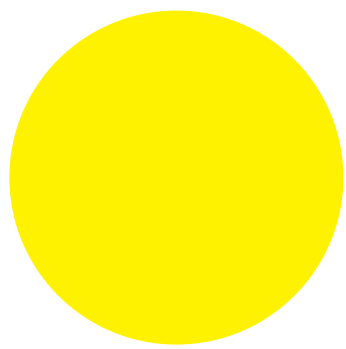


Economy Ministry to set up funds to stabilize currency, boost investment  
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Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (2nd R) presents a certificate of appreciation to an entrepreneur during a ceremony marking the National Export Day in Tehran, Iran on October 21, 2025.  
• [president.ir](http://president.ir)

### **Security in the Middle East: For whom and according to which approach?**



By Asgar Ghahremanpour  
Editor-in-chief

#### **O P I N I O N**

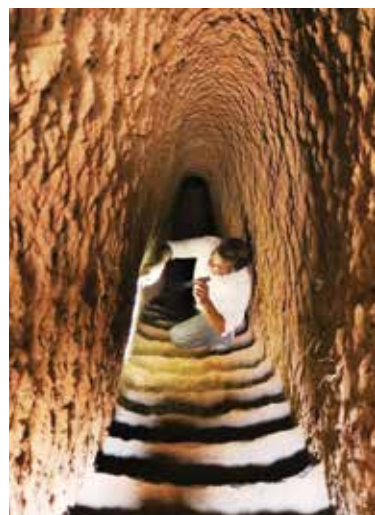
The discourse on security in the Middle East has long occupied a central place in both regional and international analyses and policymaking. Yet, a fundamental question persists: for whom is security defined, and to whom does regional security truly belong? Conventional responses have predominantly reflected the perspectives of powerful international and state actors—particularly Western powers such as the United States and its allies—who frame security within the paradigm of safeguarding their own interests and maintaining political and military stability in the region.

This Western-centric, state-focused lens on security, which has dominated analyses and policies for decades, has frequently led to the marginalization or outright neglect of the concerns and security conceptions articulated by local, societal, and non-state actors. Such disregard for the diverse—and often conflicting—regional perspectives has contributed significantly to the fragility and instability of numerous security agreements and orders, despite their apparent ambitions. More specifically, security as defined by major powers tends to center on controlling military threats, combating terrorism, and protecting geopolitical interests. Within this framework, security is closely tied to preserving the political and economic status quo of dominant actors, often at the expense of the human dimension, social justice, political freedoms, and the authentic concerns of local populations. As a result, enhanced security for these powers frequently engenders insecurity and instability for other groups and communities within the region.

The recent twelve-day war between Iran and Israel starkly illustrates the shortcomings of this approach. In this brief but consequential conflict, non-state and regional actors—such as proxy groups and local coalitions—played a pivotal role in shaping both the dynamics of security and the nature of threats. This evolution underscores that regional security can no longer be defined and managed exclusively by great powers. Rather, it necessitates a multidimensional and polycentric security order that embraces the plurality of perspectives and interests held by regional and local stakeholders.

As long as security remains narrowly construed through the prism of great powers' interests and approaches, agreements in the Middle East will remain inherently fragile. Such a restricted definition of security cannot adequately capture the region's complex realities nor guarantee sustainable security for all actors involved. In contrast, security that is defined and pursued inclusively, through a multi-centered and dialogic process—incorporating states, social groups, popular movements, and non-state actors alike—can lay the groundwork for more durable agreements and a more stable regional order.

Ultimately, it is clear that the production of security knowledge must transcend Western and state-centric confines, integrate local perspectives and live experiences to offer a more nuanced and realistic understanding of Middle Eastern security. Only through such an inclusive and pluralistic approach can there be genuine hope for lasting and meaningful security arrangements in the region.



**Ardakan Water Museum preserves centuries of history**

**INTERVIEW EXCLUSIVE**

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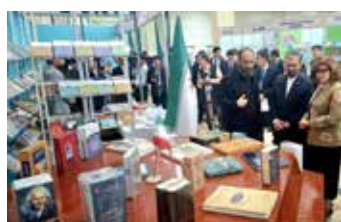
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# Araghchi calls for strengthened Iran-Iraq security cooperation

## International Desk

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi highlighted the strong relations between Tehran and Baghdad in various fields, stressing the need for continued consultations and strengthened security cooperation, particularly in border management.

The top Iranian diplomat made the remarks in a meeting with Iraq's National Security Adviser Qasim al-Araji in Tehran on Monday.

Al-Araji also briefed Araghchi on the progress made in implementing the Iran-Iraq security agreement, reaffirming Baghdad's full commitment to upholding the pact.

In August, Iraq and Iran signed a memorandum of understanding to enhance security coordination along their shared border.

The Iraqi official praised the unity and resilience of the Iranian nation in the face of recent aggressions by Israel and the United States against Iran, assuring

that Iraq would never allow its territory to be used for any threat against Iran's sovereignty or security.

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.

The two aggressors used Iraq's airspace illegally and with no authorization to launch strikes on the Islamic Republic.

Back in July, Iraq's Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani said Iraq formally lodged a complaint with the UN concerning repeated violations of its airspace by Israeli warplanes during the regime's recent aggression against Iran.

Sudani condemned in the strongest terms Israel's incursions into Iraqi



Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (R) and Iraq's National Security Adviser Qasim al-Araji meet in Tehran on October 20, 2025.

● mfa.gov.ir

airspace, which were used to launch strikes on Iran.

"During the 12-day war between Israel and Iran, Israeli aircraft repeatedly used Iraqi airspace to bomb targets deep inside Iranian territory," he told the BBC, denouncing the act as an encroachment upon his country's sovereignty.

Al-Araji, who arrived in Tehran on Monday, also held a separate meeting with Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Major General Mohammad Pakpour on Tuesday.

During the meeting, general Pakpour cautioned the enemies of the Islamic republic that any act of aggression against Iran will draw a stronger reaction than what they experienced during



the 12-day war. He said that Israel had placed great reliance on its missile shield during the 12-day war but Iran managed to struck

its intended targets. Iran is now fully prepared to give stronger response to any act of aggression against the country, he added.

## Veep reiterates snapback invocation lacks legal basis; Tehran 'not worried'



Mohammad Reza Aref  
● fvpresident.ir

## International Desk

Iran's First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref reiterated that the activation of the "snapback mechanism" under the 2015 Iran nuclear agreement via European powers "has no legal basis."

Speaking at a ceremony in Tehran on Tuesday, he said Iran had given ultimatum to the European parties to the nuclear agreement in 2016 and 2017 that if they do not implement their obligations, Iran will not fulfill its commitments either. So, their move to trigger the

mechanism lacks any legal basis. "Since Iran does not possess nuclear weapons, as of October 18, Iran's case at the International Atomic Energy Agency should be treated the same as those of countries that do not have nuclear arms."

The Islamic Republic said on Saturday, October 18, that it was no longer bound by restrictions on its nuclear program as a landmark 10-year deal between it and world powers expired on the same day.

In 2015, Iran and world powers

– including France, Britain and Germany – reached an agreement that saw the easing of international sanctions on Tehran in exchange for curbs on its nuclear program.

But the United States, during Trump's first term in office, unilaterally withdrew from the accord in 2018 and reimposed biting economic sanctions.

Tehran adhered to the deal until Washington's withdrawal, and then began rolling back on its commitments.

The European parties to the deal also failed to fulfill their commitment to the agreement. Several rounds of talks to revive the agreement failed, and in August, the UK, Germany and France triggered the so-called "snapback" process on the pretext of Iran's non-compliance with its obligations, leading to the re-imposition of the UN sanctions.

Aref said that Iran is not worried about the sanctions because, "We have even surpassed the stage of circumventing sanctions."

