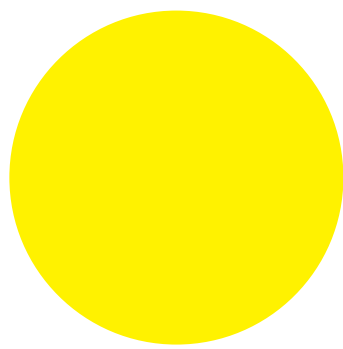


Markazi Province
flaunts mining clout
at Iran Stone
Expo 2025



Iran Daily

Vol. 7946 • Wednesday, October 08, 2025 • Mehr 16, 1404 • Rabi' al-Thani 15, 1447 • 100,000 rials • 8 pages



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Iran scorns GCC-EU defense statement as 'inappropriate interference'



National Day of Villages and Nomads

Pezeshkian hails Iran's unity in diversity Iran won't be a 'playground' for enemies

An Iranian nomad briefs President Masoud Pezeshkian (L) about farm products on display at a fair set up on the sidelines of a ceremony to mark the National Day of Villages and Nomads in Tehran, Iran on October 7, 2025.

president.ir



Iran achieves self-sufficiency
in chemicals as exports
defy sanctions

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Suspension of
countermeasures
against Iran,
a testing ground
for FATF

INTERVIEW
EXCLUSIVE

In October 2007, Iran was put in the Enhanced Due Diligence (EDD) list of FATF and in 2009 was downgraded to the counter-measure list. The designation imposed burdens on Iran's economy, including stringent constraints on its international banking ties, reduced foreign investment, and rising transaction costs.

Pursuant to political commitment signed by Iran in 2016, countermeasures by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) against Iran were suspended. Based on this 41-point action plan, Iran committed to join two conventions and make some amendments in domestic laws, including AML and CFT laws.

In February 2020, however, due to the failure to adopt the conventions, the suspension was terminated. Meanwhile FATF in its statement declared that if Iran ratifies these two conventions, it would consider extending the suspension of countermeasures. In August 2025, Iran's top arbitration body the Expediency Council ratified the Palermo Convention and forwarded its instrument of accession to the United Nations. Later, on October 1, the same body gave conditional approval for joining the CFT. Given these steps, it is expected that Iran's standing with FATF may improve, potentially opening space to scale down the countermeasures the global financial crime watchdog has imposed — and to restore safer corridors for Iran's international banking and financial relations. Yet obstacles remain.

To shed light on the path ahead, Iran Daily talked to Fatemeh Mahjourian, an international banking expert.

IRAN DAILY: Can Iran's ratification of the last of two conventions convince FATF to suspend its countermeasures against Iran?

MAHJOURIAN: According to international banking standards and norms, one key barrier to correspondent banking relationships is Iran's status on the blacklist or under FATF countermeasures. In FATF's declarations about Iran — repeated three times annually since February 2020 — it is stated that: "if Iran ratifies the Palermo and Terrorist Financing Conventions in line with the FATF standards, FATF will decide on next steps, including whether to suspend countermeasures."

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Iran scorns GCC-EU defense statement as 'inappropriate interference'

International Desk

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei on Tuesday strongly rejected claims made in a recent GCC-EU joint statement regarding Iran's defense capabilities as an inappropriate and unacceptable interference in the country's internal affairs.

Baqaei made the remarks after foreign ministers of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the European Union in a joint statement on Monday stressed the importance of what they called ensuring the peaceful nature of the Iranian nuclear program, and ceasing of proliferation of ballistic missiles and unmanned aerial vehicles and any technologies that they claimed threaten the security of the region and beyond.

The Iranian official said those who turn the region into an arsenal of advanced, destructive weapons through arms deals worth hundreds

of billions of dollars, while remaining silent toward the hegemony of a genocidal and aggressive regime or even providing it with military and political support, "have no authority to comment on Iran's indigenous defense capabilities."

The GCC-EU statement also repeated the United Arab Emirates' (UAE) baseless claims over the three Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf, expressing concern over the lack of progress about resolving the dispute between the UAE and Iran over the islands of Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa.

Baqaei reaffirmed Iran's undisputed and permanent sovereignty over the islands, emphasizing that they are an integral part of Iran's territory.

Repeating baseless claims in political statements holds no legal validity and cannot alter geographical realities or historical facts, he said.

The Persian Gulf islands of Abu Musa, and the Greater and Lesser



Esmail Baqaei
● IRNA

Tunbs have historically been part of Iran, proof of which can be found and corroborated by countless historical, legal, and geographical documents in Iran and other parts of the world. However, the United Arab Emirates

has repeatedly laid claim to the islands.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman also condemned Europe's "destructive and divisive" interference in Iran's defense and nuclear programs.

No place for trans-regional powers in Caspian Sea: Cmdr.



Shahram Irani
● ISNA

National Desk

Commander of Iran's Navy Rear Admiral Shahram Irani praised close cooperation between the Caspian Sea littoral states, saying they do not need foreign powers to ensure their security.

Irani made the remarks at the meeting of naval commanders of the Caspian Sea littoral states in Saint Petersburg, Russia.

He said the Caspian Sea belongs only to Iran, Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan, and its issues will be resolved by those countries themselves.

The Iranian commander also said the Caspian Sea states will stage a joint naval exercise in the near future.

US-Israel strikes on Iran's nuclear sites imperil health, ecosystems: UN Envoy



Amir Saeid Iravani
● IRNA

International Desk

Iran's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Amir Saeid Iravani, once again condemned recent US-Israeli strikes on his country's nuclear facilities, saying that such actions put human health, ecosystems, and vital resources at risk. Iravani made the remarks on Monday during a forceful address at the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly's Second Committee.

"Such unlawful acts not

only constitute grave violations of international law and the Charter of the United Nations, but also endanger human health, ecosystems, and vital resources by risking the release of radioactive and toxic substances that transcend borders," Iravani said.

"They erode trust, undermine cooperation, and divert the international community from its shared responsibility to protect both present and future generations. It is therefore imperative that these

actions be prevented and unequivocally condemned, so that global efforts to confront environmental challenges can continue undiminished," the Iranian diplomat added.

Iravani said that the attacks also undermined international peace and security, and gravely jeopardized the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

On June 13, Israel launched an unprovoked aggression against Iran, triggering a 12-day war that killed at least 1,064 people in the country, including military commanders, nuclear scientists, and civilians.

The United States also entered the war by bombing three peaceful Iranian nuclear sites in a grave violation of international law. In response, the Iranian Armed Forces targeted strategic sites across the occupied territories as well as the Al-Udeid air base in Qatar, the largest American military base in West Asia.

Gov't spox: Necessary decisions made to respond to snapback invocation



Fateme Mohajerani
● IRNA

International Desk

Iran's government spokeswoman Fateme Mohajerani said on Tuesday that the government has made necessary decisions to deal with the consequences of the activation of the snapback mechanism by European powers.

Mohajerani said that government made use of all diplomatic capacities to prevent the activation of the mechanism, which led to reimposition of international sanctions on Iran.

She said that the government had predicted the activation of the mechanism by the three European powers – France, Germany and the UK – and has changed

its approach and made the necessary decisions for the country's current situation. On September 9, Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) reached an agreement aimed at paving the way for resumption of cooperation which had been suspended following the unprovoked Israeli-American attacks against key Iranian nuclear facilities in June.

The agreement with the IAEA was signed as a goodwill gesture by Iran to prevent the activation of the snapback mechanism by the three European parties to the 2015 nuclear deal.

Despite Iran's efforts to prevent the European move, the three countries invoked the mechanism which paved the way for the reimposition of international sanctions that had been removed under the 2015 nuclear agreement.

Iran has rejected the reimposition of sanctions as "entirely unfounded, unlawful, and invalid" claims by the United States and the European countries.

