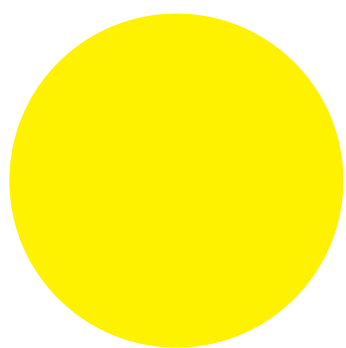


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**Failed anti-Iran threats  
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# Iran Daily

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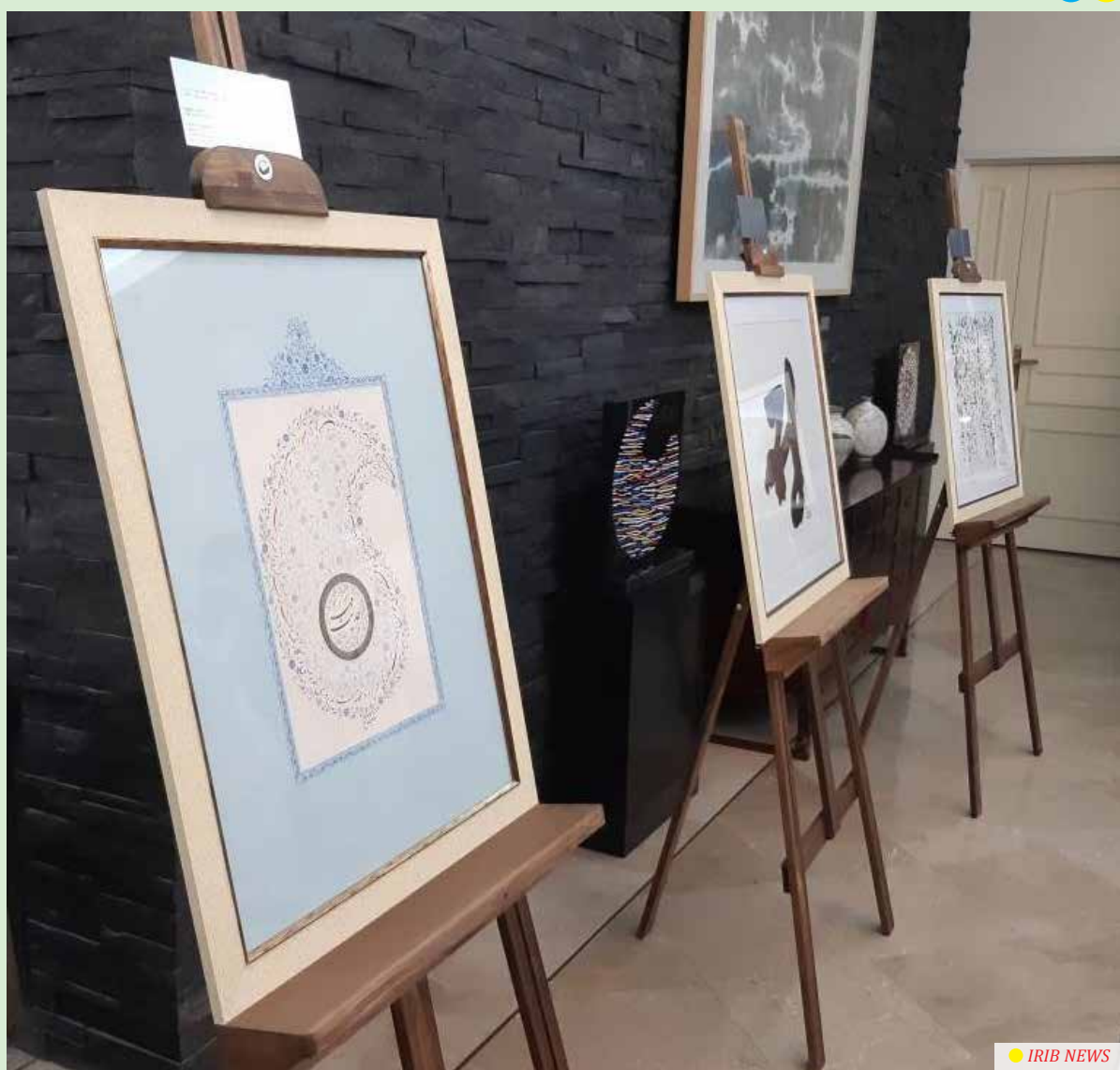
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By Gawdat Bahgat  
Professor of political science  
at National Defense University

OPINION  
EXCLUSIVE

Since the dawn of the oil era, prices have been subject to a certain extent of volatility. But the depth of change over the last few years is unprecedented. At the start of 2020, one barrel of oil was sold for over \$60, a few months later, the price of West Texas Intermediary (WTI), the US benchmark for light crude, fell well into negative territory for the first time in history. Sellers have had to pay customers to take unwanted oil. A few months later, prices bounded due to the global progress in containing Covid 19 and the resumption of different types of economic activities. The war in Ukraine and Western economic sanctions on Russia's oil and natural gas have fur-

ther heightened concerns about the reliability of fossil fuels and energy security.

The International Energy Agency (IEA), a Paris-based group of some of the world's biggest energy users, argues that the war in Ukraine and the disruption to energy markets that it has unleashed has set off a realignment of global supply and demand. If governments make good on policy goals they have set in motion in response to the crisis, they would speed up the shift from fossil fuels to cleaner renewable energy according to the IEA. In October 2022, Fatih Birol, executive director of the IEA stated, "The energy world is shifting dramatically before our eyes. Government responses around the world promise to make this a historic and definitive turning point." While the IEA previously said it expects near-plateauing oil demand starting in the mid-2030s, the World Energy Outlook 2022 set out a possible timeline for declining or plateau-

ing demand across all fossil fuels. The IEA's scenario doesn't forecast a rapid deterioration in the world's thirst for oil, gas and coal. Instead, it provides a timeline for a near-term peak in demand. As a share of global energy supplies, fossil fuels have held steady at 80% for decades. The IEA said the shift presaged by the current energy crisis will reduce that to below 75% by 2030 and to 60% by 2050.

In the early 2020s, many governments around the world have rushed to secure alternative energy supplies. At the same time, they have accelerated pledges to boost renewable energy, with commitments totaling \$2 trillion by 2030. Despite the IEA timeline, many energy economists warn that nations' plans for reducing fossil-fuel use and increasing clean-energy sources face big hurdles on the ground, especially during the current period of turbulent markets and power shortages.

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# Larijani: Upholding missile ascendancy safeguards national interests

National Desk

The secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council said the Islamic Republic's determination to maintain its missile power and not slash its strategic range in exchange for reaching a deal to prevent the so-called snapback mechanism of sanctions exemplified protection of the country's national interests and dismissal of capitulation to foreign pressure.

Ali Larijani made the statement at a local event in Tehran on Thursday as he pointed to the efforts made by Tehran to prevent the invocation of the snapback mechanism by the three European signatories to the 2015 Iran deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Larijani said in the issue of the snapback mechanism, all efforts were made to reach an agreement; however, the Western countries set a condition that the Islamic Republic must reduce the range of its missiles to below 500 kilometers.

"In the matter of snapback as well, all efforts were made so that negotiations would result in a conclusion, but the Westerners stipulated that Iran reduce the range of its missiles to under 500 km, and in effect, they wanted to take the most important defensive weapon of the Iranian nation," he said.

"The request to reduce missile range is in fact considered a demand for surrender and the forfeit of national security," he added. "Resistance and maintaining missile capability are examples of protecting national interests and public security."



Larijani said if "we want national resistance to continue, we must stand united and speak with one voice," emphasizing that "national security belongs to all people and defending it is a collective duty."

The top security chief also said the West believes it can weaken Iran's resilience through economic pressure. However, he added, the Iranian nation will overcome such difficulties with resistance and faith.

"The West imagines that with economic pressure it can reduce Iran's resilience," Larijani said. "The nation of Iran, with resistance and faith, will pass through this stage as well."

Iran has rejected the legality of E3 (France, Germany, UK) triggering the snapback of UN sanctions, calling the mechanism "null and void" and a "fabricated" term after Tehran announced on Saturday the expiration of UN Security Council Resolution 2231 and its relevant provisions and restrictions.

Iran's Foreign Ministry emphasized that with the conclusion of the 10-



Ali Larijani, the secretary of Supreme National Security Council, addresses a ceremony to commemorate Martyr Hossein Hamedani in Tehran on October 23, 2025.

