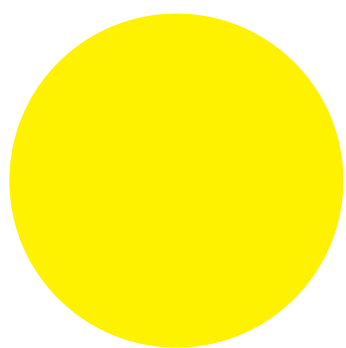


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Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei addresses students in Tehran on November 3, 2025 on the eve of the National Day of Fight Against Global Arrogance which coincides with the anniversary of the 1979 takeover of the US Embassy in Tehran.

● leader.ir

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US must drop 'illusion of Iran's unconditional surrender'

OPINION



The 63rd Pugwash Conference, titled 'Eighty Years After the Atomic Bombings: A Time for Peace, Dialogue, and Nuclear Disarmament,' is underway in Hiroshima, Japan, from November 1 to 5. Former Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif delivered the keynote speech on the third day of the event, urging the United States to let go of the notion of Iran's "unconditional surrender" and to move toward "genuine negotiations." Zarif emphasized that any lasting solution requires treating Iran not as a "permanent threat to be contained," but as "an equal partner in global affairs, with legitimate interests and a valuable stake."

Below are excerpts from his address:

US seeks talks as pressure campaign fails to bring desired outcome

INTERVIEW
EXCLUSIVE



The 12-day war waged by Israel against Iran in June and followed by direct US involvement

threw a wrench into the already fragile negotiations between Tehran and Washington, leaving both sides in limbo. During that period, the US once invited Iran to "peace", but Tehran, wary of Donald Trump's intentions, steered clear of a direct engagement. Months on, speculations of renewed message exchanges between Iran and the United States have begun to surface, reportedly channeled once again through Oman's traditional mediation route. Iran's government spokesperson confirmed receiving a message via the Foreign Ministry but kept a lid on its contents.

The key question now is whether these messages could pave the way for breaking the current diplomatic deadlock. In an exclusive interview with Iran Daily, international relations analyst Nozar Shafiei weighs in on Washington's possible shift in tone and the prospect of a gradual move toward compromise.

IRAN DAILY: How would you interpret the nature of the recent communication? Could it mark a shift in Washington's stance toward Tehran, or is it just part of the usual warnings and threats?
SHAFIEI: This possible message signals the emergence of a new set of circumstances following the US strikes on Iran's nuclear sites and Israel's attacks during the 12-day war. The fact that messages are being exchanged at all is significant, even though there might have been previous, less-publicized communications. If Iranian officials acknowledge receiving such a message, it clearly reflects a changed environment.

This message might set the stage for fresh directions in Iran-US relations, or at least inject new energy into the negotiation track. But the crucial questions remain: Is the content threatening or conciliatory? Does it outline a roadmap for the future, or only restate old positions? Is it identical to the message Trump sent before the war and the bombing of Iran's nuclear facilities, or has it been updated with Iran's concerns in mind? These details will determine whether this could indeed open the door to breaking the diplomatic stalemate. From Washington's point of view, several factors seem to be at play: first, the US believes that after bombing Iran's nuclear facilities, Tehran has lost access to its key infrastructure, at least for now. Second, the US helped broker a truce in Gaza and may see a chance to bring Iran into a broader peace framework. In other words, since Iran received military strikes, Washington might assume Tehran could be more open to dialogue.

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Hamas accepted Gaza cease-fire for 'tactical, strategic' reasons:

Veteran diplomat Missing pieces of Trump's plan

INTERVIEW

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Iran coach Saei urges 'realism' over poor run at world taekwondo meet

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Kashan teaches world how to live with desert

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Over the past three decades, Iran's nuclear program has been interpreted through two dominant lenses. Its adversaries have portrayed it as a covert attempt to produce nuclear weapons. Others, have viewed Iran's activities as a legitimate pursuit of advanced technology that has never reached a weapons threshold. Both narratives, are built on a false premise that Iran's nuclear program is ultimately aimed at producing a weapon. Four decades of sanctions, cyberattacks, and assassinations of scientists have neither forced Iran into capitulation nor pushed it toward weaponization. Even the recent unprovoked aggression by two nuclear powers failed to alter this reality. It is hoped that the United States has drawn two key lessons from its failed collaboration with Israel in this aggression. First, the assault achieved none of its objectives, as Israel ignored the fact that Iranians always unite in the face of invasion and defend their country. The conflict also proved that Iran has both the capability and the will to inflict serious damage on two nuclear powers. The second lesson the United States must grasp is that Iran's nuclear capabilities, contrary to Trump's delusions, cannot be destroyed.

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Leader: Cooperation with Iran at odds with US support for 'damned Zionist regime'



Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei speaks during a meeting with a group of students and university scholars on the eve of Iran's National Day of Fight Against Global Arrogance in Tehran on November 3, 2025.
● [khamenei.ir](#)

Speaking to a group of students and university scholars ahead of Iran's National Day of Fight Against Global Arrogance, Ayatollah Khamenei described continued US support for Israel — despite the regime's "disgrace and condemnation in global public opinion" — as fundamentally incompatible with its calls for cooperation with Iran. In recent months, US President Donald Trump has occasionally expressed willingness to engage with Tehran, even as Washington continues its "maximum pressure" policy. "If the United States were to cut off all support for the Zionist regime, pull out its military bases from the region, and

stop meddling in the regional countries' affairs, then such an issue could be reconsidered, though not in the present or near future," the Leader said.

Responding to whether Iran will ever have relations with America, he pointed out that the arrogant nature of America accepts nothing short of submission, which is impossible for a nation with such capability, wealth, intellectual heritage, and motivated youth. He also dismissed claims that Iran's "Death to America" slogan is the cause of US hostility, noting that the real issue is the inherent incompatibility between the Islamic Republic and America, a fundamental clash of interests, not a matter of tactics or isolated disputes.

Day of Fight Against Global Arrogance Ayatollah Khamenei also reflected on the historical significance of November 4, when the US embassy was seized by a group of students, observed in Iran as

both Student Day and National Day of Fight Against Global Arrogance.

The Leader called it a day of "pride and victory" and a day when "the true nature of the arrogant American government was revealed."

According to Ayatollah Khamenei, the root cause of US hostility toward Iran was the end of its dominance over Iran's resources with the [1979] Islamic Revolution. "They were not willing to let go easily, so from the very beginning they began their provocations, not only against the Islamic Republic but also against the Iranian people."

The only way to solve many of our problems and ensure the nation's immunity, the Leader said, is to become strong in management, science, the military, and motivation.

"If the country becomes powerful enough that the enemy realizes any confrontation will bring it loss rather than gain, then Iran will indeed be secure."

National Desk

Iran's Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said Monday that any coop-

eration with the United States is impossible so long as Washington continues to stand by what he called the "damned Zionist regime."