IRGC Aerospace Force ready to confront threats: Commander



Majid Mousavi
● TASNIM

The commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Aerospace Force affirmed the full preparedness of his forces to decisively respond to any threat or act of aggression following recent confrontations with the Israeli regime. Brigadier General Majid Mousavi highlighted the role of the IRGC Aerospace Force during the 12-day war imposed by Israel in June and the key post-war recovery measures, Tasnim reported. He stated that all damages sustained have been repaired and operational capacities were fully restored.

Gaza inching toward serenity

Peace talks resume on second anniversary of October 7 operation

International Desk

Peace talks between Israel and Hamas resumed at an Egyptian resort city on Tuesday, coinciding with the 2nd anniversary of the beginning of Israel's onslaught on the Palestinian territory that has seen tens of thousands of Palestinians killed in Gaza.

The second day of indirect negotiations in the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh were focused on a plan proposed by US President Donald Trump last week that aims to bring about an end to the war in Gaza.

After several hours of talks Monday, an Egyptian official with knowledge of the discussions said the parties agreed on most of the

first-phase terms, which include the release of Israeli captives and establishing a cease-fire.

The plan has received widespread international backing and Trump told reporters on Monday that he thought there was a "really good chance" of a "lasting deal."

"This is beyond Gaza," he said. "Gaza is a big deal, but this is really peace in the Middle East."

Many uncertainties remain, however, including the demand that Hamas disarm and the future governance of Gaza.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has long said Hamas must surrender and disarm, but Hamas has not yet commented on whether it would be willing to. The Israeli aggression against Gaza

was triggered by a Hamas operation on the Israeli positions in the occupied territories, which claimed the lives of around 1,200 people.

Analysts believe that the attack was a reaction to decades of the regime's oppression of Palestinians. Israel's devastating war that has upended global politics, has resulted in the deaths of 67,160 Palestinians nearly 170,000 wounded, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, and has left the Gaza Strip in ruins. A growing number of experts, including those commissioned by a UN body, have said Israel's offensive in the Gaza Strip amounts to genocide.

Ahead of the resumption of talks on Tuesday, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called for an end

to the hostilities, which have created "a humanitarian catastrophe on a scale that defied comprehension." Israel's actions in Gaza have also caused famine the Palestinian territory. Israel has long placed restrictions on goods entering Gaza, and those restrictions increased after the beginning of the war on Gaza.

However, since March 2025, the situation has deteriorated rapidly after Israel introduced a nearly three-month total blockade on goods entering Gaza.

The UN's humanitarian chief, Tom Fletcher, has said the famine was the direct result of Israel's "systematic obstruction" of aid entering Gaza.

Finding food has become a dead-



Displaced people return to Rafah, Gaza Strip, on Jan. 20, 2025, a day after a cease-fire deal between Israel and Hamas went into effect.
● JEHAD ALSHRAFI/AP

ly endeavor for Palestinians and they have regularly said they have to choose between starvation and

death, referring to the near-daily shootings of people trying to get aid at distribution sites.

Markazi Province flaunts mining clout at Iran Stone Expo 2025

Economy Desk

The 17th Iran Stone Expo 2025 opened on Tuesday in Mahallat, central Iranian province of Markazi, aiming to showcase the country's "capabilities in the stone industry, strengthen business ties, and expand Iran's presence in global markets," according to organizers. The four-day event brings together 570 companies and mining enterprises from 27 provinces, displaying the entire value and supply chain of Iran's stone industry across 120,000 square meters of exhibition space, said Mohammad Hallajian, the exhibition's executive director, ISNA reported. One of the exhibition's highlights is the presentation of around 40,000 tons of raw stone, underscoring what officials described as Iran's vast mineral potential and unique capacity in stone extraction and processing.

Foreign trade delegations in attendance

The industry official said that trade delegations from Armenia, Turkey, India, China, Portugal, and Russia have participated at this year's exhibition.

Organized in cooperation with the Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade, Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), and commercial attachés, the event hosts international business representatives who serve as Iran's trade envoys to target markets, Hallajian said. "In addition, special meetings with ambassadors and commercial attachés from South Korea, Kazakhstan, and Indonesia will be held on the sidelines of the exhibition to explore new opportunities for business cooperation." According to the executive director, these meetings, organized jointly with the provincial Chamber of Commerce, aim to facilitate knowledge exchange, technological collaboration, and new trade partnerships. He said Iran ranks first globally in the diversity of building stones, yet accounts for less than half a percent of the world's trade in the sector due to limited international presence. The official said the exhibition has been designed to address this gap and enhance Iran's participation in global markets by creating favorable conditions to attract foreign



traders and investors. The Mahallat exhibition, Hallajian added, offers Iranian producers a platform to learn about the latest global trends, improve product quality, and enhance their competitiveness in international markets. Also, addressing the inauguration ceremony, Mahallat Governor Hassan Khazaipour said the event provides "an exceptional opportunity to demonstrate the capabilities of Iran's stone industry, enhance commercial cooperation, and expand the country's foothold

in international markets." The governor also described Mahallat in Markazi Province as a shining chapter in the history of Iran's stone industry, saying, "With 150 active quarries and more than 300 processing plants equipped with advanced technology, the county is one of the largest centers for the production and processing of decorative and building stones in Iran and the Middle East." Thanks to the high quality and diverse designs of its products, the region has long held

a distinguished position in international markets. Stones produced in Mahallat — from travertine and marble to granite and other ornamental varieties — are used in construction and architectural projects around the world for their exceptional quality and striking appearance. Khazaepour noted that the ongoing event is expected to attract foreign investors and buyers, boost Iran's stone exports, and strengthen the industry's position in global trade.

Minister: Iran to produce low-sulfur fuel oil as refinery upgrades advance



Economy Desk

Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad said Iran will soon launch the production of low-sulfur fuel oil from the Shazand refinery in Markazi Province as part of nationwide efforts to modernize refining operations and enhance product quality. Paknejad said in remarks to ILNA news agency that the Oil Ministry is advancing several refinery quality upgrade projects to increase the value-added status of petroleum products and strengthen Iran's competitiveness in global markets. "We are pursuing a number of preliminary measures under refinery quality improvement plans," he said. According to the minister, one of these projects will soon come to fruition at the Shazand refinery in Arak, in the central province of Markazi, where a defined volume of low-sulfur fuel oil will be produced and supplied. "This marks the beginning of a path that will continue according to a set timetable, with further increases in the output of low-sulfur fuel oil as these quality upgrade projects are completed," he added.

Iran achieves self-sufficiency in chemicals as exports defy sanctions

By Sadeq Dehqan
Staff Writer

INTERVIEW EXCLUSIVE



Bahram Mavasat

Iran has achieved full self-sufficiency in producing key chemical and polymer materials while keeping exports of these products uninterrupted despite international sanctions, according to a senior industry figure. Bahram Mavasat, vice head of the Iranian Polyurethane Association said in an interview with Iran Daily that the country's exports of chemical and polymer products have remained resilient and uninterrupted in recent years despite international sanctions. According to Mavasat, Iran's chemical sector has demonstrated "remarkable flexibility" and continues to expand its export footprint. "Iran, with its rich resources and advanced industries, is now a pillar of chemical and polymer production in the region and the world, and one of the leading exporters in global markets." Iran is fully self-sufficient in producing a wide range of chemical and polymer materials, including polyurethane, meeting all domestic industrial and consumer needs through domestic production. "We have no need for imports of such products," he said, noting that limited imports of certain raw materials still occur. However, he added, with adequate investment in upstream industries, even those limited imports could be eliminated. Mavasat said neighboring countries



such as Iraq, Afghanistan, and Central Asian states are key destinations for Iranian chemical and polymer exports due to strong demand. "A vast global market exists for our products," he said, noting that many countries lack adequate production capacity in this field. Expanding exports to advanced economies, he noted, will require greater investment in research, technology, and product quality — but "the potential returns fully justify such investments." He said Iran's petrochemical industry possesses enough capability to supply a significant portion of global demand, and the country is already positioned to expand its market share. "Some logistical and transportation challenges still need to be resolved," he added. Despite ongoing sanctions, Mavasat reiterated that exports "are proceeding without interruption," and that increasing export volumes is central to Iran's strategy for overcoming current economic difficulties. Chemical and polymer products currently account for a significant share

of the country's export revenues. According to published data, Iran exported 1,250 shipments of chemical materials to various destinations worldwide between March 2023 and February 2024. The figures show that Iran's chemical exports grew by 147 percent compared with 2022. "The mechanism of the snapback sanctions has not hindered our exports in any way," he said. The UN Security Council on September 29 reinstated several sanctions on Iran's nuclear activities that had been lifted under the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), after France, Germany, and the UK triggered the deal's "snapback" mechanism. "We have long experience in dealing with such restrictions and know how to maintain production and trade under sanctions. It is a false belief among our adversaries that they can halt our industrial and export activities." He concluded that Iranian producers, traders, and workers "stand united" and will, as in the past, overcome every challenge the economy faces.

