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Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (L) sits down for an interview with Fox News during his stay in New York where he attended the UN General Assembly meeting in September 2025.

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Iran's Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) CEO Hossein Jaberi-Ansari and his delegation visit Armenian national television during a media cooperation trip on October 3, 2025.

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## Egypt steers clear of 'all or nothing' approach with Israel despite recent brawl



By Hojjatollah Joudaki  
Middle East affairs expert

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

Considering Egypt's changing tone toward Israel following the September 9 attack on Qatar — including President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi's use of the word "enemy" for the first time since taking office in 2014 — the question arises: could this shift signal the end of Cairo's restraint since the Gaza war and the beginning of a phase of direct confrontation with Tel Aviv?

In analyzing the issue, one should take note of Egypt's longstanding mastery of diplomacy and its consistent use of maneuvers throughout history. This does not mean, however, that they have overnight changed tack in their strategy. Rather, such moves are routine in Egyptian politics, where contradictory stances have often been taken. Egypt carries more than 70 years of experience in its conflict with Israel and understands precisely what Israel is and how it acts. In fact, Egypt is the only country that truly knows Israel inside out. Since 1967, when former president Gamal Abdel Nasser was defeated in the war with Israel, Cairo realized the need for a systematic study of Israel and drew upon its universities to build that knowledge.

Since then, a monthly journal titled Mokhtarat Israiliyah — meaning "Excerpts on Israel" — has been published in Egypt, a tradition that continues to this day. With up to 400 academics involved in the effort, Egypt has maintained a close watch on Israel and politics for decades. This depth of knowledge has given Egypt an ability not only to anticipate Israeli moves but also to prevent them. Because of this foresight, Egypt avoids taking an "all or nothing" approach. It knows precisely when to back down, when to stand firm, and when to use strong rhetoric. Even signs, such as the delayed appointment of Egypt's new ambassador to Israel

and the postponement of granting credentials to Orie Rotman, Israel's new envoy to Cairo, should not be read as a downgrading of relations. Instead, they represent a form of diplomatic game. This type of maneuver is not unusual and resembles Iran's summoning of the French, German, and British ambassadors for consultation after the snapback of UN sanctions against Tehran in late September. Diplomatic games of this kind are always read in different ways, and there is nothing out of the ordinary about them.

Nevertheless, despite the peace treaty between Cairo and Tel Aviv, Israeli provocations in the region continue to have a direct impact on Cairo. These include threats to transfer Palestinian refugees into the Sinai Peninsula, warnings about targeting Hamas leaders on Egyptian soil, and expansionist policies such as promoting the idea of "Greater Israel." Such provocations have raised speculations that a military clash between the two countries could be on the horizon.

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# Pezeshkian: West's anti-Iran propaganda aimed at creating 'unrealistic illusion'

## International Desk

President Masoud Pezeshkian once again underlined that nuclear weapons have no place in Iran's defense doctrine, saying Western countries' allegations of Iran's efforts to develop nukes are aimed at creating an "unrealistic illusion in the world."

He made the remarks in an interview with Fox News on the sidelines of the 80<sup>th</sup> session of the UN General Assembly in New York last month.

In response to a question about the US president's claim during his UN speech that the Islamic Republic is "the world's top state sponsor of terrorism," and should never possess nuclear weapons, Pezeshkian said that during negotiations with Western countries Tehran has repeatedly announced that nuclear arms have no place in its doctrine and has clearly stated that it is ready to allow the inspection of any

nuclear facility that they believe to have been established for developing nuclear weapons.

Pezeshkian said Iran is ready to assure the world that the Islamic Republic is not seeking and will not pursue building nuclear weapons.

However, he said, Western countries' actions, including attacks on Iran's nuclear facilities, have been contrary to all commitments and international principles.

"There has been no reason for Iran to move toward nuclear weapons; nonetheless, violations have occurred that should not have happened."

He also pointed to the enrichment of uranium to up to 60% purity in Iran, saying that it was a response to the US unilateral withdrawal from the 2015 nuclear deal that he said led to Europe's failure to fulfill its commitments under the deal and departure of European companies from Iran.



President Masoud Pezeshkian (L) speaks during an interview with Fox News in New York, US.  
● [president.ir](#)

The problem began when not only did they fail to observe their commitments, but they also imposed new sanctions and tried to increase pressure and promote the notion worldwide that Iran is pursuing nuclear weapons, Pezeshkian said.

Last week, the UN Security Council restored the anti-Iran sanctions under pressure from Western countries, especially US, France, Germany and Britain. The sanctions, which had been lifted under the 2015 nuclear deal, 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-compli-

ance with the agreement despite their own failure to adhere to their part of the commitments.

## Hezbollah leader: Trump's Gaza peace plan seeks to exonerate Israel



Palestinians walk on a coastal path northwest of Nuseirat refugee camp as they are displaced southward following an Israeli announcement of closing Al-Rashid road towards the north of the besieged Gaza Strip on October 4, 2025.

● [AFP](#)

## International Desk

Secretary General of Lebanon's Hezbollah resistance movement Sheikh Naim Qassem said on Saturday that the US president's Gaza peace plan is an effort to exonerate Israel in the face of widespread global condemnations.

He said the peace plan submitted by US President Donald Trump for Gaza is "fraught with dangers."

Trump on Friday set a Sunday deadline for the Gaza-based Palestinian resistance movement, Hamas, to respond to his 20-point peace proposal, threatening that they would face "all HELL, like no one has ever seen before" if they rejected the offer.

On the same day, Hamas submitted its response to the proposal, saying that it agrees to "release all Israeli captives, living and deceased," and that it approves of "handing over the administration of the Gaza Strip to a Palestinian body of independents (technocrats) based on Palestinian national consensus and based on Arab and Islamic support."

Hamas noted that it had come up with the response "based on national responsibility and out of concern for the constants, rights, and supreme interests of our people." Naim Qassem said that the original plan, which was presented in a draft form to some Arab states, was subsequently modified after meetings with the Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, resulting in amendments that serve the Israeli entity entirely and align with the so-called "Greater Israel" project. He said that after failing to achieve its objectives through aggression and massacres, the Israeli regime now seeks to realize this project through political means.

"We are facing a plan full of question marks, which is what some officials in the Arab countries have themselves stated, expressing their surprise and demanding clarifications." However, many world leaders positively reacted to Hamas's partial acceptance of the US plan to end Israel's onslaught on the Gaza Strip.

Trump said Hamas's response showed

the resistance group was "ready for lasting peace," and demanded that "Israel must immediately stop the bombing of Gaza." The US president later pledged in a brief video that all sides would be treated fairly in Gaza talks, hailing the movement's agreement to free captives as a "special day." "In light of Hamas's response, Israel is preparing for the immediate implementation of the first stage of the Trump plan for the release of all the hostages," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said.

"We will continue to work in full cooperation with the President and his team to end the war in accordance with the principles set out by Israel, which align with President Trump's vision," the statement added.

## Israel continues attacks

Despite ongoing efforts to end the conflict in Gaza, Israel continued its deadly bombardment on Saturday, killing at least 20 Palestinians.

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres welcomed Hamas's statement, with spokesperson Stephane Dujarric saying the UN chief "urges all parties to seize the opportunity to bring the tragic conflict in Gaza to an end."

UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer said Hamas's "acceptance of the US peace plan is a significant step forward."

