivefold jump, 3,500 tons of imports, up 82%, and 147,000 tons of transit, double the previous year. Kazakhstan's grain exports to Iran soared nearly eightfold to 569,300 tons, underscoring the success of the cooperation, according to official figures.

IMIDRO offers gold, iron ore mines to investors, seeks \$50b in mining sector

Economy Desk

Iran has put two gold mines and the country's largest underground iron ore mine up for investment by domestic, foreign and private investors, the head of state-owned mining group IMIDRO said on Friday.

"The largest and only underground iron ore mine in the country, with reserves of 300 million tons, is ready for transfer to domestic and foreign investors," said Mohammad Aqajanlou, chairman of Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Ren-

ovation Organization. "Two gold mines with promising economic reserves in Zanjan and West Azerbaijan provinces are also ready for private-sector investment," ISNA reported.

He noted that while Iran's oil sector has more than a century of exploration and production history, systematic mineral exploration began only about a decade ago. "There is high potential for investment in the mining sector that must be realized. To achieve the targets set in the Seventh Development Plan, \$50 billion in mining investment is required,"

he said.

Iranian policymakers frequently call mining the backbone of industrial development and argue it should replace oil as the primary source of revenue.

In this regard, Aqajanlou said mining is being positioned as a strategic alternative to oil. Since last year, mining and metals projects worth \$5 billion have been prepared for launch, with \$2.5 billion inaugurated in 2024 and another \$2.5 billion due this year. "Mining is not just Iran's underground wealth; it is the future of the country," he said, adding that Iran

ranks fifth in copper reserves, sixth in zinc and ninth in iron ore. He also announced a "call for the transfer of 240 exploration permits nationwide," starting in West Azerbaijan province in northwest, where investment packages have already been defined.

On steel, he said that the steel capacity is expected "to reach 55 million tons this year, but production will be capped at about 32 million tons due to energy and infrastructure constraints."

"Currently, the ratio of steel production to capacity is 60%, which must rise to 80%," he added.



Iran's dairy exports rise, turning milk surplus into opportunity: *Union officials*



By Sadeq Dehqan
Staff writer

INTERVIEW

In recent years, the exports of Iran's milk and dairy products have taken off, largely due to the continuous improvement of product quality. This improvement has not only cemented Iran's place in global markets but also attracted significant international interest in its dairy products, boosting our export share by an impressive 43 percent last year. This year, dairy product exports in the first quarter of the Persian calendar year 1404 (started March 21, 2025) saw about a 24 percent volume increase and a 32 percent rise in value compared to the same period last calendar year. A total of 171,868 tons of dairy products worth \$280.7 million were shipped out during this three-month period in 2025, while in the one-month period of May 21–June 20, 2024, 138,939 tons valued at \$213 million were exported.

Such a remarkable leap speaks volumes about the industry's capacity to produce world-class products capable of holding their own in regional and international markets.

On the flip side, the domestic market faces a serious challenge. Rising prices and diminished purchasing power have put a dent in demand for milk and dairy products, negatively impacting sales at home. This drop in local consumption is occurring even though per capita dairy intake in Iran remains far below the global average — a trend that could have worrying public health ramifications. Therefore, special attention to stabilizing the domestic market and adopting supportive policies to strike a balance between exports and domestic needs is an undeniable necessity.

Iran Daily, in the following report, conducted exclusive interviews with experts to look into the critical role of quality in boosting exports and to explore the obstacles and challenges facing the domestic market.

Billion-dollar dairy export milestone

Mir-Eslam Teymouri, chairman of the Dairy Industries Society, told Iran Daily that dairy product exports surpassed the \$1 billion mark last calendar year and, based on forecasts, will push past \$1.2 billion this year. This figure, on its own, he said, proves the "excellent quality of Iranian dairy products" on regional and global stages. "Although our major export destinations are nearby countries, a significant volume is also shipped to various countries worldwide, many of which impose extremely strict quality and health standards. For instance, exports to Russia face stringent controls and inspections covering the entire supply chain — from raw milk production to manufacturing, storage, and transport." Teymouri identified Iraq, Pakistan, and Afghanistan as the main export markets, emphasizing that most export destinations are neighboring countries "due to difficulties in financial and banking transactions with outsiders," owing to the cruel sanctions imposed on our country. He explained, "If these sanctions were lifted and trade was facilitated, Iran's dairy export markets would diversify and opportunities for exporting higher value-added products and better financial returns would open up."