Suspension of countermeasures ...

Thus, FATF has already held out the promise that passing those two conventions would prompt it to reconsider suspending countermeasures against Iran. Although Iran's action plan comprises 41 items and those two are only part of it — many others having been either fully or largely implemented — FATF has long treated these two conventions as technically pivotal. In the past, FATF signaled that their ratification would trigger review of countermeasures. It should also be recalled that under the Trump administration, the US had insisted that Iran remain subject to countermeasures, a stance that drew protests from Iran and prompted it to correspond with FATF leadership, challenging whether decisions should rest on a consensus or be swayed by one state. As FATF President Elisa de Anda Madrazo publicly responded, no single country may unilaterally determine FATF decisions. Now, the ball is in FATF's court. If it overlooks ratification of these two conventions, it risks exposing a politicized bias favoring US pressure. On the flip side, should FATF vote to extend the suspension of countermeasures, that would be seen as walking the talk—affirming that it maintains a technical, not political, approach toward member nations. The expectation is that countermeasures would be suspended, thereby alleviating FATF-driven burdens on Iran's banking relations and creating a window for improved access to global banking networks.

Could Iran's reservations give FATF a reason to withhold lifting countermeasures?

The FATF methodology admits that only certain articles of conventions fall within the domain of FATF mandates and thus FATF can enter certain reservations only to ensure they do not undermine the main obligations. The right to enter reservations is one

granted by the UN to member states, and those reservations are common among many countries. The reservations Iran has adopted closely mirror those of other countries. The Islamic Republic of Iran examined FATF assessment reports for these nations and verified that their reservations faced no objections. Therefore, it is expected that Iran's reservations will pass muster and not be singled out for censure, as they do not undermine any of the FATF Recommendations and primarily concern the overarching principles of the convention. If, however, FATF treats Iran's case differently—demanding stricter conformity than other members—it could be interpreted as a political approach. In other words, how FATF handles Iran's reservations may itself be the litmus test for whether it is operating as a neutral technical body or one subject to geopolitical sway.

Assuming Iran is removed from FATF's blacklist, can that make any difference in Iran's banking and economic ties?

Lifting the FATF countermeasures would mitigate one major impediment, but it would not by itself guarantee broad reopening of financial relations. Many foreign institutions have been reluctant to engage with Iran not only over FATF rules but also because of structural weaknesses in Iran's banking system. For Iran's banking network to capitalize on the removal, it must align more closely with global norms — such as implementing the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS) standards, International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), and other international regulations. Only then would confidence rise that its financial sector is stable, sound, and ready to engage in secure correspondent relationships. These reforms must convey to the outside world that Iran is serious about raising its game and prepared for responsible participation in global finance.

Iran finds steadfast partner in post-snapback era



By Ali Vadeye
Expert on
international affairs

OPINION

Moscow is stepping up as Tehran's strategic partner in the post-snapback era. Russia, as a permanent member of the UN Security Council, is not only pushing back against the reimposition of Security Council resolutions but has also officially declared its strategic partnership with Iran as binding.

Russia has unequivocally and firmly stated that it considers the activation of the snapback mechanism and the reimposition of UN sanctions to be legally void and refuses to recognize them. This stance, shared with China, has thrown a wrench into the West's efforts to brand Iran a "rogue" state within the Security Council. Russia's behavior can be analyzed on two levels: its Eastern alliance and the Russian mindset are key factors shaping the Kremlin's approach.

East-West rift

China and Russia's reaction to Israel's imposed 12-day war on Iran raises serious questions. Critics argue that neither Beijing nor Moscow has supported Tehran to the extent expected. As traditional Eastern allies, China and Russia are weighing up the anarchic international relations environment. Although the Cold War-era approaches of the Soviet Union and Eastern Bloc differ in their analysis and are based on interests, confrontation with the West remains a driving force. An immediate tripartite military alliance against the West has not yet taken shape, but a common enemy can forge camaraderie or even partnership.

Former US secretary of state Antony Blinken, in an article published in Foreign Affairs, voiced concerns over the ties among Iran, Russia, China, and ultimately North Korea. Washington's chronic worry is that multilateralism and organizations like the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and BRICS could be a stepping stone to military alliances. Meanwhile, China responded

sharply to US attacks on Iranian nuclear sites but continues to play up a neutral role. Beijing's foreign policy style is marked by a calm, measured approach to the surrounding turmoil.

From Washington's perspective, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization's security and military meeting with Iranian representatives sent a clear signal. China will bypass Western sanctions to keep on buying Iranian oil. Of course, Beijing has also played a unique role over the past decade in Tehran's dealings with certain regional states in the Persian Gulf. The atmosphere outlined and Eastern partners' behavior against Western allies in the UN Security Council show a coordinated stance by China and Russia. However, despite their partnership, Moscow and Beijing pursue different interests regarding Iran. Although Russia-Iran and China-Iran relations have improved to their highest level over the past decade, they have never been complete alliances; they still fall short of the partners' desired benchmarks. Their strategic cooperation is limited and driven by mutual interests and alignment. Notably, Tehran has failed to lay down adequate groundwork for creating shared opportunities and interests and defining strategic partnership details with Eastern partners.

Dynamics of Tehran-Moscow relations

Iran's historical memory of Tsarist and Soviet Russia has always weighed heavily on its view of Moscow. Traditionally, relations with the Kremlin have been a battleground between "Russophiles" and "Anglophiles". Going to both extremes in dealing with Russia has hindered a realistic understanding of Moscow's perception of Tehran. Some groups still calculate interactions through a Cold War lens, overlooking that countries act based on national interests. The Russia-Iran relationship has changed significantly over the past decade, and a certain dynamism has been notable, especially since the Russia-Ukraine war began in 2022. Iran and Russia have actively

ramped up cooperation politically, economically, and militarily. High-level transactions between Tehran and Moscow span diverse areas, including diplomacy, foreign policy, joint military exercises, and institutional-economic ties, that add color to their collaboration.

Key findings in Tehran-Moscow relations

Traditionally, Russia-Iran ties have been described as a mix of cooperation, competition, and suspicion. However, since the early 1990s, this relationship has significantly improved. By the mid-2010s, a broader base emerged, marked by increasing military cooperation and moderate economic alignment. Since the Russia-Ukraine war began, bilateral ties have deepened remarkably, shifting from cautious interaction to fuller cooperation across diverse dimensions.

This progression traces back to the pre-war period when Russia and Iran cooperated on the Syrian war and in the wake of the 2018 initial collapse of the JCPOA. Current conflicts in Ukraine and prior ones in Syria, together with Western sanctions on Russia and Iran, have been key drivers of the enhanced relationship. Russia itself faces sweeping Western sanctions. This structural empathy is a strong incentive for both nations to push back against Western sanctions with an anti-coercion approach.

