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Iran men reclaim world weightlifting crown after eight years

Sports Desk

Iran's men's weightlifting team clinched the overall title at the 2025 World Weightlifting Championships in Førde, Norway on Saturday, ending an eight-year wait to return to the top of the sport. Competing with eight lifters, Iran secured one gold, four silvers and one bronze medal to amass 388 team points — enough to capture their second world team title, IRNA reported. North Korea and the United States finished second and third respectively. In the 94kg category, Alireza Moeini claimed gold in the snatch and silver in the clean and jerk. Ali Alipour added another silver medal and placed fourth overall. Alireza Nasiri delivered two silvers in the 110kg class to finish runner-up, while super-heavyweight lifter Ali Davoudi earned bronze in the +110kg category. The triumph marks Iran's first world championship title since 2017, when the team was led by then-lifter and now head coach Behdad Salimi.



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (2nd L) remotely launches solar projects nationwide with a combined capacity to produce 250 megawatts of power per day in Tehran on October 11, 2025.

● president.ir

President launches 250 MW solar initiatives, vows gov't support to remove barriers

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Europe's new statement is just more carrot and stick

By Hamidreza Gholamzadeh
US affairs analyst

OPINION
EXCLUSIVE

On Friday, Britain, France, and Germany issued a joint statement declaring that they would seek to revive the stalled nuclear talks between Iran and the United States. The announcement came only after the trio triggered the "snapback" mechanism in late August to reimpose UN sanctions on Iran. When the UN Security Council voted down Russia and China's proposal to delay those sanctions in late September, all financial and trade restrictions linked to Iran's nuclear program were reinstated. The latest statement is a textbook example of Europe's long-standing carrot-and-stick approach toward Iran. On the one hand, the three countries see activating the snapback and turning up the pressure as the "right thing to do," while on the other, they urge Tehran to return to the ne-

gotiating table. This tactic of passing the buck and blaming Iran for the diplomatic deadlock has been a recurring feature of European policy. The reality, however, is that it was the Europeans who failed to meet their commitments under the 2015 nuclear deal, known as the JCPOA. Following the US withdrawal from the accord in 2018, the Europeans promised to shield trade with Iran through a mechanism called INSTEX. Yet that initiative never got off the ground. Instead, it was the Europeans themselves who instigated the snapback — effectively dismantling the deal they claimed to support. Despite these broken promises, they continue to point the finger at Tehran, pursuing a mix of blame games and political pressure in hopes of coercing Iran back into talks. This dual strategy has also been evident in the joint statement issued on October 6 by the European Union and the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council, which questioned Iran's sovereignty over the three Persian Gulf islands. The move fits neatly into the broader pattern of political pressure designed to box Iran into negotia-

tions. But circumstances have changed. Europe has already played its hand. At this stage, talks with Europe — much like those with the United States — offer little to Iran. Tehran was already in dialogue with Washington when Israel launched strikes in June, sparking a regional conflict that saw the US target Iranian nuclear sites. Given that backdrop, fresh negotiations with either side would bring Iran no tangible benefit. Talks, at this point, appear to serve only as a tool of pressure or deception — something Tehran has little reason to accept. For its part, Washington has shown no real appetite for talks since the conflict. Iranian officials say the US refused to join any side meetings at the UN General Assembly in September. It's clear that the only kind of negotiation Washington would entertain is one where it sets the terms and Tehran simply falls in line — a notion that runs counter to Iran's position. Knowing this, the US sees little upside in reopening dialogue.

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US presence in Bagram poses compound threat to China, Russia, and Iran: Expert

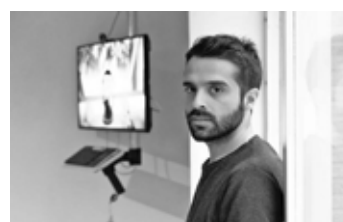
INTERVIEW

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IRGC Navy chief says Iran never sought closure of Strait of Hormuz



National Desk

The commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Navy termed on Friday the Strait of Hormuz as the "world's vital oil and gas artery," underlining that Iran has consistently ensured the security of this strategic waterway and never aimed to disrupt or close it.

Rear Admiral Alireza Tangsiri underscored the vital importance of the Strait of Hormuz in the global energy market and warned against the "unregulated" presence of extra-regional powers and their nuclear-powered vessels in this strategic waterway.

"This waterway is the oil and gas artery of the world, and Iran has always safeguarded it and never sought to have it closed," Tangsiri stated, adding, "The question remains: is it fair

that the world benefits from this strait while Iran does not?"

He explained that the decision to open or close the Strait of Hormuz lies with the country's high-ranking officials and depends on the pressure on Iran's exports.

"The decision on whether the strait remains open or closed ultimately rests with the country's top leadership and depends on the extent of pressure exerted on Iran's oil exports," he noted.

Tangsiri also criticized the continued presence of certain foreign powers in the region, asserting that "such countries deliberately create tensions and adversaries to justify their presence."

He reiterated that Iran's defense policy is fundamentally defensive, not aggressive.

Tangsiri affirmed that Iran has not attacked any country in over 300 years

and will not seek conflict unless it is provoked.

He further emphasized the vigilance and readiness of Iranian forces stationed in the Persian Gulf.

"Our soldiers in the region, both from the Army Navy and the IRGC Navy, will stand against any threat or action targeting national interests and will defend the nation's dignity until their last breath," he vowed.

Mentioning the 12-day unprovoked Israeli aggression against Iran, he stated that Iran "did not start the war, nor did we request its end; we continue to steadfastly defend the path we were on."

"The enemies know that Iran is not seeking a nuclear bomb; their problem is with Iran's independent existence and scientific progress, not with weapons," he concluded.

Protesters in London call for 'lasting peace' in Gaza

Palestinian groups reject foreign guardianship on Gaza

International Desk

Tens of thousands of pro-Palestine protesters gathered in central London to call for "lasting peace" in Gaza, a day after the cease-fire agreement between Israel and Hamas came into effect.

The demonstration came as tens of thousands of Palestinians began returning to the ruins of their homes in Gaza following the withdrawal of Israeli forces after the US brokered cease-fire took effect on Friday. Protesters chanted "death, death to the IDF" as they marched through central London, referring to Israeli occupation forces.

Around 500,000 people have gathered, according to organizers, despite a US-brokered ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hamas on Friday. Pro-Palestine activists have continued to express anger at Israel over its military operations in Gaza following the October 7 attacks by Hamas, in which more than 1,200 Israelis were killed. The protest's organizers, who promised to make it the biggest pro-Palestine demonstration in British history, insisted that marches will continue until "a free Palestine" is achieved.

Ben Jamal, the director of Palestine Solidarity Campaign which organized the demonstration, said the march went ahead, despite a cease-fire coming into effect, because the "plan that has been laid out by Donald Trump is not a plan for enduring peace."