Dairy exports can boost production, employment, and currency inflow

Teymouri believes dairy exports present an excellent opportunity for expanding production, creating jobs in related industries, and generating foreign exchange revenue for the country. He stressed that a key point regarding dairy exports is managing the surplus of raw milk in the country. "Without exports, we would have faced a raw milk surplus, which would have either forced a cut-back in raw milk production and culling of productive livestock or caused a severe drop in raw milk prices due to supply-demand imbalances, leaving farmers with substantial losses," he maintained. This would have led to the closure of livestock farms and dealt a blow to the whole industry. That is why he emphasizes that exports are a valuable opportunity for the dairy and livestock sectors and an income source for the country.

On the reasons behind the falling purchasing power for dairy products, Teymouri explained: "Inflation rising above 40 percent in recent years has increased raw milk prices, which then pushed up dairy product prices. Coupled with stagnant per capita income and shrinking buying power, this has driven down dairy consumption across society. This applies



IRNA

not only to dairy but to other household goods as well."

Single exchange rate could level playing field for exports

Some economic experts criticize how dairy producers use subsidies and government loans to boost exports. They argue that the government provides imported livestock inputs to farmers at a currency rate of 285,000 rials to help keep raw milk prices affordable, but the lack of control over dairy product pricing has discouraged consumption. On the other hand, due to low production costs fueled by subsidized milk, exporting dairy is highly profitable for companies.

Teymouri clarified, "Dairy companies do not receive direct subsidies from the government but must fall in line with the return of export revenues by various means. Clearly, a unified exchange rate would set the stage for better economic transparency in exports and eliminate any possible negative perceptions."

He added that reduced per capita dairy consumption is linked not only to lower household purchasing power but also to other factors like low dairy consumption culture, lifestyle changes, and government removal of subsidies for household dairy products, especially milk. Based on this, the Dairy Industries Society recom-

mends that to compensate for the decline in consumption, the government should subsidize a quarter of raw milk production instead of the entire output and distribute this subsidized milk via electronic vouchers and school milk programs targeting vulnerable groups and students. This would both clear the air about export practices and significantly raise community dairy consumption.

30% rise in dairy exports projected by year-end

Mohammad Farbod, spokesperson for the Iranian Dairy Industries Society, also pointed out in an exclusive interview with Iran Daily the rise in Iran's dairy exports, emphasizing: "In the first five months of this Persian calendar year, dairy exports increased by 23 percent in volume and 28 percent in value compared to the same period last year. Last year, the dairy industry exported over \$1 billion, and barring any unforeseen events, exports are expected to pick up by 25 to 30 percent compared to last year by year-end."

He added that due to their price and quality, Iranian dairy products are welcomed with open arms and currently reach about 40 countries worldwide, includ-



ing Canada and the USA. Farbod also asserted that dairy producers receive no subsidies; Only livestock farms benefit from preferential exchange rates for imported fodder — limited to certain feed segments. According to estimates, this subsidy positively affects raw milk prices by about 47,000 rials per kilo, approximately 20 percent of raw milk's sale value. In other words, this impact translates to roughly 12 to 13 percent on the price of dairy products. Consequently, without this preferential currency allocation for fodder, dairy prices would not see a significant increase. "While the dairy industry backs exports, it would prefer these products to make their way into the domestic market," Farbod said, adding that "however, unfortunately, reduced per capita consumption has steered us away from this goal." What matters most to the Ministry of Agriculture and the government, Farbod claimed, is absorbing the raw milk produced domestically. Meanwhile, incorporating exports requires some spending. "Exports do not bring extraordinary profits to the industry; We are essentially exporting surplus production. The foreign currency earned returns to the government at a rate of 730,000 rials per dollar. As everyone knows, repatriating export earnings faces hurdles, and there is no need to explain further that sanctions have

thrown a wrench in this process." According to him, the current per capita dairy consumption based on milk stands at about 70 kg, while the global average is around 150 to 160 kg, and developed countries consume nearly 300 kg. "If this trend continues, we might end up turning into dairy product importers," Farbod warned.

Iranian dairy products also exported to USA

Roya Mahmoudi, a quality control expert at Solico Kalleh, an Iranian dairy company, explained the decline in domestic dairy consumption: "Price hikes over the past one or two years have taken a toll on consumer demand, forcing companies to offload surplus production to foreign markets."

She noted that production costs have sharply gone up as well, to the extent that some producers believe that if conditions stay the same, Iran may soon trade places and become a dairy importer. The soaring costs push companies to raise product prices, often revisiting them two or three times a year, which chips away at people's purchasing power.

