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Iranians rally in the capital Tehran to mark the 1979 US Embassy takeover on November 4, 2025. jamaran.ir

Israeli grip on Washington makes rapprochement with US illogical for Tehran



By Emad Abshenas
International affairs analyst

OPINION
EXCLUSIVE

Iran and the United States have had no diplomatic relations since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, and are regarded as arch-enemies on the global stage. Yet, while pursuing a policy of maximum pressure on Tehran, US President Donald Trump has extended an olive branch, calling for peace. Iran's Leader, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, however, has dismissed any such reconciliation as impossible so long as Washington continues to throw its weight behind Israel, predicting

that normalization between the two sides is unlikely either now or in the foreseeable future. The question, then, is how long this fundamental standoff will drag on.

The truth is that as long as American policymakers remain under the thumb of the Zionist regime and act without genuine autonomy, engaging with Washington makes little sense. The Islamic Republic is in direct confrontation with that regime, and any such contact would run counter to Iran's ideological and existential principles. In effect, it is the Zionist regime and its lobbying networks that call the shots in the United States, not the Americans themselves. In other words, it often seems as if Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

is the one running the White House, with Trump merely taking orders from him. However, if one day the American people truly govern themselves, normal relations could become conceivable.

Hostility between Iran and the US is not limited to Israel's influence. Another root cause, as the Leader pointed out, lies in Washington's frustration over losing access to Iran's resources after the Islamic revolution. The same dynamic applies to any country that refuses to hand over its God-given wealth to colonial powers, nations that are quickly rebranded from "good" to "evil" and subjected to hostile policies. The cases of Iran and Venezuela clearly bear this out.

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Iranians commemorate anniversary of 1979 US embassy takeover



National Desk

Iranians on Tuesday celebrated the anniversary of the 1979 takeover of the US Embassy in Tehran — the first such commemoration since the US bombed

Iran's nuclear facilities during a 12-day aggression with Israel in June. People of all walks participated in the rallies which were held in more than 900 cities across the country. Participants carried Iranian flags and

posters of those killed in US and Israeli attacks while chanting slogans including "Death to America" and "Death to Israel." Israel's airstrikes during the war in June killed nearly 1,100 Iranians, in-



Iranians carry a large flag as they rally in the capital Tehran to mark the 1979 US Embassy takeover on November 4, 2025.

● MIZAN

cluding civilians, military commanders, nuclear scientists. The US bombed Iran's nuclear facilities during the conflict. Iran's reprisal missile barrage killed 28 in Israel.

In Tehran, the march began at Palestine Square and proceeded toward the former US Embassy, featuring speeches, religious chants, and the reading of resolutions condemning the United States and Israel.

Cultural exhibitions highlighting decades of Western and Israeli "crimes" were also on display. Symbolic displays of Iranian missiles and centrifuges were presented along the route, and representations of US and Israeli flags were burned.

A symbolic trial of former US President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was also held.

No change in US tactics

Addressing the ceremony in Tehran, Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf said that the recent 12-day war exposes the US enduring hostility, underscoring that while its tactics have evolved, its fundamental goal of op-

posing a strong and independent Iran remains unchanged.

Qalibaf reflected on the historical significance of 13 Aban (November 4) in Iran's contemporary history, linking it to the nation's enduring resistance to foreign domination.

He underscored that the essence of the hegemonic system remains rooted in "blackmail and domination," slamming the US for continuing its hostile mentality under a new guise.

"The recent 12-day war also showed that their face has changed, but their barbarity and hostility towards independent nations, especially Iran, remain constant," he said, referring to the recent US-Israeli aggression.

Qalibaf added that the enemies "want to hide their criminal face with expressions like 'preemptive attack,' but the truth is that they are opposed to an independent and unified Iran."

"The basis of 13 Aban is the Iranian nation's resistance to domination and arrogance," he stated, emphasizing that this principle remains the cornerstone of Iran's foreign policy, which must be based on national interests.

13 Aban is observed as both Student Day and the National Day of Anti-Arrogance, marking three key historical events: the 1964 exile of Imam Khomeini to Turkey, the 1978 killing of protesting students, and the 1979 US Embassy takeover.