He said the plan said "nothing about the root causes of violence" nor anything "about the system of apartheid" in Palestine or the "right to self-determination" for Palestinians.

Jamal added that the group's campaigning and protesting will not end "until the Palestinian people are finally free."

It was the 32nd national demonstration in support of Palestine since October 2023, according to the group.



Displaced Palestinians return home

Tens of thousands of displaced Palestinians made their way back to their Gaza neighborhoods on Saturday, weaving through dust-shrouded streets as bulldozers clawed through the wreckage of two years of war and the cease-fire held in its second day. Aid groups urged Israel to reopen more crossings to allow humanitarian aid into Gaza, and about 200 US troops arrived in Israel to help retrieve hostages and monitor the cease-fire with Hamas.

Israel's military has said that under the truce deal, the 48 captives still in Gaza would be freed on Monday. Israel's war on Gaza has killed tens of thousands of Palestinians, flattened entire neighborhoods and displaced around 90% of Gaza's more than 2 million people, some multiple times. In Israel, families were awaiting the return of captives taken in the 2023 Hamas attack. Tel Aviv believes around 20 of the captives remain alive. Meanwhile, questions remain on who will govern Gaza after Israeli troops gradually pull back and whether Hamas will disarm, as called for in the cease-fire agreement.

Future governance of Gaza

Hamas and allied Palestinian factions



People take part in a Palestine Solidarity Campaign march on Westminster Bridge in London on October 11, 2025.

YUI MOK/PA

reiterated that any decision on the future governance of Gaza is "an internal Palestinian matter."

In a joint statement on Friday, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) joined Hamas in lauding the steadfastness of Palestinians, which they said foiled Israel's plans for mass forced displacement in Gaza.

"We renew our rejection to any foreign guardianship, and we stress that the nature of the administration of the Gaza Strip and its institutions are an internal Palestinian matter to be determined by the national component of our people directly," the statement said.

United States President Donald Trump's 20-point Gaza plan includes the creation of a new international body, dubbed the "Board of Peace", that would be tasked with overseeing an interim authority of technocrats to govern Gaza.

According to the scheme, Trump himself would chair the board, which would also include former British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

Tehran initiates legal process in int'l courts against Israel-US strikes



International Desk

Iran's Vice President for Legal Affairs Majid Ansari announced on Saturday that the country's legal authorities have launched the process of filing legal complaints against Israel and the United States in international courts over their aggression against the Islamic Republic in June.

Ansari noted that the strikes by Israel and the US on Iran, which targeted civilian places, hospitals, universities, journalists and nuclear facilities, have violated various international legal conventions and requires its own specific legal follow-up.

"Each of these illegal acts has its own regulations and conventions, and for this reason, we will pursue them from different legal angles."

The Iranian official stressed that the process is complex and due to the good



People and first-responders gather outside a building that was hit by an Israeli strike in Tehran on June 13, 2025.

MEGHAD MADADI/TASNIM

coordination and cooperation among the country's legal bodies, "We hope to achieve justice for the Iranian nation in this regard."

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 Iranian nuclear sites in a grave violation of international law.

On June 24, Iran, through its successful retaliatory operations against both the Israeli regime and the US, managed to impose a halt to the terrorist assault.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Europe's new statement...

Negotiations can no longer be used to string Iran along, nor is Tehran in any mood to offer concessions. As a result, neither side seems keen to engage.

Iran's path forward, therefore, lies in doubling down on the strategy it has pursued for years: offsetting sanctions by building alternative trade frameworks — through organizations like the Shanghai Cooperation Organiza-

tion and BRICS — and strengthening ties with neighboring markets. Tehran must continue expanding its non-oil exports and promoting trade in local and alternative currencies to cushion itself against Western pressure.

The return of UN sanctions is unlikely to create new obstacles. The US has already imposed far tougher restrictions, and Europe has long ceased meaningful trade with Iran due to its own depen-

dency on US financial systems. Moreover, the UN resolutions focus mainly on nuclear issues, not Iran's oil trade — the country's primary source of revenue. Therefore, the renewed sanctions add little to the economic pressure Iran already faces. Having weathered years of sanctions, Tehran has learned to manage the fallout. The experience of those years, it seems, will once again serve as the country's guide for the road ahead.

President launches 250 MW solar initiatives, vows gov’t support to remove barriers

Economy Desk

Iran inaugurated and began construction of a total of 700 megawatts (MW) in solar power projects across the country on Saturday, in a virtual ceremony attended by President Masoud Pezeshkian, as part of efforts to expand renewable energy and address power shortages. The event marked the inauguration of 250 MW of new solar capacity and the executive operation of an additional 450 MW, president.ir reported. Pezeshkian stressed the need to accelerate the construction of solar power plants, pledging government support to remove any barriers slowing down renewable projects and to facilitate private-sector participation. "The government is fully prepared to eliminate any obstacles to speeding up solar plant construction, addressing the country's power imbalance, and enabling private-sector activity in this field," Pezeshkian said. "Avoiding power shortages next summer is a top government priority. All existing solar power contracts could be completed and commissioned within a year."

President Masoud Pezeshkian orders the inauguration and construction of 700 MW of solar power projects across Iran, during a virtual ceremony in Tehran on October 11, 2025. ● president.ir

He added that developing solar plants will not only help resolve electricity shortages but also make a significant contribution to environmental protection by reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Pezeshkian also highlighted the particular importance of building solar facilities along Iran's southern coasts, noting their role in supporting large-scale desalination projects and regional development around the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman. At the meeting, Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi said that with Saturday's inaugurations, the country's total renewable power generation capacity has reached 2,550 MW — enough to supply electricity to about 145,000 households. "Of this capacity, more than 2,030 MW comes from solar power, around 370 MW from wind, 100 MW from small-scale hydropower, and 372 MW from expansion turbines and biomass and



biogas plants." Aliabadi noted that Iran is now commissioning roughly 100 MW of solar power each week, marking steady progress in

its clean energy expansion. Under Iran's Seventh Development Plan, the country is mandated to build 12,000 MW of renewable power plants.

The capacity stood at 1,036 MW at the start of the plan and has now grown to 2,550 MW. The government aims to raise that figure to 13,100 MW by 2028.