"Brands vary in their export strategies. In our company, export products differ from those offered domestically in packaging, taste, and appearance. For example, products destined for Iraq are tailored to local preferences and packaged differently, but the production quality remains consistent across all markets."

She believes that one reason foreign countries keep coming back for our dairy products is because production is handled entirely in-house — for instance, milk is sourced from our own dairy farms within the company group, ensuring trust in milk quality and additives, which directly affects the final product.

"When production chains are controlled by producers from start to finish, they can keep tabs on every step and effectively manage final product quality. Even dairy items that reach their shelf life and return from stores are sent to one of our subsidiaries that produces bird feed and put to good use elsewhere. They never return to the production cycle, which means our raw materials maintain high quality. Moreover, all our dairy production equipment utilizes cutting-edge technology from leading countries, and product formulas are regularly brought up to speed with the latest global standards."

Regarding export destinations, she said that currently, a large share of her company's products goes to Russia, Tajikistan, Iraq, and the UAE. Through our sales offices abroad, she added, "our products are even shipped out to the United States."



Due to their price and quality, Iranian dairy products are welcomed with open arms and currently reach about 40 countries worldwide, including Canada and the USA. While the dairy industry backs exports, it would prefer these products to make their way into the domestic market. However, unfortunately, reduced per capita consumption has steered us away from this goal.



hamedanjavan.ir

Iran’s dairy exports see surprise boost despite economic challenges



A woman looks at a milk product in a Russian store. Following the imposition of sanctions on the country, Russia started looking for high-quality milk on the global market.
● [dairyglobal.net](#)

PERSPECTIVE

Iranian exports of milk, butter, and other dairy products have surged by nearly 40%, a surprising boom in a nation facing one of its most difficult periods in decades. The competitive nature of the market globally and locally has pushed Iranian dairy producers to meet global standards and “even surpass them,” said Ali Rezaei, the owner of a large husbandry. Iraq remains the top importer of Iran’s dairy products, while Pakistan, Afghanistan, and now Russia trail behind as key markets. Iran’s Shargh daily in April quoted the national customs as reporting that Iranian-made dairy products are being exported to 46 countries in trading worth nearly \$1 billion. Demand from Russia in recent years has been a driver of growth in the Iranian dairy market, Rezaei said. “Russia used to buy from the European Union and the US. But once those sanctions hit, Russia started looking for high-quality milk on the global market. That’s when they turned to Iran.” Rezaei manages a large husbandry, some 100 kilometers northwest of Tehran, with more than 20,000 live-stock.

He says he has managed to maximize production and optimize output using high-quality feed, medical care for the livestock, and high-quality artificial insemination. Surprisingly, the boost in the quality of Iranian dairy products can partly be attributed to genetics from the US as Iran has been importing cow semen from the US for decades. A report by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization in June predicted that while global dairy trade was predicted to decline slightly overall in 2025, Iran was expected to be one of the countries with increased dairy shipments. The report anticipated lower dairy exports from the European Union, Saudi Arabia, and the United States, while it predicted increased shipments from Iran, New Zealand, and Uruguay. Tasnim news agency reported in June that Iran had produced 8.85 million metric tons of dairy products last year. But dairy consumption at home remains low, and critics say exports must be limited and dairy products must become more affordable domestically, since producers use government-subsidized cow feed.

The article first appeared on The Associated Press.



A report by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization in June predicted that while global dairy trade was predicted to decline slightly overall in 2025, Iran was expected to be one of the countries with increased dairy shipments. The report anticipated lower dairy exports from the European Union, Saudi Arabia, and the United States, while it predicted increased shipments from Iran, New Zealand, and Uruguay.

Exports were hit by energy shortages, not by war: *Union chief*

INTERVIEW

The imposed 12-day war did not shut down Iran’s exports, but power shortages and currency restrictions have put a dent in production and trade. The head of Iran Export Confederation even called for the government to speed up approval of a support package to revive production and commerce. Twelve days may seem short, but when war is in the picture, 12 days is enough to cause ripples with medium- and even long-term consequences for the country’s economy. The impact of this 12-day conflict is visible not only in damaged buildings that once sheltered people but also in economic activity. Some businesses and sectors quickly bounced back to pre-June 13, 2025, levels and picked up where they left off, yet others are still grappling with the fallout months later. Some challenges are direct consequences of the war, but others stem from unresolved issues that the war brought to the forefront, intensifying economic difficulties. An interview was conducted with Mohammad Lahooti, head of Iran Export Confederation, to explore the effects of the short-lived war on Iranian businesses. The translated text of that interview follows:

What challenges did Iranian businesses face during the war?