West's ultimatums, blackmail against Iran ineffective: *Russian envoy*

International Desk

Russia's Permanent Representative to the International Organizations in Vienna Mikhail Ulyanov said that approach of the Western parties to the 2015 Iran nuclear deal toward the agreement and their use of ultimatums and blackmail against Iran would not produce any effect. In an interview with Ria Novosti, Ulyanov said that resolving the differences over the Iranian nuclear issue could only be achieved through "mutually respectful dialogue," and based on consideration of both Tehran's obligations and rights under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). "We are closely monitoring the evolving approaches of the Western parties to the nuclear

deal. It appears that... they lack a clear understanding of how to interact with Iran on nonproliferation issues. By all indications, they are still inclined to rely on blackmail and ultimatums. Such methods don't work with Iran," he said. In 2015, Iran and world powers — the United States, Russia, China, France, Britain and Germany — reached an agreement that saw the easing of international sanctions on Tehran in exchange for curbs on its nuclear program. But the US unilaterally withdrew from the accord in 2018 and reimposed biting economic sanctions. Tehran adhered to the deal even a year after Washington's withdrawal, and then began rolling back on its commitments. The Euro-



Mikhail Ulyanov
● TASS

pean parties (E3) to the deal also failed to fulfill their commitment to the agreement. Several rounds of talks between Tehran and the US to revive the agreement failed, and in August, the European trio triggered the so-called "snapback" process on the pretext of Iran's non-compliance with its obligations, leading to the reimposition of the UN sanctions. Despite the failure of talks, Iran has repeatedly announced its readi-

ness for reaching a new agreement based on mutual interests. However, the Western parties to the nuclear deal have made excessive demands, such as zero uranium enrichment in Iran and limits on its range of its missiles, for reaching a new agreement. Iran has rejected the demands and underlined that it will not give up the uranium enrichment and will not negotiate on its defense capabilities.

Gov't spokeswoman: IAEA chief admits peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear work

National Desk

Government spokeswoman Fatemeh Mohajerani on Tuesday reaffirmed the peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear activities, saying that the UN atomic agency recently admitted that Iran had never had a nuclear program. "Iran will never move toward making a nuclear bomb because of its culture and history, Iranians' beliefs and a religious decree forbidding the production and use of such weapons as well as the mannerism of the Iranian people, which is founded on humanity," Mohajerani told reporters at a weekly press conference, according to ISNA. Iran's nuclear program has been a source of contention with Western countries for more than two decades. While Iran insists that its nuclear activities are entirely peaceful and aimed at civilian purposes such as energy production and medical research, Western powers—

particularly the United States, the United Kingdom, France, and Germany—have long expressed concern that Tehran could be seeking the capability to develop nuclear weapons. Back on October 30, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Rafael Grossi, said that Iran was not developing nuclear weapons. Speaking at the UN headquarters in New York, Grossi said the Iranians "are not, and they were not," attempting to develop nukes. "I want to be very clear on this," he added. "We are often misquoted about this and people say that we have said things we never said." Grossi, who has led the UN's nuclear watchdog since 2019, said cooperation between Iran and the IAEA had fluctuated in recent months as a result of political developments, but Tehran had nonetheless reaffirmed its commitment to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