The VP further said that although sanctions have their repercussions, Iran implements internal measures to mitigate their effects.

## West's anti-Iran double standards breed international distrust: Senior MP



Deputy speaker of Iran's Parliament Hamid Reza Haji Babaei addresses the 151st session of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly in Geneva on October 21, 2025.

● IRNA

## International Desk

Deputy speaker of Iran's Parliament Hamid Reza Haji Babaei called the double standards of the European powers and the United States toward Iran as one of the most significant factors behind spreading distrust in the international system.

Speaking at the 151st session of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly in Geneva on Tuesday, Haji Babaei said a recent illegal move by France, Britain and Germany to trigger the "snapback" mechanism of the 2015 Iran nuclear deal lacks any legal basis and signals the "collapse of diplomacy and blind adherence" to the United States.

Referring to the 12-day war waged by Israel against Iran in June, he said, "Today, the world faces a multifaceted crisis — war, occupation, genocide, terrorism, unilateral sanctions, economic injustice, and environmental destruction — that threaten the foundations of human solidarity." Haji Babaei added that, "Talking about 'humanitarian principles' is not merely a moral necessity but a collective responsibility and binding obligation toward the global conscience that must not be held hostage by great powers."

The Iranian official pointed to Israel's crimes against Palestinians, saying that what is happening in the besieged Gaza Strip and the occupied West Bank is not only a violation of human rights but a blatant crime against humanity and an instance of organized genocide, continuing with the support of certain Western powers and the silence of international organizations.

"As a representative of a country that itself was directly targeted by the Zionist regime in June, I cannot remain silent in the face of the continuation of these crimes and blatant violations of international law. Today, we face a historic test of the global conscience. If the international community fails to hold the perpetrators of these atrocities accountable, the fire of these crimes will spread to other borders." Haji Babaei said that sometimes, oppression and aggression in the world reach a point where "opportunistic, bullying and arrogant behaviors" of the US regarding the recent cease-fire in Gaza, which itself is complicit in Israel's crimes, "is considered a positive step."

## Iran envoy warns 'illegal sanctions' harm people's lives

Iran's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Office in Geneva Ali Bahraini warned about the impacts of unilateral sanctions on people's daily lives, emphasizing that such illegal measures impede sustainable development.

Addressing a meeting in Geneva titled "Unilateral Coercive Measures: Obstacles to Trade and Sustainable Development," on Tuesday, Bahraini said that unilateral sanctions, contrary to the claims of countries professing to defend human rights, directly target ordinary people's lives, IRNA reported.

He emphasized that unilateral coercive measures have deprived developing nations of access to essential technology, investment, and medical services. Furthermore, he noted that these sanctions not only exert pressure on the economies of these countries but have also intensified suffering and hardship among vulnerable populations.

Bahraini emphasized the unique role of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD),



Ali Bahraini

stating that it is well-equipped to assess the effects of sanctions and offer international solutions.

He further called for a clause to be included in the final document of the conference, requiring UNCTAD to regularly evaluate the impacts of unilateral sanctions and provide countries with solutions to mitigate them. The conference was held on the sidelines of the 16th United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist

CARTOON





# Pezeshkian: Gov’t vows to remove trade barriers, boost value-driven exports

Economy Desk

President Masoud Pezeshkian underlined on Tuesday that the Iranian government is moving to facilitate exports by addressing obstacles that hinder trade, streamline regulations, and improve conditions for businesses. Speaking at the 29th National Export Day ceremony honoring the country’s top exporters, Pezeshkian said the government is committed to eliminating bureaucratic hurdles, excessive regulations, and trade-related financial and diplomatic obstacles to strengthen the export sector, IFNA reported.

“How can other countries reach \$500 billion or even \$1 trillion in trade while we are proud of only \$40–50 billion?” Pezeshkian asked, criticizing what he described as a limited view of Iran’s trade potential.

“There is no reason for Iran to fall behind. If our target is \$100 billion, we can achieve it; if our target is \$1 trillion, we can reach that too.”

Iran’s foreign trade reached \$54.31 billion in the first half of the current Iranian calendar year, which began on March 21. Imports fell compared with the same period last year, according to the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA). Non-oil exports totaled \$25.94 billion, while imports reached \$28.37 billion.

Downplaying the role of sanctions as

a barrier to the national economic growth, the president said, “We are ready to work with the Chamber of Commerce and all sectors to remove obstacles.”

Highlighting the government’s ongoing engagement with the business community, Pezeshkian said every month the cabinet meets with entrepreneurs and the Chamber of Commerce to discuss problems. Ministries follow up weekly, and results are reported at the end of each month, he added.

Pezeshkian emphasized that Iran has the capacity to dramatically expand its trade. “Every Iranian must believe that we should not fall behind any country or any industry,” he said.

‘Iran Export Atlas’

Pezeshkian’s remarks were followed by comments from Mohammad Atabak, the minister of Industry, Mines and Trade, who outlined steps to shift Iran’s exports toward higher-value goods and enhance trade infrastructure.

Atabak emphasized that the future of Iran’s exports should focus on “value-driven exports,” aiming to align the monetary and physical value of goods to ensure sustainable foreign exchange earnings.

“To achieve this, existing structures in foreign trade must be transformed,” Atabak said.



President Masoud Pezeshkian addresses the 29th National Export Day ceremony in Tehran on October 21, 2025.  
● IRNA

While the ministry has signed numerous memorandums of understanding, he said, “The government stresses that signing agreements alone is not enough; operational obstacles must be removed for these deals to yield tangible results.”

Atabak also announced plans to develop a comprehensive “Iran Export Atlas,” a guidebook detailing the country’s export capacities and markets.

“At the president’s suggestion, it is necessary to prepare a detailed atlas of the country’s export capacities and

markets so exporters know which products can be sold in which markets,” he said.

The minister added that the project, developed in partnership with the private sector, could significantly contribute to the growth of Iran’s exports.

## Economy Ministry to set up funds to stabilize currency, boost investment IME unveils six commodity deposit certificates to lure investors



Iran’s Economy Minister Ali Madanizadeh addresses the third conference honoring top figures of the Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME) in Tehran on October 20, 2025.  
● mefa.ir

Economy Desk

Iran’s Economy Minister Ali Madanizadeh said on Monday that the ministry plans to launch new currency-based funds and bonds aimed at attracting public liquidity and stabilizing the foreign exchange market.

“These instruments will soon be introduced and can both attract people’s liquidity and provide the

capital needed to finance large enterprises’ working capital,” Madanizadeh said at the third conference honoring top figures of the Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME), as reported by Tasnim news agency.

“Launching such funds will also help control the forex market and prevent further increases in exchange rates,” he added.

At the ceremony aimed at developing the finan-

cial market of the Iran Mercantile Exchange and broadening investment instruments, trading officially began for six commodity deposit certificates covering copper cathodes, bitumen, iron ore pellets, rebar, zinc ingots, and the Kerman Khodro T9 pickup truck.

The move is intended to diversify investment tools and attract wider participation from investors.

According to IME data, by noon Monday more than 792,000 certificates — worth several hundred billion tomans — had been traded, signaling strong investor interest in the new

financial tools.

Madanizadeh stressed that removing barriers to productivity is essential for Iran’s economic growth. He cited “price controls” as the first major obstacle, saying they have “trapped the economy and prevented markets from growing naturally.”

The second major challenge, he said, is Iran’s “bank-centered financing system,” which has limited the role of capital markets in funding production and enterprise development.

“In developed countries, large companies raise funds through capital markets so that bank resources can be directed toward small and medium-sized enterprises,” he said.

“One of the main policies of the ministry is to guide large enterprises toward the capital market, making the country’s financial

structure more balanced and efficient.”

Madanizadeh also emphasized that “making the economy predictable” is the top priority of the government’s economic team.