LAHOOTI: During the imposed 12-day war, Iran’s industries kept up production strongly. Exports continued uninterrupted. There were no issues with supplying goods domestically. Export commitments were met without problems. In fact, factories operated around the clock. The short war duration helped since raw materials had been stockpiled beforehand. With a strong national spirit, production and exports pushed through.

Did businesses face any challenges that existed before the war but got worse during it? Thanks to producers’ morale and sense of responsibility, wartime challenges were not strongly felt. Economic actors kept producing. Goods were supplied diligently and distributed quickly, preventing shortages. Exports also kept cruising, thanks to the coordination made with the customs. But generally, conditions are not favorable now. Policies are steering toward painting a rosy picture of normalcy. Many agencies call the situation “neither war nor peace,” which actually makes the current state worse.



● [ILNA](#)

This harms exports and causes capital flight. Before and after the imposed 12-day war, power shortages dealt the biggest blow to industries and factories by forcing shutdowns and disrupting production and exports.

Did businesses manage to withstand these challenges and keep going? Not only did it not cause any problem in our exports, but also, thanks to smart decisions, the

clearance of imported goods was sped up. No issues occurred in either exports or imports during that period. But figuring out how to tackle clearing goods faster now requires further study and solutions. All economic actors stood firm behind production and services during this unwanted war imposed on the country. When the country was attacked, people and economic players in services, consumer goods, and food sectors all stepped up.

What direct or indirect costs did the war impose on your union and its activities? This imposed 12-day war didn’t put a heavy burden on industries or factories, but currently, heavy and high-risk industries are facing a labor shortage as workers drop out of the economic cycle. Agriculture, tanning, and livestock sectors, due to their hard and unprofitable nature, have had to lay off workers, leading to shortages.

Procuring raw materials and the inability to use export revenues in the exchange center created a standstill. Not using export earnings caused exporters headaches and lowered foreign currency supply. Central bank policies need improvement. These disruptions and losses hitting the economy must be analyzed from various angles.

The full interview first appeared in Persian on IRNA.



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World Para Athletics Championships: Bajoulvand wins discus gold, takes Iran's medal haul to nine

Sports Desk

Iran's Hassan Bajoulvand won the ninth medal for the country at the World Para Athletics Championships on Friday, walking away with the ultimate prize in the men's discus throw F11 event in New Delhi.

A silver medalist in last year's Paralympics, Bajoulvand secured the gold with a season-best 41.7m effort, with Brazilian world-record holder Alessandro Rodrigo Silva (40.14m) and Spain's Alvaro del Amo Cano (39.28m) settling for silver and bronze respectively. This was Iran's fourth gold medal across seven days of action at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium. On Thursday, two-time Paralympic champion Saeid Afrooz

claimed his third world title in the men's javelin throw F34 discipline.

The Iranian recorded a 41.52m throw with his fifth attempt, breaking his own world record from last year's Paris Paralympics by 36 centimeters.

Elham Salehi won the in the women's javelin throw F54 event on Wednesday, thanks to a successful 17.06m – the Iranian girl's second medal in New Delhi, following her bronze-winning campaign in the shot put F54 event on the preceding day.

Iran's second javelin medal in the women's competition on Wednesday came in the F56 class, where Zeinab Moradi finished with a bronze.

Hajar Safarzadeh has been the

only Iranian medalist in the track events, winning the silver in the women's 400m T12 contest on Wednesday.

It was an all-Iranian one-two in the men's shot put F11 final on Tuesday, as reigning Paralympic champion Amirhossein Alipour defended his world title in style, shattering the championship record with a 14.59m throw.

Three-time Paralympic medalist Mahdi Olad, who won the silver of the category in Paris, again had to settle for a runner-up finish behind his fellow Iranian, courtesy of a season-best 14.23 throw.

Amanollah Papi got Iran off the mark in New Delhi on Sunday, winning a bronze in the men's javelin throw F57 event.



● paralympic.ir



● FFIRI

AFC U23 Asian Cup: Iran to play Uzbekistan, South Korea, Lebanon in group stage

Sports Desk

Iran was drawn against Uzbekistan, South Korea, and Lebanon in Group C of the 2026 AFC U23 Asian Cup – starting January 6 in Saudi Arabia. The draw for the seventh edition of the competition took place at the AFC House in Kuala Lumpur on Thursday, where 16 teams were divided into four groups.