Tehran not to relinquish 'inalienable rights' in nuclear talks: *FM spox*

International Desk

Iran's Foreign Ministry's spokesman Esmail Baqaei said on Monday that the Islamic Republic will not unilaterally give up its "legitimate and inalienable rights" in any negotiation to reach an agreement on its nuclear program.

Speaking in his weekly press conference, Baqaei said that based on the principles of international law and the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), Iran has inalienable rights.

"Without a doubt, in no negotiation are we going to give up our legitimate rights unilaterally. If such a realistic understanding and respect for Iran's rights take hold on the other side, one may say that the conditions for a meaningful dialogue are in place; however, under the current circumstances, I do not think we have come to that stage yet," the Iranian official said.

Responding to a question about new negotiations with the US, Baqaei said that no official message had been received from the American side via Oman. He stated that while intermediaries continue efforts to exchange messages, this

"does not at all mean the start of a negotiation process between Iran and the US."

"Iran was attacked while engaged in diplomatic negotiations. The Iranian people can never forget this," he noted, referring to a US-Israeli aggression in June that killed many high-ranking military commanders, nuclear scientists, and civilians.

He said that the US has proven it does not adhere to the requirements of reasonable negotiation, and that talks can only be considered when parties are able to accept each other's interests.

Iran and the US began nuclear talks in April, which were derailed by the Israeli aggression in June. During the talks, the US insisted on zero uranium enrichment in Iran, which has been repeatedly rejected by the Iranian officials.

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi in an interview with Al Jazeera said that the Islamic Republic will not give up its capacity to enrich uranium and will never negotiate on its missile program to reach an agreement.

Araghchi said that Tehran is ready to hold talks to



Esmail Baqaei
● [IRNA](#)

remove concerns about its peaceful nuclear program, stressing that it is possible to reach a fair agreement. However, he noted that the United States has set "unacceptable conditions." On Sunday, US President Donald Trump in an interview with the CBS News claimed that, Iran wants to make a deal.

"They don't say that, and they probably shouldn't say — no good deal maker would. But Iran very much wants to make a deal," he said.

After the failure of Tehran-Washington nuclear talks, Oman and Qatar have called for the resumption of negotiations between the two sides.

Qatar's Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani in an interview with CNN on

Sunday said that Iran is part of the region and must be engaged.

He said that Doha has always supported diplomacy to resolve the dispute over Iran's nuclear program, adding that, "We do not want a nuclear arms race in our region."

Oman also urged Tehran and Washington on Saturday to resume talks.

"We want to return to the negotiations between Iran (and) the United States," Omani Foreign Minister Badr al-Busaidi said at the IISS Manama Dialogue conference in Bahrain.

A day earlier, Al-Busaidi hosted Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Majid Takht-e Ravanchi in Muscat where the two sides exchanged views on Iran's peaceful nuclear program.

Armed Forces say 'prepared' to protect national security against threats

Iran's Armed Forces are "prepared and steadfast" in the face of adversarial threats and remain committed to safeguarding territorial integrity and the Islamic establishment, the General Staff of the Armed Forces has stated. In the Monday statement, as reported by Press TV, the General Staff offered its congratulations to the noble people of Iran on the eve of the anniversary of the US embassy takeover on November 4, 1979.

It said the great event disclosed the evil nature of the global arrogance and the expanse of its hostile interference in Iran's internal affairs.

The statement described the occasion as a "turning point" in contemporary history and a cause for consolidation of Iran's political independence and national dignity.

It said the embassy takeover symbolizes the "revolutionary insight, the bravery of faithful youths, and manifests the nation's will against global hegemonic powers."



The Armed Forces reaffirmed the Iranian nation's resolution to keep on the path of maintaining independence and dignity. According to the statement, November 4 is a reminder that the Iranian nation will not allow anyone to undermine its national independence and dignity.

On November 4, 1979, Iranian students took over the American embassy in Tehran, also known in Iran as the Den of Espionage. The occasion was then named the National Day of the Fight against Glob-

al Arrogance, which also marks the National Student Day.

Every year on the 13th day of the Iranian calendar month of Aban, the Iranian nation, particularly students, commemorates the National Day of the Fight against Global Arrogance by staging nationwide demonstrations, calling on all Muslims and freedom-seeking people to stand up against arrogant powers.

The day has become a symbol of resistance and a fierce fight against Western imperialism.

US must drop ...

The real strength lies not in centrifuges or enriched uranium stockpiles, but in the scientific knowledge, technical expertise, and innovative spirit rooted in the minds of Iranian scientists. While Israel and the US have tried to take out Iran's top scientists the country's technical and scientific infrastructure cannot be obliterated.

It is therefore in the interest of the United States to give up on the illusion of Iran's unconditional surrender and move toward genuine negotiations. The goal should be to reach agreements that guarantee this advanced nuclear capacity remains transparent and exclusively peaceful. Any sustainable solution requires treating Iran not as a perpetual

threat to be contained, but as an equal partner in world affairs with legitimate interests and a meaningful role. Achieving this demands a new framework for engagement, one built on mutual respect, transparency, and shared prosperity.

Iran must also break free from the "paradigm of threat." Iran can now reach out to the world. It is time for all of us — Iran, the region, and the broader international community — to move away from a 'default future' shaped by past mistakes and suffering, toward a 'crafted future' built consciously from the vast opportunities ahead.

Iran can take four specific steps based on this renewed confidence earned after the 12-day war: First, empowering the Iranian people: Iran must cultivate

its human capital not through the lens of external threats, but through internal capability and global contribution. Second, strengthening defense: To ensure security, defensive capabilities must be bolstered while also supporting a regional cap on military spending. Third, building a stronger region: Peace and cooperation initiatives under UN auspices, could go beyond mere concepts and evolve into a genuine architecture for regional peace. Fourth, reviving global diplomacy: Despite Iran's deep mistrust of the West, Iran and the West share vital interests in avoiding perpetual confrontation. The JCPOA proved that negotiation works, while its collapse showed just how fragile peace becomes when one side treats an agreement as a fleeting political tool.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

CARTOON



Key water, power projects launched to ease shortages, drive ‘sustainable growth’

Economy Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on Monday inaugurated four major water and power projects via video conference, calling for the use of advanced technology and “future-oriented planning” to ensure sustainable national development. Speaking at the online ceremony attended by Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi, Pezeshkian said water and power projects must be implemented with “modern knowledge and foresight” to build a reliable foundation for Iran’s progress, president.ir reported. He praised engineers and experts in the sector for their efforts to address supply imbalances and shortages. “The enemy is trying to exploit internal differences,” he warned, adding that they are seeking to take advantage of existing shortages in water and energy. The president said national unity and cohesion — as emphasized by Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei