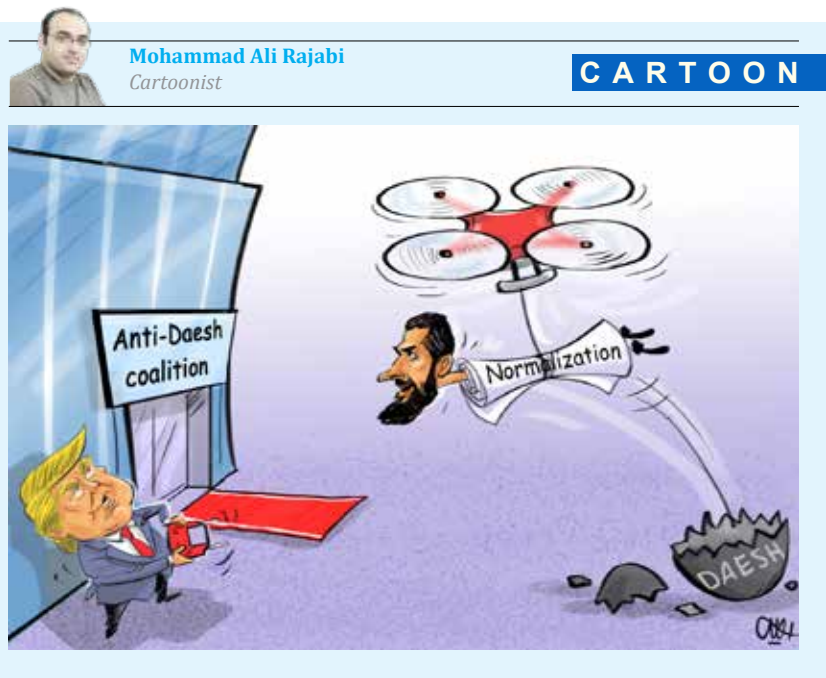
"I have told our Iranian counterparts repeatedly that reducing cooperation is not the right response," he said. "But I think it is a wise step that they have made clear they will not leave the NPT." In July, Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian signed a law suspending cooperation with the IAEA following Israeli and US attacks on Iranian nuclear facilities in June. Tehran said the IAEA effectively paved the way for the Israel-US strikes with a report on May 31 that led the IAEA's 35-nation Board of Governors to declare Iran in breach of its non-proliferation obligations. Iran also denounced the IAEA's failure to condemn Israeli and US strikes on its nuclear facilities as a reason for its decision. Mohajerani said on Tuesday that cooperation with the UN agency would take place within the framework of regulations and under the supervision of the country's Supreme National Security Council.

Israeli grip on ...

For nearly three decades, the United States has sought to impose its will on Iran and other nations by exploiting the unipolar world order that followed the Cold War. But that era is now over. The international landscape has shifted toward multipolarity, and in this new setting, if Washington wishes to survive without further trouble — especially given its mounting domestic challenges — it must learn to respect other nations and keep its hands off their natural resources.

Today, Iran has adopted every possible measure to safeguard its national interests, enduring pressure on multiple fronts but refusing to let anyone encroach upon its soil or resources. The United States should realize that any prospective deal with Iran cannot be shoved down its throat. Washington must accept Tehran as it is. Still, in politics, no stance is ever final, and no enmity between nations is eternal. If a future agreement proves mutually beneficial, Iran will certainly accept it, as it did before, but it was the Americans who later backed out

of that deal. Looking ahead, if circumstances change and US policymakers tone down their hostility, dialogue or cooperation could once again be on the table. For now, however, no such shift appears visible in Washington's behavior. Nevertheless, even amid hostilities, the two sides can find some common ground in certain spheres, as they previously did in the fight against terrorism. The United States would not have been able to eliminate the threat of ISIS in the region without Iran's cooperation and that of its allies.



President praises Iran’s tech achievements, urges boost in exports

Economy Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian commended Iran's achievements in advanced and cutting-edge technologies, calling for the enhancement of quality and export of innovative products by knowledge-based companies. Pezeshkian made the statement in a visit to the 16th International Nanotechnology Exhibition and the First Up-to-Date Technologies Exhibition at the Tehran International Permanent Fairground on Tuesday. The president underscored the importance of the profitability of innovative products and their exports, adding that such technologies should be utilized to serve Iranian citizens in underprivileged areas across the country. "We must take action to improve the quality and export of these technological products, and in addition, in the area of developing medical equity, these products should be used to provide services to citizens in deprived areas of

the country," Pezeshkian said. "Ministries and companies must also provide the necessary support to producers of knowledge-based products for the development of their businesses, in line with their social responsibilities." The president also praised the achievements of researchers and technologists, offering suggestions for supporting innovative products. The exhibition — from November 11 to 14 — features over 150 technology companies in Tehran and puts on display approximately 80 knowledge-based products in the fields of health, oil, artificial intelligence, and agriculture. Iran has 400 active nanotechnology companies engaging in research, production, and commercialization of nanotechnology products, which enhance the country's global standing in science and technology. The companies have made significant progress such field as medicine, advanced materials, energy, and the environment.