“Predictability enables better risk management and encourages people to save and channel their small investments into the capital market,” he said.

He announced the launch of a major “Rouyesh Plan” (Growth Plan), one of six flagship projects of the Economy Ministry, designed to mobilize small-scale public savings to finance large industrial enterprises.

“The instruments unveiled today by the Securities and Exchange Organization and the Iran Mercantile Exchange mark the beginning of this program and a step toward fostering productive investment in the country,” he said.

## Direct maritime passenger route launched between Chabahar, Muscat



Economy Desk

A senior official at Iran’s Supreme Council of Free and Special Economic Zones announced on Tuesday that a direct maritime passenger and tourism route linking Iran’s southeastern port of Chabahar with Muscat, Oman, had officially begun operations.

Reza Masroor, the secretary of the supreme council, said the new route was one of the key priorities emphasized by President Masoud Pezeshkian during his last year’s visit to the Iranian port, IRNA reported.

“The Chabahar-Muscat passenger shipping line, developed through cooperation between the Secretariat of the Supreme Council and the Chabahar Free Zone Organization, has now entered into operation with Omani investment,” he said.

Masroor noted that the cost of travel on the new maritime route is significantly lower than air travel from Chabahar, and authorities expect it to attract strong demand from tourists.

Masroor said that developing maritime tourism is a main priority for the Chabahar Free Zone Organization, calling it one of the region’s strategic advantages. A series of programs are currently being implemented to boost this sector, he added.

“Plans are also under way to expand similar shipping routes among Iran’s southern islands, a move that could play a major role in enhancing tourism and regional connectivity,” he said.

## Iran proposes expanded water ties with Saudi Arabia, OIC states

Economy Desk

A senior official at Iran’s Ministry of Energy announced on Tuesday that Tehran is seeking to strengthen joint water management cooperation with Saudi Arabia and other Islamic countries.

On the sidelines of the fifth Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Conference of Ministers Responsible for Water in Saudi Arabia, Mohammadvali Alaeddini, head of the ministry’s International Affairs Department, met with a Saudi deputy minister, IRNA reported.

He said one of the main objectives

of Energy Minister Abbas Ali Abadi’s visit and Iran’s participation in the conference is to advance shared water projects among OIC member countries.

“Given the different strengths of each country in this field, these meetings provide valuable opportunities for mutual understanding and knowledge sharing,” he said. He added that Iran is willing to generously share its expertise in water resources management with all countries.

Alaeddini highlighted Iran’s diverse water resources, which include more than 300 dams, underground

wells, rivers, and transboundary sources shared with neighbors such as Turkey, Afghanistan, and Turkmenistan. About 4% of these resources is allocated for drinking water, with the remainder used for agriculture and industry.

Inviting Saudi officials to visit Iran, he said, “Considering that water is the essence of life and should foster unity rather than conflict, we are interested in joint cooperation with Saudi Arabia in water-related matters alongside other ongoing collaborations.”

He also emphasized the capabilities of Iranian knowledge-based compa-

nies, noting over 1,000 inventions in the water and electricity sector, and invited Saudi officials to visit Iran to see such innovations firsthand.

Alaeddini cited Iran’s achievements in engineering and technical services in the water and electricity sectors, saying many countries in the region and beyond are already clients of Iranian expertise. “Iran is keen to expand these interactions with Saudi Arabia as well,” he added.

The OIC conference, hosted by Saudi Arabia, brings together more than 49 countries and 20 ministers, including representatives from Iran, Egypt, Mauritania, and Indonesia.



# Pezeshkian gov't heard voice of environment



By Shina Ansari

Head of the Iranian  
Department of  
Environment

## OPINION

For years, a voice was not heard in Iran as well as it should have been, neither in policymaking nor governance, nor in behavior and lifestyle. This neglect has come back to bite the public as the consequences of environmental crises have crept into everyday life, affecting the economic, social, and biological sustainability of Iranians. Regarding the “water issue,” one of the most challenging fields, a 30% drop in rainfall over three decades and the extraction of 90% of renewable water resources have led to negative water balances in nearly all of the country’s aquifers. In other words, we have not just used renewable water sources; We have dipped into the water capital of future generations and eaten up the share meant for our children. Moreover, water wastage in agriculture, the uncontrolled construction of dams, and the drilling of illegal wells (over 700,000 such wells) have caused land subsidence to rear its ugly head as an emerging threat to critical infrastructure across



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian plants a sapling to mark the National Tree Planting Day at the presidential compound in Tehran, Iran, on March 5, 2025.

● [president.ir](https://www.president.ir)



The incumbent Iranian government, getting a handle on these environmental mega-challenges, has made revising the governance of territorial resources its top priority. This shift has picked up steam over the past year by focusing on investing in renewable energies, especially solar, and must continue until the country’s energy mix is properly diversified.



Shina Ansari (C), head of the Iranian Department of Environment, meets with Ilham Aliyev (L), the president of Azerbaijan, and António Guterres, secretary-general of the United Nations, during the opening ceremony of COP29 World Leaders Climate Action Summit in Baku, Azerbaijan, on November 12, 2024.

● [ECOIRAN](https://www.ecoiran.ir)



most provinces.

Other problems resulting in environmental consequences include the country’s 80% reliance on fossil fuels for energy production, the prevalence of outdated transportation fleets, the steady decline of forests, failure to allocate environmental water rights to wetlands, air pollution

and dust storms, destruction of biodiverse natural habitats, and the daily generation of 58,000 tons of waste with less than 10% being recycled. Alongside these issues, the undeniable impacts of climate change, leading to an average temperature rise of 8.1°C (well above the global average) and aggravating environmental

challenges in the country, cannot be swept under the rug. Continuing on the same path in managing Iran’s macro environmental domain would play into a pessimistic scenario marked by a serious drop in groundwater, turning 40% of agricultural lands into desert, worsening dust phenomena, and forcing millions to migrate from dry areas.

The incumbent government, getting a handle on these environmental mega-challenges, has made revising the governance of territorial resources its top priority. This shift has picked up steam over the past year by focusing on investing in renewable energies, especially solar, and must continue until the country’s energy mix is properly diversified.

Other pillars include limiting the establishment of water-intensive industries in the central plateau, formulating decentralization policies to ease the pressure on major cities, executing sea-centric development plans aligned with environmental require-

ments, pursuing wetland water rights, drafting a national strategic waste management plan, promoting a circular economy to boost recycling, utilizing unconventional water sources (still in early stages), and strengthening environmental diplomacy, especially with regional countries. These measures must be taken with strong resolve and collaboration from all stakeholders (other branches of government, the private sector, experts, and NGOs).

Today, it is time to step up environmental governance in pursuit of restoring and healing the damage to our land. The road ahead is tough and demands putting national interests above local and individual ones. The warning of nature has been “heard,” but that alone is not enough. Bold and tough decisions are an unavoidable necessity to guarantee the livability of our land and to turn around the looming pessimistic scenario.

The article first appeared in the Persian-language Iran Newspaper.

## Silent treasures on Iran’s path to cultural, tourism development



By Ehsan Farahani

Expert on cultural and  
artistic affairs

## OPINION

In recent years, we have repeatedly seen countries leverage their natural and cultural symbols with savvy, enabling them to make significant strides both in public diplomacy and in the fields of tourism and cultural economy. Meanwhile, in Iran, many of our unique environmental assets have either been left overlooked or, at best, have been paid just lip service. Today, the Asiatic cheetah, as an endangered species, only makes sporadic appearances on the Iranian football team’s jerseys. A majestic bird like the “Homa,” which could have stood as a symbol of peace and resilience, remains unknown to many Iranians. The Iranian onager, the cypress tree of Abarkuh, the brown bear of Mazandaran Province, and the Caspian tiger (now living only in memories) are all parts of our biological heritage that have so far failed to make a mark in shaping the contemporary image of Iran.