Iran will begin its campaign against 2020 champion South Korea in Riyadh's Al Shabab Club Stadium on January 7, before taking on Uzbekistan — champion in 2018 and run-

ner-up in the previous two editions — three days later at the Prince Faisal bin Fahd Sports City Stadium three days later.

The final round of the group fixtures will see Iran play Lebanon on January 13.

In other groups, host and 2022 champion Saudi Arabia will have 2018 runner-up Vietnam, Jordan and debutant Kyrgyz Republic for company in Group A.

Two-time and defending champion Japan will have to contend with Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Syria in Group B.

Group D top seed and 2013 champion Iraq will have to face the challenge of Australia, Thailand and China.

The top two teams in each group will progress to the last-eight round.

Iran will return to the finals for the first time since 2022, thanks to a top-spot finish in the qualification group — also featuring host UAE, Hong Kong, and Guam — in September.

Iran defeated Hong Kong (4-0) and Guam (6-0) before a 3-2 victory over the UAE secured a perfect qualification record for Omid Ravankhah's men.

CAVA Women's Volleyball Nations League: Iran sets final date with host Uzbekistan

Sports Desk

Iran progressed to the final showpiece of the CAVA Women's Volleyball Nations League thanks to an emphatic 3-0 victory (25-15, 25-7, 25-7) over Tajikistan in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, on Thursday.

This was Iranian girls' second straight-set victory – following their win against Kyrgyzstan the previous day – in the competition, securing a top-two finish in the league phase – featuring four Central Asian teams – and a place in Sunday's showdown against the host regardless of the result between the two sides on Friday. The two victories saw Iran collect

63.05 points to jump by nine spots and stand 53rd in the FIVB Women's World Ranking.

Uzbekistan also came out victorious in straight sets against Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, which will go head-to-head in the third-place contest on the final day.

"I had asked the players today to use the new formations we practiced in our training sessions. The opponent was weak, and although we couldn't play to our full potential, the players still did a good job to implement the new tactics, which is why I'm pleased with their performance," Iran's South Korean head coach Lee Do-hee said after the game.

Iranian captain Shabnam Alikhani, meanwhile, welcomed the tournament as decent preparation for the upcoming Islamic Solidarity Games, which will kick off on November 7 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

"The CAVA tournament is important for us due to its impact on the world ranking, and we will give our all to return home with the gold medal," said the Iranian captain.

"The level of competition here has been relatively modest, and Iran's top priority will be to deliver decent performances and results at the upcoming Islamic Countries Games."



● volleyball.ir

IHF Men's U-17 Handball World Championship: Iran handed Germany, Argentina, Puerto Rico tests in preliminary round

Sports Desk

Iranian boys were pitted against the Germany, Argentina, and Puerto Rico in Group C at the inaugural IHF Men's U-17 Handball World Championship – starting October 24 in Casablanca, Morocco.

The draw for the of the preliminary round of the competition was held on Thursday, with 12 teams split into three groups.

The winners of each group will be joined by the best second-placed side in the semifinals.

Morocco, as the host, had the prerogative to choose its group after three teams were already drawn and it chose Group A, where it will face Egypt, Brazil and the United States.

In Group B, Spain will meet Tunisia, South Korea and Qatar, with the other four teams.

Iran will head to Casablanca fresh off a sensational title-winning campaign at the 1st Asian Men's U-17 Handball Championship in September, thanks to 28-25

victory over South Korea in the final showpiece in Amman, Jordan.

The final triumph rounded off an emphatic run for the Iranian boys, who completed a clean sweep of eight wins in the Jordanian capital.

Iran began its campaign with a 65-4 hammering of Maldives, and went on to defeat Syria (44-22) and South Korea (31-25) to win

the group in the preliminary phase.

The first game in the main round saw Iran beat Kuwait 35-30, followed by a 42-22 rout of the host team, and a commanding 46-25 win against Qatar on for a top-spot finish in Group 2.

Iran then hammered Bahrain 37-19 in the semifinals to punch the ticket for Casablanca.