He said the UK, alongside its partners, "stands ready to support further negotiations and to work towards sustainable peace for Israelis and Palestinians alike."

President Emmanuel Macron said France "will play its full part in line with its efforts at the United Nations, alongside the United States, Israelis and Palestinians, and all of its international partners." He underlined the need for an immediate cease-fire and humanitarian access, adding that Paris was closely monitoring developments.

## Peace 'within reach'

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz said peace in Gaza was "within reach". Merz claimed that the plan represented "the best chance for peace" in the longtime

war and Germany "fully supports" Trump's "call upon both sides."

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni reaffirmed her "full support" for a proposed cease-fire plan in Gaza.

Meloni said the priority should be securing a cease-fire in Gaza, adding, "Italy remains ready to do its part."

Ireland's Prime Minister Micheal Martin said that Hamas's response to the Gaza peace plan could lead to lasting peace.

"There is an opportunity now to create the circumstances for a lasting peace, and I urge all parties to take it," Martin said in a statement on X.

Qatar's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Majed al Ansari, whose country has mediated between the warring sides over the past two years, said Doha "welcomes Hamas's announcement of its approval in principle of President Trump's proposal" and confirmed coordination with Egypt and Washington to continue mediation.

## 'Positive development'

Egypt's Foreign Ministry called Hamas's response a "positive development" that reflected "the keenness of all Palestinian factions to spare the blood of the Palestinian people."

The ministry said Cairo would work with Arab states, the US and European countries to achieve a permanent cease-fire.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan described Hamas's response to the US president's plan as "constructive and a significant step toward achieving lasting peace," pressing Israel to end the genocide in Gaza.

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said Canberra "welcomes progress on President Trump's plan to bring peace to Gaza," urging Hamas to agree to the plan and release remaining captives "without delay."

Colombian President Gustavo Petro said he agrees with Trump "this time," as he demanded the "cessation of the genocide." Petro added that if Trump "moves his army to stop the oppression over Palestine, that army will be accompanied by the army of Colombia."

UN rights chief Volker Turk said Trump's peace plan was a "vital opportunity" to stop bloodshed in the Palestinian territory "once and for all".

Trump's plan comes amid Washington's unbridled military, intelligence, and political support for the Israeli genocide that has so far claimed the lives of more than 67,000 Palestinians, mostly women and children, in the Gaza Strip.

The United States has also vetoed several United Nations resolutions aimed at bringing an end to the brutal military onslaught in Gaza.

## Iran will not bow to US policy of 'peace through strength': Minister

Nasirzadeh urges Iranians not to fall for psychological warfare

## International Desk

Iran's Defense Minister Aziz Nasirzadeh dismissed the US pursuit of "peace through strength," calling it nothing more than "surrender" and saying "freedom-seeking countries" would not bow to pressure.

"The US government wants to force everyone into submission through force. This is not peace, but surrender. It means: I have strength, I have power, whatever I say, you must do," Nasirzadeh said in a televised interview published on Saturday by Tasnim after his recent visit to Turkey.

He added that "freedom-seeking countries" and those in the developing world had long rejected the notion of "peace through strength."

The remarks came in response to a question about US military buildup in the region, which the minister downplayed.

Nasirzadeh insisted that Iran's Armed Forces were prepared to respond to aggression, but stressed that, "Other sectors of the country should not be affected by the psychological operations of these military deployments."

He described such moves as part of the enemy's "soft war," saying it had grown "more pronounced" of late.

"When they keep repeating that an attack is imminent, they want to unsettle society ... and disrupt economic stability," the minister pointed out.

Nasirzadeh urged Iranians to contin-



ue their daily lives "without becoming trapped in the enemy's psychological warfare."

His comments follow days of speculation by Persian-language outlets abroad and Western media, which have circulated claims of an "imminent" Israeli strike on Iran, a narrative that Iranian officials say is intended to sow public anxiety.

The backdrop to his remarks is a dramatic escalation in June, when Israel, backed by the United States, carried out 12 consecutive days of airstrikes on Iran's military and nuclear facilities, killing hundreds of people, most of them civilians.

Iran hit back with dozens of ballistic missile barrages targeting military and energy infrastructure inside the occupied territories.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist





# Tehran eyes steady power trade with Moscow via Baku



hadi was quoted as saying by ILNA. The head of the state-run power utility said feasibility studies had been completed and the plan was technically viable. “If the commercial discussions between Russia and Azerbaijan are settled, there will be a possibility for us to have a steady electricity exchange with Russia,” Rajabi-Mashhadi said. “Russia is technologically advanced, and Iran also has its own capabilities in different areas,” he added. “We now have good relations, and exchanges of views and negotiations between the two countries in energy and electricity continue.” He also expressed optimism that a power link between Tehran and Moscow would be established soon.

**New power line with Armenia**  
Elsewhere in his talks, Rajabi-Mashhadi said a new power transmission line between Iran and Armenia would be

launched within five to six months, which would boost bilateral electricity trade. On November 21, 2024, the Armenian government approved a project to build a new 400 kV power line to Iran, which will raise electricity exchange capacity between the two countries from 350 megawatts to 1,200 megawatts. On regional connectivity, the Tavanir chief noted that the Zangezur corridor would not limit Iran’s electricity links with Armenia. “We are already connected to Armenia and import electricity from there, so Zangezur will not create restrictions,” he said. On August 8, Armenia and Azerbaijan signed a US-brokered peace deal that included plans for a transport corridor through Armenia to connect Azerbaijan to its exclave of Nakhchivan — a longstanding demand of Baku. Iran had opposed the project, warning it could alter the South Caucasus’ geopolitical balance and limit its regional transit access.

## VP highlights gov’t prioritization of electronics industry for regional leadership



### Economy Desk

First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref said at a meeting with Iranian university professors on Saturday that the government is advancing a comprehensive plan to strengthen the country’s electronics and microelectronics industry. “In advanced technologies, we must achieve the goal of holding the top position in the region as outlined in our vision document,” he added, referring to Iran’s Twenty-Year Vision Document. “Our advantage lies in human resources and educated youth, not underground resources, because today’s global power dynamics are determined by soft power. The position of our electronics and microelectronics industry in this arena must be clear,” Aref said. The first vice president highlighted the industry’s importance for meeting strategic needs and achieving national development goals. He called on professors to provide proposals, strategies, and mechanisms to advance the sector alongside their research programs. Drawing on Iran’s experience with nanotechnology, he said the same approach should be applied to artificial intelligence. “We concluded that a strategic headquarters should be established without involvement in executive affairs, serving solely as a supportive body with national coordination and the participation of all academics and experts, allowing universities to take the lead in AI while the government provides support.” The vice president noted that two high-tech councils have already been established by the government, with secretaries appointed by the Vice Presidency for Science and Technology and leadership assigned to either the president or vice president, reflecting the administration’s focus on advanced technologies. During the meeting, a report on the global electronics industry was presented, emphasizing the need to concentrate on research and applied projects and to provide necessary resources and infrastructure for scientific work. Professors also discussed preparing a coherent plan with clear objectives and unified management to achieve a fundamental transformation across the electronics sector.

**Economy Desk**  
The head of Iran’s Power Generation, Transmission, and Distribution Company (Tavanir) said

the Islamic Republic could establish a steady electricity exchange with Russia if commercial issues between Moscow and Baku were resolved.