On the other hand, many countries have not only pulled out all the stops to protect their native species but have also turned them into iconic assets. Just look at Australia, where kangaroos and koalas have become national brands, or China, which has spread its soft power through the giant panda all the way to the heart of Europe and America. Even the United Arab Emirates, which modernized at lightning speed, never lost sight of showcasing and preserving symbols like the falcon, the Arabian gazelle, or the Ghaf tree, framing them within their national heritage and identity. But the key question is: What game plan do we have to tap into these symbols for cultural development and ecotourism? Environmental symbols can bridge culture, education, tourism, and a sustainable economy. With proper planning, these symbols can take center stage as characters in children’s books, subjects in cinema and television, logos on product packaging, and attractions on nature trails. This means building an

emotional bond between the people and their ecosystem. In this regard, there are various tourist areas in Iran that have good potential for showcasing environmental symbols. For instance, Kish Island in the Persian Gulf could serve as a practical example. The presence of blue sea turtles along Iran’s southern shores, especially around Kish Island, is not only a rare biological opportunity but also a valuable cultural-environmental asset. If handled correctly, it could serve as a springboard for launching ecotourism routes, educational campaigns, and even international cooperation on protecting rare species. It is fitting that Iran’s Department of Environment, in cooperation with the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, and by drawing on the strengths of the private sector, NGOs, and cultural activists, devises a national plan to revive and promote Iran’s environmental symbols. This initiative will not only contribute to preserving nature but also help lay down a new, rooted, and at-

tractive identity for Iran’s future generations and the world. Today, more than ever, we need to not only look after our cultural and natural resources but also

give them a fresh spin in today’s language and harness them for national development. If our environmental symbols are recognized and taken seriously, they

can turn into priceless assets in narrating the story of a new Iran.

The article first appeared in Persian on ISNA.



A school of fish follows a hawksbill sea turtle, a rare blue species of sea turtles that has been a frequent visitor to the safe and peaceful coasts of Kish Island, southern Iran.

● [IRNA](https://www.irna.ir)



# A potentially world-ending president

## Though who even notices?

By Tom Engelhardt  
Author

### OPINION

Imagine for a moment a nuclear weapon exploding over... well, you name it: Pakistan, India, or, for that matter, Ukraine, Russia, or the United States. I guarantee you one thing: The news headlines would be (and I use the word advisedly) explosive for days (weeks, months?) on end, assuming, of course, that any media was left to cover it. And yet, here's the strange thing: At this very moment, the slow-motion equivalent of a vast nuclear explosion is occurring over this planet of ours, and, remind me, where are the stunning headlines? Where is the shock? Why is it so eternally passing news (or no news at all)? Why doesn't climate change make the headlines, except in the rarest of cases (or — itself a rare case — in the Guardian, which has an actual "climate crisis" section highlighted atop its daily online edition)? Yes, in the mainstream media, you can certainly read about the melting glaciers and surging glacial lake near Juneau, Alaska, or the floods and growing rainy season in northern China, or the stunning heat and fires this summer in Europe, or the Trump administration's assault on wind power, or the recent unbelievable nights of record temperatures in the Middle East, and, if you want, you can add it all up yourself. But don't wait for our media to do the same, not in the sort of continuous headline-busting fashion that might suit the unfolding disaster we increasingly face on this planet of ours, even if in the weather equivalent of slow motion. And when climate change is indeed in the news, it's rare indeed — unlike, say, the Covid epidemic once upon a time — for it to be covered on a global basis. When was the last time, for instance, that you saw all the fierce or even record fires on this planet put together in a single article? Yes, I know, on occasion there are indeed overview stories about climate change, but compared to the daily screaming headlines about whatever passing thing Donald Trump did or said days (or even hours) ago, they barely exist. In news terms, in fact, his second presidency might be considered the news equivalent of an atomic explosion. Think of him, if you want, as President Headline, hour after hour, day after day, week after week, month after month, without cease and in a

way no other American president has ever truly been treated. In fact, in news terms, his presidency has been distinctly atomic, both figuratively and, in some sense, literally. After all, he's been determined to ensure that fossil fuels in America (and the world) remain the energy source of choice and, when it comes to his career as president, an explosive financial resource of the never-ending moment. (In that context, no one should be shocked that the fossil-fuel industry invested an estimated \$445 million in supporting and influencing his last election campaign and those of his followers in Congress.) No surprise, then, that the second time around, he's made quite an effort to expand oil, gas, and coal production in the US, including signing "four executive orders in April to help revive the beleaguered and polluting coal industry". Meanwhile, he's been doing his damndest to set back green energy in any way imaginable, including by putting in place new Treasury Department "restrictions on tax subsidies for wind and solar projects". And that is just to start down a long list. The Union of Concerned Scientists estimates that his handouts to the fossil-fuel industry will cost Americans \$80 billion over the next decade, and, of course, they'll cost the planet we live on so much more. All too sadly, thanks to both Donald Trump and the media, most of the time all too many of us barely sense that, as I write this and you read it, the slow-motion equivalent of atomic weapons is going off on this planet of ours. Meanwhile, the president remains everybody's screaming headline (both literally and figuratively) every day of the week. And yes, he does indeed matter. But does he truly matter as much as the almost literal, if slow-motion, end of the world, at least as we've known it all these endless centuries, that he's taking such a distinctive (if generally under-reported) hand in bringing about? I don't think so. Unfortunately, judging by the past election (and so much else), I seem to be in the distinct minority in this country when it comes to such subjects. However, I doubt that if, between his two presidencies, the media had dealt with the catastrophic development of climate change as it should have, a man who wildly favors the production of oil, natural gas, and coal — the ultimate sources of most of the greenhouse gas emissions now blanketing the planet — would ever have been elected presi-

dent a second time. Generally, though, unlike Donald Trump or, say, the war in Ukraine, climate change gets only the equivalent of a second thought or a passing mention in the stream of daily news. Who cares if, with such a distinctive helping hand from our president, we're in the process of essentially devastating this planet as a livable place for humanity and so much else?

### Heading for 'global nuclear winter'?

I don't, however, want to focus on Donald Trump alone, which would mean taking credit away from the rest of us. As a start — and give us full credit here — it's no small thing that, in our time, we humans have come up with two distinct and painfully distinctive ways of doing in planet Earth. Consider it something of a genuine miracle (though all too seldom written about) that the atomic way hasn't been used again since the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were obliterated on August 6 and 9, 1945, to end World War II. It's almost less than human of us to have let 80 years go by without taking another shot at obliterating something atomically. Mind you, that hasn't stopped eight more countries from developing devastating, potentially world-ending nuclear arsenals (with, undoubtedly, more to come). As of now, there are an estimated 12,000 or so nuclear weapons of various kinds on this planet — enough, that is, to do in an almost unimaginable number of planets. Worse yet, two of the countries that possess them, India and Pakistan, only recently came close to launching a full-scale war with each other, even exchanging rounds of conventionally armed missiles, before agreeing to a cease-fire. And keep in mind that, if those countries were to use nuclear weaponry against each other in what would still pass for a "limited" nuclear war, it would most likely result not just in almost unimaginable local destruction but planetary devastation. Massive clouds of dust from those nuclear explosions could potentially block the sun, leaving us in what has come to be known as a global "nuclear winter" in which more than two billion people on this planet might indeed die. And although he's seldom thought of that way, Donald Trump isn't just a distinctly dystopian president but a potentially end-of-the-world one, too. No, I'm not even thinking about that recent moment when



he announced that he was moving two US nuclear submarines armed with nuclear missiles closer to... oops, I almost wrote the Soviet Union (and that shows you how desperately old I am — slightly older, in fact, than the first use of nuclear weapons on this planet). Yes, the correct word is, of course, Russia or, as he put it, closer to the "appropriate regions" in response to what he termed "highly provocative" comments by former Russian president Dmitry Medvedev. And consider that not just a threatening but a potentially world-ending gesture. (No matter that he himself has long been disturbed by atomic weaponry, warning repeatedly of the possibility of "World War III".) And don't forget that, only recently, this country also decided to once again station some of its nuclear weaponry in Great Britain (already a nuclear power). Of course, Russian President Vladimir Putin responded to those submarine comments by insisting that his country "no longer considers itself bound by a self-imposed moratorium on the deployment of nuclear-capable intermediate range missiles." And mind you, at this moment, China has the third largest and fastest growing arsenal of all. In some sense, given the ongoing growth of such arsenals and the spread of such weaponry across much of the planet (not to speak of the recent US and Israeli attacks on Iran's nuclear facilities), the danger of nuclear conflict seems distinctly on the rise.