Trade balance improves 68% as non-oil exports pick up



Economy Desk

Iran's trade balance improved by 68% in the first half of the current Iranian year (began on March 21, 2025), driven by a rebound in non-oil exports and rising service revenues despite earlier setbacks caused by energy shortages, a senior trade official said on Saturday. Mohammad Ali Dehqan Dehnavi, head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) said that although total trade volume declined, the trade deficit narrowed sharply from \$7.5 billion in the same period last year to \$4 billion this year, Mehr reported. "Despite a decrease in total trade, our trade balance has seen remarkable improvement," Dehnavi said. "During the past year, the first year of President Pezeshkian's administration, we succeeded in bringing non-oil exports close to \$57.8 billion — a historic record — while oil exports also grew by 15.8%." The deputy industry minister

described the previous year as "one of the most outstanding years in exports," adding that the current year began with difficulties due to power shortages and widespread blackouts that heavily affected industries. "Fortunately, by the end of the first half, we managed to make up for the shortfall, and non-oil exports grew 15% compared with the same period last year," he said. The total value of non-oil exports in the first six months rose slightly from \$25.922 billion last year to \$25.944 billion this year, while export volume increased by 6%. Imports fell considerably, partly due to tighter controls on non-essential goods. "In the first half of last year, imports were valued at \$33.463 billion, which fell 15% this year to \$28.367 billion," Dehnavi said. "While part of this decline reflects import control measures, lower imports of raw materials and capital goods also played a role."

Dehnavi noted that Iran has set the target of achieving 23% annual export growth. "Despite domestic and external constraints, we are confident that with determination, planning, and private-sector dynamism, sustainable growth is achievable," he said. **Strong growth in service exports** Dehnavi also said that service exports — particularly in engineering and technology — showed notable progress. "In technical and engineering services, export value rose from \$600 million in the first half of last year to \$900 million this year, a 50% increase," he said. "In other service sectors such as information technology, foreign consulting, and international marketing, exports grew from \$885 million to \$1.26 billion, indicating a highly promising trend," he added. However, he noted that tourism revenues had declined due to ongoing challenges in the sector.

455 projects opened to strengthen digital, telecom infrastructure in Fars



Economy Desk

About 455 communication and digital infrastructure projects in the southern province of Fars were inaugurated on Saturday, in a ceremony attended by the minister of information and communications technology (ICT). The projects are part of the government's national program to expand digital and communication infrastructure, Sattar Hashemi said during the virtual inauguration ceremony, as reported by IRNA. The projects include initia-

tives in rural connectivity, fiber-optic networks, national infrastructure, and the rollout of new generations of mobile communication technology, the report said. Speaking at the Fars Provincial Planning and Development Council, the ICT minister underscored the central role of technology in driving Iran's economic growth. "If we are talking about economic development and growth, it is impossible to achieve without leveraging technology," he said. "Lawmakers attribute 35% of the mandated growth target to productivity — and that 35% is simply unattainable without technology." Hashemi added that the use of information and communication technology — from basic infrastructure to smart systems — is no longer optional. "In leading economies, the

digital economy accounts for more than 40% of total GDP, which is remarkable," he said. Hashemi emphasized that top global companies at the present are those engaged in the digital and technology sectors. "The more we invest in digital economy and energy-related technologies, the more enduring capacity we build for the province and the country," Hashemi said. The minister's visit to Fars and the inauguration of a large number of projects mark a significant step toward improving network coverage, expanding fiber-optic infrastructure, and boosting connectivity in underserved areas, IRNA wrote. The move is expected to strengthen Iran's digital infrastructure and foster closer links between academic, technological, and government sectors.

GSI ventures on hyperspectral imaging to boost mineral exploration

Economy Desk

Geological Survey of Iran (GSI) launched a major national project to conduct advanced hyperspectral imaging of the country's surface for the first time, ISNA reported. The large-scale initiative aims to improve the precision of geological studies, accelerate the discovery of mineral reserves, reduce exploration costs, and strengthen the country's technological capabilities, according to the GSI. Hyperspectral technology, one of the most advanced remote sensing methods in the world, enables the collection of highly detailed surface data with fine spectral resolution. It can detect even the slightest



variations in mineral composition, geological features, and surface materials, playing a key role in mineral exploration, environmental monitoring, natural resource management, and engineering geology studies, the organization said. According to ISNA, by implementing this national project,

Iran joins a small group of countries with the capacity to utilize hyperspectral data on a large scale. Iranian policymakers frequently describe the mining sector as the backbone of industrial development and argue that it should gradually replace oil as the country's main source of revenue.

US presence in Bagram poses compound threat to China, Russia, and Iran: *Expert*

INTERVIEW



Nozar Shafiei

Donald Trump, the US president, took to the Truth Social network on September 20 to issue a threat against the Taliban, writing: "If Afghanistan doesn't give Bagram Airbase back... BAD THINGS ARE GOING TO HAPPEN!!!" He is now calling for the US to take back the very base that his first administration handed over to the Taliban in 2019 as part of the agreement for the withdrawal of US forces from Afghanistan.

The Bagram Airfield was the largest and most important military base for the United States and coalition forces in Afghanistan, located about 60 km north of Kabul in Parwan province. Originally built during the Soviet occupation and expanded in the early 2000s after the US invasion, it turned into the central hub for US military, logistical, and intelligence operations in the region. Bagram featured two long runways for heavy aircraft, extensive maintenance facilities, a well-equipped hospital, and the notorious Bagram Prison, which held individuals suspected of terrorist activities.

Since the beginning of 2025, Trump has repeatedly referenced Bagram, not as a military objective, but as a pawn on the chessboard of his strategic confrontation with China. He has described the base as being "an hour away from where China's nuclear weapons are being built," and deemed it a crucial position that America should never have given up.

Nozar Shafiei, a university professor and expert on South Asian affairs, weighed in on the Islamic Republic of Iran's sensitivities regarding a US return to Afghanistan and the potential impact of this presence on regional security in an interview, the translated text of which follows:

Since September, the idea of the US returning to Afghanistan and taking back Bagram airbase has been brought up. Since the 2021 US withdrawal from Afghanistan, this base effectively became a symbol of the American exit from the region, and Iran, at the time, welcomed the US departure. Are these statements by Trump genuine positions intended to be acted upon, or are they a bargaining chip? In other words, does Trump want the United States to go back to Afghanistan, or is he bringing up the issue of Bagram to achieve another aim?

SHAFIEI: Whatever Trump's intention, the Bagram base is critically important to the United States for several reasons. Firstly, in US national security documents, China is identified as the primary threat to American interests; Therefore, the US must muster its resources to rein in China's power. One such policy is the "containment" of China. Currently, the containment of China is carried out in various ways, but one of the most common forms is the deployment of US bases in Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, some Southeast Asian countries, India, and, according to Trump's statements, Afghanistan. In strategic parlance, they are said to have boxed in China in a C-shaped formation. You can see how crucial Afghanistan is within this semi-circle; That is one point.

The second point is that if the US sets up in Bagram, it will become America's closest base to China from the west. Before Bagram, the closest US base to western China was Al-Udeid in Qatar. If the US intends to hem in China from the west, Bagram holds great importance for the Americans because the distance from Qatar to China's western borders is vast, making Bagram valuable from this perspective. Roughly speaking, Bagram is considerably closer to China overall.