● DEFA PRESS

year period set by the resolution on October 18, the Islamic Republic's nuclear program must now be treated like that of any other non-nuclear-weapon state under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Iran has faced sustained economic pressure in recent years, particularly after the United States unilaterally withdrew from the JCPOA in 2018 and re-imposed sweeping sanctions under the so-called "maximum pressure" policy.

Despite these pressures, Iran has sought to adapt through increased domestic production, non-dollar trade mechanisms, and expanding economic ties with partners in Asia and neighboring states.

# Araghchi to Grossi: Failed anti-Iran threats to bring nothing but another defeat

International Desk

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi on Thursday warned the head of the UN nuclear agency, Rafael Grossi, against making "failed threats" toward Tehran, saying such remarks would bring "nothing but another defeat."

Araghchi's comments came after Grossi told Swiss daily Le Temps that despite US strikes in June that hit Iran's key nuclear facilities, the country's technical expertise remained intact.

"I don't know whether he made that statement out of concern or as a threat," Araghchi said, according to Iranian media. "But those who make such threats must realize that repeating a failed experience will yield nothing but another defeat for them."

Grossi told Le Temps that while the attacks had caused "considerable damage" to Iran's facilities in Isfahan, Natanz and Fordow, the country's enrichment capabilities could be restored and its scientific know-how preserved.

He said Iran's stockpile of enriched uranium — about 400 kilograms enriched to 60% — remained below weapons-grade and within levels consistent with peaceful use.

"Even so, we have no evidence whatsoever that Tehran intends to build a nuclear weapon," he said, adding that most of the material remained securely stored at monitored sites.

Grossi reiterated that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) seeks to resume full inspections in Iran but said current satellite monitoring continues to



IAEA Director-General Rafael Grossi (L) and Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi shake hands after signing an agreement in Cairo, Egypt, on September 9, 2025.

● Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

show stability in the country's nuclear activities.

The exchange came as Iran's Foreign Ministry announced the expiration of UN Security Council Resolution 2231, which endorsed the 2015 nuclear deal and imposed restrictions that Tehran says no longer apply.

The developments follow large-scale US and Israeli strikes in June targeting Iranian nuclear and military sites — the first such coordinated attacks. Iran responded with missile and drone strikes on Israeli-occupied territories and a US base in Qatar.

US President Donald Trump justified the attacks by claiming Iran was close to producing nuclear weapons, though he provided no evidence. Tehran has consistently said its nuclear program is aimed solely at peaceful purposes.

# OIC, Arab League, Iran condemn Israel's West Bank annexation bill



A view of the illegal Israeli Ma'ale Adumim settlement east of al-Quds in the Israeli-occupied territories

● REUTERS

colonial settlements is strongly condemned as a clear violation of international law, particularly UN Security Council Resolution 2334, which condemns all Israeli measures changing the demographic structure, character, and status of the occupied Palestinian territories, including East Jerusalem, since 1967," the OIC and the Arab League said in a joint written statement.

"It also violates the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), which confirms the illegality of Israel's occupation and invalidates settlement construction and annexation measures in the West Bank. The parties reaffirm once again that Israel has no sovereignty over the occupied Palestinian territories," the statement added.

The statement underlined that the ICJ reminded Israel of its obligation to respect the prohibition against using starvation as a method of warfare, considering Israel's restrictions on aid to Gaza. It also reiterated the court's reaffirmation of the prohibition of forced displacement and deportation, including imposing unlivable conditions.

The ICJ reaffirmed the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent state, while recalling that Israel's territorial claims over East Jerusalem have been declared "null and void" by the UN Security Council.

It warned against Israel's continuation of unilateral and illegal policies and practices and called on the international community to take up its legal and moral responsibilities to compel Israel to halt its dangerous escalation and unlawful actions in the occupied Palestinian territories.

The joint statement underlined that

supporting the Palestinian people's legitimate right to establish an independent and sovereign state based on the June 4, 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem al-Quds as its capital, is the only way to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region, as well as ensuring security and stability.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei said in a statement that the bill is another step in the path of the regime's colonial and criminal expansionism, which continues eight decades of continuous violation of the fundamental right of the Palestinian people to self-determination.

Baghaei added that these policies adopted by Israel confirm the Israeli regime's plan for comprehensive ethnic cleansing throughout occupied Palestine.

The spokesman also highlighted the continuing gross violations of human rights and humanitarian law in the West Bank and the genocide in Gaza.

# Venezuela deploys forces as US-Caribbean tensions escalate

International Desk

Venezuelan Defense Minister Vladimir Padrino Lopez announced on Thursday that the armed forces were deployed along the country's coastline as the United States had ramped up military buildup in the Caribbean.

Lopez said Venezuela's army is seeking to achieve the "optimal point" of coordination and readiness to respond to the US actions in the region.

Venezuela's military efforts include "reconnaissance operations on land routes, aerial surveillance, exploration and radio operations, drone surveys, and



● REUTERS

amphibious maneuvers" across coastal regions, he added.

Earlier on Thursday, two US Air Force B-1 bombers flew near the coast of Venezuela.

Last week, at least two US B-52 bombers flew for several hours off the Venezuelan coast in what one senior American official called "a show of force."

Washington has already deployed eight warships, a nuclear-powered submarine and fighter jets to the Caribbean under the pretext of combating drug smuggling into the United States.

For at least nine times, the US military has conducted strikes against suspected drug boats, killing 37 people.

On Wednesday, Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro said his country had 5,000 Russian-made Igla-S anti-aircraft missiles in "key air defense positions."

Maduro also emphasized that the massive stockpile is intended to guarantee "the peace, stability and tranquility" of the Venezuelan people.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist

CARTOON



# President says production, exports key to overcoming 'cruel sanctions'



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian addresses investors and business leaders at a conference in West Azarbaijan Province, on October 23, 2025.  
● president.ir

## Economy Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Thursday that the path to overcoming economic challenges and "cruel sanctions lie in expanding domestic production and exports," pledging to remove government obstacles that hinder trade and investment. Speaking at a meeting with investors and business leaders in the northwestern province of West Azarbaijan, Pezeshkian said the government would

work closely with relevant institutions to "eliminate any barriers created by the state" and ease trade for the private sector, his website president.ir reported. Iran's economy has been under Western sanctions for years over its nuclear program, weighing on growth prospects and limiting access to global markets. The president said the government was ready to use its legal authority to create incentive mechanisms for entrepre-

neurs and implement proposals discussed at Thursday's meeting. "Existing challenges must be identified and addressed," he added, emphasizing that while regular meetings with the business community are held monthly, "years of accumulated problems cannot be solved overnight." Pezeshkian said the reform process had begun and would continue with determination through cooperation between the government, the chamber

of commerce, and entrepreneurs.

At a separate provincial planning and development session, the president said Iran's economic problems were not limited to budget constraints. "The real issue lies in the way we manage and spend our resources," he said.

Pezeshkian called for rationality, cost-cutting, and reliance on domestic capacities, saying that "without prudent management and behavioral reform, there is no way out of the crisis."

He warned against launching projects without adequate financing, saying the government was ready to support development efforts only if they were based on realistic assessments of available resources.

Pezeshkian urged officials to take fiscal discipline seriously, noting that even a 10% reduction in public spending could free up significant funds for development projects.

"With collective effort and scientific management, the province's path to development can advance," he said.

Earlier on Thursday, the president attended ceremonies to inaugurate new economic and environmental projects and sign cooperation agreements in West Azarbaijan Province.

## Comprehensive plan to revive Lake Urmia

At the conclusion of his provincial visit, Pezeshkian outlined government plans to revive Lake Urmia, saying a comprehensive program was underway that would draw on both domestic scientific expertise and international experience, including collaboration with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Multiple agreements have been signed between the West Azarbaijan provincial governor's office, universities in Urmia and Tabriz, the capital city of East Azarbaijan, and both civil and international organizations to advance the restoration effort.

"Declining rainfall and climate change in recent years have reduced water resources across the region," Pezeshkian said. "Agricultural methods, irrigation patterns, and employment models in the basin must be fundamentally redesigned to ensure the lake's sustainable recovery."

Lake Urmia, once among the world's largest salt-water lakes, has shrunk by roughly 90% over the past decades, turning vast areas of its former basin into salt-encrusted flats and signaling deeper economic and environmental challenges for Iran.

## CBI dissolves troubled Ayandeh Bank, merges it into Bank Melli Iran



## Economy Desk

The Central Bank of Iran (CBI) said on Thursday it had dissolved the private Ayandeh Bank and merged it into Bank Melli Iran, in a move aimed at "strengthening transparency, financial health, and monetary stability."