### A coming hell on earth?

Someday, if we humans are even here to remember the Trumpian moment in history and that first method of ultimate destruction hasn't been used again, humanity will undoubtedly find itself facing the second version head-on. After all, whatever he might not (yet) have done when it comes to nukes, Donald Trump has gone all in on that second global nightmare. Think of it as his urge to create a world not of nuclear winter but of climate-change summer. Or perhaps it would be better and more bluntly accurate to simply think of our future as a distinct and potentially all too literal hell on earth. Just imagine the global heat, fires, floods, you name it, that are in our future. Yes, some countries are indeed working hard to put in place other forms of energy that won't throw greenhouse gases into the atmosphere and turn this planet into an inferno and a half, but even the ones

doing so aren't doing it faintly fast enough. Take China. Its green energy emplacement, its solar and wind power, is not just greater than that of any other country on the planet, but all of them combined. What it's done in terms of the building of new green energy facilities couldn't be more stunning, as is its production of electric cars (at the moment unparalleled on this planet, with more than 60% of such vehicle sales globally). And yet, before you start to feel too upbeat, consider this as well: No country, not even all the rest of them put together, burns more coal than China or is putting in place the number of new coal-powered plants that country is still planning to open. In 2023, it accounted for 95% of new coal construction, a trend that seems to have continued to the present. Can you even believe it? And then, think of my own country, the (increasingly dis-)United States of America. It had done remarkably little when it came to getting rid of fossil fuels, even before Donald Trump entered the White House a second time. After all, it was already the globe's largest producer of crude oil and exporter of natural gas when Joe Biden became president, and, despite his administration's modest attempts to deal with climate change, oil and gas production were — yes! — even higher when he left office (as was true of Donald Trump in his first term). And so it goes, it seems. It should be so much stranger than it feels at this moment to be living in a time when a slow-motion apocalypse of an almost unimaginable sort is actually taking place and with a distinctly world-ending president in the White House raising a storm daily (about anything but climate change). Yes, the fires, floods, heatwaves, and droughts are all growing more intense on planet Earth. And on a globe that, in its own fashion, appears to be going to (an all too literal) hell in a handbasket, Donald Trump seems distinctly ready and willing to make that reality so much worse. Even if no atomic weapons are ever used, it seems as if we're nonetheless heading for what might be thought of as the very opposite of a global nuclear winter. Think of it as a global climate change summer, a slow-motion version of hell on earth. Can you believe it? I'm sweating at the very thought of it.

The article first appeared on TomDispatch.com.

The illustration shows US President Donald Trump surrounded by images of various negative consequences of climate change.  
● BARBARA GIBSON/  
THE NEW STATESMAN

Someday, if we humans are even here to remember the Trumpian moment in history and that first method of ultimate destruction hasn't been used again, humanity will undoubtedly find itself facing the second version head-on. After all, whatever he might not (yet) have done when it comes to nukes, Donald Trump has gone all in on that second global nightmare. Think of it as his urge to create a world not of nuclear winter but of climate-change summer.

British newspapers report the news of Donald Trump's first victory following the 2016 US Presidential election.  
● THE NEW YORKER





# AFC Champions League Elite: Skocic not surprised after Tractor hits five past Sharjah

## Sports Desk

Tractor head coach Dragan Skocic said his team's 5-0 demolition of Emirati side Sharjah FC in the AFC Champions League Elite on Monday was nothing beyond what he expected from the Iranian top-flight champion. Chasing its first win at the Asian elite clubs' competition after back-to-back draws against Shabab Al Ahli (1-1) and Al Wahda (0-0), Tractor got off to a flying start at the Sharjah Stadium, taking a two-goal lead inside 11 minutes through Albanian midfielder Regi Lushkja. Mahdi Hashemnejad netted the third strike for the visitors five minutes before the break, playing the ball into Amirhossein Hosseinzadeh before bursting into the box to steer his return pass beyond goalkeeper Darwish Mohammed. Right fullback Daniel Esmailifard then ran into the penalty area to collect Hashemnejad's cutback from the byline and coolly slot into the bottom corner in the third minute of added time.



Tractor players celebrate a goal during a 5-0 victory over Sharjah FC at AFC Champions League Elite in Sharjah, UAE, on October 20, 2025.

● AFC

stunning victory, the Croatian said, "Why do you think I didn't expect the result? We are the [Iranian] champion. Perhaps you didn't expect this, but I did. "We are a good team. We showed it last season with some really good performances. No one could beat us in 90 minutes [in the AFC Champions League Two], and we were only knocked out on penalties. I'm really glad that you have now discovered Tractor," added Skocic.

Lushkja was proud to have played a sterling role in Tractor's impressive victory, saying: "I'm very happy that we won today," said Lushkja. "I want to thank all my teammates and the coach for giving me the opportunity to play. "I'm really happy for the team because without everyone, we couldn't have won this game.

Substitute Masoud Zaer-Kazeminein put the game to bed six minutes from normal time as Tractor moved up to fourth in the West Zone's 12-team table with five points. Skocic was delighted to see his players execute the gameplan to perfection.

"It's a great moment for my players, for everyone in the club, and for the staff. I think we played a great game - everything we planned to do, we did," said Skocic. "We limited the opponents' attacks even though they have quality players up front and we managed to create problems for

them. "I'm really happy for my team. They truly deserve this. In some games this season we've been unlucky but today, we showed our quality and proved that no one should forget about us in this competition." Asked if he was surprised by the

We played against a very good team and I'm just very happy to get the win here."

Skocic's opposite number on the Sharjah bench, Milos Milojevic, meanwhile, took responsibility for his team's humiliation on home turf.

"Unfortunately, the result could have been even worse. We started very poorly in every aspect. They were more organized and looked more like a team. Honestly, they deserved to win against us," said Milojevic.

"This is not about bad luck - it's a disaster for Sharjah and for football in the Emirates. It's unacceptable. Of course, I feel very bad about it. I take full responsibility for this defeat. I was the one who chose the players and decided how we would play. I can't blame anyone else."

Tractor will aim for a second win in the league phase when it faces Iraq's Al Shorta at Tabriz's Yadegar-e Imam Stadium on November 3, while Sharjah will look to redeem itself against Saudi Arabia's Al Ittihad in Jeddah a day later.

## Riding on Simorgh's wings: Teenage climber scaling peaks with father

By Niloufar Mansouri  
Staff writer

### PERSPECTIVE

Parsa Nazar Ahari has finally stood atop the tallest peaks of Iran and made his voice heard to the world: Even at a young age, one can conquer the most formidable mountains in his home country and earn the Simorgh of Iranian Mountains award. Parsa, born in 2009, managed to climb the 31 highest peaks in each of Iran's provinces within a single year. Of course, beyond that, he has summited many other mountains, and at 16 years old, his climbing record boasts over 80 ascents. For these reasons, and to mark the National Mountaineer's Day, we sat down with him to learn more about his journey.