— remain the keys to success. “All government bodies must act in coordination to resolve these imbalances and work together for the dignity and progress of Iran,” he said. Iran, with its predominantly semi-arid and arid climate, faces water stress and crisis, and the supply of drinking water has become one of the country’s biggest challenges. The country is also grappling with a worsening electricity shortage, marked by frequent blackouts. According to the Renewable Energy and Electricity Efficiency Organization (SATBA), Iran’s renewable plants generate about 2,700 megawatts a day — roughly 2.8% of total output — out of an installed capacity of around 95,000 MW. The Energy Ministry aims to boost renewables to 7,000 MW by March 2026 and to 11,000 MW by next summer. During the Monday ceremony, the president inaugurated the Sahand combined-cycle power plant in East Azarbaijan Province, the Robat Karim wastewater treatment plant and its

collection network in Tehran Province, the Taleqan Dam water transfer project to treatment plants in Alborz and Tehran provinces, and a 172-megawatt solar power plant. He also ordered the launch of construction for an additional 745 megawatts of solar capacity and new power efficiency projects. The Robat Karim wastewater facility, built on five hectares with a capacity of 21,288 cubic meters per day, will produce eight million cubic meters of treated water annually for use in agriculture, industry, and public services. It is expected to serve about 130,000 people, help protect groundwater resources, improve public health, and reduce unpleasant odors in the area. The Taleqan Dam transfer line, extending 62 kilometers with an annual capacity of 150 million cubic meters, will secure drinking water for three million people in Tehran and Alborz. It replaces an aging pipeline with two-meter-diameter pipes, increases water transfer capacity



in emergencies, and uses modern domestically-made equipment. Energy Minister Aliabadi described the Taleqan project as “a

major achievement,” noting that it began in 2022 and now delivers five cubic meters of water per second to the two provinces. He also urged citizens to help by

saving energy and highlighted the importance of using “gray water” — treated wastewater — for industrial applications, such as wood production.

First bioethanol-based gasoline rolled out to curb pollution



Economy Desk

Iran produced its first bioethanol-based gasoline (E5) with an annual capacity of 1.2 billion liters, aimed at reducing pollution and expanding the use of green automotive fuel, Deputy Industry Minister Farshad Moqimi said on Monday. Moqimi told Mehr News Agency that said the bio-fuel blend would lead to “a significant reduction in pollution and MTBE consumption.” Bioethanol-based gasoline, containing up to 10% bioethanol derived from plants such as corn or sugar cane, is part of Iran’s plan to reduce reliance on

fossil fuels and lower urban air pollution. MTBE (methyl tert-butyl ether), a chemical compound used to raise octane levels in gasoline, has been a standard additive since the 1970s as a replacement for lead. The bioethanol is produced by the private Zagros Green Fuel Development Co., headquartered in Kermanshah, western Iran. Zagros was officially inaugurated on May 15 by President Masoud Pezeshkian. Moqimi, who is also CEO of the Industrial Development & Renovation Organization of Iran (IDRO), said that bioethanol-based gasoline containing the octane

booster was produced at the Abadan refinery and distributed in Khuzestan province, where operational tests were successfully completed. “So far, we have delivered over five million liters of bioethanol produced at Zagros to the National Iranian Oil Refining and Distribution Co. (NIORDC) and the Abadan refinery,” he said. The state fuel distributor NIORDC and the IDRO, a key arm of the Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade, signed an agreement in late May to kickstart the production of bioethanol-based gasoline. Under the deal, the two bodies work together to provide incentives for scaling up biofuel output and create a framework to enable refineries to easily purchase bioethanol. Moqimi added that a second project was underway and would go online next year, doubling the annual production capacity of bioethanol-based gasoline to 2.4 billion liters. “Plans are also in place to

produce bioethanol in 30 additional units across the country.” The deputy minister noted that Zagros, Iran’s first green fuel plant with a production capacity of 60 million liters of ethanol per year, could support the output of 1.2 billion liters of E5 gasoline annually. Globally, bioethanol-based gasoline is recognized as E5 (5% ethanol) or E10 (10% ethanol). It is expected to eliminate around 85 million liters of MTBE from gasoline production while boosting fuel octane levels, according to Moqimi. Iran cranks out around 107 million liters of gasoline daily, while consumption stands at 134 million liters, leaving a deficit of about 27 million liters per day. Since 2021, the government has spent over \$3 billion annually on gasoline imports to plug the gap. Officials hope the new green fuel initiative will ease pressure on both the supply chain and the national budget.

Tehran to invest \$1.68b in AI to promote private sector role, digital ecosystem



Economy Desk

Iran plans to invest a total of \$1.68 billion in artificial intelligence and the digital economy to accelerate growth and expand private sector participation, a senior communications official said on Monday. Ehsan Chitsaz, deputy minister for ICT policy and planning at the Ministry of Information and Communications Technology, said that the new funding marks a major step toward strengthening the country’s digital ecosystem. Addressing the National Conference on Investment Opportunities in ICT, he said \$1 billion of the investment will go to the digital economy and \$680 million to artificial intelligence, with contracts currently be-

ing finalized. Chitsaz said the government must ensure a predictable economic environment and provide security for investors. He also noted that the ministry is undergoing “fundamental changes” in its approach to supporting the private sector, aiming to encourage more participation in the digital economy. Communications Minister Sattar Hashemi said earlier that the ministry’s goal is to raise the digital economy’s share of Iran’s gross domestic product to 10 percent, up from the current level of less than five percent. Achieving this, he said on Saturday, would require major national and provincial initiatives.

Iran on doorstep of aircraft making with homegrown engine parts: Official

Economy Desk

Iran has taken its first steps toward joining global aircraft manufacturers with the development of its domestically built Simorgh cargo plane, a senior aviation official said, marking a milestone in the country’s aerospace development goals. Mohammad Reza Vaghefimanesh, director general of the Aircraft Design and Manufacturing Engineering Office at Iran’s Civil Aviation Organization, told IRNA in an exclusive interview that the Simorgh transport aircraft was entirely designed and produced by Iranian specialists inside the country,

with work on the design dating back about 15 years. Iran on Tuesday began test flying its domestically made aircraft in the central province of Isfahan, aiming to meet the requirements for an airworthiness certificate from the Civil Aviation Organization. Vaghefimanesh said the plane was developed based on the Ukrainian Antonov-140 model but features an indigenously designed tail and rear fuselage. The aircraft is larger than the Antonov, equipped with a bigger tail and a rear cargo door that allows loading of items such as vehicles the size of a jeep, aircraft engines, and other equipment.

“Powered by two 2,500-horsepower engines, giving it a total output of 5,000 horsepower, the Simorgh can carry six tons of cargo, has a maximum takeoff weight of 21.5 tons, and can fly up to 3,900 kilometers.” He also said the aircraft falls into the medium-size category among global transport planes and is also capable of carrying postal cargo. “Iran has not yet achieved full technical know-how in building engines and auxiliary power units (APUs),” he said, “though the design and production of some engine parts have begun domestically.” Globally, countries seeking to design pas-

senger aircraft typically start by developing components and gradually move toward modifying and redesigning existing aircraft models. To meet certification requirements, they must comply with at least 80% of the CS-25 heavy aircraft design regulations, Vaghefimanesh explained. According to the official, the Simorgh must complete between 100 and 150 hours of test flights to meet Iran’s heavy-aircraft airworthiness standards. So far, the aircraft is scheduled to undergo about 70 test flights to assess stability, control, performance, engine function, and load measurement, including one-engine-inoperative (OEI) tests

to ensure it can safely continue flying with one engine off. He said that the main flight tests will take about a year. If all tests are successfully completed and documentation finalized, the aircraft could receive a Supplemental Type Certificate (STC) from the Civil Aviation Organization by next year, authorizing it for operational cargo use. Until now, global aircraft manufacturing had been dominated by giants such as Boeing, Airbus, and firms in Russia, China, Brazil, and Canada, along with a few smaller Eastern European companies. “Iran is now joining that club,” Vaghefimanesh said.