“Since Iran and Russia do not share a common border, any energy or electricity exchange has to be done through Azerbaijan,” Mostafa Rajabi-Mash-

## ISA bracing for maiden launch at new Chabahar solid-fuel spaceport

**Economy Desk**  
Iran is preparing for an inaugural launch at its new Chabahar spaceport for solid-fuel launchers, the head of the Iranian Space Agency (ISA) said, while planning a second phase for liquid-fuel rockets capable of carrying heavier satellites. “The first phase of the Chabahar base, dedicated to solid-fuel launchers, is nearing completion, and we are currently preparing for the first launch,” Hassan Salarieh said, highlighting the project as a key initiative within the Ministry of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and the space agency, Tasnim reported. He expressed hope that the second phase of the base, designed for liquid-fuel launchers, would soon be opened. “Liquid-fuel launchers can carry larger payloads and will be used for heavier satellites and multiple launches,” he said.

Salarieh emphasized the base’s strategic location in southeast, saying it “can easily access orbits with inclinations from about 40 to 100 degrees, essential for building satellite constellations and placing satellites in sun-synchronous orbits.” Speaking Saturday at the opening of World Space Week under the theme “Life in Space,” Salarieh outlined the agency’s main programs, focusing on research centers and universities. Among the initiatives, he cited the development of biological capsules and recoverable research platforms with precise guidance and control. These serve as space laboratories for conducting suborbital and orbital experiments on radiation effects, temperature and pressure variations, and other impacts on various life forms. “After the 500-kilogram recoverable capsule launch in 2023, research and development of new capsules began, and we have made significant

progress in designing and constructing a new family of these important research platforms. Various subsystem tests will begin soon,” he said. Collaboration with China Salarieh also highlighted Iran’s participation in interplanetary research programs, including a collaboration with China on the “Chang 8” lunar project. “Design is complete, and construction of the engineering model will begin soon. These collaborations will play an important role in the economy and utilization of valuable natural resources in the outer space,” he said, noting that advanced countries are increasingly focusing on extracting energy and mineral resources from other celestial bodies. He added that negotiations are underway with leading countries on participating in space station design and construction programs, providing Iranian scientists with opportunities for biological space research.

## Germany’s Anuga 2025 hosts Iran pavilion showcasing food exports

**Economy Desk**  
The Islamic Republic of Iran is showcasing its food products at the Anuga 2025 international trade fair in the German city of Cologne, with a national pavilion featuring 12 companies active in food production and exports, IRNA reported. This marks the 13th consecutive year that Iran has participated at the international exhibition. Under the theme “Sustainable Growth”, over 8,000 exhibitors from 110 countries will present the innovative strength and diversity of the global food industry in ten trade shows. The biennial five-day fair brings together producers, exporters, importers and wholesalers in 10 product groups, ranging from dried fruit, beverages, ready meals and meat to frozen foods, dairy, baked goods and organic products. Iran’s pavilion, organized with the support of the Iran International Exhibitions Company, is putting on display dried fruit, saffron, dates, organic produce, agricultural goods and processed foods. More than 140,000 visitors from 185 countries are expected to attend Anuga 2025, offering a key opportunity for Iranian brands to expand their global presence, identify new export markets and



strengthen trade relations, the report added. The spotlight at the expo will be on the “Food of Tomorrow,” which encompasses environmental sustainability, alternative proteins, health and wellness. This year also marks the debut of “Anuga Alternatives,” a new platform dedicated to the thriving alternative protein sector, such as plant, insect, algae, fungal proteins, and cell-cultivated meat. “Anuga 2025 makes it clear how much innovative spirit, responsibility, and global collaboration drive the industry,” says Anuga’s organizer Bastian Mingers, VP of Trade Fair Management Food & Food Technology of Koelnmesse. “This is where the trends become visible, future themes tangible, and solutions for the challenges of our time are discussed.”

## Egypt steers clear ...

Yet, history suggests otherwise. No such clash has taken place in the past, even when provocations were more severe — such as the assassinations carried out in the Sinai even during the Hosni Mubarak era, in which Israel was believed to have backed various groups. Israel frequently carries out such provocations depending on its political goals, behaving as though everything is permitted, regardless of the United Nations, the international community, public opinion, or bilateral relations. Israel routinely tramples over UN resolutions. Only

recently, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared that Israel would press ahead with its operations in Gaza, despite widespread international opposition. He has consistently turned a deaf ear to pressure to reconsider his approach. The United States, for its part, continues to support Israel so long as Washington’s interests are not harmed. Even during verbal clashes between US President Donald Trump and Netanyahu, the vital air bridge for transferring weapons and equipment to Israel was never cut. In this environment, Egypt relies above all on diplo-

macy to defend its interests. Diplomacy is a crucial instrument for Cairo because it is aware of its own vulnerabilities. Any small misstep could be exploited by Israel to its advantage. A telling example came when Trump declared that if Egypt agreed to relocate Gaza residents to the Sinai, Washington would reward Cairo by blocking Ethiopia’s use of the dam on the Nile. This clearly showed that Israel and the US knew Egypt’s Achilles’ heel: without the Nile, the country would face famine and a host of other crises. Egypt, however, rejected the proposal and navigated the situation diplomatically, without making

a fuss. As for Tel Aviv’s expansionist ambitions — such as talk of a Greater Israel — these pose a threat not only to Egypt’s national security but also to that of the entire region. Yet, because of its commitment to the peace treaty, Cairo maintains a relatively strong position and has never given Israel an excuse to break that accord. While the treaty may not enjoy full approval among Egyptians, who remain strongly anti-Israel and anti-American, Egypt continues to conduct its policy through diplomatic means. War has never been its preferred option, nor is it today.



# Armed Forces ready for protracted war to defend Iran: *Veteran*

## Daring pilots play key role in decisive operations of Sacred Defense

By Sadeq Dehqan  
Staff writer

### INTERVIEW

*One of the most gripping parts of most stories of the Iraqi-imposed war (1980–1988), also known as the Sacred Defense, revolves around the bravery of the elite pilots of the Islamic Republic Air Force. These bold airmen, flying solo without any backup, would cut through the sky and push deep into enemy lines for kilometers. After carrying out their critical missions, they would make it back victorious to their bases. Carrying out these high-risk missions was not only a testament to the skill and courage of Iranian pilots but also showed their deep commitment to defending the homeland and national pride. These are stories that still take one's breath away even years later.*

*Second Brigadier General Pilot Vali Ovisi, born in 1954, is one of those elite pilots from the Sacred Defense era. He is among the rare aviators who flew both the F-5 and F-14 fighters in combat conditions. Throughout the war, he took part in numerous cross-border bombing missions and consistently had the infantry's back during tough military operations. His service record also includes successfully shooting down two enemy fighters (including an advanced Iraqi Mirage) and launching the first air-to-air Hawk missiles (known as Sedjil) with the Tomcat aircraft. Below is the full transcript of an exclusive interview Iran Daily conducted with Second Brigadier General Pilot Vali Ovisi:*



Vali Ovisi

**IRAN DAILY:** First, please tell us, how did you end up joining the Air Force and becoming a pilot?

**OVISI:** In 1974, driven by a deep childhood passion for flying, I signed up for the pilot academy. I was about 20 at the time. I guess I joined the army a bit late because my father, an oil tanker driver, had a serious accident on duty. After that, I had to drop out of school to support the family by continuing his work. Once things had settled down, I went back to high school, earned my diploma, and then entered the aviation university.