### The First Summit

The higher they climbed, the colder the air became. His father was worried about Parsa, whose face was flushed red from the cold and hands were swollen. He never imagined his seven-year-old son would be so eagerly crushing the small and large stones of the mountain under his studded boots, climbing so quickly. In his heart, he analyzed his son's physical strength and movement, admiring that he was having a professional start by managing to summit the nearly 4,000-meter Tochal peak: "Well done, my son. The peak is just beyond this bend. Give me your hand, just be careful not to slip. We're almost there; we'll rest as soon as we arrive."

Parsa's body was tingling from the cold, but every mountaineer who passed them showed their excitement with loud cheers, encouraging him to keep moving. With every step he took, the slope grew steeper and the air colder,

but with each step, he drew closer to the summit and its shelter. It was as if nothing within Parsa could hinder his ascent. This very experience of summiting Tochal ignited such a passion in Parsa that he decided to experience hiking the ridges and valleys of this great mountain several more times. Now, years after that first climb, he has traversed many mountains and peaks with love and enthusiasm, sometimes spending nights in shelters to continue his trek refreshed and energetic the next day.

### A Mountaineer is Born

Parsa is a resident of Ahar, one of the mountainous areas around Tehran—a village in the Rudbar-e Qasran district of Shemiranat, considered a popular destination for mountaineers. From early childhood, he was familiar with the sport and began hiking, and later mountaineering, alongside his father. Now, nine years later, he has become one of its professional practitioners. He is a tenth-grade student, studying machine tools, and says he wants to become a lathe operator in the future. Despite his young age, in addition to the 31 provincial high peaks, he has summited many other famous peaks, from those around Tehran to summits in other provinces. He is a treasure trove of experience. He speaks deliberately, seeming in no rush to end the interview. He says if even one person becomes interested in mountaineering or nature trekking after reading this interview, he will be happy.

### Beginning with Mountaineering

"Mountaineering is a sport that connects the human spirit with nature," Parsa tells Iran newspaper. "The positive effect of nature on the body and mind smooths

out the hardships of the path. I have summited many peaks with my father, and this is how I understood that, unlike other sports, mountaineering doesn't have a podium for championships and medals. Unlike other sports, no one intends to get ahead of you; there's no rush. On the contrary, everyone wants to work together, to ease the hardships of the mountain path for one another so that the journey can end well. It's a sport where you learn love for nature and family, to become a capable human being."

He adds, "I went mountaineering with my father since I was a child. I don't remember my very first experience in the mountains well, but I remember my first ascent of Tochal perfectly. Even though that day was very hard and I struggled, it was still incredibly exciting, and I felt a sense of calm and security beside my father. That first step into professional mountaineering was the discovery of a new world for me, one I developed an insane passion for, and now the mountains constantly pull me towards them."

### The Simorgh of Iranian Mountains

His love for his father and for mountaineering made him his father's climbing partner, conquering the heights they dreamed of together. To reach the summits, they would plan from afar, repeatedly reviewing routes that crossed ridges and bypassed steep valleys through narrow goat trails. They were professionals, mountaineers who set foot on great heights and raised their flag on many summits.

Parsa believes, "It's not important when you set foot in the mountains; what's important is that you go as far as you can, enjoying the nature and the path along the



Parsa Nazar Ahari (L)  
● IRAN DAILY

way. You don't need a specific, specialized sport, but physical and mental readiness and proper nutrition are necessary. These help immensely with a successful climb." Speaking about the Simorgh Project, he says, "When I packed my bag for the first execution of this plan, I knew I had to plan for a long trip. I didn't start with the intention of finishing the project; I just intended to join programs my father was part of, provided it didn't interfere with my school schedule. We seriously started implementing the plan on June 10, 2021, and finally concluded the project on August 19, 2022."

### A Dual Nature

Noting that every ascent in every season has its own different challenges, the athlete says, "From summiting Tochal in Tehran, which was done in a single day, to climbing formidable peaks, sometimes several days were required. Of course, the equipment also differed accordingly.

Mountaineering in summer is completely different from winter. For a one-day climb, we must have water, snacks like chocolate, dates, nuts, light food, and season-appropriate clothing in our backpack. For trips of two or more days requiring an overnight stay on the mountain, we need to carry overnight gear like a tent, sleeping bag, warm clothes, more water, and more food. The mountain, while offering beauty and peace, has a wild nature, and one small mistake can be the last mistake."

Having lost count of his ascents, he says that for climbing peaks, he would consult with his father and they would choose them one by one. "All these years, we climbed the peaks side by side, one by one. Sometimes we found new friends on the path, and sometimes we saw old ones. But my best companion in these years has been my father, and I thank him for accompanying me and giving me so much hope whenever I got tired or lost energy."

### Pleasant Ascents

The model for Parsa's athletic successes is his father, Davood Nazar Ahari, who has summited many high peaks in the country. This seasoned mountaineer says, "Parsa was interested in mountaineering from childhood, and when I recognized this spirit in him from a young age, I tried to transfer my knowledge to my child, accompanied by love and without reservation, and bring him along with me. The allure of the summit energized him; steep slopes and pristine paths thrilled him. His ability reached a point where at seven years old, we reached the top of Tochal. Seeing the summit sign made him run towards it, and the climbers who had arrived earlier were all standing and applauding for him. That was the start of mountaineering as a professional pursuit for Parsa."

He adds, "So far, besides the 31 national high peaks, Parsa has summited most of the high peaks of the Central Alborz range, like Kholeno, Kolon Bastak, Khersang, Pahane Hesār, Janeston, and Darabad - perhaps more than ten times each. These were ascents made in the first decade of his life."

According to this veteran mountaineer, many people think mountaineering is just a sport, but this is not the case. Rather, this field is a way of life. "Parsa, from childhood, took small steps to conquer peaks, and he succeeded admirably. The mountains have their own rules. To climb in any season, we must know the language of the mountains. Understanding the rules, experience, physical fitness, necessary equipment, proper and consistent nutrition, and continuous, good practice are essential requirements for registering a successful ascent in nature."



# Ardakan Water Museum preserves centuries of history



By Sadeq  
Dehqan  
Staff writer

## INTERVIEW

A qanat (or kariz) is an underground water channel that has long been used to transport drinking and agricultural water from subterranean aquifers in highlands to lower and more distant areas. The earliest qanats date back about seven to eight thousand years, and since ancient times, this method of water conveyance has been particularly common

in arid and desert regions. Historians and researchers regard the invention of the qanat as a masterpiece of ancient Iranian engineering and architecture. Since Iran has always been a water-scarce country, especially in its central and desert areas, developing solutions for water extraction has always been a top priority for its people. The invention of qanats by ancient Iranians in dry climates such as central Iran was a brilliant and sustainable solution to overcome the challenges of wa-

ter shortage and seasonal droughts in the past. Today, with the advent of advanced technology and the use of massive water pipelines, there is no longer a need to extract and transport water through qanats. Moreover, most of these ancient systems — thousands of years old — have dried up and lost their original function as water conduits. Nevertheless, the intricate, winding, and mysterious tunnels of Iranian qanats still retain their unique charm and remain of great cultural and touristic im-

portance.

Yazd Province and the city of Ardakan are among the regions that host numerous active and inactive qanat networks, including some of the most famous qanats in Iran and even the world. The Ardakan Water and Qanat Museum is one of the few sites in the country where visitors can walk through qanat tunnels over a thousand years old and closely observe the tools, techniques, and wonders of the ancient Iranian art of Moqanni (qanat digging).