The third point is that for the US, it's not just about China; Russia is also in the picture. Therefore, a US presence at Bagram would also signify American influence over the Taliban government. Thus, Bagram, whether as an independent US presence or a broader indication of US sway over the Taliban regime, is dangerous for both Russia and Iran. Consequently, the American target could simultaneously be China, Russia, and Iran. This, of course, depends on the circum-



stances: In one period, targeting Iran might come to the fore, in another, Russia or China.

Regarding the Taliban's view of a US return, various discussions have emerged because the Taliban are not uniform. Within the ruling body, some factions may wish to increase cooperation with the US, while others fundamentally view America as an occupier. Given this situation, how likely is it that this talk of return will stir up instability within Afghanistan itself?

As you noted, there are various factions within the Taliban, and these divisions have come to the surface more clearly in the last year or two. These factions have primarily emerged over internal Afghan issues. For example, different Taliban factions hold different views on women's education and employment.

If we were to broadly categorize these views, we could identify two main groups: the radicals (the religious hardliners) and the moderates (the pragmatists). The radicals emphasize Islamic decrees and a rigid interpretation of Islam, while the moderates have a broader outlook. This difference in perspectives is evident on various Afghan issues, both in domestic and foreign policy.



The radicals stress Afghanistan's independence and self-reliance and the fight against "infidels," of which Western civilization is a manifestation. The moderates, however, believe in flexibility in both domestic and foreign policy and maintain that if Afghanistan demonstrates a willingness to build ties with Western countries, including the US, the Taliban government will consolidate and gain legitimacy. Therefore, the moderate faction might be inclined to allow the US to return to Afghanistan because, from their viewpoint: First, the Taliban government, which has not yet been fully recognized by the international community, might gain recognition; Second, sanctions related to the Taliban would be lifted, and their frozen assets abroad would be returned to them; Third, with a US presence in Afghanistan, the level of external threats against the Taliban would decrease. There may be other reasons as well. If we follow this line of thinking, some of the reasons for the US desire to return to Bagram might stem from compromises and agreements the Taliban entered into with the US during the Doha negotiations. If we further follow this logic, it could be said that the fall of Ashraf Ghani's government was partly a result of these un-

derstandings between the US and the Taliban.

Many analysts believe the Bagram base is primarily for the US to maintain an upper hand over China. However, there is also concern that this base, like other US bases in the region, could be used for military action against Iran. Given that the US has access to bases in Pakistan, such as those in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab provinces, is Bagram even necessary for proximity to China? How likely is it that this issue could take on a military dimension against the Islamic Republic of Iran?

Firstly, the bases that the US has in Pakistan will not, in my belief, be used against China under any circumstances because the Pakistanis will not permit it. One of the strongest strategic partnerships in the world is the one between China and Pakistan. That is the first point.

Furthermore, those bases largely date back to the Cold War era and, for some reason, have simply been maintained in Pakistan since then. There are ambiguities regarding their current function. Previously, these bases were used against Al-Qaeda and the Taliban; Now, their function may have shifted from military to security and intelligence purposes. That is the second point.

The third point is that I doubt Pakistan would allow the US to use these bases against Iran. However, they might be used for intelligence gathering and reconnaissance targeting Iran. Is military action against Iran from these bases a possibility? I still find such a scenario very difficult to imagine because the general environment in Iran's east and south is not

one where regional countries would offer up their bases to the US for an attack on Iran. As we have seen, the Arab states of the Persian Gulf absolutely did not allow the US to use their bases for such a purpose. The US may have used these bases for intelligence gathering or for more limited programs, but direct military action seems unlikely.

Using the bases against Iran via the Taliban is also difficult for several reasons. First, prior to the Taliban, the US had a strategic cooperation agreement with Afghanistan, which took Iran's sensitivities into account. A similar agreement was even discussed between Iran and the Afghan government. Second, despite the checked history of Iran-Taliban relations, in recent years, Iran has been the only country to engage in extensive economic cooperation with the Taliban, cooperation that has helped the Taliban weather many economic crises.

Third, if the Taliban were to take a stand against Iran, widespread political, military, and social forces within Afghanistan would oppose this, potentially giving rise to a new period of instability. Fourth, even if the Taliban now allows the US to take over the Bagram base, the Taliban must be wary that one day this very base and the US forces stationed there could be used against the Taliban and its allies like Al-Qaeda.

Finally, Iran, Russia, the Central Asian countries, and China share similar sensitivities regarding Afghanistan. If the US goal is to make trouble for any one of these countries, they will act in a united and cohesive manner, significantly driving up the cost for the Americans. Let us not forget that within Pakistan itself, there are opposing forces with links to Afghanistan that have an anti-American orientation. Therefore, in a nutshell, if a US presence in Bagram proceeds without considering all the conditions and sensitivities, and if the Taliban disregards internal and regional considerations, and if one day this base is used against the interests of regional countries, I believe it will play out like a thrown boomerang. Meaning the blow that is unleashed will come back to haunt the Afghan government and the Taliban themselves, and will end up harming them.

The interview first appeared in Persian on IRNA.



The illustration shows the lower half of the faces of US President Donald Trump (L) and his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, playing a strategic chess game over the Bagram airbase in Afghanistan.

● SOCIAL MEDIA



If the US sets up in Bagram, it will become America's closest base to China from the west. Before Bagram, the closest US base to western China was Al-Udeid in Qatar. If the US intends to hem in China from the west, Bagram holds great importance for the Americans because the distance from Qatar to China's western borders is vast, making Bagram valuable from this perspective. Roughly speaking, Bagram is considerably closer to China overall.



The map shows the distance from the Bagram airbase in Afghanistan to the Lop Nur nuclear test base in China, Qatar's Al-Udeid airbase, Tehran, Islamabad, and Israel. The base is also 780 km away from Kashgar, Eastern China, where the country allegedly has another nuclear facility.

● AL JAZEERA



Trump's desire to seize Bagram Airfield will end in disaster



By James Durso
Columnist

OPINION

American President Donald Trump recently demanded that Afghanistan's ruling Taliban allow the US to take back Bagram Airfield, the military airfield near the capital city, Kabul. He declared, "BAD THINGS ARE GOING TO HAPPEN" if Afghanistan does not return the base to the US.

The Taliban promptly rejected Trump's demand, though it said it seeks political and economic ties with Washington.

Why would Trump want US forces to return to Bagram? Trump is concerned that China may move into the airfield, and he recognizes it has a useful position for spying on China because, he says, "It's an hour away from where China makes its nuclear weapons."

That is an interesting take, but there is little prospect the US will return to Bagram. To start, how will all those troops and equipment get there?

In the wake of the 9-11 attacks on America by al-Qaeda, the world's sympathy was with the US, and Russia, the Central Asian republics, and Pakistan cooperated with the US punitive expedition to Afghanistan to seek and destroy al-Qaeda and its leader, Osama bin Laden. But that was 24 years ago, a vanished world.