● IRIHF

Kolm village in Ilam Province showcasing mountain life, history



IRNA

Iranica Desk

Kolm village in Badreh, Ilam Province, is situated in a mountainous region, characterized by a linear settlement pattern that follows the main access road to the village. The village pathways are narrow, and most residential units are single-story structures featuring wooden roofs and small doors and windows. Where the Kabirkuh Mountain stands like tall green walls framing the sky, a peaceful and charming village named “Kolm” has nestled comfortably. In the older sections of the village, building materials such as stone, adobe, clay, and wood — readily available locally — have been traditionally used. In contrast, the newer houses, government buildings, and workshops incorporate materials like plaster, iron, cement, and brick, according to ISNA. This village, divided into two

parts — Kolm-e Bala and Kolm-Paeen — is located approximately 30 kilometers from the city of Badreh and 120 kilometers from the center of Ilam Province. It is recognized as one of the tourism gems of western Iran. Omid Esmaili, a technical expert at the General Governorate of Ilam Province, told ISNA, “Kolm is nestled within a lush valley at an average altitude of 1,100 meters above sea level. Its climate is temperate and mountainous; it enjoys cool and pleasant springs and summers that attract thousands of tourists from across the country each year. Winters are cold and sometimes snow-covered, yet even in the depth of winter, the village’s beauty remains undiminished.” He further noted that a plentiful river originates from the slopes of Kabirkuh and flows through the heart of the village, while dense orchards and



the surrounding scenery create captivating and charming landscapes. Fruit trees, diverse plant species, and the songs of birds create a dreamy atmosphere for nature enthusiasts. In spring, blossoms spread over the ground like colorful carpets, and the fresh mountain air gently soothes the soul. Esmaili emphasized that Kolm is not just nature; it embodies rich ancient history. The study of remnants such as

castles and fire temples indicates that human settlement in the area dates back to the Median era. These historical sites serve not only as markers of the village’s longevity but also as evidence of its strategic and cultural significance through the ages. He added that near the village lie the shrine of Jaber Ansari and the historic building named Seyyed Tajoddin; these historical sites welcome pil-

grims and heritage enthusiasts annually. Their traditional architectural styles and unique spiritual atmospheres significantly enhance Kolm’s cultural appeal. Esmaili beautifully described that in spring, Kolm transforms into a vibrant tableau of color and light. The orchards surrounding the river, adorned with white and pink flowers, offer a cozy and peaceful setting for visitors. Families gather by the riverbanks, children play among the trees, and photographers seek moments of pristine beauty, directing their camera lenses to the enchanting natural surroundings. Considering Kolm’s natural, historical, and cultural potential, the village holds promise to become one of the sustainable tourism hubs in western Iran. The development of appropriate infrastructure, environmental preservation, and enhanced national promotion

could foster economic and cultural growth for the local community. Kolm is a unique village where nature and history intertwine to create profound tranquility and unforgettable experiences for every traveler. Most residents derive their income from agriculture, animal husbandry, gardening, fish farming, as well as various service and handicraft industries. The village lands are cultivated through both irrigated and dry farming methods, with rice and wheat being the main crops. The abundant river running through Kolm has greatly facilitated the breeding of various cold-water fish species, positively influencing the village’s economic prosperity. Craftsmanship in weaving diverse types of carpets, kilims, jajims, and woodcarving also plays a significant role in directly enhancing the villagers’ economic well-being.

Mend village preserves pottery traditions in eastern Iran

Iranica Desk

Mend village, located three kilometers north of Gonabad in Khorasan Razavi Province, is the only pottery-making center in eastern Iran, with a population of approximately 1,000. Alongside agriculture, the villagers are engaged in brick, pottery, and tile production. The history of pottery in Mend dates back to the 3rd millennium BCE, though it remained unnamed until the early 12th century. Since then, a new type of pottery known as faience pottery has emerged in the region. Mend potteries closely resemble those from Meybod in terms of motifs, and their composition is almost identical to Shahreza pottery, making them difficult to distinguish from one another. Pottery making in this area is practiced in two distinct methods: traditional pottery using red clay and faience ceramics, which differ both in their materials and in the preparation processes. Faience is a type of ceramic made from white clay, with key raw materials including silica or flint, bentonite, and kaolin. Bentonite and kaolin are sourced from nearby mines.