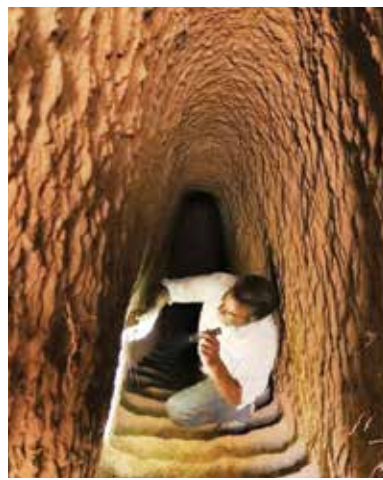
Javad Qanei  
● IRAN DAILY

In an exclusive interview with Iran Daily, Javad Qanei, director of the Ardakan Water and Qanat Museum, said, "I obtained the permit to establish the country's first qanat museum in March 2018. With the cooperation of the Yazd Province Cultural Heritage Organization and the Ardakan Cultural Heritage Department, the museum was set up in a mudbrick house located in the historic Charkhab neighborhood of Ardakan."

He added, "The museum building covers an area of 400 square meters. The structure itself is about 700 years old, and within its various sections, one can observe architectural features from the Seljuk to the Pahlavi eras."

He explained that the house had access to the water of a qanat through a staircase leading to an underground section known as the Payab. The Payab was, in fact, the point of access from the house to the qanat's water. Since in the past, unlike today, there were no water pipelines or distribution systems to supply residential areas, the qanat channels used to pass beneath urban houses. In the basement of these houses, a Payab was built, containing a small basin where residents could directly reach the qanat water. Typically, the qanat water would continue its course and connect to the Payabs of other houses, allowing all — or at least most — homes in the neighborhood to have independent access to running water from the qanat.

He went on to say that the Payab of



the Ardakan Qanat and Water Museum was connected to a qanat called Mortin, which supplied it with water. Since ancient times, four qanat systems have passed through the city of Ardakan, providing residents with drinking and household water. The main qanat of the city was the Aliabad Qanat, which ran through the bazaar. Other qanats included Baha'uddin, Shurab, and Mortin. In total, Ardakan once had 257 qanats, many of which are still active today. He mentioned that almost all of the earliest qanats of Ardakan were constructed beneath the city's historical fabric, and the Mortin Qanat itself is estimated to be over a thousand years old. It has had a waqf deed (endowment document) for more than 800 years, dedicated to Amir Chakhmaq Square and Imamzadeh Seyyed Jafar (PBUH) in the city of Yazd. According to the waqf docu-

ment, anyone using the qanat's water was required to pay the designated water rights to these religious endowment centers.

Qanei explained the origin of the name Mortin Qanat, saying, "The name Mortin is derived from the Murt flower (Myrtus), which was once a native plant of Ardakan, though it is now considered extinct in the region. This plant used to blossom occasionally during the year, and its flowering was regarded by the people of Ardakan as a good omen.



In the past, when people wanted to offer a blessing or good wish, they would say, 'May you become a Murt flower,' symbolizing joy, vitality, and prosperity."

He added, "The Mortin Qanat still carried water until around 1985, but after that, due to drought, excessive well drilling in surrounding areas, and the drying up of underground

aquifers, the qanat eventually ran dry. Today, the qanat tunnels beneath the museum building have been cleaned and restored, and with appropriate lighting installed, they are now open and accessible to visitors." He explained that the length of the Mortin Qanat, from its source or mother well (where water collection begins) to its outlet (where it reaches the surface), is about 26 kilometers. The qanat originates from an area above the city of Meybod and surfaces about four kilometers downstream from Ardakan, where its water was traditionally used for agriculture and gardening.

He continued that the museum includes several sections: the main house, exhibition halls, a cistern, a Payab, and the qanat tunnel itself. Altogether, the museum contains 285 artifacts, and in its exhibition area, visitors can see various tools



and instruments related to qanat excavation, cleaning, and restoration — including different types of hammers and pickaxes, water-drawing pulleys and ropes, oil and carbide lamps, water skins, and many other traditional implements.

He said, "One of the museum's artifacts, known as the water clock, was historically used to determine agricultural water rights. In this system, a person called the Mirab (water overseer) would sit at the qanat outlet and place a small clay vessel (Sabu) in a basin of water. There was a tiny hole at the bottom of the vessel through which water slowly entered. When the vessel became full, it sank into the basin, signaling that it was time for the next person's water share."

He added that the museum also preserves more than 2,000 handwritten letters and old manuscripts, dating from 100 to 300 years ago, documenting correspondence between qanat diggers (Moqannis) and qanat owners. These documents describe contracts, the condition of qanat tunnels, flood damage, and the need for maintenance and cleaning.

Qanei added, "Today, many of the old and experienced Moqannis have aged and retired, yet their knowledge and expertise continue to be highly valued and utilized in the museum to guide and educate visitors. These seasoned experts, who spent much of their lives working deep underground, now act as living storytellers, sharing their memories, experiences, and fascinating tales about the history, challenges, and legacy of Iran's qanats with tourists."

## West Azarbaijan balances heritage preservation with expanding tourism

### Iranica Desk

During the first six months of this year, more than 225,000 tourists visited the museums of West Azarbaijan Province, said the director general of the province's Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Organization.

Morteza Safari told IRNA that Takht-e Soleyman in Takab, Qareh Kelisa (Saint Thaddeus Cathedral) in Chaldoran, and Baqcheh Jooq Palace Museum, located between Maku and Bazargan, attracted the most visitors during this period.

He noted that all museums in the province are open and ready to welcome tourists.

He also referred to the development process of the Urmia's Museum of Anthropology and said two phases of this project have been completed so far,

adding that the third phase has begun, during which metal structures are being built.

He reminded that the development plan was carried out after expert studies to ensure that the additional floor added to the old building would not place any load on it and that all safety and standard measures have been observed.

Safari added that the museum was built in 1967 and no serious development plan had been implemented since then. Moreover, only 10 percent of the space was available to display the museum's artifacts.

He continued that this plan was initiated due to the large number of artifacts and with the aim of introducing them to the public. Safari announced that QR codes are being defined for the museum's artifacts and said the redesign of both the old and new

museum halls is also underway so that the items will be displayed using modern methods. He reminded that the expansion of Urmia's Museum of Anthropology is one of the largest cultural heritage, tourism, and handicrafts projects implemented in West Azarbaijan Province, which includes both the development of the museum and the strengthening of the old building.

He continued that the old radio and television building of Urmia is also undergoing restoration, and after completion, it will be turned into a museum.

The Takht-e Soleyman World Heritage Site, with a history of over 3,000 years, served as a settlement for the Parthians, Sassanids, and Ilkhanids. Located 45 kilometers from Takab, it dates back to the Sassanid era and is considered one of the world's most important histor-

ical structures, featuring elements such as a columned hall, Khosrow's portico, gates, and fortified walls.

Qareh Kelisa (Saint Thaddeus Cathedral) is also one of Iran's UNES-

CO World Heritage Sites. Most experts regard it as the oldest church in the world.

Baqcheh Jooq Palace Museum is another magnificent historical monument of West Azarbaijan

Province dating back to the Qajar era. In addition to the palace and its 11-hectare garden, the personal belongings of Mortezaqoli Eqbal al-Saltaneh Makui (Sardar Maku) are preserved there.



Urmia's Museum of Anthropology  
● karnaval.ir





# Iran brings its stories, science to Dushanbe book fair



**Arts & Culture Desk**

Iran is participating at the 13th Dushanbe International Book Exhibition which began on October 20, presenting an extensive range of literary, scientific, and children's works at one of Central Asia's leading cultural events. The fair, officially opened by Tajik Culture Minister Matlubakhon Sattoriyon in the Tajik capital, drew writers, artists, and diplomats from across the region, including Iranian Ambassador

Alireza Haqiqian, IRNA reported. Sattoriyon stopped by Iran's pavilion, praising its "vibrant presence" and "active engagement" in the exhibition. Iran's booth, organized by the Iran Book and Literature House, displayed newly published titles from leading Iranian publishers alongside releases from China, Russia, Turkey, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan. In total, some 5,000 books from 40 publishers are being showcased throughout the

event. Ambassador Alireza Haqiqian described the fair as an opportunity to "strengthen cultural ties" between Iran and Tajikistan, highlighting the shared Persian linguistic and literary heritage that binds the two nations. The exhibition, known locally as Kitobi Dushanbe 2025 ("The Book of Dushanbe"), runs through the week and features book launches, poetry readings, and cultural exchanges aimed at deepening regional publishing cooperation.