CBI Governor Mohammad Reza Farzin described Ayandeh as an "unhealthy bank" and "a symbol of inefficiency and imbalance in the country's banking system," saying that its continued operation would have inflicted "irreparable costs on the national economy," IRNA reported. Farzin added that despite multiple efforts, the private lender failed to align itself with the CBI's reform agenda.

He noted that all Ayandeh's depositors would automatically become Bank Melli depositors as of Saturday (today), and "banking services will continue as before through Bank Melli branches."

Ayandeh Bank had long faced serious financial and supervisory problems, including heavy accumulated losses, a capital adequacy ratio of minus 600%, large overdrafts from the CBI, and a significant volume of non-performing loans.

The bank's accumulated losses reached around 5,500 trillion rials (\$5 billion), and it was "practically a bankrupt institution." Other sources said Ayandeh had overdrawn some 3,130 trillion rials (\$2.85 billion) from the CBI in recent years.

Abbas Goudarzi, spokesman for the Iranian parliament's presiding board, said the dissolution of Ayandeh "does not mark the end of action against the bank's violators."

In remarks carried by Tasnim, Goudarzi added that all assets and properties obtained "through rent-seeking and illegal means" must be recovered, and there must be "decisive and legal action against those who misused public funds to gain illicit wealth."

He also said the bank's widespread violations had undermined public trust and damaged the credibility of regulatory institutions, while fueling "unhealthy competition" in Iran's financial sector.

Following the dissolution, Economy Minister Ali Madanizadeh announced that a lawsuit had been filed against Ayandeh's main shareholder.

Ayandeh Bank, one of Iran's most controversial private lenders, was established in 2012 through the merger of Tat Bank, Salehin Credit Institution, and Ati Credit Institution. It began operating officially in 2014 after receiving its license from the CBI.

At the time of dissolution, Ayandeh had more than 276 branches nationwide.

## At GECF meeting in Doha

## Oil minister warns sanctions, 'extreme' anti-fossil policies endanger energy security

## Economy Desk

Iran's Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad on Thursday warned that sanctions and "extreme" policies to phase out fossil fuels were undermining energy security, calling on the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF) to be upgraded into a full-fledged organization to bolster cooperation among major gas producers. Speaking at the 27th GECF ministerial meeting in Qatar's Doha, Paknejad said that global energy demand was set to climb due to population growth, urbanization and the need for economic development and welfare, IRNA reported. He cited GECF projections showing that global gas demand would increase by 32% by 2050, with natural gas's share in the world's energy mix surging from 23% to 26%.

"As members of the GECF, which hold about 70% of the

world's natural gas reserves, our approach should be to increase gas supplies to the global market with the goal of achieving a 30% share in the energy mix by 2050," Paknejad said.

He added, however, that "pursuing greater gas supply to global markets now appears more challenging than before," citing "the growing promotion of extreme policies aimed at eliminating fossil fuels" in response to climate change concerns. Such approaches, he said, threaten the future demand for natural gas.

Paknejad stressed that the "development and application of new technologies for sustainable gas production" would play a decisive role in shaping the gas industry both nationally and internationally, and could serve as a foundation for future cooperation among GECF members.

The minister also said that global energy markets were



Iran's Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad (2nd L, front row) poses for a photo with fellow oil and energy ministers at the 27th GECF ministerial meeting in Qatar's Doha, on October 24, 2025.  
● dohaneews.co

facing "rising uncertainty and risk" due to "increasingly baseless sanctions imposed against countries with vast oil and gas reserves."

He warned that such measures undermine market stability and delay timely investments, pushing up energy supply costs.

Despite intensified sanctions, Paknejad said Iran remained determined to continue implementing programs to boost natural gas output and improve energy efficiency "through domestic capabilities and regional and international cooperation."

He added that Tehran was open to joint investment and collaboration with other GECF



members.

## Turning forum into exporting organization

Among his proposals, Paknejad called for transforming the GECF into an organization of gas exporting countries, saying it would enhance the forum's effectiveness in global energy platforms and better represent gas-producing nations — a suggestion that received a warm response from participants.

Amid a global energy transition and heightened in-

vestment uncertainty in the gas sector, the minister also urged the GECF to establish a "mechanism for constructive and effective dialogue between gas-producing and consuming countries" to promote stability and security of supply and demand.

On the sidelines of the meeting, Paknejad announced that a representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran was elected as chair of the GECF Executive Board, calling it one of the key achievements of this year's ministerial session.

## Iran, Pakistan agree on coordinated mechanism to boost rail, trade links



## Economy Desk

Iran and Pakistan agreed on

Thursday to set up a coordinated mechanism to advance bilateral cooperation across

multiple sectors, including rail transport and trade, during a meeting in Islamabad.

Iranian Roads and Urban Development Minister Farzaneh Sadeq, who was in the Pakistani capital to attend the regional transport conference, met with Pakistan's ministers of commerce, communications, and railways — Jam Kamal Khan, Abdul Aleem Khan, and Hanif Abbasi, respectively — to call for the implementation of bilateral agreements across all areas of cooperation.

A statement from Pakistan's railway ministry said the two countries agreed to develop an action plan to expand rail connectivity.

Both sides also confirmed plans to modernize the Quetta-Taftan railway line in 2026 and pledged to enhance commercial and passenger rail services.

Officials announced that the 6,540-km Istanbul-Tehran-Islamabad (ITI) rail corridor will resume container train operations starting in December. Referring to the 22nd session of the Iran-Pakistan Joint

Economic Commission held in Tehran last month, Sadeq emphasized the need to implement bilateral agreements to expand cooperation.

She also said, "Iran and Pakistan's corridor capacities offer ideal opportunities to leverage these routes for connecting China to Europe."

The regional transport conference, which opened Wednesday with participation from 11 countries including Iran, concluded on Thursday in Islamabad, focusing on strengthening regional trade and transport links.

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## From establishing accountability to achieving restorative justice

# A legal roadmap for Iran's post-war path



By Amir  
Mollaee Mozaffari  
Staff writer

### CONFERENCE

**Law Student Scientific Association.**

The conference attempted to tackle key questions surrounding the mechanisms of criminal justice and restorative justice in international law. With its focus on three specialized axes, the conference not only took up pressing legal issues but also put forward practical approaches to promote justice at both national and international levels. As such, the event can rightly be counted among the most significant academic gatherings of the year in the field of international law. What follows is Iran Daily's exclusive overview of the legal significance of each panel.

The specialized conference "Legal Responses to the 12-Day Aggression: From Criminal Justice to Restorative Justice," aimed at exploring the legal dimensions of responses to international armed conflicts, was held on October 18, 2025, at the Faculty of Law and Political Science, University of Tehran. It was organized by the University of Tehran's Institute of Criminal Law and Criminology and the



A doll is blasted out of a house and onto the street in Tehran after Israel launched an illegal, unprovoked war against Iran on June 13, 2025.

M.MAHDI DEHGHANI

## Opening session: Laying groundwork for justice



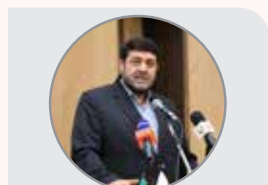
Abbas Shiri

### First speaker: Abbas Shiri

Dr. Abbas Shiri, dean of the Faculty of Law and Political Science at the University of Tehran, opened the event to point out the flaws of traditional theories of punishment in international criminal law and introduced the expressive theory of punishment as a viable approach for criminal justice. He argued

that retributivist and deterrent theories fall short of dealing with international crimes due to their sweeping magnitude and devastating consequences. As he put it, "Retributivism cannot justify punishment for crimes such as the mass atrocities ordered by figures like Hitler or Netanyahu since no punishment can compensate for such atrocities." Deterrence, he added, fails when it comes to leaders backed by political and military power because "no punishment can deter those shielded by such influence from repeating their crimes." Shiri proposed the expressive theory of punishment as the only logically consistent

rationale in international criminal law. This theory seeks to call out criminal acts and publicly shame perpetrators, preventing them from hiding behind notions like human rights or democracy. He stressed, "We must expose these crimes and publicly condemn the criminals so the world can voice its disgust at their actions." Rather than direct punishment, this approach



Pir-Hossein Kolivand

relies on social and moral pressure to achieve global condemnation.