After the flint is extracted, it is hammered into small pieces. The red clay pottery, a newer variant compared to the faience works, is also produced here. Mend’s pottery is created either entirely by hand or using a potter’s wheel. The handmade pottery, with a long heritage, includes items shaped like birds, animals, and other objects, often molded into forms such as vases and thermoses, featuring relief motifs on their surfaces. However, most of Mend’s pottery is wheel-made; these pieces are simpler to produce and enjoy widespread popularity due to their practical use. Underglaze painting is also common in this village. Many motifs on Mend pottery have symbolic and ritual significance, originating from local beliefs. The main motifs found on these potteries are human, animal, plant, and geometric designs. The human motif is typically represented as a sun face surrounded by radiating lines and often occupies the central position on the objects. Animal motifs include chickens, fish, butterflies, and others, generally painted in yellow and red.



chtn.ir





37th Int'l Film Festival for Children and Youth

Minister: Future of nations rests on preserving childhood through cinema

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's Culture and Islamic Guidance Minister Abbas Salehi said that "children's cinema must be recognized as a global language of empathy" as the country opened the 37th International Film Festival for Children and Youth in Isfahan.

The festival, running from October 4 to 8, has long served as Iran's flagship platform for young audiences, IRNA reported. Over four decades it has sought to showcase national identity while connecting cultures, a role that Salehi described as "a mission to remind us that the future of every society depends on preserving childhood and nurturing a creative, hopeful generation." Salehi said the timing of this year's edition carried deeper meaning. With Iran still mourning the victims of a recent 12-day war, including children and families, he said culture and cinema

now carry "a critical duty: to build a safer world and rekindle hope in a nation long tested." He called national unity Iran's "greatest asset for tomorrow" and argued it must be instilled from an early age through shared cultural experiences.

Raed Faridzadeh, deputy culture minister and head of the Cinema Organization of Iran, echoed the theme. He described children's cinema as "the clear mirror of dreams," both instructive and inspiring.

"This cinema is a window to the realm of imagination," he said. "It does not only entertain but educates, bonds hearts and sows hope."

Faridzadeh stressed that the festival honors the memory of children killed in recent attacks and seeks to "keep alight the lamp of hope in a world full of injustice." Festival director Hamed Ja'fari said this year's edition is marked by broad international partici-

pation. Guests and jurors from 20 countries — including Latin America, Europe and East Asia — are attending, making the international section "more prominent" than in past years.

According to Jafari, the festival received 393 submissions for the national competition, from which eight features, 19 shorts and 11 animations were selected.

In the international section, 183 films were reviewed, with nine features and nine shorts chosen for screening. He said the subjects reflect contemporary realities, including stories of children in Gaza and the 47 Iranian children killed in the recent conflict. The program also includes special awards for "12-Day War Children" and "Children of Gaza", alongside the Asian Film Award, signaling organizers' intention to tackle themes of war, loss and resilience through cinema.

In addition to professional juries,



the event features an unusually large youth jury of 1,556 children and teenagers, divided into boys' and girls' sections, who will vote on films and award two prizes directly to filmmakers. Organizers have also appointed

50 teenagers as a youth press corps, trained in reporting to cover screenings and panels. The initiative, Ja'fari said, ensures that young voices not only watch films but also take part in shaping the cultural conversation.

Salehi concluded by thanking artists, jurors, organizers and the young reporters, expressing hope that this edition would enrich Iran's cultural heritage and send abroad "a clear message of a united, hopeful Iran."

Grand Prix at Bratislava biennial 2025 goes to illustrator Sadeghian



Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian illustrator Noshin Sadeghian has clinched the Grand Prix at the 30th Biennial of Illustration Bratislava (BIB 2025) for her work in "The Roc Girl", announced on Friday at Bratislava Castle. "The Roc Girl", illustrated by Sadeghian and retold by Ahmad Akbarpour, was submitted as Iran's sole nominee and fought off international competition to

carry off the festival's top prize. This marks the third time an Iranian artist has been granted the Grand Prix of BIB, IRNA reported.

The book was put forward by Iran's Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (Kanoon) after a domestic selection process involving the Children's Book Council of Iran and the Iranian Illustrators Society.

Ten Iranian illustrators were initially shortlisted; ultimately, Sadeghian was chosen to represent the country.

Sadeghian is no stranger to global acclaim. In 2021, she won first prize in the Golden Pen contest at the 50th International Biennial of Illustration in Belgrade.

The following year, she was tapped to design the cover of the Belgrade biennial catalogue as the previous cycle's laureate. In 2022, she picked up the grand jury award at China's Ananas Illustration Festival, and that same

year she was named a winner at the Bologna Children's Book Fair in Italy.

The BIB biennial itself dates back to 1967, held every two years in Bratislava under the UNESCO and IBBY umbrella. The festival presents awards including the Grand Prix, Golden Apples, and Bronze Plaques.

Over the course of BIB 2025 — running from October 3, 2025 to January 11, 2026 — artists from Switzerland, China, Mexico, South Africa and South Korea received Golden Apples, while illustrators from Chile, Switzerland, Brazil, China and Slovakia won Bronze Plaques.