‘Swift’ response awaits mistakes by enemies

Addressing a meeting with the governor general and parliamentarians of the southeastern province of Kerman on Monday, Pezeshkian said Iran's defense power has significantly increased compared to the period before the 12-day war in June, warning that any mistake by enemies will be met with a huge payback. "The Islamic Republic of Iran does not, in any way, seek war or conflict, but our defensive capabilities today are not comparable to those before the imposed 12-day war, and if the enemy makes a mistake, it will receive a swift, crushing and painful response," he said. Pezeshkian also warned that the enemy seeks to weaken and divide Iran and other Islamic nations, urging Muslim countries to stand united against common



adversaries. The president added that despite domestic challenges and imbalances exacerbated by growing external pressures and sanctions, Iran can turn these obstacles into opportunities through regional

cooperation. "It is true that alongside internal difficulties and imbalances, we are also facing increasing pressure and sanctions, but if we make proper use of the numerous neighboring countries'

potential, we can certainly neutralize the sanctions and even turn them into serious opportunities for enhancing regional cooperation and strengthening unity among the countries of the region," he stated.

Gas extraction from South Pars at record high



Economy Desk

Iran's natural gas extraction from the South Pars field has surged to an all-time high of 718 million cubic meters (mcm) per day, said Touraj Dehqani, CEO of the state-run Pars Oil and Gas Co. (POGC). Dehqani attributed the record to three new wells brought on-

line in the border sections of the shared field, which had added 5 mcm to daily extraction, IRNA reported. South Pars is the world's largest gas field, shared between Iran and Qatar in the Persian Gulf. The new record surpasses the 716 mcm reached on February 13 by about 2 mcm. Dehqani said that six more

wells were expected to come on stream by March, which would further boost gas extraction from the mammoth field by another 5 mcm per day. The POGC, Iran's largest natural gas producer, operates 350 wells and 39 offshore platforms in South Pars. Gas from these platforms is piped to the processing facilities in the southern

port city of Assaluyeh, where it is refined in 13 gas refineries. Iran is the world's third-largest natural gas producer after the United States and Russia, while, according to Dehqani, it also is the fourth-largest consumer of natural gas globally. Despite holding the second-largest gas reserves in the world after Russia, the nation still faces gas shortages, which intensify in winter due to surging demand and limited supply capacity. Last winter, more than 860 mcm of processed gas were pumped into the national trunkline on some days, yet there remained a daily shortfall of around 300 mcm. Saeed Tavakkoli, Iran's deputy oil minister for the gas sector, has forecast that the gas deficit could soar to 400 mcm per day this coming winter. For years, the government has been forced to cut gas supplies to major industries, including steel and petrochemical plants, during the cold season to ensure a steady flow to households.

Iran imports equipment to build 7,000 MW of solar power capacity



Economy Desk

Iran has imported equipment enough to develop solar farms with a combined daily capacity of about 7,000 megawatts (MW) of green electricity, an official in charge renewable energy planning at the Plan and Budget Organization (PBO) said on Tuesday.

Hadi Sa'adatmandi said the hardware, mostly panels, was purchased from China at affordable prices to advance the government's program to construct 30,000 MW of renewable power. The initiative aims to address the country's power shortages and fulfill President Masoud Pezeshkian's commitment to boost clean energy. Pezeshkian's government has set a goal of installing 30,000 MW of renewables within the next three years to help ease daily power shortfall that reached around 12,000 MW last summer. According to the latest data from Iran's Renewable Energy and Electricity Efficiency

Organization (SATBA), the country's renewable power plants now have a daily generation capacity of over 2,700 MW, accounting for only 2.8% of Iran's total daily electricity generation capacity of about 95,000 MW. Sa'adatmandi said the government's decision for the project was being implemented with three tenders waived under special authorization for the power industry, allowing faster procurement and execution. He noted that several of the PBO's measures in the power sector were being pursued through multi-year programs, highlighting the "rationalization of government subsidies to the power industry" as one of the key steps. "The most significant subsidy paid by the government to the power sector is the fuel subsidy for power plants," he said, adding that this effort "will not only increase production efficiency but also ensure that more efficient plants benefit from fuel savings."