▲ A member of the Israeli Parliament, known as the Knesset, shakes hands with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (R) at the plenum hall in Al-Quds (Jerusalem) on July 17, 2024, after the Knesset voted overwhelmingly to pass a resolution rejecting the establishment of a Palestinian state.
● YONATAN SINDEL/FLASH90



▲ Palestinian mother sits with her malnourished son in the Al-Shati refugee camp, northern Gaza Strip, on July 23, 2025. Israel's long-time blockade has caused a famine in the enclave for months.
● OMAR AL-QATTAA/AFP

they may hold dual citizenship, but they prefer to stay put in their home countries rather than relocate and engage in settlement activity. Consequently, the flow of immigration has shifted toward Jews of Eastern origin.

The second development concerns demographics. The Eastern Jews who gradually made their way to Israel in previous decades have much higher birth rates. Demographically, their share of the population has been steadily on the rise, giving the social fabric of Israel an increasingly Eastern complexion. The Mizrahi Jews view the land of Palestine as utterly sacred; Not an inch of it, in their view, can be bartered or compromised. They hold on to a sanctified perception of this land, calling it “Eretz Israel,” or the historical land of Israel, in line with both their religious and Zionist narratives.

This social foundation has allowed Prime Minister Netanyahu to hold onto power for the longest premiership in Israel's history. The right-wing coalition has stayed in charge for nearly two decades — almost a quarter of a century. The Labor Party, once the country's founding political force and a pillar of Zionism, has been reduced to a mere shadow of its former self, holding just three seats out of 120 in the Knesset. The ruling bloc has no time for peace or compromise; It believes the entire land is theirs, leaving no room for negotiation.

The biggest obstacle to this plan or any other — just as in the case of the Oslo peace and two-state initiative — remains this same unyielding social base within Israel. Even the factions that once paid lip service to peace or the two-state solution have been pushed to the sidelines, becoming a marginal minority in Israel's political arena.

The pivotal question facing any peace initiative is whether there exists a genuine international will to bring pressure to bear on this social base within Israel to turn things around. Past experiences provide a clear answer. Initiatives like Oslo and similar efforts showed that when crises flare up, international actors, including the United States, jump in to patch things up — talking about peace, a two-state solution, and related issues. But once the dust settles down and the situation calms on the surface, everything is again swept under the rug and gets forgotten, largely because of internal resistance within Israeli society.

The difference between the Oslo process and the current situation lies in the fact that after October 7, 2023, Israel's conduct in the Gaza Strip sparked a worldwide awakening in public consciousness, and that same public opinion translated into mounting pressure on political leaders. Unprecedented developments took place, such as the issuance of arrest warrants for Netanyahu and other senior Israeli officials. How much can this new public mood — which even pushed European countries to admit that they must move toward the creation of an independent Palestinian state — weigh in on this analysis? On the other hand, there had been earlier pledges to normalize relations between Arab states and Israel — some of which had already been implemented before October 7 — until that day brought things to a halt. Can these two factors bring about a different outcome for this plan?

Not necessarily. Neither of these is new; Both go back to long historical precedents. Global public opinion has long stood behind the Palestinian cause and its people.

Not to this extent, though. Even opinion polls in the United States have changed. Yes, slightly. What's new is that, for the first time, public sentiment in the United States and parts of Europe has come out openly in favor of the Palestinians in their conflict with Israel. That's part of the shift we're witnessing. But in terms of overall impact, public opinion died down after the Oslo process. The issue was effectively declared closed as people were sold the illusion that the Palestinian cause was on its way to resolution. That atmosphere eventually faded away. This also coincided with broader global shifts — the end of the Cold War and the bipolar world order, which reshaped the international power structure and left its mark on global politics.

Coming back to your question, one of the major outcomes of October 7 — despite all the destruction, massacres, and atrocities committed against the Palestinians — is precisely this: The Palestinian issue, which after Oslo had effectively slipped off the radar and even among Arab and Muslim nations was no longer seen as a living cause, has now been brought back to life. Palestin-

ians had felt completely forgotten in a world rife with oppression and injustice, as though they were being written out of history. That feeling was one of the main driving forces behind Hamas and the broader Palestinian resistance's major operation on October 7.

Despite all the losses and suffering the Palestinians have endured, their greatest gain lies here: The Palestinian cause has once again been thrust onto the international stage and turned into a global concern — even if only superficially — for countries around the world, particularly in the West.

You mentioned why Israel accepted Trump's peace plan. On the other hand, the key question is: What made Hamas accept it? It's well known that the plan includes provisions such as the disarmament of Hamas and a clause preventing it from returning to political power. What, then, persuaded Hamas to go along with the plan — albeit conditionally?

The truth is, it's not that complicated. After two years of nonstop Israeli bombardment and atrocities, Hamas also felt accountable to its own people and didn't want to be blamed for prolonging the bloodshed. That's the main responsibility Hamas faced — one that carried both tactical and strategic weight. On the tactical side, it was about ensuring that Israel, not Hamas, got saddled with the blame for continued killing. For a movement with a clear political agenda, such perception matters greatly.

Strategically, the move also makes sense. The Palestinian people have demonstrated a

resistance that is truly exceptional in the modern history of humankind — standing up to mass killings with extraordinary endurance. Yet every society has its limits. The Palestinian nation needed a breather, a moment to catch its breath. Conditions had become unbearable, especially in recent months as famine was added to Israel's relentless bombardments and atrocities. The famine was not only inflicted directly, but also indirectly through the blockade and deliberate denial of essential goods like bread and flour. Such conditions took their toll, pushing Gazans to the brink of human endurance.

It was therefore natural for Hamas to take into account the strategic dimension of this reality as it remains responsible to its people and their national cause. The movement fought for two years, never threw in the towel, and put up unprecedented resistance, drawing upon the deep support and solidarity of its community. Still, this didn't erase its responsibility to its own people; It could not be seen as enabling the continuation of slaughter, famine, and suffering across Gaza. So, what did Hamas actually do? As you mentioned, it didn't accept the plan outright. Psychologically motivated, it decided to thank the US president and welcome his initiative. These gestures were reflected in Hamas's statement — perhaps also playing to Trump's personality, which is marked by a strong streak of narcissism and self-admiration. This symbolic gesture was more about form than substance.