Today, Russia has no interest in helping the US into Afghanistan, unless it is to help trap the US in another quagmire. Pakistan often cooperates with the US, but it has a Taliban problem of its own, the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), and helping the Americans will spur more terrorist attacks that are responsible for more than 4,600 deaths of civilian and security personnel since 2021. The Central Asian republics are friendly with Washington (and Kabul) but

are unlikely to want to be considered America's co-belligerent in a renewed campaign in Afghanistan.

The US will have to seize the airfield by force, and that would require many troops and aircraft that would have to be secretly staged somewhere in the region. The base occupies 5 square miles (or about 3,200 acres) and would have to be guarded by hundreds of US troops who would be under continuous attack and would have to be provisioned exclusively by air.

The Central Asian republics are growing their relations with Kabul, a key hub for trade and

Afghanistan into the Central Asian community.

The neighboring countries have another reason to oppose the US seizure of the airfield: They all rely on Afghanistan for much of their fresh water.

Afghanistan's Qosh Tepa canal, being built to irrigate northern Afghanistan, will reduce water flow to Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan by up to 17 percent. Iran has claimed it is not getting its rightful share of water from Afghanistan in accordance with the 1973 Afghan-Iranian Hirmand (Helmand) River Water Treaty, water that is needed for drinking water supply and agri-

stan-sponsored terrorist attack in Kashmir.

Trump probably assumes it's just a matter of applying the right incentives, positive and negative, for the Kabul government to agree. But the Taliban have staked their legitimacy on the defeat of the US-led NATO coalition, and when they say "no," they mean "no." And if Taliban leaders showed any receptiveness to Trump's demand, they would be attacked (literally) by local al-Qaeda and Islamic State forces whose ranks would grow with defections from the Taliban. But, at least, Taliban veterans could

and Siraq Haqqani, the interior minister, would end. Then, Washington would have more problems as al-Qaeda and the Islamic State would undertake "self-defense" strikes at US assets and allies across the region.

The ensuing violence and disorder would increase the number of refugees and displaced persons in a region that can't afford to support them, and the migration would only benefit human trafficking networks that would weaken the sitting governments in Iran, Pakistan, and Central Asia, and be a burden on Turkey and governments in the South Caucasus.

The Foreign ministers of China, Russia, Pakistan, and Iran met on the sidelines of the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York and issued a joint statement that included, "The four sides emphasized that the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of Afghanistan should be respected, firmly opposed the reestablishment of military bases in and around Afghanistan by the countries responsible for the current situation [NATO], which is not conducive to regional peace and security."

Trump should leave well enough alone.

The US is busily expending its scarce munitions supporting Israel and Ukraine, and may be in a "pre-war" position in Venezuela and the South China Sea. US credibility is down after it failed to respond to the Israeli attack on Qatar, a formal ally, and even suggested ideas like retaking the airbase because "we built it" as Trump claims (the Soviets built it), and because then-president Joe Biden ordered the "total disaster" withdrawal from Afghanistan, it looks foolish.

If the US attempts to retake Bagram Airfield, it will then have something in common with the British Empire: They were both run out of Afghanistan twice.

The article first appeared on OilPrice.com.



A Taliban fighter stands guard at the site of an explosion in Kabul, Afghanistan, on April 19, 2022. The Daesh (ISIS) affiliate in Afghanistan claimed responsibility for a series of explosions at the time.
● REUTERS

investment, overland transport, and energy transmission, through a policy of "pragmatic cooperation free from political intentions". The republics know they and Afghanistan are "neighbors forever" and feel pragmatic cooperation is the only way to peacefully integrate

cultural irrigation.

Pakistan is concerned about Afghan plans to build dams on the Kunar and Kabul Rivers as it is currently in a water dispute with India after Delhi suspended its participation in the Indus Waters Treaty in retaliation for what it alleges was a Paki-

finally quit their boring office jobs and join the epic battle for Bagram Airfield.

Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State would then join the hardline Taliban faction based in Kandahar, and the good old days of the Taliban "moderates," Mullah Yacoub, the defense minister,



Members of the news media, US Air Force, and US Secret Service line up to enter Air Force One, following US President Donald Trump's remarks to US troops in an unannounced visit to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, on November 28, 2019.
● REUTERS



The US will have to seize the airfield by force, and that would require many troops and aircraft that would have to be secretly staged somewhere in the region. The base occupies 5 square miles (or about 3,200 acres) and would have to be guarded by hundreds of US troops who would be under continuous attack and would have to be provisioned exclusively by air.

IWF World Championships:

Nasiri shines with double silvers, shatters junior world records

Sports Desk

Iranian young gun Alireza Nasiri delivered an impressive performance on the penultimate day of the IWF World Championships, collecting double silver medals in the men's 110kg event in Forde, Norway.

Abolfazl Zare' was the other Iranian weightlifter in the class, posting a 176-210-386 record in the B Group to finish in the 12th spot. Nasiri got off to a shaky start to his campaign, failing with his first two attempts, but overcame the 184kg weight – an Asian junior record – to stand seventh in the snatch table.

Needing a special display in the clean & jerk to make the podium, Nasiri rose to the occasion by lifting a junior world record of 231kg to secure the silver medal. An overall tally of 415kg – also a new high in the junior division – then saw the 20-year-old Iranian

Iranian weightlifter Alireza Nasiri is seen in action in the men's 110kg event at the IWF World Championships in Forde, Norway, on October 10, 2025.

● IWF

pip former world and Olympic champion Ruslan Nurudinov of Uzbekistan to the runner-up place in total.

"I underperformed in the snatch as I was a bit intimidated by the competition early on and missed my first two attempts. I still managed to make the third lift to stay in contention. The 183kg weight I missed twice in the snatch was actually light for me," Nasiri said.

Regarding his bold decision to jump by seven kilograms for his third and final C&J attempt, Nasiri said, "I didn't think about the weight at all. I just focused on the fact that I had to make this lift to win the medal I came here for." Meanwhile, Uzbekistan's Akbar



Djuraev – a silver medalist in last year's Paris Olympics – dominated

the class with a clean sweep of triple golds, while setting new world

records in the snatch (196kg) and total (428kg).

Romania's Luis Lauret (188kg) and Armenian Garik Karapetyan (187kg) won the snatch silver and bronze respectively, with Nurudinov settling for the C&J bronze. Nasiri's medals took Iran's haul to five in Forde, after Alireza Moeini and Ali A'alipour had collected a gold and double silvers between them in the men's 94kg event on the preceding night.

It was an all-Iranian one-two in the snatch, with Moeini walking away with the ultimate prize thanks to a 182kg lift with his third attempt – becoming Iran's first world record holder since Sohrab Moradi. A'alipour took the silver with 176kg – one kilogram clear of Colombian bronze winner Jokser Alborno, who impressed from the B Group with three medals – while reigning Olympic champion Karlos Nasar settled for the fourth spot with 173kg.