Iran, Kuwait revive joint trade commission after decade-long hiatus

Economy Desk

Iran and Kuwait held their 13th Joint Trade and Technical Commission meeting in Kuwait City on Tuesday after more than a decade-long pause, aiming to expand bilateral economic cooperation. The meeting, co-chaired by Mohammad Ali Dehqan-Dehnavi, head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), and Marwa al-Juaidan, Kuwait's deputy minister of commerce and trade, brought together representatives from both countries' trade, customs, and port authorities, IRNA reported.

Discussions focused on opportunities to expand goods trade and address existing barriers faced by Iranian traders in Kuwait. According to the Iran-Kuwait Joint Chamber of Commerce, the resumption of the joint commission after more than ten years marks "a turning point in the process of revitalizing economic and trade relations between the two countries" and could pave the way for a comprehensive roadmap for future cooperation. The two-day commission sessions covered issues related to residence and visa policies, work permits for foreign nationals, investment facilitation, cooperation

in fisheries and aquaculture, as well as tourism and agriculture in Kuwait, the chamber said. The final version of the joint trade cooperation memorandum is expected to be signed today by the deputy ministers of commerce from both countries after technical teams review the draft. Trade between Iran and Kuwait reached around \$300 million in the past Persian calendar year, which ended on March 20, 2025, according to the Iran-Kuwait Joint Chamber of Commerce. In August, Kuwait's Central Statistical Bureau reported that Iranian exports to Kuwait rose 19% year-on-year in the first quarter



of 2025, reaching \$116 million. Overall bilateral trade grew 16% during the same period, totaling \$130 million, with Iran's trade surplus standing at \$102 million. The data also showed that Iran ranked 18th among Kuwait's exporters and 18th among its import partners during the first quarter of 2025.

From breaking barriers
to joining world's
8,000-meter club

Dreams know no boundaries: Female Iranian mountaineer



By Sadeq
Dehqan
Staff writer

INTERVIEW

Afsaneh Hesamifard, an Iranian mountaineer, made headlines last month when she scaled Mount Cho Oyu — one of the world's tallest peaks located in the Himalayas on the border between Nepal and Tibet (Xizang Autonomous Region of China) — becoming the first

Iranian woman ever to join the elite 8,000-meter club.

Cho Oyu marked the final stop in her project to take on all 14 of the world's mountains above 8,000 meters. Standing atop her 14th summit, she said she felt on top of the world, describing it as an extraordinary moment, "as if I had finally reached a place of stillness and complete success."

Defying family pressures, social barriers, and judgmental attitudes, Hesamifard has broken through the limiting perceptions of Iranian women and reached the height of her abilities and dreams. She emphasizes: "For women in Iran, especially those stepping into adventurous and high-risk sports, there have always been particular obstacles. But I tried never to let these limitations get in the way of my dreams."

Over the course of three and a half years, she took on dangerous summits such as Nanga Parbat, Kangchenjunga, and Annapurna, kicking off her 8,000-meter quest and finally completing it on October 14, 2025. According to her, this achievement does not mark the end of her mountaineering career. She now sees it as her mission to pass on her valuable experience to younger generations, believing that no wall is higher than human will and that even from within the storm, one can still catch sight of the sun.

When Iran Daily asked Afsaneh about the very moment she topped out on her final 8,000-meter peak, her eyes lit up. "Every step on the frozen slopes of Cho Oyu reminded me of the years I spent nurturing the dream of climbing to the world's highest points," she says. "I dedicate this climb to all the women of my country — so they know there are no borders to what they can achieve." Today, Afsaneh has not only etched her name in mountaineering history but also paved the way for courage, hope, and pride among Iranian women.



Afsaneh Hesamifard poses for a photo at the summit of Cho Oyu with a mountaineering outfit painted in the colors of the Iranian flag.

● SOCIAL MEDIA



Record-setting mountaineer Afsaneh Hesamifard (c) is welcomed by friends, family, fans, and officials after returning home from scaling Mount Cho Oyu and becoming the first Iranian woman ever to join the elite 8,000-meter club.

● KIAN NADERI/IRAN'S MOUNTAINEERING FEDERATION

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I am proud to be the first Iranian woman to have completed the challenge of climbing all 14 of the 8,000-meter summits. Many of these peaks — such as K2, Annapurna, and Kangchenjunga — were firsts for Iranian women. So far, very few women worldwide have made it into the 8,000-meter club, and I'm proud to have put Iran's flag on the map. In doing so, I believe I have pushed back the mental boundaries around Iranian women's potential and set the bar higher for what they can achieve.