Mastering English was the key to becoming a pilot, and because of my strong interest, I significantly elevated my language skills. A year after joining the army, I was sent to the US for advanced training. There, we first flew the T-41, then T-37, T-38, and so on. After completing the courses, I graduated with an aviation degree and a second lieutenant rank, and I came back to Iran to work at the First Tactical Fighter Base in Mehrabad. Over 35 years in the military, I served across the country, and interestingly, I retired in 2005 as the commander of Mehrabad's airbase — now renamed Shahid Lashkari Air Base — the very place I began.

**What was the state of the country's defense readiness and the Air Force at the start of the Islamic Revolution and on the eve of the war?**

When I came back from the US, I was supposed to fly the F-4, but midway through training, they told me to switch to the F-5 and sent me to Dezful city. Before the war broke out, due to the Revolutionary upheaval and the public mood, some people were talking down the planes, calling them junk and claiming we didn't need such military equipment. There was even a push to sell off the F-14 planes — the deal with Canada was nearly done. Because of this emotional climate, they completely called us back to Tehran, saying, "We don't need fighter pilots." As a result, many were retired early, and other pilots were bought out or expelled. They told us, "Go to Tehran; We have enough pilots." The situation was so discouraging that I almost gave up on my flying career, planning instead to get a professional driver's license and follow in my father's footsteps.

**How was our Air Force at that time?**

At the war's start, we had the most powerful Air Force in the region, while Iraq held the upper hand on the ground. Our air fleet was formidable, operating a range of combat aircraft including F-4s, F-5s, and notably the F-14 — which was the most advanced fighter globally at the time. The F-14 was exclusively flown by Iran and the US; Even Israel did not have access to it. We had even signed a contract to buy F-16s before the Revolution, but after the Revolution, that deal was called off due to the political issues I mentioned.



Brigadier General Vali Ovisi (L) gets on an F-14 fighter.

● [INSTAGRAM](#)



Later, we came up with the idea to build missiles for the F-14. Our technical team innovatively mounted ground-to-air Hawk missiles on the fighter jets, effectively turning them into air-to-air missiles. This was a major breakthrough. In fact, the Americans equipped the F-14 with bombs only after us, during the First Persian Gulf War. The difference was that they used supersonic bombs, while we relied on conventional bombs.



Brigadier General Vali Ovisi (front-2nd R) and other top-ranking generals of the Islamic Republic of Iran Air Force gather to meet Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei (not pictured) on January 28, 2006.

● [leader.ir](#)

**What conditions did your forces face after the war started, and how were you deployed on air missions?**

On the second day of the war, a comrade from Dezful sent word that the situation there was critical, with many fighters being martyred. That's when five of us — Mostafa Tabatabae'i, the late Reza Nokhbe Zaeem, martyr Mansour Sabuti-pour, Afrasiab Qassemi, Ezatollah Rahimi, and I — volunteered at Mehrabad to head out for the war. We were all lieutenants with limited flying experience, but we couldn't just stand by and watch the situation worsen. No one officially asked us to deploy; It was our sense of duty that spurred us on. We tried two or three times to fly out to Dezful aboard a C-130, but the city was under red alert and wouldn't let us land. Finally, after a few days, our flight

managed to touch down. The conditions in the city were dire. Families and troops were hiding under bridges. Pilots from the base were scattered everywhere. It was late October, and it got dark early, forcing us to strictly adhere to blackout rules. The city was under so much heavy bombardment and missile attacks that by 5 p.m., everyone would have had their dinner, and after that, not even a matchstick could be lit. Many were martyred in the war's first days. We lost many friends. Because of this, many pilots stepped up and volunteered for combat.

**So, even then, your presence wasn't officially required or summoned?**

At that critical juncture, everything was happening on a volunteer basis. Initially, the plan was to completely evacuate

Dezful. Both civilians and fighters there were basically acting independently, making off-the-cuff decisions. Amid this chaos, the Air Force stepped in and bombarded the Iraqi positions, forcing them to fall back across the Karkheh River the next day. After that, the Army's ground forces, the Revolution's Guards Corps, and Basij joined forces with the defenders, and the tide began to turn.

**Could you elaborate a bit more on the Air Force's role in holding back the enemy's advance into our country's depth?**

As I mentioned, in the early days of the war, the Air Force basically was doing the ground forces' job. Given the situation back then, even if one of our planes managed to blow up a hundred enemy tanks but got taken out in the process, it was still a loss for us because we had no replacement for that aircraft. Yet, we had no choice, and our planes flew straight into enemy lines to stop the Iraqis from pushing forward. We had to shoot down their tanks to allow our ground troops to set up in the area and form a military line against the enemy. As you know, on the very first day of the war and the day after, during Operation Kaman 99, 140 of our aircraft penetrated enemy territory and targeted military objectives, airfields, and army hangars belonging to the Iraqi forces. The operation was named Kaman 99 because the plan was 99 pages long, and the name "Kaman" (meaning bow) was inspired by the legendary archer "Arash Kamangir".

Overall, the Air Force was present in all military operations throughout the Sacred Defense period since conducting reconnaissance before operations, destroying enemy military infrastructure before ground advances, and supporting infantry during operations were all the Air Force's responsibilities.

**You mentioned that many of your comrades were martyred in those first days — how did the Air Force bounce back and rebuild its combat power as the war went on?**

During the war, we felt a shortage of skilled pilots and realized some replacements were necessary. So, we set up an aviation school mid-war and purchased PC-7 trainer aircraft specifically for this purpose. We also sent off some trainees to Pakistan for pilot training. These were individuals who had firsthand experience of the war and spared no effort or sacrifice in defending the homeland. Their skills were further honed back home on F-4, F-5, and F-14 aircraft, and they came in handy during the conflict. Among them were pilots who climbed up to the highest ranks in the Air Force, such as Brigadier General Hassan Shah Safi, the then-Air Force commander, and Brigadier General Aziz Nasirzadeh, the defense Minister, who joined the Air Force during the war.

**Given that we received no foreign aid, how did the Air Force fleet make up for the shortage of weapons and equipment?**





Those who rose through the ranks during the war played a crucial role in covering these gaps and implementing our military and operational strategies during the conflict. One key figure was the late Brigadier General Pilot Abbas Babaei, who was promoted from captain to colonel and appointed deputy operations commander of the Air Force. He was truly a military genius. His first move was to shift the F-14 fleet from the airbases in Isfahan and Shiraz to Bushehr, significantly cutting down aircraft flight hours. As you know, the more hours a plane logs, the more it requires servicing and parts replacement. According to our initial contract with the Americans, we weren't allowed to move the F-14s from Shiraz and Isfahan, and the infrastructure to support such a transfer wasn't in place. But he went ahead and violated that contract, transferring the F-14s despite the difficulty of supporting them at the new base. On the other hand, Brigadier General Babaei, aware of our missile shortages, urged caution with missile use and advised us not to fire them off freely, even though his orders didn't sit well with the pilots. His rationale was that if we blew through our missiles now and the war dragged on, we'd run out of supply. Meanwhile, Iraq was rapidly stocking up its military equipment from various countries. He said, "Let's assume this war stretches for 20 years and we have to stretch out what we have until the end." Therefore, we kept flying the F-14s mostly as a deterrent. Enemy pilots would beat a retreat as soon as they spotted an F-14 approaching. Later, we came up with the idea to build missiles for the F-14. Our technical



team innovatively mounted ground-to-air Hawk missiles on the fighter jets, effectively turning them into air-to-air missiles. This was a major breakthrough. The initial test was carried out by Fereidoun Ali-Mazandarani, and I conducted the operational test over the Persian Gulf against Iraqi Mirage jets. The planning for this innovation was done by the late Brigadier General Babaei. Even though the Americans hadn't yet handed us the F-14 air-to-ground bombing manual, he and the late Mostafa Ardestani and Shahram Rostami came up with the plan.