In terms of substance, Hamas laid on the table what it actually held: Israeli captives and the

bodies of Israelis killed during the bombings. It declared its readiness to hand over both the living and the dead. Searches are still underway to locate remaining bodies, which has now turned into one of Israel's pretexts for continued accusations. In return, Hamas demanded the release of Palestinian prisoners — a central goal behind capturing Israelis in the first place. Around a thousand Palestinian prisoners were exchanged, including nearly 200 serving long-term or life sentences.

Over a year ago, Hamas had already announced its willingness to hand over administration of Gaza to an agreed Palestinian arrangement — a national formula, technocratic or otherwise. In colloquial terms, it was, as they say, “making a virtue of necessity” since Hamas had already made the same proposal before. Once again, it reiterated this position in its acceptance statement, expressing readiness to pass on Gaza's governance to a joint Palestinian framework.

However, once the plan reached later stages — questions about Gaza's future, disarmament, Palestinian statehood, and the international presence of foreign forces as outlined in Trump's proposal — Hamas's statement deferred all such matters to Palestinian national consensus. It essentially said these matters were beyond its authority and therefore steered clear of engaging directly, leaving them to collective Palestinian decision-making. But as we well know, achieving such internal consensus among Palestinian factions is easier said than done.

The full interview first appeared in Persian on IRNA.



▲ A Palestinian man released from Israeli prisons is greeted by a relative upon arrival by bus in front of Nasser Hospital in Khan Yunis, southern Gaza Strip, on October 13, 2025, after the first phase of cease-fire between Israel and Hamas was implemented.
● ABDELRAHMAN RASHAD/AFP

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The Palestinian people have demonstrated a resistance that is truly exceptional in the modern history of humankind — standing up to mass killings with extraordinary endurance. Yet every society has its limits. The Palestinian nation needed a breather, a moment to catch its breath. Conditions had become unbearable, especially in recent months as famine was added to Israel's relentless bombardments and atrocities.

Iran coach Saei urges 'realism' over poor run at world taekwondo meet

Sports Desk

When the dust settled at the 2025 World Taekwondo Championships in Wuxi, China, the performance of Iran's women's taekwondo team left many in the country with a sense of missed opportunity. Under head coach Mahrouz Saei, who assumed the job amid controversy, the results mustered neither the medal haul nor the breakthrough many had anticipated after an impressive Olympic campaign last year. While Olympic medalists Nahid Kiani (-57kg), and Mobina Nematzadeh (-53kg), as well as Saeideh Nasiri (-46kg), and Melika Mirhosseini (-73kg) failed to go beyond last 16 in their respective classes, Kowsar Asaseh (-62kg) and former world silver medalist Mahla Momenzadeh (-49kg) had their campaigns ended after two bouts, with Nastaran Valizadeh suffering a first-round exit in the -67kg division. Speaking to Varzesh3 in her first interview after the world event, Saei did not shy away from that reality. She acknowledged the gap between expectation and outcome, but also offered a pointed defense of the circumstances leading into the championships.

"The World Championships are different from all other events – in terms of organization and the competitive atmosphere," she said. Though she affirmed that "our team was technically, physically and psychologically at the highest possible level," the key issue, she explained, was that "the team entered the showpiece with no preparatory international tournaments," a sharp contrast with prior eras. That contrast is especially instructive given the wider backdrop of Saei's appointment. When she was named as the coach earlier in the year, many critics in Iran believed the decision was motivated by nepotism on the part of Saei's older brother and the chairman of the federation, Hadi Saei, rather than her own coaching credentials. However, the president of the federation, who had a long-standing feud with former coach Minoo Maddah after the Olympics, insisted that her sister "has the best CV for the job in the country." Mahrouz addressed that comparison head-on. "I have been in charge of the national team for about six months," she said, adding that post-Olympics the team had a very short training cycle. By contrast, she noted, her predecessor had "about three years



Iran's Nastaran Valizadeh (L) is seen in action during her first-round loss to Mexican Leslie Soltero in the women's -67kg class at the World Taekwondo Championships in Wuxi, China, on October 28, 2025.

● WORLD TAEKWONDO

with the team, and before every competition the national squad had at least three tournaments and three training camps." "We had virtually zero warmup tourneys," she revealed, highlighting canceled trips and a missed Universiade in Germany due to the "12-day war" as critical setbacks. For all the criticism, Saei -

mains confident about what lays ahead for the Iranian women's taekwondo. She noted that there are more than two years before the next Olympics, and that gives time, but only if the proper foundations are built. "We have three national teams formed: Team A for the World Championships, Team B for Islamic Solidarity

Games, and Team C which combines Teams A and B for the World U-21 Championships." She described this as a sign of organizational renewal, saying, "We certainly have a program for the next Olympics. We will have ups and downs, but our benchmark is the outcome of the training camps and future tournaments. God willing, we

will discover and introduce new athletes. And one thing is certain: no athlete will have any security margin regarding their place on the national team." Her resolve to continue in the role was clear, though not unconditional. "As long as the federation and the technical committee want me, and I feel I can help the taekwondo community, I will certainly be at the service of the national team and this sport." In closing she returned to one of the starkest realities uncovered by the competition: "In the 2022 Worlds in Mexico our girls did not get past the first round and were defeated by a wide margin. The same happened in Baku last year, until Nahid Kiani made a bright showing and won the gold on the final day. In the past 10 years we had only one world medal and one standout athlete in the national team, so let's just be more realistic about the circumstances."

WSPS World Cup:

Ahmadi, Mirshafiei take silver in mixed air pistol

Sports Desk

Iran's Ahmadi and Mohammadreza Mirshafiei settled for silver in the P6 – mixed team 10m air pistol SH1 event at the World Shooting Para Sport World Cup in Al Ain, United Arab Emirates. The Iranian duo topped the qualification to book a place in Sunday's final before suffering a 17-9 loss to India's Shrishti Aroa and Rudransh Khandelwal. Nasrin Shahi – who won gold in the women's 10m air pistol on Thursday – and Mostafa Khadem were the other Iranian pair in the category but missed out on the podium following a 17-13 setback against Kazakhstan's Sevdaliyeva and Nikita Yermakov in the bronze-medal match. Sunday's mixed silver marked



● IRNA

the second medal for both Ahmadi and Mirshafiei in Al Ain. Ahmadi had picked up a bronze in the women's 10m air pistol discipline on Thursday while

Mirshafiei teamed up with Shahi and Khadem to grab the gold in the mixed 50m pistol SH1 contest – thanks to a combined 424-point tally in the final.

Iranian karatekas impress with 10 medals at Moscow event

Sports Desk

Iran collected 10 medals, including double golds, to finish runner-up to Russia at the International Karate Universe Moscow 2025 Championship. Fatemeh Zahra-Saeidi defeated her fellow Iranian Fatemeh Sa'adati 4-0 in the final to capture the ultimate prize in the women's kumite -55kg category. The other all-Iranian women showdown saw Mobina Heidari come out on top (9-2) against Hana Hosseinpour to grab the -68kg gold. Mahdi Ashouri (men's +84kg) and Ma'soumeh Mohsenian (women's -50kg) also settled for silver in their respective events after final setbacks against the host's karatekas. Melika Ezzati, meanwhile, took a silver medal in the individual



Iran's Mobina Heidari (top) won the women's kumite -68kg gold at the International Karate Universe Moscow 2025 Championship.