Previous limitations in Moscow-Tehran engagement — particularly over nuclear issues and secondary sanctions — have been eased, although Moscow remains cautious. Israel's war on Gaza will likely speed up the improvement of bilateral relations in the short to medium term. Politically, Russia and Iran increasingly share a geopolitical alliance, expressed through civilizational and anti-Western rhetoric, with growing high-level government contacts and freshly signed memoranda across a broad range of topics.

Importantly, senior political elites — not just diplomats — now regularly show up for public meetings. Militarily, we observe significant official inter-

action among senior officers and government officials, indicating broad cooperation. Economically — traditionally a weak link — Russia and Iran have started heavily investing in deepening their economic ties. It must be acknowledged that international relations rest on defining and securing shared interests.

Though Russia has historically supplied many industrial goods Iran needs, this relationship is either changing or at least beginning to balance out. Iran now provides key industrial goods to Russia, helping it cope with wartime restrictions. This support extends Russia's capacity to fight in Ukraine. Moreover, closer economic ties have led to training Russian officials on sanctions evasion techniques. This collaboration could affect the long-term endurance of sanctions imposed by the US and other Western countries.

Role of Primakov Doctrine

Russia's backing of Iran in the post-snapback era is not mere friendship but a function of national interests and long-term Kremlin doctrines. Russia's foreign policy doctrine, especially the "Primakov Doctrine," emphasizes a multipolar world. Moscow views Iran as a key strategic partner in the Middle East and West Asia, capable of balancing US and NATO influence. Weakening Iran



The illustration shows Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (2nd-L) and his Russian and Chinese counterparts, Vladimir Putin (L) and Xi Jinping (R), respectively, as well as Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi.

● PAUL SPELLA/THE ATLANTIC



Russia's backing of Iran in the post-snapback era is not mere friendship but a function of national interests and long-term Kremlin doctrines. Russia's foreign policy doctrine, especially the "Primakov Doctrine," emphasizes a multipolar world. Moscow views Iran as a key strategic partner in the Middle East and West Asia, capable of balancing US and NATO influence. Weakening Iran would mean bolstering US unilateralism, which Russia strongly opposes.



Iranian Defense Minister Aziz Nasirzadeh (4th-L) and his counterparts pose for a group photo before the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Defense Ministers' Meeting in Qingdao, China, on June 26, 2025.

● REUTERS

would mean bolstering US unilateralism, which Russia strongly opposes. Although proposed in the late 1990s, the Primakov Doctrine became part of geopolitical discourse after 2014.

The doctrine revolves around five key ideas: First, Russia is a powerful actor with an independent foreign policy. Second, Russia should seek a multipolar world managed by a concert of great powers. Third, Russia should pursue both dominance in its former Soviet sphere and Eurasian integration. Fourth, Russia must oppose NATO expansion. And fifth, Russia must cooperate with China. The doctrine dictates that to break Western encirclement and weaken US influence, Russia must ally with regional powers unwilling to submit to the West. At the same time, Russia fears the collapse of Eurasian geopolitical cohesion.

Future cooperation outlook, interests

Though Tehran-Moscow cooperation is based on realism (securing interests in an anarchic environment) and nourished by the Primakov Doctrine, it remains a limited partnership rooted in mutual alignment. It is predictable that Russia-Iran relations will deepen over time, especially as long as both countries maintain a hostile, oppositional stance toward Western countries and Western-dominated international bodies. However, there are caveats. The principle of "negative balancing" (refusing to give concessions to major powers) is key to maintaining equilibrium between West and East. Excessive skepticism, however, could cause Iran to miss strategic coalition opportunities at critical moments (such as countering the snapback sanctions) and become fully isolated.

Despite lingering distrust in some areas, a severe rift between Russia and Iran is unlikely in the short to medium term. Their relationship is a bilateral dynamic embedded in Russia's broader anti-Western shift and intertwined with China's role. Geopolitical cohesion is a vital necessity for Russia and a special process for China that must be preserved. Western penetration into the heart of Eurasia via Iran's gate would tighten the pressure ring on both China and Russia significantly.

The article first appeared in the Persian-language newspaper Etemad.



Partnership Treaty Tehran-Moscow response to snapback

ANALYSIS

The Comprehensive Strategic Partnership Treaty is the most extensive agreement ever concluded between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Russian Federation. It's a 47-article accord covering nearly every aspect of bilateral relations and cooperation, the enforcement of which has been mandated by both governments from the morning of October 3, 2025. This 20-year pact, once put into action, could ease some of the burden imposed by Western sanctions on both countries and tighten the strategic closeness between Iran and Russia.

On the evening of October 2, 2025, the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs officially announced the start of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership Treaty's implementation with Russia. According to the statement, this agreement underscores the determination and commitment of the leaders of both countries to deepen ties and strengthen relations across all areas of mutual interest. It marks a milestone in the history of bilateral relations and holds out the promise of elevating their level in various fields both sides have set their sights on.

As stated in the final clause of Iran's Foreign Ministry release, the two countries, conscious of the fundamental importance of upholding the principles and objectives of the United Nations Charter to maintain international peace and security, will spare no effort to safeguard multilateralism and respect international law, including by stepping up cooperation within multilateral organizations and arrangements such as BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation.

The start of this treaty's enforcement is a midpoint on a journey that began decades ago between Iran and Russia. Iran previously signed a treaty with the Soviet Federative Socialist Republic in 1921, a trade and maritime treaty with the Soviet Union in 1940, and a treaty on the basis for mutual relations and the principles of cooperation with the Russian Federation in 2001.

Over the course of diplomatic relations, Iran and Russia have aimed to hammer out a shared understanding of their demands, interests, and contingencies, and on that basis have inked memoranda of understanding, with the latest and most comprehensive signed on January 17, 2025, during Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian's visit to Moscow. This agreement was ratified by the Iranian and Russian parliaments in April 2025, but subsequent events and technical requirements held up implementation until October.

Reviewing clauses, their significance

The Comprehensive Strategic Partnership Treaty has been a high-profile topic in media and politics of both countries — and even beyond — for the past four years since initial reports of Iran and Russia's intention to sign it. A substantial portion of the cooperation treaty, which required approval by Iran's Parliament

because it is labeled a "treaty," is tied to the specific articles within it, as well as to the nature and motivations of both parties in concluding it.

As noted, the treaty consists of 47 articles covering all possible areas of cooperation between the two countries. While all articles are crucial to Tehran-Moscow collaboration, the implementation of certain provisions is especially important given current international and regional realities and bilateral relations imperatives.

For example, the main topic of Article 2 is addressing opposition to third-party interference, and other clauses appear to complement and clarify this article. Article 3, Clause 3, emphasizes details of this opposition: "In the event that either Contracting Party is subject to aggression, the other Contracting Party shall not provide any military or other assistance to the aggressor, which would contribute to the continued aggression, and shall help to ensure that the differences that have arisen are settled on the basis of the United Nations Charter and other applicable rules of international law."

Clause 2 of Article 4 states that intelligence and security agencies of both parties will cooperate under separate agreements. Article 5 outlines parts of their future military cooperation, stating that "in order to develop military cooperation between their relevant agencies, the Contracting Parties shall conduct the preparation and implementation of respective agreements within the Working Group on Military Cooperation."

Clause 2 of this article covers a broad spectrum including "the exchange of military and expert delegations, port calls by military ships and vessels of the Contracting Parties, training of military personnel, exchange of cadets and instructors, participation — upon the agreement between the Contracting Parties — in international defense exhibitions hosted by the Contracting Parties, conduct of joint sports competitions, cultural and other events, joint maritime relief and rescue operations as well as combating piracy and armed robbery at sea."