IRAN DAILY: Please introduce yourself briefly, and tell us what led you from studying medicine to mountaineering.

HESAMIFARD: I am Dr. Afsaneh Hesamifard, a Himalayan mountaineer who has pursued both medicine and climbing in earnest. I began my medical studies at Mashhad University of Medical Sciences in 1996 and graduated in 2004. Since then, I've been practicing medicine.

I started mountaineering during my early university years, at first purely for leisure. Like many who head out to the mountains on weekends for a change of pace, I took it lightly at first. But over time, mountaineering became more serious for me. Initially, it was a way to get away from daily pressures and blow off steam, but I soon realized the mountains were my sanctuary — a refuge where I could connect with the vast power of nature and find peace of mind.

I can now say I've been pursuing mountaineering seriously for nearly 10 years. I am both a climbing instructor and lecturer on mountain medicine and cold-related injuries at Iran's Mountaineering and Sport Climbing Federation. I started my 8,000-meter project around three and a half years ago and completed it on October 14, 2025, when I bagged my final summit.

How do you manage practicing medicine while mountaineering at such a serious level?

Balancing the two has not been easy,

but it has had its upsides. At times during expeditions, emergencies have cropped up requiring medical intervention. In those moments, when professional care was out of reach, my medical training came in handy, allowing me to treat myself and my teammates. It has given me a great feeling. Medicine and mountaineering go hand in hand for me — one looks after the body, the other nourishes the soul.

How does it feel to be the first Iranian woman to have climbed the world's highest peaks?

I am proud to be the first Iranian woman to have completed the challenge of climbing all 14 of the 8,000-meter summits. Many of these peaks — such as K2, Annapurna, and Kangchenjunga — were firsts for Iranian women. So far, very few women worldwide have made it into the 8,000-meter club, and I'm proud to have put Iran's flag on the map. In doing so, I believe I have pushed back the mental boundaries around Iranian women's potential and set the bar higher for what they can achieve.

You must have faced serious challenges along the way.

Absolutely. For women in Iran, especially those stepping into adventurous and high-risk sports, there have always been particular obstacles. Early on, my family's resistance was the main challenge. Social constraints, along with judgmental views about a woman's capacity, also stood in my



Afsaneh Hesamifard, M.D., uses her medical training to treat a fellow mountaineer.

● AFSANEH HESAMIFARD/IRAN DAILY



Afsaneh Hesamifard immortalizes her ascent to Nanga Parbat, also known as the "Killer Mountain," by posing for this photo atop the peak and the clouds.
● IRNA



Afsaneh Hesamifard points to a flag that she planted on top of Mount Everest, the tallest mountain in the world, in May 2022.
● X

way. But I tried never to let these limitations get in the way of my dreams. I deeply believe that dreams know no borders, and that women possess a unique energy — one that, when they tap into, can help them clear any obstacle from their path.

Climbing such a number of high and dangerous peaks has surely come with countless memories. Which of these ascents have stuck with you the most and turned into truly memorable experiences?

Each of the 14 eight-thousanders holds its own special set of memories for me — some tough, but most of them sweet and unforgettable. Yet, the climb up Everest stood out as both a major goal and the kickoff for this ambitious project. Standing on top of the world fills you with an incredible feeling. My ascent of Everest taught me that if I stick to a steady routine, train properly, and keep at it with patience and determination, I can even make it to the world's highest summit.

The second remarkable climb I should mention is K2 — a mountain many Iranian women had long dreamt of conquering. Several had even set out for it, including the late Leila Esfandyari, who tragically lost her life in July 2011 on Gasherbrum II.

In fact, K2 and the uniquely wild landscape of Pakistan put my determination and efforts to a real test — one I eventually pulled through. The next special peak for me was Nanga Parbat, better known as the "Killer Mountain". I must admit I feared it from the start, but with practice, hard work, and drawing on the experience of those who had climbed it before me, I managed to summit it without difficulty. The memory of that ascent will always stay vivid as the route was extremely challenging and the weather bitterly cold at that time. Still, those hardships pushed me to go beyond my limits and gave me stronger faith in myself.