In fact, the Americans equipped the F-14 with bombs only after us, during the First Persian Gulf War. The difference was that they used supersonic bombs, while we relied on conventional bombs.

**As someone who participated in the entire eight-year war and witnessed its ups and downs firsthand, what is your take on the war's outcome?** Despite all the hardships and shortages, and despite the full backing that dozens of countries gave to Saddam Hussein's regime, we managed to hold off the enemy's aggression and didn't give up



Iranian Air Force pilot Vali Ovisi (R) gets awarded by then-president of Iran Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei (L) for safely landing a burning F-14 aircraft during the Iraqi-imposed war (1980-1988).

● [INSTAGRAM](#)



Of course, the army always has contingency plans for war and crises, but this must be managed at a higher level as well. We have to know in advance how much budget, weapons, and equipment we need for a long, grinding war and how to keep the country afloat over 10 or 20 years of conflict. Now, this plan exists — not because we welcome war, but as a necessity for when it's needed.

even an inch of our soil. However, we must face the war's realities and draw lessons from the eight-year Sacred Defense for the future. You may recall that after liberating Khorramshahr and pushing Iraq out, we used to chant "War, war until victory," and another slogan was "Even if the war lasts 20 years, we stand firm." Yet, victory in a war expected to drag on for 20 years requires precise, calculated planning from the start. We should have laid out our strategy for a prolonged war beforehand so we wouldn't reach a point after eight years where our officials would advise the late founder of Iran's Islamic Revolution Imam Khomeini in a way that made him see accepting Resolution 598 as "drinking from the poisoned chalice". They told him our defense and logistical capacity were such that accepting the cease-fire then was in the country's best interest, but had we been prepared for a 20-year conflict and had a solid plan, we wouldn't have let things get to that point. Of course, the army always has contingency plans for war and crises, but this must be managed at a higher level as well. We have to know in advance how much budget, weapons, and equipment we need for a long, grinding war and how to keep the country afloat over 10 or 20 years of conflict. Now, this plan exists — not because we welcome war, but as a necessity for when it's needed. Had we gone in with a 20-year strategy, we would have stayed in the fight until final victory because if the outcome had met Imam Khomeini's expectations, he wouldn't have used the phrase "drinking from the poisoned chalice" to describe accepting the cease-fire and ending the war.

# New details emerge about Iran-Israel dogfight in June

## PERSPECTIVE

The commander-in-chief of the Islamic Republic of Iran Army has stated that some of the country's pilots have flown missions and gone head-to-head with the enemy during the imposed 12-day war in June 2025. "These experiences must be carefully logged and utilized," Major General Amir Hatami said. According to Defa Press, the Iranian Air Force, boasting experienced, committed, and skilled pilots, despite harsh sanctions and technical constraints, has kept up and optimized its older fleet, such as Phantom and MiG fighters, while also deploying domestic aircraft like Kowsar and Azaraksh to hold the line in protecting the country's airspace. During the imposed 12-day war, given limited resources, the Iranian Air Force faced off against the air forces of at least four countries directly supporting the Israeli regime's fighters, namely Germany, the UK, France, and the USA. Based on field observations, they were

in charge of logistics and refueling. Despite this, Iran's Air Force put on a strong showing. Throughout the recent conflict, by maintaining round-the-clock flights, the force managed to prevent damage that the Israeli Air Force might have inflicted on critical infrastructure such as electricity, water, gas, and even civilian homes. Without this presence, casualties and damages in our country would have run wild. Major General Hatami remarked, "Although this war lasted only 12 days, it carries precious lessons. We essentially went toe-to-toe with the technologically concentrated essence of the West and NATO. They had handed our Israeli enemy everything it needed, and whenever shortages arose, its allies stepped in to back it up and support it." This is precisely what is said about the logistical backing of Israel's Air Force during the imposed 12-day war; Tanker planes from Germany, France, and the US, along with the British airbase in southern Cyprus, stood behind the Zi-



Throughout the recent conflict, by maintaining round-the-clock flights, the force managed to prevent damage that the Israeli Air Force might have inflicted on critical infrastructure such as electricity, water, gas, and even civilian homes. Without this presence, casualties and damages in our country would have run wild.



An Iranian pilot waves to the audience at the 12th Iran International Aerospace Exhibition, which was held in Kish Island, southern Iran, on December 10-13, 2024.

● [FARHAD KHIABANI/MASHREGH](#)



Iranian Air Force Commander Brigadier General Hamid Vahedi (L) closely inspects the Chinese-made J-10C fighter jet at Airshow China 2024 in Zhuhai.

● [SNN](#)

onist enemy. However, the proud pilots of the Iranian Air Force, despite scarce resources, compromised many enemy flights over our skies and disrupted their operations. Brigadier General Pilot Hamid Vahedi, commander of the Iranian Air Force, revealed that only minutes after the official start of the Israeli regime's attack on our beloved country, pilots at Shahid Babaei Air Base in Isfahan and other bases flew into action over Tehran and other critical areas, successfully shooting down several advanced and unmanned enemy aircraft. He added: "Brave pilots from various Air Force bases repeatedly launched attacks on enemy flight groups, thwarting their operations. Moreover, during the recent imposed war, the Air Force gave its all to defend Iran's skies and people, conducting dozens of operations that, due to security considerations, cannot be brought out into the open at this time." In this comprehensive hybrid war, which the Zionist regime and its allies

kicked off and ultimately begged for a cease-fire in disgrace, all branches of the armed forces stepped up with full might to defend the country. This was echoed in the words of the commander-in-chief, who maintained, "All of Iran, from the Ground Forces, Air Defense, and Air Force to Basij, the IRGC, and the people, were in the thick of it during the recent imposed war and truly fought and resisted to ensure that Islamic Iran remains proud in history forever." It is worth noting that Iranian Air Defense, in countering enemy aircraft, also achieved significant success by taking down drones, micro-UAVs, and cruise missiles. Even today, more than two months after the war with the Zionist regime, Iranian Air Force pilots keep up their essential duties regularly, especially night patrols over Iran's skies, to prevent any surprise in possible future battles.

The article first appeared in Persian on KhabarOnline news agency.





# World Para Athletics Championships: Javelin, shot put glories push Iran's medal tally into double figures

## Sports Desk

Ali Baziyar grabbed the sixth gold medal for Iran at the World Para Athletics Championships in New Delhi, setting a new championship record on his way to glory in the men's javelin throw F54 event on Saturday.

The Iranian delivered a 32.24m effort on his fourth attempt to beat reigning Paralympic champion Ivan Revenko for the ultimate prize, despite the Russian, competing as a neutral athlete, breaking the European record with 31.68m.

Baziyar's compatriot Erfan Bondori impressed with a personal-best 31.23m throw but settled for the bronze, taking Iran's medal count to 12 across eight days of action at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium.