Finally, Clause 4 of Article 19



stresses, "If unilateral coercive measures are introduced against either Contracting Party by any third party, the Contracting Parties shall make practical efforts to reduce risks, eliminate or mitigate the direct and indirect impact of such measures on mutual economic ties, individuals, and legal entities of the Contracting Parties or their property under the jurisdiction of the Contracting Parties, goods originating from one Contracting Party and intended for the other Contracting Party, and/or works, services, information, results of intellectual activity, including exclusive rights to them provided by suppliers of the Contracting Parties. The Contracting Parties shall also take steps to limit the dissemination of information that could be used by such third party to impose and escalate such measures."

Economic, industrial, and cultural cooperation constitute the majority of articles and clauses in the treaty. For example, Clauses 1 and 2 of Article 18 state that the contracting parties will boost trade, economic, and industrial cooperation, create mutual economic benefits including joint investments, infrastructure financing, easing of trade and business mechanisms, cooperation in banking, promotion and mutual provision of goods, works, services, information and results of intellectual activity, in-

cluding exclusive rights to them. Moreover, aware of their investment capacities, "The Contracting Parties may make joint investments in the economy of third states, and for this purpose, maintain dialogue within the framework of relevant multilateral mechanisms."

Article 14 extends bilateral relations into multilateral frameworks, stating that "the Contracting Parties shall deepen cooperation within regional organizations, interact and harmonize positions within the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation in the interests of strengthening its potential in the areas of politics, security, economy, and in cultural and humanitarian spheres, and facilitate the expansion of trade and economic ties between the Eurasian Economic Union and the Islamic Republic of Iran."

Motivation behind Tehran-Moscow treaty

A key motive driving Iran and Russia to conclude this agreement is the effort to stop third-party variables and meddling from upsetting the internal and bilateral calculations. This issue has gained particular weight given Donald Trump's tenure in the White House and his "peace through strength" doctrine, which views intervention in other countries' affairs as both possible and even

necessary. Russia, as America's rival, pushes back against this approach, and the treaty clauses related to this point reflect this opposition to the White House's mindset.

Russia also openly opposed those measures twice in the UN Security Council sessions, which were held to discuss delaying the return of sanctions on Iran, and even sharply called out the French representative for obstructing Iran and reintroducing resolutions, telling him: "Do not waste our time anymore; You have no independence at all."

The return of Security Council resolutions and sanctions against Iran falls under the "unilateral coercive measures [that] are introduced against either Contracting Party by any third party" described in the treaty, with the other party being barred from facilitating such actions. This likely underpins Moscow's opposition to those resolutions.

Although the activation of this treaty provision will have multiple dimensions, its most significant impact will be in economics and trade — where Moscow and Tehran both face extraordinary challenges due to US and European sanctions. Therefore, clauses related to economic cooperation will gain particular importance.

Iran's experience in managing sanctions effects can form a basis for economic interaction in this era. Transit and maritime routes, energy, security, intelligence, and virtually all areas of bilateral relations and cooperation addressed in last year's treaty could, in 2025, help smooth out some of the difficulties Tehran and Moscow face following the return of sanctions on Iran. This is the primary goal behind drafting and signing any such agreement.

Nonetheless, despite both governments' current strong will that can push the enforcement of the treaty, legal and technical hurdles remain that require drafting and signing separate contracts and memoranda with detailed terms tailored to specific areas based on current conditions. Thus, to lessen the blow of Western pressure, Tehran and Moscow should step on the gas and accelerate the treaty's implementation.

On another front, given Russia's closeness to certain regimes opposed to Iran in the region, Moscow needs to navigate smartly the line between its interests and Iran's red lines. Tehran understands its strategic partner's considerations and expects the same regard from Russia regarding its own red lines.

Ultimately, the treaty's implementation, despite the challenges ahead, is crucial at a time when, despite Iran and Russia's efforts to prevent a return of sanctions, Europe and the US have chosen a confrontational path. It sends a clear message to the White House and Trump's allies that the two countries have no intention to back down in the face of this hostility and will pull out all the stops to find ways around it.

The article first appeared in Persian on IRNA.



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (L) and his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin, hold signed documents related to their Comprehensive Strategic Partnership Treaty in Moscow, Russia, on January 17, 2025.

● president.ir



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The Russian Federation's Ambassador to the United Nations Vassily Nebenzia (R) addresses members of the UN Security Council after casting his vote on a resolution that would permanently lift UN sanctions on Iran, at UN headquarters in New York City, US, on September 19, 2025.

● [EDUARDO MUNOZ/REUTERS](https://www.reuters.com)



‘We won’t be just tourists’: Iran’s Torkaman aiming high at Futsal World Cup

Sports Desk

Iran’s Maral Torkaman insisted the national team will not go the upcoming Futsal Women’s World Cup “just to be tourists” despite some tough fixtures awaiting the country in the group stage. The inaugural edition of the flagship international event will kick off on November 21 in Pasig, the Philippines, with Team Melli pitted against Brazil, Italy, and Panama in Group D.

A third-place finish at May’s Asian Cup in China secured Iran’s spot at the World Cup, alongside finalists Japan and Thailand. However, failure to reach the continental final meant that the two-time Asian champion was seeded in Pot 3 of the World Cup draw, and hence, handed a tricky group-stage test. “Our group at the World

Cup is a tough one, but we will still give our all to return home with a decent result. We are not going to the Philippines just to be tourists,” Torkaman told IRNA. The 22-year-old pivot played an essential part in Iran qualifying for the World Cup, finishing as the top scorer at the Asian Cup with six goals – including a double in the 3-1 victory over the host nation in the decisive third-place contest. Iran, which was ranked ninth in the latest FIFA World Ranking in August, will get its World Cup campaign underway against eight-time Copa America champion and world No. 1 Brazil on November 23, before taking on Panama three days later. Shahrzad Mozaffar’s side will hope to be in contention for a top-two finish in

the group and a place in the round of 16, when squaring off against world No. 7 Italy at the PhilSports Arena on November 29.

“Personally, I’m thrilled to have the chance to play against top teams like Brazil, Italy, and Panama. I will leave everything on the court to be at my best in all matches. I hope we can make our people proud,” added Torkaman.

As part of the World Cup preparation, Iran will take on Russia in a couple of friendlies in the Russian city of Tula on October 16 and 18, before heading to the Islamic Solidarity Games – starting November 7 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

“The level of competition at the Islamic Solidarity Games is in stark contrast to what we will have to come up

against at the World Cup. However, the game against a powerful opponent like Russia is a huge help. Right now, pre-World Cup friendlies are crucial for our preparation,” Torkaman said.

Iran head coach Mozaffar, who took over from Forouzan Soleimani following an under-par Asian Cup campaign, has named a 17-woman squad for the visit to Russia.

Joining Torkaman in the Iranian training camp will be goalkeeper and captain Farzaneh Tavassoli, Nastaran Moqimi, Mahtab Banaei, Nasimeh Sadat Gholami, Fereshteh Karimi, Fereshteh Khosravi, Fatemeh Rahmati, Elham Anafcheh, Zahra Kianimesh, Atefeh Barqi, Shirin Saffar, Zahra Lotfabadi, Sara Shirbeigi, Mahsa Kamali, Mahdiah Mahmoudinia, and Tahereh Mahdipour.



● AFC

IWF World Championships: Beiranvand rues injury after missing out on medal



Iranian weightlifter Abodollah Beiranvand is seen in action in the men’s 79kg contests at the IWF World Championships in Forde, Norway, on October 6, 2025.

Sports Desk

Iranian weightlifter Abodollah Beiranvand said a lengthy injury in the buildup to the IWF World Championships ultimately cost him a podium finish on the fifth day of the competition in Forde, Norway.

Representing the country in the men’s 79kg event, Beiranvand completed a clean sweep of six successful efforts in the Group B competition, posting 156-185-340 to settle for a ninth-place finish.

His final snatch lift of 156kg bettered the national record by one kilogram.