### Second speaker: Pir-Hossein Kolivand

Dr. Pir-Hossein Kolivand, head of the Iranian Red Crescent Society, underscored the organization's role in safeguarding human dignity during armed conflicts, noting that "neutrality does not mean indifference." He revealed that over 100 cases of violations of international humanitarian law during the recent Israeli-American armed conflict have been documented and submitted to bodies such as the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Crimi-



Esmail Baqaei

nal Court (ICC), the Human Rights Council, and the United Nations. Kolivand described this documentation as a tool to bring to light atrocities, stating that "by exposing these crimes, we can publicly condemn the offenders and stir global outrage against them." His remarks goes hand-in-hand with Shiri's emphasis on the expressive punishment theory, focusing on the criminal justice dimension of justice-seeking.

### Third speaker: Esmail Baqaei

Dr. Esmail Baqaei, spokesperson for Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, emphasized that documenting the crimes committed during the Israeli-imposed 12-day aggression serves as evidence of Iran's legitimacy

in international forums. He referred to actions taken by the Ministry, including the immediate outreach to international organizations. Baqaei argued that such documentation is vital not only for judicial proceedings but also for the historical record and for affirming Iran's rightful stance. He highlighted the support of 120 Non-Aligned Movement member states and a statement by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation con-

demning the aggression, describing them as components of criminal justice that could pave the way for international condemnation of the perpetrators. Turning to restorative justice, Baqaei pointed to Iran's diplomatic efforts to seek reparation for victims' losses through both domestic and international courts. Citing South Africa's case against the Zionist regime before the International Court of Justice (ICJ), he stressed the importance of using all available legal avenues, even if challenges like the US veto power in the Security Council and Western support for Israel stand in the way. He maintained that such obstacles should not hold back ongoing documentation and legal pursuit.

## Panel one: Iran's pursuit of justice in int'l tribunals



Mohammad Hossein Sharifan

### First speaker: Mohammad Hossein Sharifan

Dr. Mohammad Hossein Sharifan, an international law expert, pointed out that the imposed 12-day conflict between the Zionist regime and Iran was not only a military episode but also a test of the conscience of international law, posing again the age-old question: Can international law still live up to its promise of justice? He noted that fundamental principles of the UN Charter — prohibiting the use of force and requiring respect for state sovereignty — was violated by Israel. Missile strikes, cyberattacks, and threats to civilians violated jus cogens norms. Yet, the reaction of international organizations was muted, if not altogether silent. Drawing a historical parallel, he said that a similar failure of organizations to stand up to blatant aggression by powerful states once paved

the way for World War II. "Are we now watching history repeat itself as the UN and judicial bodies walk the same path again?" he asked. Sharifan argued that the current structure of global organizations is built more on a balance of power than on justice. The Security Council, dominated by veto-wielding powers, has turned into a political tool rather than a refuge for oppressed nations. As a result, justice has too often become an exception rather than a ruling principle in international relations. He laid out three legal paths to press ahead with accountability for the aggressor regime: 1. The jurisdiction of the ICJ remains a formal legal avenue to pursue UN Charter violations. Even if rulings are not binding, such cases bring to light the truth and record the aggression in the world's legal memory. 2. The principle of universal jurisdiction allows national courts to prosecute war crimes regardless of territory or time limits. 3. Legal and public diplomacy must be stepped up. Justice is not born in courtrooms alone — it must take root in the world's collective conscience through documentation, legal re-

porting, and pressure on the UN for transparency.



Hassan Soleimani

### Second speaker: Hassan Soleimani

Dr. Hassan Soleimani, head of the Division for Treaties and Public International Law at Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, argued that the pursuit of criminal justice faces obstacles arising from the politicized and state-centric structure of international law. He observed that the ICJ, International Criminal Court (ICC), and Security Council, weighed down by the influence of major powers, have been largely ineffective. Soleimani referred to a 40-page Foreign Ministry report on the Zionist regime's aggressions, sent to Iran's embassies to keep track of the crimes, describing it as part of Iran's push for criminal justice and public condemnation. In restorative justice terms, he called for making whatever use possible of exist-

ing mechanisms, even with their shortcomings. Documentation and publication, he said, can help heal the victims' moral and psychological harm, though politics often gets in the way of progress.



Mohammad-Hadi Zakerhossein

### Third speaker: Mohammad-Hadi Zakerhossein

Dr. Mohammad-Hadi Zakerhossein, faculty member at the University of Tehran, stressed the need to make use of the ICC to realize criminal justice. He suggested that Iran could, under Article 12(3) of the Rome Statute, temporarily open the door for ICC jurisdiction over crimes committed during the imposed 12-day conflict. By limiting it to a specific period or location (for instance, Gilan Province), this could tone down political concerns. He outlined three fundamental rights of victims: the right to truth, to justice, and to compensation, emphasizing



IRAN DAILY

ing that Iran's government must live up to its duty to uphold them nationally and internationally. In restorative justice, Zakerhossein drew attention to the ICC's Trust Fund for Victims as a tool for financial and symbolic recovery, allowing victims' voices to shape the legal narrative despite global political challenges.



Heybatollah Najandi-Manesh

### Fourth speaker: Heybatollah Najandi-Manesh

Dr. Heybatollah Najandi-Manesh of Allameh Tabataba'i University took a cautious stance to-

ward ICC referral, warning that accepting the Court's jurisdiction could bring along legal and political risks for Iran. He explained that the Court considers "situations," not individual crimes, meaning Iran's defensive measures could also come under scrutiny. He suggested instead that Iran focus on naming and shaming, aligning with Shiri's expressive punishment theory. He further proposed that Iran lends support to Palestinian lawyers in The Hague while beefing up domestic courts. On restorative justice, Najandi-Manesh called for standardized domestic procedures and judicial collaboration with other nations, noting that gaps in Iran's legal framework — such as the absence of comprehensive legislation on international crimes — must be ironed out first.

### Fifth speaker: Abdollah Abedini

Dr. Abdollah Abedini, a senior researcher in SAMT's Institute of the Humanities Research and Development, explored the potential of the ICJ in addressing state responsibility for aggression. He pointed to the 1971 Montreal and 1973 Convention on Internationally Protected Persons, to which Iran, the Zionist regime, and the US are parties, as legal grounds for litigation. Abedini argued that attacks on Iranian civil airports in Tabriz, Isfahan, and Qazvin amounted to breaches of these conventions. He also cited the 1929 Treaty of Amity between Iran and Germany, which allows disputes to be referred to arbitration.



Abdollah Abedini

In restorative justice, Abedini highlighted the ICJ's role in compensating victims through treaty-based rulings. Such decisions, he said, can help restore legal and financial standing, even though the Court's limited jurisdiction and Security Council pressure can sometimes get in the way.



Panel two: Pursuing national justice in Iran’s domestic frameworks



Mehdi Hadi

First speaker: Mehdi Hadi

Dr. Mehdi Hadi, deputy for Legal and Parliamentary Affairs at Iran’s Judiciary, pointed out the legal complexity of prosecuting crimes committed during the Israeli-imposed 12-day conflict and described the lack of a unified legal framework in Iran’s legal community as a major stumbling block. He posed two central questions: Did the war have legitimacy (“jus ad bellum”)? And were humanitarian laws observed (“jus in bello”)? He argued that under the UN Charter, the attack lacked any justification — neither under self-defense (Article 51) nor international security (Article 42). Moreover, Iran’s non-recognition of the Zionist regime and the absence of shared treaties with the US have made international litigation an uphill battle. On criminal justice, Hadi pointed to legal gaps in Iran. The absence of substantive laws criminaliz-

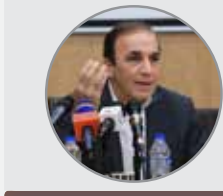
ing international offenses — war crimes, genocide, crimes against humanity, and aggression — has prevented the opening of cases under precise headings. He disclosed three draft bills under preparation by the Judiciary:

**1. Anti-terrorism bill:** to criminalize acts of terrorism, now in its final drafting stage.

**2. International judicial collaboration bill:** a 150-article piece of legislation already approved in principle by the Parliament, aiming to pave the way for broader judicial collaboration.

**3. International crimes bill:** recently passed by the government, codifying the aforementioned four core crimes inspired by the ICC Statute but locally adapted, such as taking out “persecution” from the definition of crimes against humanity (Article 7 of the Rome Statute) to reduce domestic hurdles. Hadi stressed the Judiciary’s duty to take up these cases since these crimes — murder, destruction, and physical harm — occurred on Iranian soil. Article 290 of the Criminal Procedure Code obliges the Attorney General to follow through on cases with an international dimension. “The directives of the Leader of Iran’s Islamic Revolution

add weight to this responsibility,” Hadi maintained. On restorative justice, Hadi called for a systematic assessment of material, moral, and punitive damages. He proposed that psychological injuries — like post-traumatic stress — be legally recognized as current Iranian jurisprudence falls short of compensating non-material losses. He also suggested the use of class actions to streamline the process for multiple similar claims.