The Bulgarian great, however, bounced back to dominate the C&J with a new world record of 222kg, with Alborno (215kg) and Romain Imadouchène (211kg) of France in the following spots. A'alipour missed two attempts to finish fourth in the C&J with 211kg – two kilograms above fifth-placed Moeini. On 173-222-395, Nasar also won the total gold – four kilograms clear of Moeini, while A'alipour stood fourth.

Qalenoei 'satisfied' despite friendly setback against Russia

Sports Desk

Iran head coach Amir Qalenoei was "satisfied" with his team's performance despite a 2-1 loss to Russia in a friendly game in Volgograd on Friday. Dmitri Vorobyov gave the home side the lead midway through the first half at the Volgograd Arena, before Tractor striker Amirhossein Hosseinzadeh drew Team Melli level three minutes after the break, tapping in Saman Qoddous's low cross from close range.

Aleksey Batrakov restored the advantage for the Russians in the 70th minute with a superb long-range effort as Iran was beaten in the first of its two friendly fixtures in October.

"I think everyone enjoyed watching this game. Both sides could have won it, but Russia capitalized on its chances," Qalenoei said after the game. "We executed our gameplans more effectively in the second half and managed to score, and could have even get a second, but conceded against the run of play. After that, the substitutions we made gave us a real chance to equalize, but in the end, we let the result slip away, though I'm still satisfied with my team's performance."

On what made the difference between the two sides, Iran coach said, "The Russian league is already in its eleventh week, while ours is only in its sixth, so it's only natural their players are in a better form. Given our team's injuries and absences, I consider our performance to be positive."

When asked if the occasion provided his team with a proper test ahead of next year's World Cup finals, Qalenoei said, "Definitely. Games like this, where the team is put under pressure, help us identify our weaknesses. Russia has been in decent form



Iran captain Alireza Jahanbakhsh (7) is seen in action in a 2-1 loss to Russia in a friendly game in Volgograd, Russia, on October 10, 2025.

● FFIRI

in its last 20 games, and tonight's match was very competitive. This match helped us to become better prepared for the World Cup."

Next for Iran is a friendly encounter against Tanzania – No. 107 in the latest FIFA Men's World Ranking – in Dubai on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, Mahdi Alavi, the spokesman of the Iranian Football Federation, confirmed on Friday night that Team Melli will be part of a four-team friendly tournament – also featuring Egypt, Uzbekistan, and Cape Verde – in Dubai in November's international break.

Iran will play Cape Verde, with the winner taking on Egypt or Uzbekistan in the final.

World Para Powerlifting Championships:

Iranians impress with eight junior golds

Sports Desk

Iranians collected nine medals, including a remarkable eight golds, in the Rookie and Next Gen age class at the World Para Powerlifting Championships in Cairo, Egypt.

Atiyeh Sadat Hosseini, 17, made history by winning Iran's maiden women's gold at the World Championships, triumphing in the -61kg category. "I'm so happy and proud to get the gold here," said Hosseini who grabbed the gold with her second attempt of 90kg.

The Iranian girl posted 175kg in total to win her second gold medal.

Meanwhile, Iranian young guns stole the show on Friday, delivering a dominant performance in the men's heavy-weight categories much like their senior counterparts.

Mani Saeidi clinched the gold in the -88kg category (Next Gen) in style. The 19-year-old began his campaign by setting a new world record of 166kg before bettering the mark with 172kg on his second attempt. Reza Enayatollahi celebrated his 18th birthday in advance, securing the -97kg category



Iran's Mani Saeidi (c) celebrates with his junior gold medal at the World Para Powerlifting Championships in Cairo, Egypt, on October 10, 2025.

● BORNA NEWS

with a new Next Gen world record of 195kg with his second attempt.

"I worked hard for 11 years for this result. I believe the key to success is hard work and listening to your coach," said Enayatollahi, who aims for a medal at Paralympic Games. An overall tally of 383kg saw the Iranian prodigy also clinch the total gold.

Hassan Mohammad Hosseinpour claimed the ultimate prize in the Next Gen -80kg class, thanks to a 156kg lift, but settled for the total silver with 303kg.

Amirali Es'haqnia also en-

joyed a double-gold winning campaign in the +107kg with a 171-336 record as Iran finished third in the table – following Uzbekistan, which bagged 13 golds, and Armenia.

This was the largest ever Rookie & Next Gen World Championships with 120 athletes (36 female and 84 male athletes), aged 20 or younger, who competed in 19 events.

Iran frustrated by cancellation of women's futsal at Islamic Solidarity Games

Sports Desk

Iran's preparation for the inaugural Women's Futsal World Cup suffered a major blow after the cancellation of the women's futsal tournament at the upcoming Islamic Solidarity Games.

Iranian women were to participate at the multi-sport event – starting November 7 in Riyadh – but the event was called off due to "an insufficient number of teams registering for the event," Mohammad Tabe', Iran's chef de

mission in the Saudi capital, confirmed on Saturday.

"The ISG tournament would have served as a proper preparation for us ahead of the World Cup, but, unfortunately, only three teams registered, leading to its cancellation," Iran head coach Shahrzad Mozaffar said after a training session in Tehran on Saturday.

"To be honest, we had a feeling for the past two or three weeks that the event might not happen, which is why we started looking

for alternatives. We have already begun negotiations with several teams to arrange friendly matches during the same period," added the Iranian coach, who took the role for a second spell in June, replacing Forouzan Soleimani after a below-par Asian Cup in May. The two-time Asian champion had to settle for a consolation third place in China in May, though it was still enough to see Iran join Japan and Thailand in securing a World Cup spot. Iranian girls will get their World



Iranian women's futsal players attend a training session in Tehran, Iran, on October 11, 2025.

● SOGAND NAZMI/FFIRI

against world No. 7 Italy on the final day of the group stage on November 29.

"Our goal is to arrange at least one or two friendly matches close to the World Cup start date. However, the World Cup teams are generally reluctant to play during that period, while other teams are out of their competitive form," added Mozaffar.

Iran will play Russia in a couple of friendly games in the Russian city of Tula on October 16 and 18.

Cup campaign underway against eight-time Copa America champion Brazil – the top team in the latest FIFA World Ranking – on November 23 in Group D, before

taking on Panama three days later. 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

Embracing nature, heritage in Nater village of Kelardasht

Iranica Desk

Sometimes, the fatigue and daily challenges of life make you contemplate packing your bags and escaping from the hustle and bustle as well as the summer heat. Choosing this escape depends entirely on your personal perspective towards nature. Some individuals find solace in the vastness of the desert, while others derive joy from immersing themselves in the lush, green surroundings.