“It was a very exciting competition. I was in good form and managed to successfully complete all six of my lifts. I gave it my all, and the coaching staff was also pleased with my performance,” Beiranvand said after his campaign.

“I was just one kilogram short of a snatch bronze medal. I’m sure I would have finished on the podium had it not been for

the injury setback, but it wasn’t meant to be. I will work harder to be successful in future competitions,” added the Iranian. On breaking the national record, Beiranvand stated, “The injury caused my performance level to drop. I had to struggle with the injury for the past two months, which is why I couldn’t lift more than 150kg in training. But I managed to post 156kg here. In the clean & jerk, I was also able to better my personal best.”

“The atmosphere at the competition was fantastic and very competitive; thank God, I was able to finish my work by setting a new record.”

Iran head coach Behdad Salimi was full of praise for Beiranvand despite finishing empty-handed, saying, “Abdollah did well and fought brilliantly. He received an injection in his hamstring two months ago which caused him significant trouble and hampered his preparation. But he showed real heart and determination today.”

“He had six successful lifts,

which is very important. Furthermore, the weights he lifted today were heavier than what he had been managing in training over recent months. Personally, I am very satisfied with his performance,” added the former world and Olympic champion.

“Beiranvand is young and has a great future ahead of him. I am confident that next year he has the potential to return from the World Championships with a strong result.”

Meanwhile, Indonesian Rizki Juniansyah stole the show in the 79kg contest and double golds and the snatch bronze, breaking the C&J world record on his way to a 157-204-361 tally.

North Korea’s Ri Chong-song claimed the snatch gold and then settled for the total silver. Egyptian Mohamed Younes also finished with two medals (snatch silver and total bronze), while Indonesia’s Rahmat Erwin Abdullah and Son Hyeon-ho of South Korea won the C&J silver and bronze medals respectively.

Shahbakhsh to headline Iran’s boxing trio at Islamic Solidarity Games

Sports Desk

History-making boxer Danial Shahbakhsh will spearhead the Iranian three-man squad at the upcoming Islamic Solidarity Games, the national governing body of the sport confirmed on Tuesday.

The sixth edition of the multi-sport event will kick off on November 7 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Shahbakhsh claimed a first, and to date only, world medal – a lightweight bronze – for the country in 2021, but was not part of the Iranian squad at September’s World Championships in Liverpool.

The 25-year-old boxer had competing in various professional boxing events in Thailand in recent months before joining the national team training camp two weeks ago.

“From the outset, I never had any intention of parting ways with the national team. Our team went to the World Championships, and due to certain circumstances, I was not part

of the roster. However, my primary goal from the start was to compete at the Islamic Solidarity Games. I believe our focus should now be on these Games. I know there is talk and speculation, but I prefer to focus more on the future and the upcoming competitions,” Shahbakhsh – also a 2021 Asian silver medalist – recently said. On working with Iran head coach Homayoun Amiri, Shahbakhsh said, “I have worked

with him before. He coached me to my World and Asian medals and was in my corner at the Olympic qualification event. I know his training methods well, and God willing, we can once again deliver brilliant results for Iranian boxing.” Shahbakhsh will vie for glory in the 60kg weight class in Riyadh, with Ali Habibinejad and Mohammad Nourani competing in the 65kg and 80kg contests respectively.



● TASNIM

Hardani ruled out of friendlies with back injury

Sports Desk

Esteghlal fullback Saleh Hardani is expected to be sidelined for a month after suffering a back injury during a 1-1 draw against Chador-malou in the Persian Gulf Pro

League on Sunday.

The 26-year-old right back managed to stay in the game until the final whistle but was omitted from Iran’s upcoming friendly games against Russia and Tanzania.

Tractor fullback Danial Es-



● MOHAMMADREZA BOLANDI/ISNA

maeilifar received a first international callout by head coach Amir Qalenoee to replace Hardani in the Iranian squad.

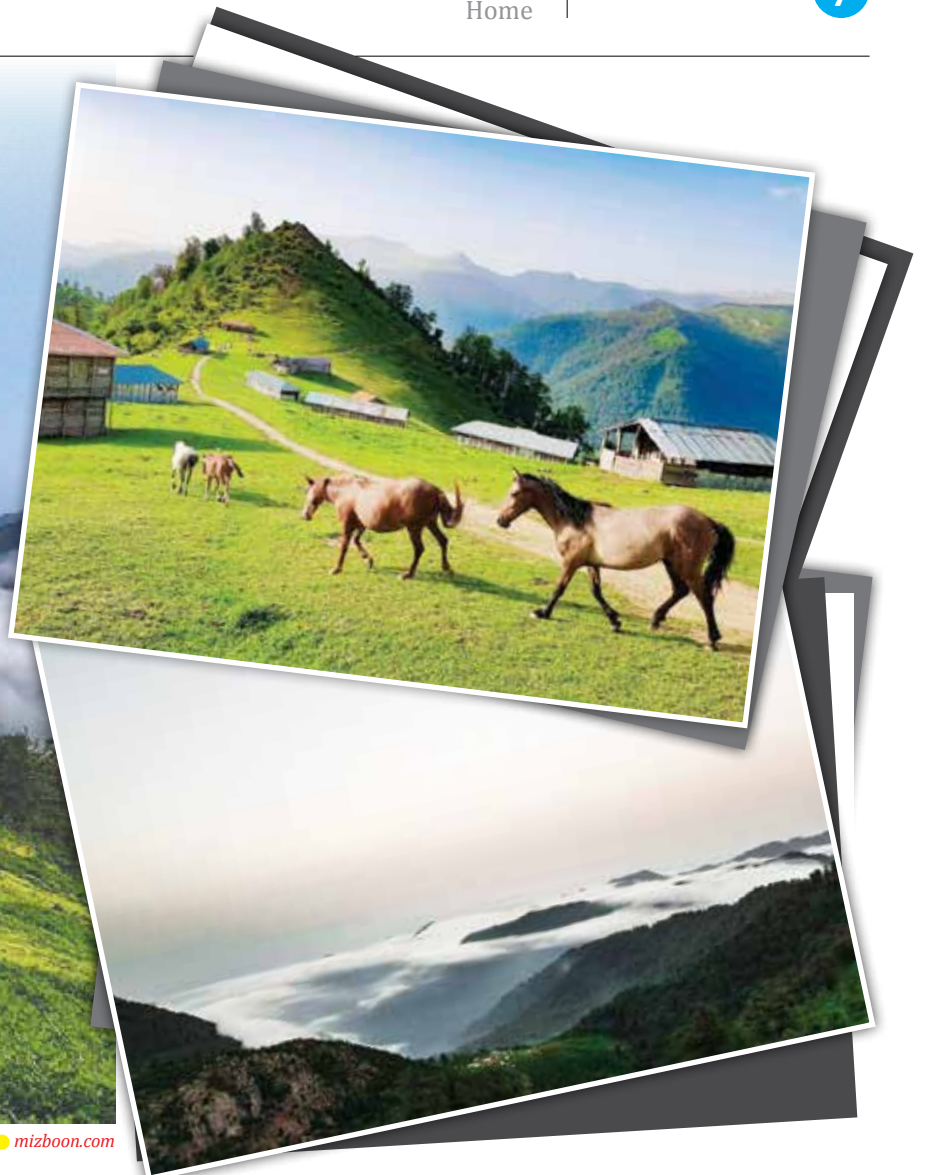
Iran will play Russia in Volgograd on Friday, before facing Tanzania – No. 107 in the latest FIFA Men’s World Ranking – in Dubai four days later. The double header will be part of Iran’s preparation for next summer’s World Cup finals in the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

Shabab Al Ahli striker Sardar Azmoun will also be unavailable for the double header after sustaining a fractured metatarsal in his foot as well as a torn ankle ligament during a training session on Saturday, which could keep him out of action for up to fourth months.