Ali Khaleghi

Second speaker: Ali Khaleghi

Dr. Ali Khaleghi, a faculty member in the Criminal Law Department at University of Tehran, focused on the theoretical and practical challenges that national courts face when pursuing international crimes. He argued that international courts such as the ICC, due to their sluggish pace, narrow jurisdiction, and Iran’s non-membership, cannot serve as immediate vehicles

for justice. Thus, domestic and even foreign courts should step in. In criminal justice, he laid out three prerequisites for national prosecution:

**1. Criminalization:** Iran still lacks comprehensive legislation on international crimes. Earlier legislative attempts (such as the one by the sixth Parliament) were shot down by the Guardian Council. He described Iran as a “reluctant participant” in using international treaties and cited its delayed accession to the Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism as a case in point.

**2. Jurisdiction:** Since the crimes occurred on Iranian soil, Iran holds territorial jurisdiction and may even prosecute extraterritorial acts whose effects spill over into its territory. However, trials in absentia (Article 406 of the Criminal Procedure Code) don’t carry much weight internationally.

**3. Mutual legal assistance:** The lack of extradition treaties with many countries, political constraints, and Iran’s death penalty stand in the way of extradition. Furthermore, the restriction in the proviso to the Article 48 of the Criminal Procedure Code on attorney selection has led to refusals by countries like

France that emphasize defendants’ rights.

Turning to restorative justice, Khaleghi underscored the need for accurate documentation of crimes for future proceedings. Even if domestic verdicts are not immediately enforceable, they can come in handy as legal and diplomatic leverage.



Seyed Hossein Sadat Meidani

Third speaker: Seyed Hossein Sadat Meidani

Dr. Seyed Hossein Sadat Meidani, a faculty member at the School of International Relations of Iran’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, zoomed in on the interaction between domestic and international law in prosecuting the Israeli-imposed 12-day conflict. He distinguished between two types of liability: individual criminal responsibility and state responsibility (for both the Zionist regime and the US). He broke down four elements — jurisdiction, evidence and liability assessment,



IRAN DAILY

liability determination, and compensation.

In criminal justice:

**1. Jurisdiction:** Since the crimes occurred inside Iran, Iranian courts have higher jurisdiction. The Zionist regime is not recognized as a state, and Iranian law (amended in 2020) does away with US sovereign immunity, thus clearing the path for litigation.

**2. Evidence and liability assessment:** He warned against delayed documentation, which waters down evidential value in international courts. Records must be prepared by authorized bodies, duly signed and certified, with witness statements filed promptly after events. The contradictory remarks of top officials, he cautioned, could backfire, citing the ICJ’s 2022 ruling in Congo v. Uganda.

**3. Liability determination:** Contrary to common belief, trials in absentia are accepted in some precedents (like in the Special Tribunal for Lebanon) and can be

beneficial in preliminary inquiries.

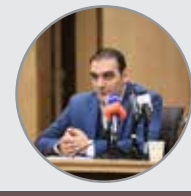
In restorative justice, Sadat Meidani highlighted the ICJ’s cautious approach to damage compensation, referring to Nicaragua v. Honduras (2007) and Congo v. Uganda (2022), where out of \$13.5 billion claimed, only \$225 million was granted. Damages may cover harm to the state, individuals, property, and environment. As such, he called for documenting environmental losses too.

“Iran’s legal system takes precedence over international law in damage compensation since it allows for punitive and moral damages,” he added.

His three recommendations were:

1. Give priority to national jurisdiction to prosecute crimes.
2. Speed up documentation while adhering to international standards.
3. Being cautious in official statements to prevent undermining Iran’s cases.

Panel three: Rights of victims of Israeli-imposed 12-day war



Rasoul Safarahang

First speaker: Rasoul Safarahang

Dr. Rasoul Safarahang, a senior researcher at the Center for Middle East Strategic Studies, kicked off the panel with alarming statistics on casualties of the Israeli-imposed 12-day conflict. According to IRNA, 935 people were martyred in Iran, while the country’s Health Ministry had earlier reported 610 (including 38 children and 102 women). The Evin Prison attack alone left 75 dead. Human Rights Watch, however, placed the toll at 1,190, pointing to discrepancies across sources. Financially, Tehran’s governor reported total destruction of 120 homes and partial damage to over 500 homes, while the Tehran Construction Engineering Organization’s crisis board put the figure at around 3,000 damaged units.

Noting the shift from Plato’s “retributive justice” to modern “restorative justice,” Safarahang emphasized the capacities of domestic laws, like Articles 1–12 of the Civil Code and the Shia “no harm” principle, to support the victims. He referred to global precedents such as the UN Compensation Commis-

sion (addressing claims arising out of the Persian Gulf War), the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, NATO’s \$3 billion compensation fund for Afghanistan, and the Ukraine conflict as modern models aligning with the concept of “proportional redress.” His proposals included creating claims commissions, national courts, a national compensation fund, low-interest reconstruction loans, and mandatory war insurance. Most notably, Safarahang stressed the need for rolling out standardized documentation, modeled after the ICC’s Guidelines for Documenting International Crimes and Human Rights Violations, even suggesting the innovative idea of designing a national app to gather up evidence in line with global standards.



Tavakol Habibzadeh

Second speaker: Tavakol Habibzadeh

Dr. Tavakol Habibzadeh, head of the Presidential Center for International Legal Affairs, drawing on decades of litigation experience, stressed that sound documentation is the bedrock of all legal claims. He brought up the bitter lesson of the 1980–88 Iran-



IRAN DAILY

Iraq War, when inadequate records held back compensation efforts. This prompted his Center to issue a Documentation Protocol to government bodies at the start of the Israeli-imposed 12-day conflict, requiring regular, admissible reports for both domestic and international use. He admitted that early submissions were mere narratives and fell short of judicial standards, but through constant back-and-forth, a credible database is now taking shape.

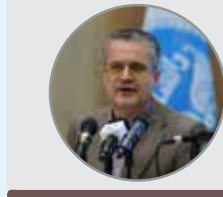
He looked back on the Center’s history, founded in 1980 to manage disputes regarding the exit of American nationals and the Algiers Accords. Having handled 3,955 cases at the Iran-US Claims Tribunal and six before the ICJ, the Center now takes charge of the 12-day conflict documentation. Habibzadeh laid out three international legal paths:

**1. The ICJ:** Without a jurisdictional clause between Iran and the US, this route is tricky, though Article 17 of the IAEA Statute might serve as a potential hook.

**2. The Iran-US Claims Tribunal:** Competent under the Algiers Accords to hear breaches (like the breaches of bilateral non-interference commitments).

**3. The Chicago Convention:** Violations of Iran’s airspace by US military aircraft could form the basis of litigation, though wartime exceptions complicate the case.

On restorative justice, Habibzadeh pointed out that the rulings of Tehran’s Branch 55 Civil Court against the US, totaling \$130 billion, are unenforceable for lack of seizable Iranian assets in the US. He warned against raising victims’ expectations unrealistically but said accurate documentation can lay the groundwork for future legal and diplomatic pressure.



Mehrdad Rayeji

Third speaker: Mehrdad Rayeji

With two decades of victimology research under his belt, Dr. Mehrdad Rayeji, a faculty member at the SAMT’s Institute of the Humanities Research and Development, shifted focus to the rights of war victims, arguing that since their suffering stems from “criminal nature,” they should be seen as “victims of crime.” He referred to two key UN documents: the 1985 Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and the 2005 Principles on Remedies and Reparation. These guarantee two core rights for victims:

**1. Fair treatment:** a respect for the dignity of victims and empathy with them.

**2. Access to justice:** through establishing enforceable and judicial mechanisms for remedy and reparation.

Rayeji, citing data by the Foundation of Martyrs and Veterans Affairs (164 killed and 5,800 wounded as of September 2022), described the Israeli-imposed 12-day conflict as an instance of “collective victimization.” For fair treatment, he commended the Foundation’s verification of martyrdom status and public condemnation, proposing memorial billboards and monuments to keep alive the sense of recognition.

On access to justice, he took note of efforts like the Foundation’s commitments, expedited disability assessments, Ministry

of Labor benefits, and 24-hour counseling, but took aim at slow judicial procedures. He pointed out ICC’s lack of jurisdiction and ICJ’s limits, suggesting Article 9 of Iran’s Islamic Penal Code and a national tribunal as viable alternatives.