● MNA

female kata, suffering a 40.6-39.6 loss to former European champion Paola García of Spain in the final. Mahdi Khodabakhshi (men's -84kg), Hannaneh Salehi (women's

+68kg), and Mehrnegar Ahmadi (women's -61kg) added consolation bronzes to Iran's medal haul at the prestigious tournament, which featured 361 participants from 44 countries.

WSPS World Cup:

Pakdaman ruled out of Saber World Cup with knee injury

Sports Desk

Iranian fencer Ali Pakdaman has been ruled out of the upcoming Saber World Cup – starting Thursday in Algiers, Algeria – with an injury setback. An Asian champion in 2023, the Iranian captain suffered an untimely knee problem during Saturday's final training session before heading to Algeria, and will face a race against time to recover for the fencing event, which begins on Nov. 17, at the Islamic Solidarity Games in Riyadh. Nima Aqaei, Mohammad Fotouhi,

Taha Kargarpour, and Nima Zahedi will represent the Iranian team in Algeria. The opening event of the international saber season will feature more than 200 contestants from the host nation, Canada, Chile, Egypt, Spain, France, Great Britain, Germany, Hong Kong, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, South Korea, Saudi Arabia, Poland, Romania, Senegal, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, the United States, and Venezuela, as well as Russian fencers, who will compete as neutral athletes.



● IRNA

Iran to play Poland, New Zealand in pre-Futsal World Cup friendlies

Sports Desk

Iran will play Poland and New Zealand in a friendly double header ahead of the upcoming FIFA Futsal Women's World Cup – starting November 21 in the Philippines – national team head coach Shahrzad Mozaffar confirmed. "We will leave for the Philippines on Nov. 13 to play Poland three days later, followed by a match against New Zealand on Nov. 17. We're thrilled to have the opportunity to play these two friendlies, as both opponents will be part of the World Cup," Mozaffar said af-

ter a training session on Monday. Iran has been drawn alongside futsal heavyweights Brazil and Italy, as well as Panama, in Group D of the inaugural World Cup. Iranian girls will get their campaign underway against eight-time Copa America champion Brazil – the top team in the latest FIFA World Ranking – on November 23, before facing Panama three days later. The two-time Asian champion will hope to be in contention for a top-two finish in the group and a place in the round of 16, when it squares off against world No. 7 Italy on November 29.

Iranica Desk

In the heart of Iran’s central desert lies a city woven from earth, wind, authenticity, tradition, and identity — Kashan. A city where the sun rises through its windcatchers and light filters through the play of shadow and brightness in its narrow vaulted alleys, the sabats.

Here, architecture is the language of beauty — a philosophy of survival and of life itself. Kashan’s recognition by UNESCO as a “Creative City of Architecture” stands as a seal of approval for its climatic wisdom, native ingenuity, and the enduring spirit of thought that has flowed through the soul of this city for centuries, according to mehrnews.com.

The historic houses of Kashan — from the Boroujerdi, Tabatabaei, and Abbasi residences to the Ameri Mansion — are like living books, each wall narrating a chapter of Iranian culture. If one looks closely, it becomes clear that these buildings were not made merely to stand — they were made to breathe: with thick earthen walls, plastered surfaces, tall windcatchers, and tranquil blue pools, all crafted in perfect harmony with the desert’s nature. Believe it — without exaggeration, every detail of Kashan is purposeful: from the sabats (roofing structures with street beneath it) that cast shade to the windcatchers that guide the air, and the sunlight that becomes a gentle guest, entering softly through the skylights.

This architecture is born from a philosophy of living in harmony with the environment and nature — a place where human and nature stand face to face and converse.

It is as if a house in Kashan is not merely a shelter, but a small universe — a space for thinking, learning, and preserving culture. The materials used in its architecture are simple, yet the depth of meaning within them is profound. Earth, brick, wood, and light have been transformed into a language of balance.

In the silence of its walls, Kashan proclaims what many modern cities have forgotten — the harmony between human beings and their habitat. Today, Kashan stands at a point where past and future intertwine. Its historic fabric, once forgotten,

Kashan teaches world how to live with desert



Tabatabaei House
● hamsafarshim.ir



Boroujerdi House
● pinorest.com

beats again with life — and the houses that once lay closed and silent now welcome new vitality.

Eco-lodges, art workshops, galleries, and cultural spaces have flourished in the same ancient

alleys whose scent of rosewater and fresh earth once revived the spirit of the city centuries ago.

This revival is not an imitation of the past — it is its continuation. In Kashan, restoration

means revival — it means breathing life back into a building, not merely rebuilding it. Here, young artists and architects, drawing on local wisdom and modern technology, have sought to translate an ancient language into a contemporary expression. They have not framed tradition as a relic of pride; they have carried it forward.

From houses to squares, from domed roofs to covered alleys, Kashan’s architecture today is experiencing a new chapter. The city has proven that heritage, when intertwined with life, can become a driving force for development. Its urban regeneration movement has revived the economy through the power of culture. Many historic houses now function as active cultural and economic workshops.

In the heart of the historic bazaar, the ring of the copper-smith’s hammer, the rhythm of the potter’s wheel, and the intricate designs of fabric makers all echo together — symbols of a creative economy born from the fusion of art, traditional

craftsmanship, and modern vision.

It feels as though a new chapter of Kashan’s ancient story is unfolding before us — where houses and caravanserais (timchehs), while preserving their authenticity, have found new purpose.

Without a doubt, this living connection between culture, economy, and identity is the very essence of what UNESCO means by a Creative City.

In today’s world — where cities swiftly conceal their identities beneath layers of glass, steel, and concrete — Kashan stands as a reminder of what authentic architecture can be: a language of deep cultural meaning.

Kashan’s presence in the UNESCO Creative Cities Network is both a symbol of national pride and a contribution to the global dialogue on sustainability, heritage, and creativity.

International architects regard Kashan as an example of “lived sustainability” — a city that, centuries before modern concepts of environmental design or climate-responsive architec-

ture emerged, had already discovered ways to live in balance with nature.

Its windcatchers, courtyards, and intelligent use of light and shadow have now become models of sustainable design. And here, with rightful pride, we can say: Authenticity can be the foundation of innovation, and tradition can be the source of vitality. The path toward global recognition is never easy — behind every international title lies a weight of responsibility:

How can a city preserve its identity while meeting the demands of modern life?

In Kashan, this is the central challenge — development versus authenticity. New constructions, mass tourism, and population growth at times threaten the boundaries of heritage.

Yet, the conscious approach of local authorities, cultural custodians, and the community itself has shown that preservation cannot be achieved merely through regulations — it comes to life through public participation and belief.