Saturday's medals came after Ali Asghar Javanmardi and Hassan Bajoulvand had bagged a couple of golds for Iran in the men's field events the previous day.

A Paralympic bronze winner last year, Javanmardi secured his first world title in the shot put F35

contest, following the 2024 silver and the 2017 bronze – thanks to a 17.17m throw on his penultimate attempt.

Argentina's three-time Paralympic silver medalist Hernán Emanuel Urra finished runner-up to the Iranian with 16.77m, with China's Fu Xinhan (15.64m) taking the bronze.

Paralympic silver medalist Bajoulvand, meanwhile, registered a season-best 41.7m effort to finish atop the podium in the discus throw F11 class, 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.

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 gold in the women's javelin throw F54 event on Wednesday, thanks to a successful

17.06m attempt – 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.



Ali Baziyar (L) and Erfan Bondori pose with the Iranian flag after winning the men's javelin throw F54 gold and bronze medals, respectively, at the World Para Athletics Championships in New Delhi, India, on October 4, 2025.

● ISNA

## Tehran titans in turmoil after rocky start to new season

### Sports Desk

Not even the most pessimistic fans of Persepolis or Esteghlal could have foreseen such a turbulent start to the season for both Tehran archrivals when the Persian Gulf Pro League got underway in mid-August.

A summer spending spree, which brought a host of high-profile signings as well as new head coaches, had only offered hope of a fresh start for both sets of supporters after their teams had a season to forget last term.

Less than seven weeks gone, however, the new Iranian top-flight campaign has delivered a shared crisis that has both head coaches Vahid Hashemian and Ricardo Sa Pinto clinging to their jobs after a mere six games.

Ali Alipour came to Persepolis rescue again, finding the net from the spot with 14 minutes remaining, as the Tehran Reds salvaged a point in a 1-1 home draw against Golgozar Sirjan on Friday.

However, the result meant the capital giants have now managed just two wins in 14 games between them in all competitions this season.

It was the Reds' fourth successive league draw – all in front of the home support in Tehran – with their sole victory coming



Persepolis head coach Vahid Hashemian is dejected during a 1-1 home draw against Golgozar Sirjan in the Persian Gulf Pro League in Tehran, Iran, on October 3, 2025.

● AHMAD MOEINI JAM/IRNA

against Sepahan (1-0) in the so-called 'Iranian Clásico' in Isfahan on August 25.

For Persepolis, the problem runs deeper than the results.

Despite the unbeaten start to the new season, the drab, and at times clueless, nature of the Reds' performances this season has done little to justify the appointment of Hashemian, who took up his first experience as a senior head coach when he replaced ex-Persepolis boss Isamil Kartal in July.

For all the respect that the former Iran international earned

through his time as a player at the German Bundesliga, questions are now being asked about Hashemian's tactical acumen, with sections of the home showing their frustration by jeering the head coach in recent games. Hashemian went on to praise his side's "best performance of the season" after Friday's draw, ruing "bad luck" and "missed opportunities", but the Reds' boss must be aware that his days at the club could be numbered if he does not turn his team's fortunes around after the upcoming international break.



Esteghlal head coach Ricardo Sa Pinto reacts on the touchline during a 1-0 loss to Al Muharraq in the AFC Champions League Two in Tehran, Iran, on October 1, 2025.

● ALI SHARIFZADEH/IRNA

### Esteghlal blues

The circumstances may be even more dire for Hashemian's opposite number on the Blues bench, as rumors and speculation are already swirling about who might replace the Portuguese coach in the near future. When Sa Pinto returned to the club in the summer, he was widely regarded by many supporters as a messiah after a dreadful campaign had seen Esteghlal finish ninth in the 16-team league table in May.

The passionate Portuguese was tipped by many to build on a

busy transfer window – headlined by the signing of ex-Barcelona winger Munir El Haddadi, Albanian international Jasir Asani, and former Real Madrid and Sporting goalkeeper Antonio Adan – to complete his unfinished business, having left Esteghlal without a trophy despite his team delivering an aggressive and attack-minded brand of football during his previous tenure at the 2022/23 season.

Esteghlal began the new season with a 2-1 defeat against Tractor in the Iranian Super Cup game

but the 1-0 win at the home of the defending champion on the opening day of the league campaign offered genuine optimism for a serious title charge from the Blues.

However, that impressive victory remains the only moment of joy for Esteghlal fans throughout their campaign, as the club has since fallen to three defeats, coupled with four frustrating draws, in their subsequent eight games.

The Blues suffered arguably the darkest day in their 80-year history when they were humiliated 7-1 by Emirati club Al Wasl in their AFC Champions League Two opener in Dubai on September 17.

The club hierarchy was quick to voice its support for the under-fire head coach, but there have been no signs of a turnaround since. A second continental defeat – a 1-0 setback at home against Al Muharraq of Bahrain – on Wednesday led to a list of familiar faces in Farhad Majidi, Mojtaba Jabbari, and Sohrab Bakhtiarzadeh being touted as potential replacements for Sa Pinto.

Esteghlal will be chasing a second win of the season when taking on a resolute Chadormalou side today in Tehran, and failure to do so could well bring a premature end to Sa Pinto's second spell in Iran.

## Asian Aquatics Championships:

# Iran beats China for winning start in water polo event

### Sports Desk

Iranian men's water polo team got off to a winning start at the Asian Aquatics Championships in Ahmedabad, India, defeating China 14-9 in their Group A opener on Saturday.

The victory saw Iranian men make

amends for their last-four loss in February's Asian Water Polo Championship, where China came out victorious in the shootout on home turf to progress to the final, before falling 14-11 to Japan.

Next for Mahdi Panamtash's men in the group phase is a game against Hong Kong today, followed

by a match against Uzbekistan on Monday.

Japan, Singapore, India, Thailand, and Kazakhstan – which beat Iran in the third-place contest in February's showpiece in Zhaoqing – are in Group B of the competition.

Hamed Karimi, Amirhossein Amirian, Amirreza Jalilipour, Mah-

di Barzegari, Amir Aqaei-Karim, Farbod Behzad-Sabouri, Ashkan Iranpour, Farbod Borqei, Amin Qavidel, Alireza Mehri, Arman Shams, Mersad Ahham, Mahdi Yazdankhah, Mehrab Golestani-rad, and Erfan Sadrnia are the members of the Iranian team in Ahmedabad.