Firouz Mahmoudi Janaki

Fourth speaker: Firouz Mahmoudi Janaki

Dr. Firouz Mahmoudi Janaki, head of the University of Tehran’s Institute of Criminal Law and Criminology and the conference’s director, pressed for giving victims a voice. He criticized the absence of research into the feelings and expectations of those affected by the Israeli-imposed 12-day conflict. Inspired by the Max Planck Institute’s early 2000s studies, he proposed national research projects or student theses exploring two themes:

**1. The experience of victimhood:** personal accounts of loss and displacement.

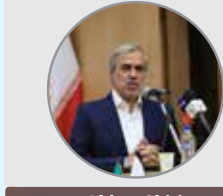
**2. Victims’ attitudes:** their expectations from justice mechanisms (national or international), desired outcomes (criminal or restorative), and goals (truth-telling, reparation, or responsiveness from national officials).

Mahmoudi Janaki warned

against assuming Iran’s total passivity and the enemy’s full initiative as this may gloss over domestic inactions that added to victims’ suffering. He urged Dr. Habibzadeh to create channels for victims to “share their stories” rather than merely “be reported on.”

Fifth speaker: Abbas Shiri

Dr. Abbas Shiri, dean of the Faculty of Law and Political Science at the University of Tehran, building on his earlier session’s “Expressive Theory of Punishment,” carried forward the same concept into compensation.



Abbas Shiri

He spelled out the unique traits of war-related harm: its unlimited nature, prolonged victimhood, lack of offender accountability, and the non-judicial nature of reparations. He insisted on the government’s duty to cover losses — whether through blood money or reconstruction — from the perpetrators’ assets. He called for distinguishing “war” from “aggression” as the latter carries inherent responsibility. Shiri also announced plans to bring out a special journal issue and set up an international conference on the subject.



# U23 Wrestling World Championships: Iran completes clean sweep of Greco-Roman team titles

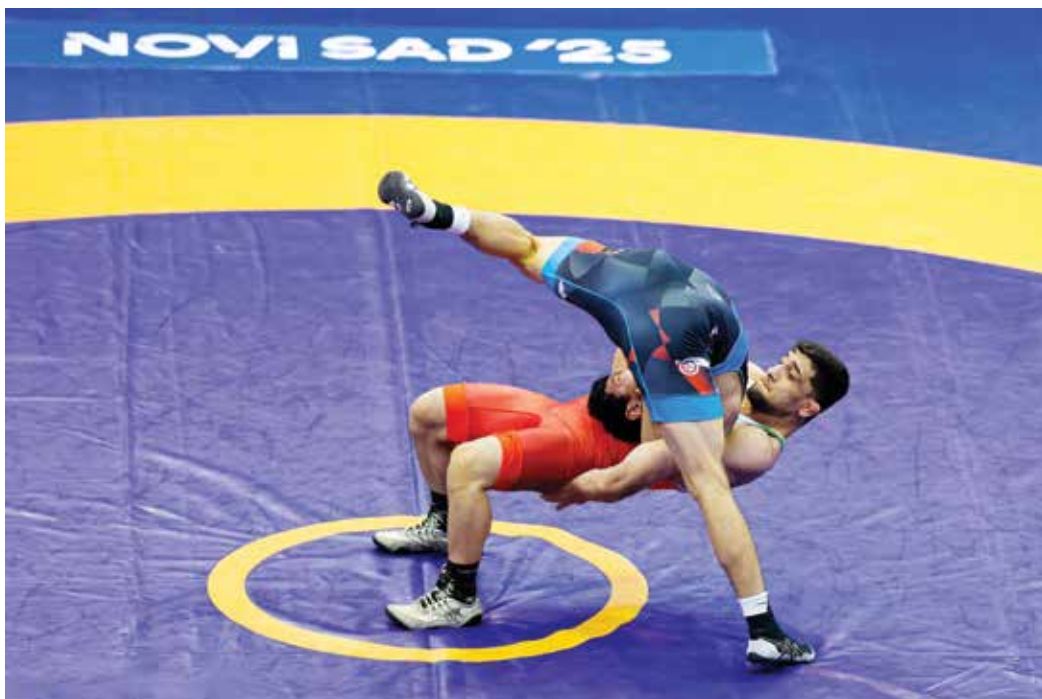
## Sports Desk

Iran cemented its dominance in Greco-Roman wrestling on Thursday by cruising to the title at the U23 World Championships in Novi Sad, Serbia, to complete a clean sweep of four trophies across all age groups in a calendar year.

The Iranian 10-man squad collected three gold medals, one silver and two bronzes to finish atop the standings with 143 points – 47 clear of second-placed Ukraine – marking the country's fourth Greco-Roman crown – second in a row – at the competition since its inception in 2017.

On the final day of the Greco-Roman event, Sajjad Abbaspour had to settle for a silver medal in the 60kg division, while Abolfazl Mohammadi finished with a consolation bronze in the 82kg class. Abbaspour enjoyed an impressive run the final showpiece but was by far the second best against Koto Gomi, who made quick work of the Iranian with technical superiority (9-0) and became only the fifth Japanese to win a world gold in eight under-23 editions.

Gomi got the first point when



Iranian Greco-Roman wrestler Iman Mohammadi (red) is seen in action during his victory over Uzbekistan's Abror Atabaev in the 72kg final at the U23 World Championships in Novi Sad, Serbia, on October 22, 2025.

● IAWFIR

khaidze 10-3 for a joint bronze alongside Omar Satayev of Kazakhstan.

Moldova's Alexandrin Guțu overcame Abiidev on criteria (1-1) to capture his third world U23 gold in a row.

On Wednesday, former Asian senior champion Iman Mohammadi defeated Uzbekistan's Abror Atabaev 5-1 in the 72kg final to claim his second U23 gold, adding to his 63kg title from 2022.

Mohammadi was awarded the par terre in the first period and he hit a front headlock which was scored two and one more point was awarded for a stepout. But Iran challenged, claiming four points on the throw, which was confirmed on review but the stepout point was removed as it was a push.

After the challenge, Mohammadi led 5-0 and when Atabaev was given par terre in the second pe-

riod, Mohammadi defended that position with ease and went on to win the gold medal.

Gholamreza Farrokhi – a gold medalist on his debut at the Senior Worlds in September – and defending world under-23 champion Fardin Hedayati claimed the ultimate prize in emphatic fashion at 87kg and 130kg respectively.

Farrokhi, an 82kg gold medalist at the Senior Worlds in Zagreb, moved up to 87kg in Novi Sad but had no troubles in switching weights, scoring 44 points, while conceding only one, across five bouts.

Hedayati, meanwhile, celebrated his 21st birthday in style by routing American Razmik Kurdyan 8-0 with 23 seconds left before the break in the final. The Iranian, who has not lost an international bout since his final loss at the U20 Worlds in 2022, was again in a league of his own in the superheavyweight event, outscoring his opponents 30-0 across four bouts.

Ahmadreza Mohsennejad was the other Iranian bronze winner in the competition, thanks to a 7-1 victory over Hleb Makaranka of Belarus in the 67kg category.

## World Taekwondo Championships: Olympic medalists Salimi, Kiani crash out on Day 1



Iran's Arian Salimi, pictured in the 2024 Paris Olympics, suffered a second-round exit in the men's -87kg event at the World Taekwondo Championships in Wuxi, China.

● ISNA

## Sports Desk

Iran got off to a disappointing start at the World Taekwondo Championships in Wuxi, China, as Olympic medalists Arain Salimi and Nahid Kiani were knocked out in the last-16 round of their respective weight classes on Friday.

A men's +80kg gold medalist at the Paris Olympics last year, Salimi began his campaign with a 2-0 victory over Cuba's Yoikel Goicochea but was stunned 2-1 by Ukraine's Andrii Harbar – bronze medalist in July's World Uni-

versity Games – in his bout. Meanwhile, last year's world -53kg champion Kiani, who won a historic women's silver medal in Paris, began with a 2-1 victory over Darya Kostenevych of Ukraine before a 2-1 setback against American four-time Grand Prix medalist Faith Dillon saw the Iranian girl finish empty-handed in the -57kg event.

Iran's Mahla Mo'menzadeh and Mahdi Hajimousaei will be in action on the second day of the World Championships, vying for glory in the women's -49kg and

men's -63kg contests respectively.

Former world silver medalist Mo'menzadeh will face Botswana's Karabo Kula in the first round, with the winner taking on Mah Teninba Fofana of France. Reigning Asian champion Hajimousaei will square off against Briton Jamie McIntosh, with winner facing Albanian Ernest Merdanaj or Poland's Dominik Papierowski. Featuring 989 male and female contestants, the 27th edition of the World Championships will continue in Wuxi until Thursday.