Masal welcoming nature lovers to foothill paradise



mizboon.com



Iranica Desk

Masal, located in Gilan Province, is a charming foothill town that was formerly known as "Rudkenar." Today, it stands as a paradise for nature enthusiasts, where every step invites travelers into a journey through clouds, history, and artistic heritage. Positioned 50 kilometers northwest of Rasht, Masal is divided into two main districts — Shanderman and Markazi — and geographically encompasses three distinct areas: plains, foothills, and mountainous zones. The majority of the local population engages in farming and animal husbandry, contributing to Masal's traditional rural charm. With its abundant natural attractions, Masal has become one of the most sought-after destinations in northern Iran, renowned for offering a unique four-season experience, each unveiling a distinctive landscape. Whether joining a guided domestic tour or crafting a personalized travel itinerary, visitors will find Masal brimming with wonders to explore. Masal's natural beauty is highlighted by its flowing rivers, dense and majestic forests,

roaring waterfalls, and a refreshing mountainous climate, all combining to present a truly spectacular face of nature. The town's allure extends deeply into its past, with archaeological excavations revealing ancient graves and ruins dating back millions of years. Originally recognized for its pleasant weather and its proximity to the famed Khalkai River, Masal has long been appreciated as a pristine pastoral area and one of Gilan's finest sightseeing gems, IRNA wrote.

One of Masal's most iconic attractions is the Green Roof, situated about one kilometer southwest from the city center. This scenic site is lined with a variety of cafes and restaurants serving delicious local cuisine, ready to welcome tourists. Standing atop the Green Roof, visitors are treated to breathtaking panoramic views of Masal itself, along with the neighboring cities of Somehsara and Bandar Anzali, all nestled beautifully within Gilan Province's lush landscapes. Olasbelangah, a name derived from the Taleshi language meaning "Hornbeam tree on a high elevation," is a spectacular summer pasture accessible only by passing through Masal.

En route, visitors are greeted by elderly locals dressed in traditional clothing and felt hats, welcoming guests from wooden gazebos crafted from irregular, dry tree branches, while offering golden local bread. Located at an altitude of 1,489 meters above sea level, Olasbelangah features wooden plank-built houses with some sporting colorful roofs, typical of summer homes in the region. This enchanting pasture is undeniably one of the most beautiful places imaginable, where colorful flowers dance with the wind and stunning sunsets and sunrises mesmerize visitors. The ever-present clouds add to the ethereal beauty of this site, making it a must-visit destination for those seeking extraordinary natural splendor. With its untamed, pristine environment, Olasbelangah has long captivated travelers with its lush meadows, twisted trees, wooden cabins, and thick fog that blankets the terrain, shaping a landscape that words seldom do justice. Among Masal's notable natural features are its caves, with about 17 identified in the county. The largest and most significant is Avisho Cave, located 22 kilometers from the city and

officially registered as a natural national monument of Iran under number 90. Geologists estimate the cave's formation to date back approximately 75 million years. Avisho is a limestone and water cave containing seven springs and a continuously flowing river running from its entrance to its depths. The cave features nine main shafts and one secondary shaft, and inside, visitors are greeted by an array of unique limestone formations created through the gradual dissolution of limestone by water. Stalactites hang from the ceiling, while stalagmites rise from the floor, both formed by calcium carbonate deposits. The formation process results from rainwater absorbing carbon dioxide and becoming acidic enough to dissolve limestone, with calcium carbonate remaining as the water evaporates, gradually sculpting the cave's spectacular interior. Among the vibrant summer pastures of Masal is Khoshkeh Darya, nestled within a valley and known for its lush green expanse. Originally a lake that has since dried, Khoshkeh Darya boasts pleasant weather and a network of flowing rivers which contribute to its

refreshing climate. Situated at approximately 1,500 meters above sea level, reaching this tranquil pasture requires a five-kilometer hike, rewarding visitors with a peaceful and verdant retreat.

Nearby, Sue Chale Summer Resort, located south of Masal near Olasbelangah, is famed for its pristine environment, colorful two-story houses, misty ambiance, and awe-inspiring views. Situated at 1,900 meters above sea level, Sue Chale offers visitors sweeping vistas of green hills and an expansive sea of clouds.

In mid-January 2021, Shalma village received the National Woodcarving village certification, underscoring its cultural significance. Positioned 12 kilometers west of Masal and surrounded by the Alborz Mountains, this charming summer pasture features five natural springs and the confluence of the Shalma and Chesli rivers. The tranquil sounds of flowing water, wind rustling through the trees, and birdsong create a uniquely serene atmosphere. Woodcarving is a hereditary craft in this region, with many artisans working from their homes. To support this traditional industry, the Cultural

Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Department of Gilan Province plans to establish a handicrafts market along Shalma road, providing a dedicated space for local woodcarvers to showcase their handmade works to tourists.

Another remarkable historical attraction in Masal is the ancient Asb Rish site, situated in a village of the same name. This site features a very old cemetery dating back to the Achaemenid era, showcasing unique and striking architecture that makes it highly worth exploring. Beyond its historical significance, Asb Rish attracts adventure seekers and sports enthusiasts, offering activities such as kayaking and rock climbing. The stone wall of Asb Rish is famed for having one of the tallest climbing cliffs in Iran. Efforts are underway to make this cliff fully accessible for climbers, allowing them to enjoy the natural challenge alongside the roar of a river flowing at the cliff's base. Despite being one of Masal's lesser-known treasures, Asb Rish's captivating allure ensures visitors often return multiple times to experience its blend of history, nature, and adventure.

Explore Timurid Chahartaq in Shirvan

Iranica Desk

Timurid Chahartaq (an architectural unit consisting of four-barrel vaults and a dome) in Shirvan, North Khorasan Province, belongs to the Timurid dynasty. It is the resting place of Amir Timur. There is a description over the tomb of this military leader that indicates he died in 1405. It is natural that the building was constructed at the same date. The Chahartaq is located on the site of Imamzadeh Hamzeh Reza, a shrine in the village.

What can be seen from the outside of the building is the view of an octagonal structure. Although the tablet of the Chahartaq dates it back to the Timurid dynasty, the fact that it is octagonal and has basements provides a basis for the speculation that it was built during the Ilkhanate era.



Another hypothesis is that the tomb belongs to Sheikh Timur. But it has been rejected by many scholars because, according to the endowment contract of the Chahartaq, written in 1636, the building was endowed by a person named Amir Mohammad Sheikh Timuri. There are some words on

the tombstone located in the Chahartaq that, despite being unreadable and faded, show two words of Eid Khajeh. According to historical books, this is the name of one of Amir Timur's commanders in chief, visitiran.ir wrote. There is a gateway on each of the eight sides of the building. The



● IRNA

upper part of the structure has been constructed using vaults. There are also windows positioned above the doors and having the same width as them, and ivans each decorated with unique brickwork. The entirety of this tomb is made of bricks and cob bricks. It should

not be overlooked that the inner part of the building is covered with plaster. The upper portions of the gateways feature bricks in the color of turquoise. Stucco and reliefs of the building have been decorated with arabesque motifs. The first phase of restoration of Timur Chahartaq was conducted

in 1977. After that, the façade of the building changed to a great degree. The restorations continued in 2005 and 2007, when further destruction of the structure was prevented by reinforcement. Archeological investigations resulted in the discovery of the main entrance to the building and its basements, as well as the surrounding fences. It is speculated that these fences were later added to stop the spread of the graveyard into the district of the building.

Timur Chahartaq was registered on Iran's National Heritage List in 2001. In the southwest of the Chahartaq, there is a shrine attributed to Hamzeh Reza. This shrine has a dome that is two meters high from the outside and four meters from the inside. The distance between the shrine and Chahartaq is about fifty meters.



National Day of Villages and Nomads

Pezeshkian hails Iran's unity in diversity

Iran won't be a 'playground' for enemies

Social Desk

President Masoud Pezeshkian emphasized Iran's cultural solidarity and resilience on Tuesday while addressing the National Day of Villages and Nomads at the IRIB International Conference Center in Tehran.