● IRSF



# Sarab-e Kosar Lake; a scenic hub for leisure, sports in Qorveh



● hamsafarshim.ir



● neshan.org

## Iranica Desk

Qorveh, located in Kurdistan Province, is a lesser-known city nestled in the heart of mountains and plains. Its mysterious secrets remain hidden in the dust of time — from the legendary stone dragon and the bubbling springs that refresh the earth's soul to the ancient historical traces engraved on the silent walls of the city. On the brink of infrastructure development and investment attraction, Qorveh is ready to reveal its full beauty once again. Sarab-e Qorveh Lake, also known as Sarab-e Kosar, is a shining gem in the middle of the plain, reflecting the historical life of the city. Fed by multiple springs beneath it, the lake's cool waters have long quenched the thirst of local residents and irrigated surrounding farmlands. Today, beyond meeting daily needs, it serves as a major center for relaxation and tourism. Qodratollah Seifpanahi, the mayor of Qorveh, told ISNA that Sarab-e Kosar Lake, as one of the county's most import-



● neshan.org

ant natural and tourist assets, is undergoing development of recreational and service infrastructure. The municipality is fully prepared to attract investors to the complex. Highlighting Sarab-e Kosar's special status, Seifpanahi noted, "This valuable natural site is located next to Kulabad Mountain. For years, besides supplying agricultural water, it has served as a tourism and recreational center for the people of Qorveh, neighboring

cities, and provinces." He added that Sarab-e Kosar Lake covers 44 hectares. This year, a ring road was constructed around the lake to reduce traffic congestion and enable visitors to travel around the lake by car, bicycle, or on foot. Completing this ring road is a priority project planned for the year 1405 in the Iranian calendar. The mayor also announced the construction of a second basin on the lake's eastern side, ex-

plaining that the land belongs to the Education Ministry and that preparations for handover are complete, with construction to begin soon. Referring to the recreational and sports development plans, Seifpanahi said, "We are building a beach volleyball court, a beach wrestling area, and other sports facilities to establish Sarab-e Kosar Lake as a comprehensive recreational and sports center in western Iran." He emphasized private sector

investment as a municipality priority, stating that Qorveh has ample land around the lake for restaurants, eco-tourism accommodations, and service centers. "We invite all local and non-local investors to participate while respecting municipal regulations. We are fully prepared to allocate land and issue necessary permits." Regarding water management challenges, the mayor explained that cooperation with farmers is key: the lake's water belongs to

nearby farmers, but the municipality also uses it. Occasionally, closure of the outlet valve causes water levels to rise, damaging walkways; negotiations are underway to resolve this issue. Seifpanahi also highlighted tourists' need for welfare facilities, saying, "One significant gap is the lack of restaurants and accommodations. Investors' proposals for eco-tourism lodges have been strongly welcomed." He announced the municipality's plan to establish a tourism market, adding, "At least 10 booths for selling cultural and food products will be constructed on the lake's western side. Despite some delays due to economic conditions, this project remains part of our development plan." He concluded by noting that Sarab-e Kosar Lake is a unique asset for tourism development in Kurdistan Province. With cooperation from the private sector, government bodies, and cultural heritage organizations, it has the potential to become one of the region's key recreational and economic hubs.

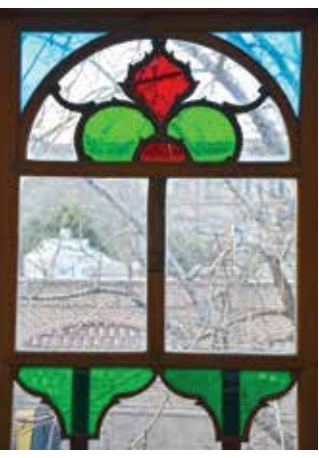
# Heydarzadeh House reveals architectural heritage of Tabriz

## Iranica Desk

Heydarzadeh House is a historic mansion located in the Maghsoudieh suburb of Tabriz, East Azarbaijan Province, on the south side of the Tabriz Municipality building. Although there is no document confirming its construction date, studies indicate it was built around 1870 by Haji Habib Lak. The house was registered on Iran's National Heritage List in 1999 under number 2524. It covers an area of 900 square meters and has two floors. The building features both interior and exterior courtyards separated by the house itself. In the basement, there is a Howz-Khaneh — a large room with a small pool and a fountain in the center — decorated with colorful bricks and vaulted ceilings. Other parts of the house are connected via a central hall. The building is adorned with intricately carved wooden windows, stuccoes, stained glass, brickwork, and paintings. The main room, known as the Shah Neshin, is one of the most striking rooms in the house. Heydarzadeh's House was restored in 2001 and is currently



used as the Tourism Information Center for East Azarbaijan Province and Tabriz. Historically, Tabriz has been home to many magnificent houses that reflect the city's rich cultural and architectural heritage, especially from the Qajar and early Pahlavi eras. These traditional mansions are notable for their intricate craftsmanship, harmonious layout, and adaptation to local climate and social customs. Like Heydarzadeh's House, many of these historic houses are centered around courtyards



● wikipedia.org



that serve as private, tranquil spaces and often include water features like pools or fountains which help cool the surroundings. Prominent among Tabriz's heritage houses are the Amir Nezam House, which now operates as the Qajar Museum, showcasing both cultural artifacts and the unique architectural style of the region. This mansion, like many others, combines elements such as wooden lattice windows, mirror work (Ayeneh-Kari), and detailed stucco decoration to

create a visually stunning interior. Another example is the Behnam House, which exhibits traditional Persian residential architecture with large halls, ornate ceilings, and decorative brick patterns. These houses are not only architectural treasures but also provide insight into the social life and traditions of their times. They were often residences of wealthy merchants, officials, or aristocrats who played significant roles in Tabriz's economic and cultural development. The preservation and restoration of such historic houses have become vital to maintaining the city's identity, attracting tourism, and fostering a deeper appreciation of Tabriz's past. Efforts to safeguard these homes have expanded in recent decades, with some converted into museums, cultural centers, or public institutions, similarly to Heydarzadeh's House. Through these adaptive reuses, the buildings continue to serve the community by educating visitors and locals about Tabriz's architectural heritage while preserving the craftsmanship and artistry of earlier generations.



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## Iran, Armenia expand media, anti-disinformation cooperation



Iran's Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) CEO Hossein Jaber-Ansari (C) and his delegation visit Armenian national television during a media cooperation trip on October 3, 2025.  
● IRNA

### Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) and Armenia's state-run Armenpress agreed to deepen cooperation in media production, news exchange, and combating disinformation during high-level meetings in Yerevan. The agreements were reached during the visit of IRNA CEO Hossein Jaber-Ansari, who was invited by Armenpress Director Narine Nazaryan, IRNA reported. The visit began on Friday, October 3, with a meeting at Armenpress, Armenian national television and radio, where discussions focused on joint news production, video conferences, photographic exhibitions, and expert collaboration.

"One advantage of cooperation is that both media outlets can assist each other in preventing narrative-building and presenting an incomplete or misleading representation of developments by third parties," Jaber-Ansari said. The meetings also explored expanding IRNA's coverage in Armenian and collaboration in book publishing, translation, and research. On Saturday, October 4, the delegation visited the Orbeli Analytical-Research Centre, affiliated with Armenia's Prime Minister's Office. Jaber-Ansari and Director Gor Tsarukyan discussed countering disinformation targeting both nations. Tsarukyan outlined the Center's monitoring, analytical

work, cooperation with foreign think tanks, and annual regional and international events involving Iranian participation. He described the meetings as "very significant" for addressing topics of mutual interest and strengthening bilateral ties. Jaber-Ansari briefed the Armenian side on IRNA's operations, noting it produces news in Persian and 11 foreign languages, and runs a cultural center that publishes books and newspapers. He stressed that all prerequisites exist to expand cooperation, saying, "I think this is one of the areas in which we can cooperate with you." The delegation also participated in an expert session titled "Armenia-Iran Relations in the Context of Recent Regional Developments," joined by representatives from Armenia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Institute of Oriental Studies, and the National Academy of Sciences. Participants exchanged views on implementing joint steps to promote regional stability, circulate mutually beneficial initiatives, and enhance the role of information and expert communities.