## Asian Youth Games: Iranians collect six poomsae medals

## Sports Desk

Iranians grabbed six poomsae medals, including triple golds, at the Asian Youth Games in Bahrain.

Zeinab Shahriari defeated Filipino Kristien Aguila in the final showpiece to capture the gold in the girls' individual recognized poomsae event, and then teamed up with Behdad Naqiei for the ultimate prize in the mixed pair event. Naqiei also enjoyed a double gold-winning campaign in the Games, claiming the boys' individual prize, thanks to a final victory over Gao Zixuan of China.

In the freestyle poomsae contests, Mohammad-Amin Habibzadeh and Sana Shaygan settled for bronze medals in the boys' and girls' events respectively, and also finished third in the mixed pair category.

Thursday's medals took Iran's haul to 14 medals in Bahrain. The Iranian boys' and girls' kabaddi teams suffered fi-



Behdad Naqiei (L) and Zeinab Shahriari pose with the Iranian flag after winning the mixed pair recognized gold in the poomsae contests at the Asian Youth Games in Bahrain on October 23, 2025.

● IRNA

nal defeats against India in the two finals, while Mehrab Mokarrami (-83kg) and Yousef Baghchiqi (-65kg) also finished with a silver in the boys' kurash competition.

Setayesh Jalaloddin (-52kg) and Mahsa Barzegar (-70kg) added two girls' kurash bronzes to the country's medal count, with Kamand Karamzad (mixed martial arts, girls' -50kg) and Alire-

za Mortazi (pencak silat, boys' 59kg-63kg) also among the bronze medalists.

The third edition of the multi-sport event will continue until Friday.

## Iranian Aliakbari defeats American Johnson in ACA 194

## Sports Desk

Iranian mixed martial arts fighter Amir Aliakbari celebrated a second successive victory on his return to the Absolute Championship Akhmat organization, defeating American Tony Johnson at the ACA 194 event in Dubai, UAE, on Thursday.

The Iranian came out victorious by unanimous decision (50-45, 50-45, 49-46) to take his record to 16-4. The former world Greco-Roman wrestling champion had beaten Russian fighter Salimgerey "Tank"

Rasulov in his first bout back in the Russian organization in August.

"After two successive wins, I now deserve a shot at the heavyweight championship belt against whoever the next champion is," Aliakbari said in a post-fight interview.

Meanwhile, Armenian MMA fighter Zhora Ayvazyan (16-1) made a brilliant debut in the ACA league, securing a technical knockout victory over Brazilian Denis Silva (20-9) in the second round.

● ONE CHAMPIONSHIP







Ashik statue, Ellarbaghi Park  
● borna.news

# Urmia’s rich heritage, cultural legacy left unnoticed

bol reflecting the identity of Urmia has been installed there. Monuments and landmarks play a crucial role in introducing the culture of a city to its residents and visitors.”

Meanwhile, a university lecturer and researcher specializing in urban planning, architecture, tourism, and cultural heritage commented during a recent visit to Urmia, “At the entrance to Urmia, I saw no sign or symbol that represents the city.”

Nasser Mashhadizadeh Dehaqani added, “Even at Urmia Airport, no matter which direction I looked, I found nothing that introduced Urmia or indicated to travelers that they had arrived in this historic city.”

He further noted, “The only thing I saw at the city entrance was a bird statue prominently displayed — does this imply that Urmia is the city of sparrows?”

The city whose Noghl (sugar-coated confections) and halva are famous — iconic and delightful souvenirs — has neither a dedicated monument nor a symbol honoring these specialties. The absence of landmarks celebrating these exceptional and delicious local products remains striking, and it seems the idea has never even crossed the minds of the city’s authorities.

Few people are unaware of Urmia’s Noghl and halva. These exquisite sweets not only embellish the tables and special occasions of the city’s residents but also serve as cherished gifts that travelers — both domestic and international — take back to their homelands.

Yet where in Urmia can one see a monument representing these products? Where has a symbol been erected in their honor?

Let us admit that the relevant authorities have failed to properly introduce a city of history and culture, with its ancient traditions and exceptional products. Monuments could have narrated the story of Urmia’s culture, history, and achievements — yet this opportunity has been neglected.

The entrance to the city is currently surrounded by mechanic shops, junkyards, and scrap dealers, giving it an unpleasant and unattractive appearance. Within the city itself, only a handful of unrelated statues and signs depicting animals, birds, or miscellaneous objects have been installed, adding little to its cultural identity.



Eyalat Square  
● qartalnews.ir



Noghl of Urmia  
● oltansafar.com



Traditional halva cooking in Urmia  
● IRNA

## Iranica Desk

Every city with a rich history and civilization possesses its own heroes, as well as cultural and artistic figures, by which the city is recognized and remembered. The entrance to a city is often the first point of contact, introducing it through its symbols, landmarks, and monuments. Unfortunately, the entrance to the historic city of Urmia, the capital city of West Azarbaijan Province, lacks such defining elements.

Beyond the city entrance, even the main squares fail to exhibit signs of historical or cultural symbolism. Urmia has distinguished figures such as Safi al-Din al-Urmawi, the shining star of Islamic music; martyred commanders like Mehdi and Hamid Bakeri; and highly skilled painters and sculptors like Zein al-Abedin Goharani — each of whom could serve as a powerful symbol of the city’s rich culture and historical legacy according to IRNA.

In addition, Urmia is a prominent producer of delicious and unique products, including grapes and apples. Yet, no symbols or monuments celebrating these local specialties are present elsewhere in the city to capture the attention of visitors and highlight the city’s identity.

In this city, historical monuments could easily have been installed to ignite the curiosity of travelers and guests, even briefly, inviting them to explore a corner of the region’s rich past. Urmia itself is like an encyclopedia — a treasure trove and an album of history, civilization, culture, and art. Yet this vital aspect has been neglected, leaving this ancient city, unlike many others, devoid

of meaningful historical and cultural markers.

The only tributes created to honor notable artists or figures are the busts installed at most intersections. These busts lack elegance and artistic quality and are so poorly crafted that it is often difficult to identify which individual they are meant to commemorate.

By contrast, in the squares and various locations of Maragheh, a historic city in East Azarbaijan Province, statues and monuments celebrating cultural and historical figures have been carefully installed. Visitors entering Maragheh naturally become connected to its ancient heritage.

An expert in the field of arts highlighted in an interview that Urmia has produced numerous talented figures, including Dolu Mustafa in Ashik music, as well as Safi al-Din al-Urmawi, who excelled in music and calligraphy. A stamp featuring al-Urmawi was issued by UNESCO fifty years ago, and his art has been recognized as a part of the world’s cultural heritage. Yet, nowhere in Urmia — not even a street — bears the name of this celebrated artist.

Ahad Houshmand observed that the only statue representing Urmia’s art and notable figures is the seven-meter-tall Ashik statue in Ellarbaghi Park — and even that stands in an inappropriate environment, failing to do justice to the city’s cultural richness. In Azarbaijani culture, an Ashik is a traditional folk poet, singer, and storyteller who performs songs accompanied by a Saz (a stringed instrument).

He also stated, “Eyalat Square is the most famous and historic square of the city, yet no cultural or historical sym-

## Gabbeh keeps heritage of Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari Province alive

### Iranica Desk

Handicrafts are among the most meaningful expressions of human creativity — born from artistic imagination, technical skill, natural materials, and deep-rooted cultural beliefs shaped by the environment. In Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari Province, traditional handicrafts and folk arts reflect the region’s historical background, natural surroundings, and the values of both makers and users. These creations are not merely functional objects; they are cultural artifacts that carry the identity, traditions, and stories of the local people.

The distinctive qualities of Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari’s crafts have made them an essential



● IRNA

part of the province’s rural and urban economy. Supporting and promoting these crafts — both in domestic and international markets — is vital to ensuring

the continuation of production and the survival of the region’s ancient artistic and cultural heritage, chn.ir wrote. One of the most notable tradi-



● karnamehjonoob.ir

tional products of this region is the Gabbeh — a handwoven rug or carpet with long, soft piles. It is commonly woven in the cities and villages of Shahr-e Kord,

Boroujen, Ardal, and Farsan.

According to Director General of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Organization of Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari Province Alireza Jeylan, “Gabbeh weaving is a highly technical craft, similar in method to carpet weaving, but with fewer knots and looser wefts — sharing characteristics with the traditional Khersak rugs.”