If you have traveled along the Chalous road, you undoubtedly carry fond memories of this scenic route. You may have driven this road numerous times without fully realizing the enchanting hidden sections and picturesque villages it holds. In this article, we aim to introduce you to one of the gems along Chalous road — Nater village — as a remarkable tourist destination, IRNA wrote.

In the local dialect, the word Nater translates to guardian, referring to the village's strategic vantage point overlooking the expansive Kelardasht plain, Mazandaran Province. Interestingly, some sources interpret Nater to mean “abundant water,” a nod to the presence of 44 mineral springs scattered throughout the area.

To reach Nater village, begin your journey on the Chalous road and travel 50 kilometers from the city of Chalous. Then, approximately four kilometers before Marzanabad, you will turn onto a side road that offers a relatively smooth and accessible path. As you continue on this 35-kilometer stretch, prepare to be enchanted by the legendary landscapes that surround you until you finally arrive at the charming village of Nater.

Life, livelihood and architecture

Local inhabitants proudly recount that the village's history stretches back approximately 2,500 years. Based on these accounts, the majority of Nater's



● asriran.com

residents are migrants from Tonekabon who settled here generations ago. Until recently, the architectural style of the houses in Nater reflected traditional methods, constructed with a blend of clay mortar, stone, and wood. Today, parts of the village have undergone restoration, blending the charm of the old with modern comforts.

The people of Nater village largely engage in livelihoods tied to the village's verdant and flower-rich environment, primarily focusing on livestock breeding and beekeeping. These

activities provide the main sources of income and sustenance for the locals.

Natural beauty

Situated at an altitude of 2,200 meters in a mountainous area, Nater village experiences a climate that can be quite cold, making it less suitable for tourists who are not accustomed to chilly weather conditions, especially during winter. The most favorable season to visit and enjoy the refreshing air as well as the lush greenery of the village is undeniably summer.

As previously mentioned, owing

to its mountainous location, Nater boasts a unique climate that supports the growth of various medicinal plants. This botanical richness adds to the village's allure for nature enthusiasts and herbal remedy aficionados alike.

Nater village also features numerous beautiful springs characterized by their cool, pure water that offers visitors a chance to savor the authentic taste of life itself. According to local villagers, many of these springs possess healing properties and are traditionally believed to aid ailments related to the kidneys,

including kidney stones. Surrounding Nater village are delightful expanses of green pastures and dense forests, perfect for camping, picnicking, or simply indulging in photography.

Just three kilometers from the village is a magnificent waterfall, renowned for the majestic sounds it produces and its crystal-clear, cool waters — an attraction that holds special appeal for tourists.

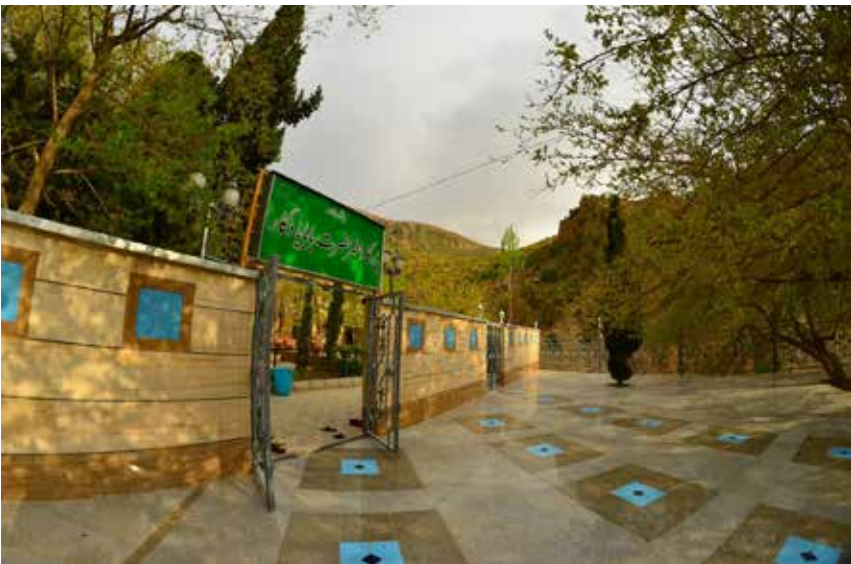
Visiting and staying

Accommodation options in the village include eco-lodges

that provide an authentic and comfortable stay. Alternatively, visitors can also find lodging in nearby towns such as Chalous or Marzanabad. For those who have a deep love for nature, camping collectively near the village offers a wonderful way to rest, unwind, and fully immerse oneself in the natural beauty of the area.

This combination of natural splendor, historical significance, and welcoming local culture makes Nater village a truly special destination for travelers seeking both relaxation and adventure.

Baba Yadegar's Tomb; a landmark in Dalahu



● wikipedia.org

Iranica Desk

The tomb of Baba Yadegar is located in Zardeh village and 45km from Dalahu, Kermanshah

Province. Registered on Iran's National Heritage List, this tomb sits near Yazdegerd Castle on the hillside of Sarane Mountain. Zardeh village features seven-

teen springs and two aqueducts. More than 1,200 inhabitants predominantly speak a Kurdish dialect, Hawrami and they believe in Yarsanism. They are

mostly farmers, ranchers, and gardeners. Surrounding vegetation includes oak, pomegranate, walnut, ash, olive, almond, fig, clove, cotoneaster, speedwells,

and garden cress. The tomb of Baba Yadegar sits atop Dalahu Mountain, near Hanita and Ghaslan springs, about 1,300 meters above sea

level, with ancient trees nearby. Architecturally, it is a Chahartaqi monument with a square plan and a dome. The four brick walls are seven meters long. The structure bears signs of recent renovation, with white stone veneers on the façades.

The door opens to the eastern ivan (porch). Mirror-work decorations from the Qajar dynasty adorn the ivan. The monument contains three niches and a courtyard, and the inner tomb has been rebuilt in marble.

The Tomb of Baba Yadegar was rebuilt in the 10th century AH. Baba Yadegar means “one of the elders” in local dialect. It is believed that Baba Yadegar — also known as Yar-e-Zardeg Bam, Shah-e-Yadegar, Par-e-Rangineh, and Pir-e-Narges Cham — traveled to India and Pakistan by decree of Sultan Sahak to promote Yarsanism. In Yarsan belief, Baba Yadegar was killed and buried at this site.



Ali Eslami to receive Wendy Gutman Award for VR innovation at IDFA

Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian-Dutch filmmaker and digital artist Ali Eslami is to receive the first Wendy Gutman Award at the 38th International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam (IDFA), organizers announced. The €40,000 award honors creators working in documentary or immersive media who offer “innovative, connective, and imaginative” perspectives, IRNA reported.

The award was established by the Dutch Education and Culture Foundation in memory of its late director, Wendela Scheltema, and is named after her nickname, Wendy Gutman. It celebrates artistic visionaries who push the limits of digital storytelling and documentary form.