Finally, during the climb up Cho Oyu, I faced entirely different weather conditions. We had a heavy snowfall, with snow piling up to more than two meters. Knowing it was the last peak of the project, I felt something very special — as if I had finally reached a place of stillness and complete success. That climb means a great deal to me and will always stay ingrained in my mind.

Since you've just returned from summiting Cho Oyu, could you tell us more about how that ascent went?

Climbing Cho Oyu was indeed a unique experience. According to the plan I had laid out, I was supposed to wrap up the 14 eight-thousanders project in the fall of this year. But when I went to Nepal to get my visa, I ran into serious problems. Due to the revolution and regime change in Nepal, the political scene had turned tense, and China's visa wasn't granted easily. I really had to hustle to get it, and at the very last moment, I finally succeeded and set off for China. As I reached base camp, severe weather hit the region. Heavy snowstorms struck, and almost every team gave up hope of making the climb. Two meters of snow, freezing winds, and white-outs at high altitude convinced many that summiting was out of the question. But patience often pays off in the mountains. After waiting in the base camp for the weather to ease up, our team went ahead with the climb, and I managed to reach the top of my final 8,000-meter peak.

When you're trapped in snow, blizzards, and biting cold, do you ever feel fear or hopelessness creeping in? Have you ever thought of the worst in those situations?

Climbing the 8,000-meter peaks always comes with its dangers. Anyone who thinks everything will go smoothly and there will be no risk is living in a dream world. It's not always like that. Climbing the peaks where oxygen is scarce, the cold is severe, snow is endless, and avalanches are always a threat, surely comes with its own set of dangers. Many times, I felt danger breathing right down my neck. On Nanga Parbat, Kangchenjunga, and Annapurna, I faced life-threatening moments when disaster was only a step away. Still, none of these risks ever made me back off, question why I was there, or decide that I should let go of my dreams. I always believed that by pushing harder, I could move things forward and take a positive step toward my goal.

Twice, I had to turn back due to harsh weather, but I later went for it again and succeeded. Of course, the mental and emotional support from my friends and family helped me get through the roughest conditions and make it to the top.

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For women in Iran, especially those stepping into adventurous and high-risk sports, there have always been particular obstacles. Early on, my family's resistance was the main challenge. Social constraints, along with judgmental views about a woman's capacity, also stood in my way. But I tried never to let these limitations get in the way of my dreams. I deeply believe that dreams know no borders, and that women possess a unique energy — one that, when they tap into, can help them clear any obstacle from their path.



Iranian mountaineer Afsaneh Hesamifard rests under a blanket in a tent during harsh weather at one of the world's highest peaks.
● tirdadname.ir

Now that you've conquered all the world's towering peaks, has that affected your motivation to keep climbing?

It's understandable if some people think that after scaling all 14 of the world's highest summits, I'd have no goal left and might feel a loss of drive. But quite the opposite — I feel like my work has just kicked into gear. Ending the 8,000-meter project doesn't mean the end of my mountaineering world. I plan to carry on in two directions: first, to pass down my experiences to younger climbers, which is something deeply meaningful to me and a path that I must definitely pursue; and second, to embark on new climbing projects. With proper sponsorship, I aim to put Iran back on the map of global mountaineering.

As you implied, climbing must be financially demanding. How have you managed to cover the costs? Does the Iranian government support you?

Mountaineering is indeed a pricey sport. At the beginning, the fi-

nancial burden — permits, flights, gear, and logistical support — was what really held me back from higher ambitions. I never received government funding, and my early climbs were entirely self-financed. But from the third ascent onward — starting with K2 — I was backed by a strong sponsor, Vita-biotics, a company with a progressive view of sports and women's capabilities. Their support helped me speed up the project and bring it to fruition much sooner.

How long do you think you can keep climbing professionally?

Most sports have an age limit, meaning that you can keep pursuing them up to a certain age or until you meet certain conditions. However, mountaineering is one of those disciplines where, if you can keep yourself in shape, you can continue well into older age. This year, I met an 86-year-old man who successfully summited one of the eight-thousanders. To achieve such feats, one must train constantly and scientifically to stay on top of physical fitness and take on the mountain's challenges.