He explained that the primary material used in Gabbeh weaving is wool from local sheep, which is hand-spun using simple traditional tools such as the Piliy and spinning wheel. Both the warp and weft are made entirely of pure wool, without the use of any synthetic fibers.

Jeylan also highlighted the unique designs that distinguish

Gabbeh from other types of floor coverings. The motifs are often geometric and minimalist, inspired by the surrounding nature — the sun, sky, plains, mountains, and animals both domestic and wild.

“The use of these patterns,” he noted, “is what gives Gabbeh its distinctive artistic identity.” He added that the natural dyes used in Gabbeh weaving are not only environmentally friendly but also highly resistant to light and washing, ensuring their long-lasting beauty.

Gabbeh, therefore, stands as a symbol of the harmony between art, nature, and culture — a woven testament to the enduring craftsmanship of the people of Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari Province.





# Iran, South Korea mark 63 years of ties with joint calligraphy show

## Arts & Culture Desk

A joint Iran-South Korea calligraphy exhibition themed "Family" opened on Tuesday morning at the residence of the South Korean ambassador in Tehran, marking the first visit by Korean calligraphers to Iran in nine years, Mehr reported. The event coincided with the 63rd anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries and brought together leading artists from both nations. The exhibition featured works by renowned Iranian calligraphers Tandis Taghavi, Esrafil Shirchi, and Mojtaba Sabzeh, alongside twelve members of the Korean Calligraphy Association, including its president and vice president. South Korean Ambassador Kim Junpyo expressed his pleasure at hosting the event, describing it as a testament to the "warm

friendship" between Tehran and Seoul. "We are delighted that this collaboration, made possible through the CCCACD (Cultural Coordination Centre of Asia Cooperation Dialogue), has strengthened cultural ties between our two nations," he said. Speaking about the exhibition's theme, Kim noted: "The show revolves around the concept of family and seeks to convey its profound values. "While Korean and Iranian calligraphy differ in appearance, both reveal the cultural depth and sensitivity of their peoples. I am confident that such exchanges will continue to deepen our co-operation," he added. Mohammad Jafari-Malek, director of the CCCACD, congratulated the ambassador on the anniversary of bilateral ties and praised the choice of "Family" as a fitting and meaningful title for the event. Taking the podium next, Yong Hyun-dak of the Korean Calli-

graphy Association said he cherished the 63-year-long relationship and hoped it would "flourish for another 630 years." Iranian artist Tandis Taghavi highlighted the importance of family in Asian cultures and stressed that "artists play a vital role in strengthening political relations through cultural dialogue." She added that such initiatives help foster friendship not only between Iran and Korea but across the world. Esrafil Shirchi remarked that in studying the Korean script, he found "structural similarities with Iran's Nastaliq script," noting that "even without meeting one another, we share a common artistic spirit and that is truly magnificent." The ceremony concluded with a live calligraphy performance by the president of the Korean Calligraphers Association in the ambassador's garden.



## Film-concert in Tehran celebrates Hayao Miyazaki's anime legacy



### Arts & Culture Desk

A live film-concert featuring the music of Hayao Miyazaki's anime films was held Wednesday night at the Royal Hall of Espinas Palace Hotel in Tehran, performed by a 100-member orchestra under the baton of Sina Kheirabadi. The sold-out performance brought Studio Ghibli's timeless worlds to life, with the orchestra performing Joe Hisaishi's acclaimed scores as scenes from Miyazaki's films were projected

on a large screen. The concert featured themes from "Spirited Away," "Kiki's Delivery Service," "Howl's Moving Castle" and "Porco Rosso". Later, the audience was treated to music from "My Neighbor Totoro," "Ponyo on the Cliff by the Sea," and "The Wind Rises," as well as a powerful segment from "Princess Mononoke" and themes from "Nausicaä of the Valley of the Wind" and "Laputa: Castle in the Sky". In the final moments, excerpts from

"The Kingdom of Dreams and Madness", a documentary offering an inside look at the making of "The Wind Rises" and Miyazaki's creative life, were screened. Miyazaki, one of the most influential figures in global animation and co-founder of Japan's renowned Studio Ghibli, enjoys a strong fan base in Iran. His long-time collaborator, composer Joe Hisaishi, is celebrated for his blend of classical, jazz, and traditional Japanese music, which has become an integral part of the cinematic memory of generations worldwide. The Miyazaki anime film-concert followed similar live screenings of Harry Potter and The Lord of the Rings, both staged for a combined 16 sold-out shows. Organized by Fidibo, is a leading Iranian digital platform for e-books and audiobooks, the event aimed to bridge music and cinema enthusiasts and offer audiences a shared experience of enduring works of art. Due to high demand, additional performances are scheduled for October 27, giving Miyazaki fans another chance to immerse themselves in his world of imagination and sound.

## Iranian director wins top honor at Baku documentary film festival

### Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian filmmaker Ramin Khalighi has won the Best Film Award in the DokuBaku section of the 9th International Documentary Film Festival in Azerbaijan for his film "Downstream Shadows". The DokuBaku section showcases rising filmmakers debuting their first or second films, with a focus on innovative and experimental storytelling. According to the festival's jury, the category aims to discover "new voices and fresh perspectives" in global documentary cinema. In its statement, the jury praised Downstream Shadows for offering "a profound and precise reflection on the conflict between humans and their surroundings, capturing the struggle for survival with both poetic and documentary sensitivity." The panel added that Khalighi's film "explores contemporary challenges of documentary storytelling with remarkable clarity, leaving a lasting impact on both



jury and audience." Speaking to IRNA, Khalighi described his documentary as an intimate portrayal of a family battling poverty and addiction, who make a living by collecting recyclables. "The story is a journey through hardship and hope, an effort to endure and reach for better days," he said. He added that during production, three members of the featured family were admitted to a rehabilitation center for addiction treatment. "After recovery, they returned to society and began a new chapter

in their lives," the filmmaker noted. Founded in 2017, the DokuBaku International Documentary Film Festival is the first and largest independent event of its kind in Azerbaijan and has become a major platform for documentary exchange in the Caucasus region. The 9th edition of the festival, held from October 13 to 19 under the theme "Hyper-Matrix 5D World", screened works from more than 60 countries at the Nizami Cinema Center in Baku.

## Oliver Twist musical returns to Tehran stage

### Arts & Culture Desk

The musical Oliver Twist premiered on Wednesday at the Tennis Stadium of Tehran's Enqelab Sports Complex, marking the first performance of its new production run. Ticket sales for additional dates have already opened. Originally staged in 2017 at Tehran's Vahdat Hall with a different cast, the new version remains faithful to the original script and structure while introducing minor revisions to the dialogue and several songs. According to the production team, these updates highlight social concerns, inequality, and the harsh realities of human life. Directed by Hossein Parsaei and produced by Jalil Kia, the large-scale

musical features prominent Iranian actors Hootan Shakiba, Behnoush Tabatabaei, Banipal Shoomoon, Amir-Kaveh Ahaninjan, with Siamak Ansari and Kazem Sayahi in leading roles. Based on Charles Dickens' classic novel, the production incorporates Lionel Bart's original musical compositions, dramaturgy by Mohammadreza Kouhestani, and the creative collaboration of theatre and music professionals. Young performers Rayan Sarlak, Parham Gholamloo, and Arsham Jahanpanah share the roles of Dodger and Oliver in the Tehran revival, which showcases a striking new artistic design distinct from its 2017 staging.



## The Middle East's ...

Several Western governments have laid out plans to accelerate the rollout of renewable energy. In the United States, the Biden administration's package of climate, healthcare and tax legislation, known as the Inflation Reduction Act, has allocated roughly \$369 billion for climate and energy programs, including help for consumers in buying electric vehicles and investments in renewable and nuclear energy. The European Union has outlined plans to spend \$317 billion in the com-

ing few years on overhauling its energy supplies and ending its dependence on Russian energy. Ultimately what is required is not just to diversify away from a single energy commodity, but to change the nature of the energy system itself, and to do so while maintaining the affordable, secure provision of energy services. This analysis seeks to examine the efforts to diversify the energy mix in the Middle East. The focus is on the transition from fossil fuels to clean energy (i.e. renewables and nuclear power). The Vienna-based Organi-

zation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) predicts that demand for renewables will expand five folds from 2020 to 2045, representing the single-largest incremental contribution to the future energy mix. The main point is that the world has not been investing enough in energy in recent years, a fact that left the energy system much more vulnerable to the sort of shocks seen the early 2020s. A smooth and secure energy transition will require a major uptick in clean energy investment flows.