Born in Mashhad in 1991, Eslami has built a reputation as one of the most

inventive voices in virtual reality and new media art. His projects span VR environments, interactive simulations, and physical installations, all designed to blur the boundary between the tangible and the virtual.

He describes his creative method as “poetic engineering” — an exploration of how memory, perception, and emotion take shape in the digital realm.

One of his most recognized works, ‘False Mirror,’ presents a self-contained virtual world where time and space become palpable. Drawing inspiration from video games and architecture, Eslami has forged what critics call a “new language of experience,” showing how gaming technology can evolve into an independent and deeply personal art form.

The IDFA jury called his approach “idiosyncratic, exciting, and autonomous,”

praising his ability to “redefine how we perceive experience and reality.”

Eslami previously won the DocLab Award for Best Immersive Non-Fiction at IDFA in 2016 and the Gouden Kalf Award in 2020 for another experimental project.

The award ceremony took place at Het Documentaire Paviljoen in Amsterdam ahead of the 38th edition of IDFA, which runs from November 13 to 23.

This year’s festival will also screen several Iranian documentaries, including ‘As I Lay Dying’ by Mohammad Reza Farzad and Pegah Ahangarani; ‘Uzak Yollar’ by Sara Khaki and Mohammad Reza Aini; ‘The Vanishing Point’ by Bani Khoshnoudi; and ‘Fellow Citizen’ by the late Abbas Kiarostami — marking a strong Iranian presence in one of Europe’s most prestigious documentary showcases.



● ISNA

Iranian Calligraphers Association marks 75 years



● IRNA

Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian Calligraphers Association celebrated its 75th anniversary on Saturday with a ceremony at Tehran’s Art Bureau, honoring masters, emerging artists, and its nationwide branches.

Gholamhossein Amirkhani, chair of the Association’s Supreme Council, and Mirheydar Moosavi, managing director, joined senior officials from the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, Tehran municipal authorities, and members of the visual arts community, IRNA reported.

In a recorded message, Amirkhani highlighted the Association’s growth to “over 400 branches” inside and out-

side Iran and underscored its civil-society role. “History means knowing the past so as not to repeat mistakes,” he said, urging members to read “between the lines” of history.

Mousavi traced the association’s origins to 1950, noting its official registration in 1967. From three initial branches, it has expanded to more than 360 nationwide.

He emphasized the association’s seven simultaneous national exams, which are evaluated through a centralized, democratic process, and its ongoing commitment to fostering justice and transparency in judging artistic work.

Awards were presented to Abolfazl Nazmparvar, Alireza Hasheminejad and Reza

Yassavoli, with Nazmparvar’s posthumous honor received by his daughter. Certificates of mastery were conferred on Fatemeh Asgari Jazi, Firuz Amini, and Kobra Yadegari, among others.

Special recognition was given to the oldest examinee, Javad Yousof Kiaei, and to Mina Taghipour and Aref Gholami, who received multiple “superior” distinctions.

Representing the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, Reza Zedvar highlighted calligraphy as a vital component of Iran’s cultural heritage and national identity.

Tehran City Council head Mehdi Chamran described Persian calligraphy as “a national identity through which Iran is recognized,” urging continued support for its transmission to younger generations.

The event concluded with the unveiling of Adab Khoshnevisi, a new calligraphy manual by Amirkhani, and the opening of ‘Iran-e Man,’ (My Iran) a national exhibition of 106 works spanning two galleries. Featured artists included Amirkhani, Keikhosro Koroush, Amir Ahmad Falsafi, and Ali Shirazi.

Shiraz celebrates Hafez with nationwide cultural week

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran launched a nationwide cultural initiative to commemorate the 14th-century poet Hafez, with events spanning from October 10 to 17. The week-long celebration, coinciding with National Hafez Day on October 12, is centered in Shiraz, Hafez’s birthplace, and extends across the country and to Iranian cultural centers abroad.

At the heart of the festivities, the National Library and Archives of Fars (NLAF) unveiled the exhibition ‘Hafez Through Time’ at its southern branch in Shiraz, IRNA reported.

The display, inaugurated on October 11, showcases archival materials dating from the Qajar era to the present, highlighting the poet’s enduring legacy.

Marjan Yazdanpanahi, director of the NLAF’s southern center, noted that the exhibition comprises two main



sections: Documents detailing the restoration of Hafez’s tomb and related ceremonies, and a selection of rare handwritten manuscripts of his Divan, sourced from the National Library and the Malek Museum.

The exhibition is open daily and will remain accessible to the public until October 16. It coincides with a series of

cultural events throughout the week, including puppet opera performances, theatrical productions, and scholarly workshops.

Morteza Ranjbar, head of the Fars Culture and Islamic Guidance Department, emphasized that these activities aim to present Hafez not only as a Shirazi icon but as a shared cultural treasure of Iran.

‘She Is Not Here’, yet her story strikes a triumphant chord in Canada

Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian director Saeed Seiri’s short film ‘She Is Not Here’ has been awarded Best Film at the 6th Human Environment Care (HECare) Film Festival, held in Toronto from October 3 to 5. The festival, dedicated to themes of human rights and environmental care, recognized the film for its powerful storytelling and emotional depth.

The 15-minute drama follows the journey of Kiana, a nine-year-old girl traumatized after being separated from her mother in a



tragic accident. The film features themes of loss and resilience, res-

onating deeply with audiences and jurors alike.

Premiered by Premiere Film, ‘She Is Not Here’ features performances by Sara Mayeli and Alireza Gilouri. The film’s international distribution is managed by Premiere Film.

The HECare Film Festival, now in its sixth year, serves as a platform for filmmakers addressing pressing global issues. This year’s event attracted over 3,000 submissions, with ‘She Is Not Here’ standing out for its impactful narrative and cinematic excellence.



Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian director Hadi Moghaghgh’s film ‘Derno’ was honored with the Special Jury Prize for Cinematography at the third edition of the Province of Buenos Aires International Film Festival (FICPBA), held from October 1 to 10.

The award recognizes the exceptional work of cinematographer Mansour Abd-Rezaei in capturing the film’s poetic narrative, Mehr News Agency reported.

‘Derno,’ also known internation-

ally as ‘Vortex,’ is a 2024 production that explores themes of life and death through a surreal journey in the Iranian wilderness.

The story follows a driver who encounters a boy by the roadside, leading to a series of events that blur the lines between reality and imagination.

The film features performances by Moghaghgh, Mohammad Zarei, Razieh Taheri, Rouhollah Barzegar, and Anoush Homayouni.

The film’s international distribution is managed by DreamLab Films in France, under the guidance of Nasrin Mirshab.

‘Derno’ has previously been showcased at the Beijing Film Festival and the Cannes Film Festival, marking its third international appearance with the Buenos Aires recognition.