In a world where architecture often becomes a display of power, Kashan’s authentic and humble identity reminds us that the essence of creativity lies in understanding.

Through its architecture, Kashan expresses a vision that is both poetic and rational, revealing the timeless truth that humans are part of nature, not its owners.

From this perspective, creativity becomes a renewed connection to one’s roots, and innovation becomes the continuation of tradition — for tradition born from life itself never grows old.

Meybod crafts identity with Zilu tradition

Iranica Desk

Zilu is a remarkably beautiful yet simple and humble handwoven craft — a reflection of the modest elegance of the people who inhabit the desert borders of Iran. It is precisely this combination of beauty and simplicity that has made Zilu an enduring and original art form rooted deeply in the traditions of desert life.

Among the various regions known for this handicraft, Zilu Bafi of Meybod, located in Yazd Province, holds a special place. Quietly but proudly, the name of Meybod has become synonymous with this unique weaving tradition, recognized across Iran. At first glance, Zilu resembles a kilim in its structure and flat weave, often showcasing symmetrical square patterns and a limited yet harmonious palette of colors. Traditionally, these handwoven pieces serve as floor coverings in homes and, at times, in mosques, where their simplicity complements the

calm and spiritual atmosphere, visitiran.ir wrote.

The main material used in Zilu weaving is cotton yarn, and preparing this yarn marks the first of many stages in the making of a Zilu. This reliance on cotton explains why the craft is most common in agricultural regions, where the yarn can be produced locally.

Yazd Province, with its hot and arid climate, has long been a natural birthplace for this art form. Beyond their aesthetic charm, Zilu weaves are practical: they provide cool, lightweight floor coverings ideally suited to the region’s desert environment. Historical records indicate that the oldest surviving piece of Zilu belongs to the Jaame Mosque of Meybod, offering a living link to Iran’s centuries-old artistic heritage.

The loom used for Zilu weaving closely resembles that of carpet-making, and many of its motifs and patterns share common ground with carpets and kilims. However, Zilu stands apart for

incorporating certain designs inspired by Iranian architecture, blending geometry with a sense of spiritual symmetry.

Zilu patterns generally fall into two main categories: geometric and herbal. Among the geometric designs, diamonds, squares, and crosses dominate, while the floral motifs take on a more linear and stylized form due to the structure of the weave. The two principal types of Zilu patterns are known as “Goldani” and “Mehrabi.” A third, unique category of motifs is specific to Zilu alone and cannot be found in any other Iranian textile art.

Traditionally, Zilu weaves feature two-color combinations, with white as a common base. The most popular pairings are white and blue, green and beige, and blue and beige — each combination evoking a sense of calm and harmony. While their main use remains as floor coverings, particularly cherished in mosques for their tranquility and simplicity,



● yjc.ir

ty, modern artisans have expanded Zilu’s application. In recent years, we have seen this ancient craft adapted into bags, cushions, and other decorative items,

breathing new life and prosperity into this treasured art form of Iran’s desert heartland.

Today, Meybod, in Yazd Province, proudly carries the title of

World City for Zilu, a recognition that honors not only the artistry of its weavers but also the enduring soul of Iran’s traditional craftsmanship.



Minister flags cultural diversity as key to nat'l progress

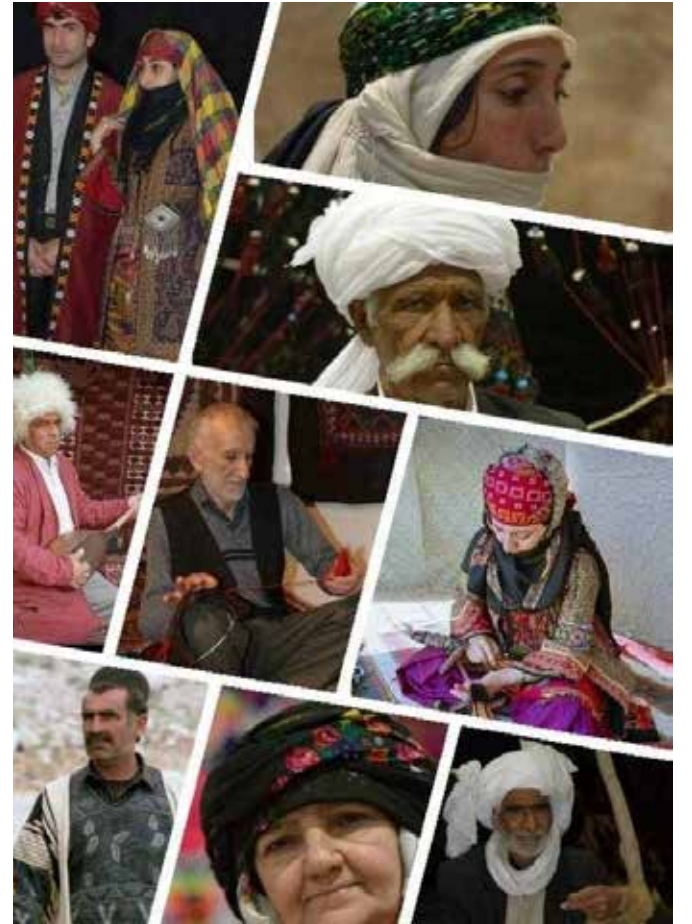
Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's diverse ethnic and cultural communities are seen as key drivers for the country's economic and social development, Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Minister Reza Salehi-Amiri said on Monday at the 24th Strategic Council meeting of his ministry. Speaking at the ministry's headquarters, Salehi-Amiri reviewed past management experiences in heritage, tourism and handicrafts and stressed the need for "targeted and sustained" engagement between

the ministry and provincial administrations, IRNA reported. Iran's ministry is aiming to institutionalize a more coherent system of planning and oversight for provincial projects, seeking to tie cultural preservation and tourism development directly to measurable economic outcomes. Officials must engage directly with local communities, schedule visits and projects with precision, and ensure managerial accountability to realize sustainable development. Salehi-Amiri said sitting in offices without active provincial

interaction yields limited results. "Planning, targeted trips, and responsive management are conditions for national development success," he said. He highlighted the role of governors and local managers in reinforcing the central-provincial link, ensuring projects deliver tangible and lasting benefits. The minister further underscored the importance of ethnic and cultural identity in Iran. "Iran is a diverse society, and all ethnicities and cultures are officially recognized," Salehi-Amiri said.

He stressed that nothing should hinder the preservation and promotion of local languages, literature, traditions, and customs. Young Iranians remain deeply connected to their national culture and the country's historical civilization. Salehi-Amiri noted, "Iran is home to all ethnic groups. Respecting local language, culture and identity is part of national development and an invaluable cultural wealth. This diversity is a major asset for the country's cultural, social and economic advancement."