The annual event drew rural and nomadic entrepreneurs, producers, and innovators from across the country.

"Iran, with all its diverse ethnic and cultural groups, belongs to all Iranians," Pezeshkian said. "The presence of entrepreneurs, producers, and innovators is a symbol of Iran. All Iranian ethnic groups are striving to tackle problems together," president.ir reported.

He underlined that Iranian culture is rooted in mutual assistance and helping one another, adding that the government is working to resolve the nation's pressing issues with broad participa-

tion from citizens.

The president highlighted Iran's resilience in the face of external threats, referring to the June conflict with Israel. "The enemy believed that if they attacked Iran, the country would descend into chaos. However, the Iranian people stood firm against their adversaries and achieved significant accomplishments on all fronts," he said.

Pezeshkian vowed that Iran would not allow its territory to become a "place of marauding by evildoers and enemies." He also condemned recent violence in Gaza, quoting the Azerbaijani poet Shahriar, "It is very difficult to tolerate those who talk of human rights while killing innocent people. Individuals blinded by money and power will stop at no injustice."

Abdolkarim Hosseinzadeh, Vice President for Rural Development and Disadvantaged Regions, praised the techno-



Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian speaks at the National Day of Villages and Nomads at the IRIB International Conference Center on October 7, 2025.
● president.ir

logical and entrepreneurial capacities of rural and nomadic communities.

He said the event aimed to provide innovative models and training for small producers and entrepreneurs, underscoring that Iran's people are its greatest national wealth.

Pezeshkian unveiled a commemorative stamp for the National Day of Villages and Nomads. He also visited an exhibition showcasing rural and nomadic achievements, engaging directly with innovators, entrepreneurs, and producers, and ordered follow-up measures to support their initiatives.



Basra Roadshow

Expansion of historical, health tourism with Iraq 'essential,' says minister



Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, Reza Salehi Amiri, appears on a video screen during the opening of the first Iran-Iraq Tourism Roadshow in Basra, Iraq, on October 7, 2025.
● ILNA

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, Reza Salehi Amiri, urged the expansion of historical and health tourism between Iran and Iraq in a video message delivered at the opening of the first Iran-Iraq tourism roadshow in Basra. He described the two nations as "linked by cultural, civilizational, political, religious and historical relations," noting that they share interests across multiple markets, ILNA reported.

Salehi Amiri highlighted the centuries-old bonds forged through pilgrimage sites such as Najaf, Karbala, Kadhimiya, and the shrine of Imam Reza in Mashhad.

"The people of Iran belong to Islam and Ahl al-Bayt," he said, underlining the depth of religious and cultural ties. He added that Iraq serves as "Iran's first home in the region and the world," making it a central target for Iran's tourism initiatives.

The minister also promoted Iran's medical tourism sector, citing its specialized doctors, equipped hospitals, and affordable treatment costs.

He said Iran can host Iraqi

visitors seeking healthcare, in addition to cultural and pilgrimage tourism.

Salehi Amiri called for strengthened cooperation in preserving and promoting the shared historical heritage of both nations, noting Iran's 29 UNESCO-listed sites and 27 intangible cultural heritage entries as a foundation for further collaboration.

The roadshow, taking place from October 6 to 9 in Basra, Baghdad and Karbala, involves a 40-member Iranian delegation from major travel agencies, airlines, hotels, and digital platforms. Hormatollah Rafiei, head of the Association of Iranian Travel Agencies, said bilateral tourism should no longer focus solely on Western visitors. He stated that "the largest volume of tourism exchange must occur between Iran and Iraq," citing France and Turkey, which attract most foreign visitors from neighboring countries, as models.

He stressed that the roadshow should mark the start of increased tourist flows and help stimulate both nations' economies.

Head of the Basra Tourism Department Hussein Al-Rafiei, and Basra lawmaker in

Iraqi Parliament, welcomed the Iranian delegation and expressed appreciation for their participation. "We will not only use the experience of the Iranian team but also provide full support for private-sector tourism cooperation," he said. He added that the event is designed to showcase opportunities and capacities for joint development, with the aim of a significant rise in tourist exchanges between the two nations.

According to Iranian officials, more than 11 million tourists travelled between Iran and Iraq last year, including 8 million Iranians visiting Iraq and 3.4 million Iraqis visiting Iran. Moslem Shojaei, the director of marketing and foreign tourism development at Iran's Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, called the cross-border movement "a unique opportunity for the private sector" to expand collaboration. He said the roadshow highlights Iran's safety, infrastructure, and readiness to host Iraqi tourists, not only for pilgrimage but also for recreation, shopping, and medical tourism.

Shojaei added that tourism is a vehicle for understanding cultures, fostering dialogue, and promoting peace. "It has become a major cultural and economic power," he said.

Italy's Paladino d'Oro Film Festival to screen 'Dandelions Girl'

Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian filmmaker Azadeh Masihzadeh's short film 'Dandelions Girl' was named a finalist at the 45th Paladino d'Oro Sport Film Festival in Palermo, Italy, slated for December 1 to 7.

First held in 1979, the Paladino d'Oro festival will showcase around 150 films from 35 countries this year, with support from the Sicilia Film Commission, the Palermo municipality and Italy's National Paralympic Committee, Mehr News Agency reported.

The awards gala is scheduled for December 7 at the city's Teatro Politeama Garibaldi.

Written and directed by Masihzadeh and produced by Raziye Gholami, 'Dandelions Girl' follows a young girl who defies social barriers to play football and, through her struggle, exposes the tension between "truth and deceit." The film portrays the determination of Iran's young generation to stand their ground in the face of obstacles.

The cast includes Tara Soroush, Benyam Afrangh and Abdollah Bahadori, with international distribution managed by Masihzadeh's AtoZinema.



The film has already earned international recognition, taking second prize at India's International Children's Film Festival (ICFF) Jaipur earlier this year, where it was the only Iranian entry in competition.

Masihzadeh, who described the selection as "a proud moment for Iranian cinema," said she hopes the film will "speak to universal courage — the kind that begins on a playground and grows into something larger."

UN migration agency extols Iran's extensive services to Afghan refugees

The United Nations migration agency expressed its appreciation towards Iran over the extensive services that the Islamic Republic has been providing to the millions of Afghan refugees staying in the country.

A senior advisor to the International Organization for Migration (IOM)'s director-general made the remarks to Mohammad Bat'haei, deputy Iranian interior minister, in Geneva on Monday. The officials were meeting on the sidelines of the 76th Annual Session of the Executive Committee of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Press TV reported.

Kim Eling praised the Islamic Republic's successful efforts aimed at hosting the Afghan nationals, while regretting the decline in contributions from donor coun-

tries.

He identified the decline as one of the main challenges that faced the UN in advancing its projects geared towards accommodating the needs of migrants worldwide. Bat'haei, who also heads Iran's Social Affairs Organization, noted how the Islamic Republic has been rendering "remarkable" services to the monumental number of Afghan migrants and individuals from other origins, who have been seeking refuge across the country.

Tehran has been providing the support, despite simultaneously suffering under Western states' "oppressive unilateral sanctions," he lamented.

"Iran hopes that donor countries, in accordance with their share of responsibility, will allocate appropriate support to the ongoing projects in Iran," the official added.

The officials, meanwhile, reviewed the latest status of interactions between the Islamic Republic and the IOM regarding the organization of foreign nationals residing in the country.

Iran hosts 3.8 million refugees and individuals in refugee-like situations. Afghan nationals comprise the majority of this number. The number of refugees began to significantly rise after the 2001 invasion of the Central Asian nation by the United States, which triggered a huge backlash by the Taliban.

The US's sudden withdrawal from Afghanistan amid a wholesale Taliban offensive in 2021 similarly unleashed another refugee wave onto the country's neighbors.