## First UNESCO anniversary Mehregan festival hailed as 'civilizational achievement': Minister

### Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Minister Reza Salehi Amiri on Saturday praised the ancient festival of Mehregan as a "civilizational achievement and strategic message" for the world, marking the first anniversary of its inscription on UNESCO's heritage list through a joint bid by Iran and Tajikistan in December 2024. In a message released on the occasion, Salehi Amiri said Mehregan embodies a philosophy of "friendship, justice, balance and co-existence" that resonates well beyond Iran's borders. What began as a seasonal thanksgiving has, over centuries, become a universal symbol of shared values. The minister argued that the festival's recognition is both a cultural milestone and a call for nations to rebuild trust and solidarity

through heritage. Mehregan, traditionally celebrated from early October to early November, has its roots in Zoroastrian harvest rituals and remains widely observed in Iran, Tajikistan and parts of Central Asia. UNESCO added the festival to its Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity at its 19th session last year, citing its role in strengthening social cohesion across diverse communities. Salehi Amiri said the inscription was "not merely a nod to our historical depth, but a civilizational duty," stressing that the real task now is to safeguard, revitalize and transmit Mehregan's ethical legacy. He described it as a "festival of harmony between humanity and nature," linking its teachings to modern challenges such as environmental degradation, inequality and global



mistrust. Drawing attention to the coincidence of the Persian month of Mehr with the start of Iran's school year, he urged young Iranians to embrace their role as "cultural ambassadors," building a future where "knowledge, ethics, faith and mutual trust" serve as the foundation for peace and human development. "The world today, more than ever, needs to return to cultural wisdom," he

said, underscoring Mehregan's place as part of humanity's common heritage. The minister called on nations to turn to such traditions as guides for justice, dignity and solidarity in an era of mounting crises. Tehran will host a symposium later this month to review the UNESCO listing and expand cultural outreach around Mehregan, bringing together scholars and heritage officials from the region.

## Iranian books on view at Sulaymaniyah Int'l Book Fair



### Arts & Culture Desk

The 7th Sulaymaniyah International Book Fair opened on Friday with the participation of dozens of foreign and domestic publishers, including a national Iranian pavilion displaying more than 500 titles. Dedicated as the "President Mam Jalal Edition" in honor of the late Iraqi president and Kurdish leader Jalal Talabani, the 11-day fair runs until October 13 at the Sulaymaniyah Exhibition Hall.

Around 150 publishing houses and institutions are taking part, including 70 foreign publishers from 16 countries such as Iran, Egypt, the United Kingdom, Germany, the UAE, Lebanon, Turkey, Palestine and Jordan. More than 250,000 books spanning literature, history, politics, children's works and philosophy are on show. The opening ceremony was attended by senior officials including Kurdistan Regional Government Minister of

Culture and Youth Mohammed Saeed and Sulaymaniyah Governor Haval Abubakir. Hassan Rahim, the head of the fair committee, described this year's edition as "different from past years" with broader participation and improved organization, adding that the aim was to "provide better access" and a stronger platform for publishers. Iran's Book and Literature House has set up a national stand in cooperation with the Iranian Cultural House in Sulaymaniyah. More than 60 Iranian publishers are represented, offering a wide range of works in classic and modern literature, children's and young adult books, religion, Iranology, Persian language learning and tourism. Independent publishers such as Cheshmeh, Ehsan, Ravayat-e Fath and Kurdistan are also showcasing their collections. Alongside the book displays, the fair is hosting author talks, cultural debates and panel sessions in Kurdish, Arabic, Persian and other languages.

## Iranian short films to light up Ottawa screen

### Arts & Culture Desk

Carleton University in Canada's capital will host "Iranian Cinema Night" on Wednesday evening with the screening of seven short films from Iranian directors. The event, beginning at 6 p.m. at the university's St. Patrick's Building, is open to the public free of charge, Mehr News Agency reported. The one-night showcase, curated by Mohammad Hamzei and managed by filmmaker Foad Asadi, aims to introduce "fresh achievements" of Iran's short cinema and build a bridge between local audiences and Iranian storytellers. By subtitled all works in English, organizers seek to draw in both international and Persian-speaking communities. Among the films to be shown are 'Unjustified' by Mohammad Reza Khavari, 'Lost Swan' by Ehsan Abbasi, 'Dragon's Tail' by Saeed Keshavarz, 'Adjustment' by Mehrdad Hasani, 'Dreamless Sleep' by Foad Asadi, 'Sillage: Portrait of An Onlooker'



by Farhad Delaram and 'Dabur' by Saeed Nejadi. Carleton University has teamed up with the Ottawa-based Pand Institute to bring the program to life.

## World Space Week: Iran simulates lunar soil for first time

### Social Desk

Iranian researchers at the Iran University of Science and Technology unveiled on Saturday their first domestic simulation of lunar soil, based on the composition of samples from NASA's Apollo 14 mission. The announcement came during the opening ceremony of World Space Week in Tehran on October 4, attended by Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Minister, Sattar Hashemi and Head of the Iranian Space Agency (ISA) Hassan Salarieh, ISNA reported. In a departure from past events that focused on achievements, this year's opening zeroed in on "Life in Space." Researchers led by Mehdi Nasiri Sarvi said they began by mimicking the Moon's regolith and have moved on to experiments in agriculture, mining and settlement design under

simulated lunar conditions. Nasiri Sarvi, an assistant professor in satellite technology engineering, explained that the soil simulant was crafted by analyzing mineral compositions of Iranian rocks and blending them to match curves recorded in Apollo 11, 14, 15 and 16 mission reports. He said the new sample is "very close" in elemental proportions to the real lunar material. He noted that in moon environments, the absence of atmosphere means no carbon dioxide or oxygen. To mimic a life-support cycle, the team planted two base plant species in sealed chambers. One absorbs CO<sub>2</sub> and produces O<sub>2</sub>, the other does the reverse — the process driven by an initial oxygen capsule. He said this could pave the way for a self-sustaining gas cycle in lunar habitats. Their broader strategy includes extracting oxygen and hydrogen, recovering metals, and

harvesting helium-3, a rare and clean fusion fuel thought to exist in Moon soil. Salarieh underlined the aim, "We want to shift from symbolic space presence to resource-driven missions." Among design proposals is an "origami" shelter — a telescoping, foldable paper-inspired shell that expands on deployment, lightweight yet radiation-shielding when clad with processed lunar regolith. The researchers have built a one-meter prototype and are exploring use of lunar-derived cement to block heat and radiation. They also hope to deploy 3D printers on the Moon, using in-situ materials to build modular habitations. Site selection — between poles, equatorial regions, shadows or elevated terrain — depends on sunlight, temperature swings and radiation. Nasiri Sarvi warned that equatorial surfac-

es can exceed 100 °C during lunar daytime, while shadowed regions behave drastically differently. Their mineral analysis shows that silicon and magnesium dominate lunar soil — in line with prior international studies. The team conducted spectroscopic comparisons, meteorite studies, and cross-validation with Apollo data. He emphasized that mining and resource extraction underpin renewed global interest in the Moon. "This is not about prestige anymore," he said. "It's about economics." The minister remarked that Iran must "catch up" in lunar science to avoid falling behind. For now, the project remains in university laboratories, but Nasiri Sarvi called for a national lunar research center with support from the Space Agency and research institutions.



World Space Week (October 4–10), themed "Living in Space," is being marked globally and focuses this year on the engineering, biology and environmental aspects of making off-Earth habitats real.