Previously, two Iranians—Alireza Goldouzian in 2005 and Hassan Moosavi in 2019—had received the Grand Prix. This latest victory thus revives Iran's standing on the BIB grand stage.

This year, Iranian-based children's literature scholar Sahar Tarhandeh also served as a juror for BIB 2025.

11th Baku International Book Fair hosts 400 Iranian titles

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran opened a 20-square-metre national pavilion at the 11th Baku International Book Fair on Wednesday, showcasing some 400 titles and hosting diplomatic and cultural dignitaries at the event in Azerbaijan's capital.

The pavilion is a key element of Iran's cultural diplomacy at the fair, designed to "bridge" Iranian and Azeri literary communities, IRNA reported.

In the first hours, envoys from Qatar, Russia and Venezuela, the chair of Azerbaijan's parliamentary Culture Committee and the head of the Azerbaijan Writers' Union visited the booth. Their praised the "richness" and "diversity" of the volumes on display.

Iran is represented here by Iran Book and Literature House, voicing ambitions to expand its literary export and strengthen ties through the written word. The pavilion highlights not only poetry and fiction, but also children's literature, Persian language instruction, Iranology, scientific works, history, art and non-fiction.

On site, officials said the Iranian presence included publishers such as Nimaj and Seljuk Literary Agency. Panels will be held on translation, copyright, and the application of technology to reading.



The fair, running from October 1 to 7 at the Baku Expo Center under the theme "Techno-Human: Yesterday's Legend, Today's Event", features 123 local and 68 foreign exhibitors from 23 countries. Over 250 events are slated, from book signings to symposia.

In his opening address, Polad Bulbuloglu, chair of the Azerbaijani parliament's culture committee, said the fair "demonstrates Azerbaijan's cultural potential" and boosts its links to world literature.

Isa Habibbayli, president of Azerbaijan's Academy of Sciences, described it as a "pivotal event" in national cultural life.

No time for ...

Beyond the neighborhood, Russia and China are indispensable partners. Both countries opposed the instigation of the snap-back mechanism at the UN Security Council, and together they submitted a draft resolution calling for a six-month delay in its implementation to preserve space for diplomacy, though the measure failed to pass. Iran should now push for a joint high-level meeting with both countries to secure explicit commitments. A clear statement of opposition, backed by concrete trade and energy cooperation measures, would not only reassure markets but also signal to the West that Tehran

is not isolated. China, as Iran's largest oil buyer and leading trade partner, deserves special attention. Ensuring continuity of crude exports and joint projects in infrastructure and energy will be vital. Russia, for its part, can expand cooperation in defense, transport corridors and nuclear technology. Turning verbal opposition into practical support will require Iran's diplomats to work persistently, balancing short-term needs with long-term strategic alignment.

Iran should also carefully handle its relations with the International Atomic Energy Agency. Tehran has declared that its nuclear program will not be suspend-

ed and that enrichment activities will be resumed. Yet as a signatory to the NPT, Iran can protect its rights while simultaneously engaging with the agency to deny Western states any justification for escalatory measures. Active coordination with the IAEA can demonstrate transparency, ensure that Iran's peaceful nuclear ambitions are clearly communicated and block attempts by adversaries to portray Iran as a violator. Such engagement is not about compromise but about reinforcing Iran's position as a rational, rule-abiding actor — one that insists on its rights while leaving no room for fabricated accusations.

At the same time, Iran must send clear signals to Western governments. The message should be straightforward: maximum pressure, whether military or economic, will not force Iran into submission. Tehran is prepared to negotiate, but only within a framework that recognizes its rights, addresses its security concerns and offers tangible economic relief. This posture denies space to Israel and hardliners in Washington who aim to corner Iran diplomatically. It also underscores that negotiations are possible only when conducted on equal terms. Iran's readiness for talks, coupled with resilience against pressure, can shift the cost-ben-

efit calculus of its adversaries.

The reimposition of UN sanctions represents a major challenge, but it is not an existential crisis. What matters most is Iran's response. Passive diplomacy would allow external actors to frame the narrative and tighten pressure. Active, creative and multidimensional diplomacy, on the other hand, can buy time, preserve economic resilience and ultimately shift the balance toward dialogue on Iran's own terms. In this critical moment, Iran must act decisively to show that it is a rational player unwilling to be cornered — but ready to engage. Indeed, this is no time for diplomatic passivity.