Shiraz selected as preferred venue for Fajr Int'l Film Festival

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's Fajr International Film Festival (FIF) is set to return this year, with Shiraz being chosen as the preferred city to host the international section. Authorities announced the plan on November 3, framing Shiraz as a suitable and culturally rich option, though no permanent decision has been made to hold future editions there. The international section of FIFF has been suspended for several years, undermining its credibility and raising concerns among filmmakers and cultural observers. By selecting Shiraz, officials aim to revive the festival while signaling the potential for a more consistent and professional framework, provided that future editions maintain continuity and clear planning, ILNA reported. Film critic and cultural analyst Jalil Akbari Sehat said that Shiraz "is a city of high cultural and

tourist potential" and could host the festival permanently if the right conditions are met. He cautioned that "the hiatus in holding festivals injures their reputation" and stressed that stability is essential to safeguard the festival's credibility and long-term impact on Iranian cinema. Producer Mehdi Azimi Mirabadi described the choice of Shiraz as "a wise and intelligent decision", noting the city's international cultural recognition. He added that the festival must not become "a private or ineffective gathering for Iran's cinema" and called for a structured manifesto to guide programming, awards, and organization, ensuring the festival remains a meaningful platform rather than a ceremonial event. Azimi Mirabadi also reflected on past interruptions, noting that the international section "lost its independent identity" in recent years and functioned mainly as an adjunct to the na-

tional festival. He warned that if each edition "starts from scratch", the festival will yield little benefit for films, filmmakers, or the country's cultural reputation. Despite economic constraints, Akbari Sehat emphasized that festivals remain vital for sustaining the creative ecosystem. "Cinema cannot be dynamic if festivals are absent," he said. Authorities see FIFF as important not only for screening films but also for maintaining cultural momentum and motivating filmmakers amid limited production resources. The 2025 edition in Shiraz will be overseen by Rouhollah Hosseini, whose international experience is expected to strengthen management and global outreach. Officials noted that Shiraz's poetic heritage and tourist landmarks, including Persepolis, provide a symbolic backdrop aligning the festival with Iran's cultural identity.

'Unit 13' from Iran takes top prize at Spanish festival



Arts & Culture Desk

The Iranian short film 'Unit 13', written and directed by Deniz Ghorbani, won the Best Short Film Award at the annual Samhain Baucogna International Film Festival in Spain. According to the film's media advisor, the accolade was presented during its third worldwide screening. In the film, a married couple enters into seemingly clandestine relationships with lonely young women in order to carry out a fraud. The narrative takes an unexpected turn when one of the victims becomes pregnant, upending their scheme and altering the course of events. The cast includes Sepideh Saeidinia, Mahsan Yahyaipour and Amirhossein Fahadan, with Fahadan also acting as the film's international distributor.

US seeks talks ...

Third, the US wants to wrap up Middle East tensions quickly and shift its focus back to East Asia, where China remains its strategic concern. Fourth, with Russia refusing to engage in peace talks over Ukraine, Washington may feel compelled to continue backing Kyiv alongside Europe. Finally, domestic pressure is mounting and US public opinion has little appetite left for Trump's confrontational foreign policy.

Altogether, these factors might have led Trump to conclude that it's time to take a more constructive line on Iran. Therefore, it's quite possible that the new message carries a different tone from the one sent two months before the war. On the Iranian side, things have also evolved: first, Iran endured the 12-day war without collapsing. Second, contrary to some expectations, the public didn't rise up against the Establishment, but instead, they largely closed ranks around it. Third, Iran's missile strikes against Israel were forceful, fourth, the country quickly rebuilt parts of its military capability, finally, resistance groups previously thought to be crippled are reorganized.

All of this suggests that the pressure campaign failed to produce the outcome Washington had hoped for. Hence, the US might now believe it's better to approach Iran from another angle, avoiding a scenario in which Tehran moves deeper into the orbit of China or Russia.

Given Iran's insistence on its previous positions, how do you see the prospects for a new round of talks between Tehran and Washington? How likely is success this time?

Iran has shown flexibility in the past and could display it again within the same parameters. True, it was the US and Israel that upended the table by attacking Iranian targets, but Tehran may still show signs of openness in certain areas.

That's because both sides need an honorable way back to the table. If Washington tries to dictate terms, Tehran will reject them outright; and if Iran's demands go beyond reasonable expectations, the US will walk away.

In essence, compromise only comes when both players hit a dead end and scale back their demands. Negotiations can only move forward if there's genuine political will and good faith. Otherwise, it's just "talks for the sake of talks."

If talks do resume, will Oman continue to act as a mediator?

Most likely, yes. Both Iran and the United States prefer that, if direct negotiations don't take place, Oman remains the venue and facilitator.

Should Tehran and Washington resume dialogue, how do you think Israel would respond? Is there a chance Tel Aviv could resort to military or covert action to derail the process?

Israel's moves are entirely in line with US policy. Over the past couple of years, no Israeli operation has been carried out without American coordination. Whether it's attacks on Iran, airstrikes in Gaza, or actions in Qatar, all are greenlit by Washington and CENTCOM in the Persian Gulf. So, if the US gives Israel a green light, it will act; if it shows a red one, Israel won't lift a finger.

Iran, Algeria voice support for Palestinian self-determination at Tehran ceremony



Social Desk

Iran and Algeria reaffirmed their support for the Palestinians' right to freedom and self-determination during a ceremony in Tehran on Sunday marking the 71st anniversary of the Algerian Revolution and Algeria's National Day. Speaking at the event, Algerian ambassador to Iran

Ali Arrouj said the Algerian Revolution was a revolution "sustained by the patience of a people steadfastly attached to freedom and dignity." Arrouj said the new Algeria would continue its quest to "entrench the values of social justice" by investing in renewable energies, human capital and technological innovation to ensure prosperity for future generations. He added that Algeria remained steadfast in the principles of its foreign policy including "active non-alignment, the peaceful settlement of disputes, non-interference in the internal affairs of other states, and unwavering sup-

port for the right of peoples to self-determination including the wounded Palestine." The ambassador noted that Algeria and Iran "enjoyed comprehensive relations," which had witnessed "encouraging momentum" in recent years. "My country remains committed to deepening this partnership and exploring new horizons for cooperation in line with our shared interests and the aspirations of our two peoples." Iran's Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi, who also addressed the ceremony, describing Algeria's National Day as "a vivid reminder of the historic

struggle and the courageous resistance" of a nation for independence. He hailed Algeria for setting an "inspiring example of dignity and freedom" for the Islamic world and all independent nations. The minister noted that relations between Iran and Algeria were "deeply rooted in shared values such as independence, justice, and mutual respect." He further pointed to the all-out support given by the two nations to people of Palestine. "Iran and Algeria have always stood with the Palestinian people and supported their legitimate right to freedom and self-determi-

nation — a principled position that remains firm." Aliabadi said Iran, stood ready to enhance cooperation with Algeria in areas such as industry, energy, vocational training, agriculture, health, banking, and the oil and gas sectors. He noted that both countries possessed rich resources and valuable experiences in the energy and oil and gas industries, and that collaboration in exploration, production, technology transfer, energy efficiency, and the development of renewable energies could serve the interests of both nations and further strengthen South-South cooperation.