## Foreign publishers 'walked the city' in Iran's first book fellowship

**Arts & Culture Desk**

Foreign publishers attending the first Tehran Publishing Fellowship Program earlier this month "got to walk the city" and meet a broad range of Iranian publishers, said Majid Jafari-Aghdam, director of the Pol Literary and Translation Agency, in remarks to IRNA. He said the week-long program has already begun to "change" how visiting editors and literary agents view Iran's publishing scene. Held from October 4 to 10 alongside the 36th Tehran International Book Fair, the fellowship was organized by the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance in cooperation with private partners. The initiative brought together some 20 to 30 foreign publishers and literary agencies for meetings, rights-sessions, and tours of Tehran's publishing centers. Jafari-Aghdam, a veteran of global book fairs, said the format followed international models pioneered in Istanbul and Sharjah, where

similar fellowships operate under "gold," "silver," and "bronze" sponsorships that determine levels of financial support. About 10 such independent programs have appeared worldwide over the past five years. Despite praising the Tehran event as "a useful start," he called for greater financial transparency. The project, he noted, was executed by a cultural association with limited international experience, and part of its funding reportedly came from Iran's state translation-grant scheme. "There must be clarity about how the money was spent," he said. Still, Jafari-Aghdam said the fellowship produced tangible results. Several translation and publishing contracts were signed, with the government pledging to support them through the national grant fund. He contrasted global grant averages—about \$1,000 to \$1,500 for children's books and \$3,000 to \$5,000 for adult titles—with Iran's \$300 limit for children's



works. "A foreign publisher doesn't know what to do with \$300," he remarked, adding that low budgets risk undermining Iran's global publishing outreach. The program also allowed international visitors to gauge Iran's approach to copyright. Although the country has not joined the Berne Convention, Jafari-Aghdam said guests were "surprised" to find that many Iranian publishers voluntarily observe intellectual-property standards and honor contracts. He urged the ministry to hand future editions fully to the private sector to improve professionalism and attract wider participation. "The first step has been taken," he said. "Now it's time to build on it."

## Iran's handicrafts poised for 'major change', says deputy minister



**Arts & Culture Desk**

Deputy Minister of handicrafts at Iran's Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, Maryam Jalali, told a gathering of provincial handicraft administrators in the resort town of Sarein, Ardabil Province, on October 21, that the nation's artisanal sector is "on the brink of a big transformation." Jalali revealed that the ministry has rolled out a national development document designed to both safeguard the cultural values of Iran's crafts and serve as "the key tool for networking and job creation," IRNA reported. She said the plan aligns with the government's Fifth Five-Year Plan and the wider Seventh National Development Plan, adding that "we are no longer craft-making in isolation" but need "precise decision-making across product,

customer and producer." Speaking at the start of the 15th National Handicrafts and Traditional Arts Exhibition, which runs in Ardabil through November 1 and features 130 booths representing 28 provinces, Jalali explained that the ministry is working with the Supreme Council of Cultural Revolution on a comprehensive value-chain document to clear "the obstacles from zero to 100" and put an operational program in place. Jalali emphasized the shift from an individualistic mindset to a more unified, collective approach. "The artisan must connect to the development narrative," she said, referring to the more than 30,000 craftsmen in Ardabil province working across 60 disciplines including leather-work, inlay, kilim-weaving and metal engraving. Ardabil itself, in north-west

Deputy Minister of Handicrafts at Iran's Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, Maryam Jalali-Dekhordi (c), addresses provincial handicraft administrators in the resort town of Sarein, Ardabil Province, on October 21, 2025. ● IRNA

Iran and home to 1.3 m residents across 12 counties, is now leveraging its status as a tourist destination 25 km west of Sarein's slopes of 4 811-meter Mount Sabalan. With provincial heritage and tourism offices urged to synchronize their efforts, Jalali said the current meeting in Ardabil brought senior officials from all 28 provinces, "Today we sit regardless of rank, to share lived experience, developed knowledge and plans for the new era." She added that the local exhibition "gives us the capacity to build our network" and to help provinces use Ardabil as a model for distribution and sales centered on tourism advantages. By presenting the national development plan, fostering cross-agency coordination and expanding networking platforms, Iran aims to bring its centuries-old artisanal heritage into sharper alignment with both employment generation and global competitiveness — and in the words of Jalali, to make its crafts not just "objects" but "a reservoir of local skills" ready to shine.

مزایده صادراتی بیلت آلیاژی ریخته گری مداوم

شرکت فولاد آلیاژی ایران

شماره مرجع مزایده: IASCO-EXPT-04

شرکت فولاد آلیاژی ایران (IASCO) در نظر دارد نسبت به فروش بیلت آلیاژی صادراتی، از طریق مزایده عمومی اقدام نماید. خاطرنشان می‌سازد که عرضه در چهار گرید منتخب و به شرح جزئیات ذیل انجام می‌پذیرد. از علاقمندان به شرکت در مزایده مزبور دعوت به عمل می‌آید که از تاریخ ۱۴۰۴/۰۷/۲۸ لغایت ۱۴۰۴/۰۸/۰۳ جهت اخذ اطلاعات مزایده و راهنمایی‌های لازم با واحد صادرات به شماره تماس‌های ۰۲۱-۸۸۳۲۲۶۷۵ و ۰۲۱-۸۸۳۲۲۶۲۱ و آدرس ایمیل [Salesexp@iasco.ir](mailto:Salesexp@iasco.ir) در ارتباط باشند. مهلت ارائه پیشنهاد قیمت مزایده یادشده حداکثر ساعت ۱۵:۰۰ روز دوشنبه مورخ ۱۴۰۴/۰۸/۰۵ می‌باشد.

Iran Alloy Steel Company

Tender Announcement for Export of CC-Alloy Steel Billet

Tender Ref. No.: IASCO-EXPT-04

Please be informed that Iran Alloy Steel Company (IASCO) intends to launch a general Tender for the export of CC-Alloy Steel Billets under the following terms and conditions:

1. Product Specifications and Commercial terms:

Main Tender Grades & Quality	Acc. to attached specification No.
S355J2 (1.0577 Modified)	C01KU0577D40407A059
CK18Mn (1.1147 Modified)	C01KU1147I40407A056
C21Mn4 (1.0432 Modified)	C01KU0432D40407A058
9065I (S275JR Modified)	C01KU9065I40407A057

Other Grades may also be considered By Customer Request with related premium price. (Please clearly specify the desired grade, analysis and etc).

2. Tender General Conditions:

a. The offer must remain valid for at least seven (7) Iranian working days from the submission deadline.

b. Vague, conditional or incomplete offers will not be considered.

c. The buyers company must be legally registered outside the Islamic Republic of Iran.

d. IASCO reserves the right to accept or reject any or all offers at its sole discretion.

e. Submission of offer implies full acceptance of all tender terms and conditions.

3. Offer Submission:

For instructions and further information, kindly contact the Export Department using the following details:  
Tel: +9835-31222675 & +9821-88322621.  
Email: [Salesexp@iasco.ir](mailto:Salesexp@iasco.ir) (For registration only, not to send any offer).

4. Closing Date:

Deadline for Offer Submission: October 27, 2025 - by 3:00 p.m. (Tehran Local Time)