My hope is for Iranian women in mountaineering to build up a strong, safe, and enduring movement. Our women must truly believe in their own potential and realize that no wall is too high for human will.



Afsaneh Hesamifard rests in a tent on Dhaulagiri, the seventh-highest mountain in the world at 8,167 meters.
● SOCIAL MEDIA

AFC Champions League Elite: Beiranvand hails defensive masterclass after Tractor edges Al Shorta



Tractor goalkeeper Alireza Beiranvand is seen in action during a 1-0 victory over Al Shorta in the AFC Champions League Elite at the Yadegar-e Imam Stadium, Tabriz, Iran, on November 3, 2025.

● VARZESH3

Sports Desk

Tractor goalkeeper Alireza Beiranvand praised his side's defensive resilience after the Iranian top-flight champion secured a 1-0 home victory over Iraq's Al Shorta on Matchday Four of the AFC Champions League Elite in Tabriz on Monday. Mahdi Torabi scored the only goal of the game in the 26th minute, finishing off a superb passage of one-touch football between Tibor Halilović and Tomislav Strkalj to slot the ball past Ahmed Basil. The home side still had a solid backline and Beiranvand, who delivered a man-of-the-match performance with a string of decisive saves, to thank for claiming a second successive win in the new season of the Asian elite clubs' competition. Beiranvand's third clean sheet in four outings helped Tractor sit third in the West Zone's 12-team table with eight points – well on course for a spot in the round of 16 – while the visiting side was left languishing in 11th with a single point. "I congratulate the Tractor team, the technical staff, the players and the fans," the Iranian international keeper said after the game. "If it weren't for their support and efforts today, we would have had a hard time. "Before the game, Mr. [Dragan] Skocic spoke to us and emphasized that Al Shorta is of a high level and its current position in the table is not the team's true right. If they had been

a little luckier, they could have had nine points. We knew we were facing a quality team. Reflecting on his contribution to Tractor's decent run in the competition, Beiranvand said, "In these three clean sheets, all members of the team, from the striker to the goalkeeper, played a role. This is the result of the effort of the entire team. "Not conceding a goal gives the team character. I only think about Tractor's success and I believe that if we all set the team's success as our goal and move forward step by step, good things will happen." Despite the victory, Skocic said he still expects his side to be more creative and clinical in the final third. "When we cannot create many opportunities, we will not get a satisfactory win," said the Croatian. "The first half was like that, we did not have many opportunities. "Sometimes you have to win with a lot of effort. We had to do without [left-back Mohammed] Naderi and Igor [Postonjski]. The guys who came back from injuries and those who joined us are gradually getting used to it. "Anyway, it was an important win. Congratulations to everyone who loves Tractor. I know it wasn't a pretty win, but sometimes you have to win tooth and nail." Tractor will next visit Uzbekistan's PFC Nasaf, which sits rock bottom in the table with no points on November 24, while Al Shorta will travel to Riyadh to play Al Hilal a day later.

Azarpira, Tazhudinov set to renew wrestling rivalry in Riyadh

Sports Desk

Wrestling fans may be treated to another chapter in the rivalry between Iran's Amirali Azarpira and Bahrain's Akhmed Tazhudinov when the freestyle wrestling event at the Islamic Solidarity Games gets underway on November 20 in Riyadh.

A potential 97kg showdown in the Saudi capital would mark the third meeting between the two since last year's Olympic Games in Paris.

Russian-born Tazhudinov – the 2023 world champion – rallied from behind to edge Azarpira 4-3 in the first round before going all the way to grab the gold in Paris, while the Iranian bounced back to secure a consolation bronze.

Two-time world U23 champion Azarpira, however, made up for the Paris setback at September's World Championships in Zagreb, defeating Tazhudinov 5-2 in the semi-finals, though he ultimately had to settle for silver after a 4-2 loss to American Kyle



Iran's Amirali Azarpira (blue) is seen in action against Bahrain's Akhmed Tazhudinov at the Wrestling World Championships in Zagreb, Croatia, on September 15, 2025.

● IAWFIR

Snyder in the final. Iran has named a full-strength freestyle squad across six weight classes in Riyadh. Joining Azarpira in the squad are Olympic silver medalists Rahman Amouzad (65kg) and

Amirhossein Zare' (125kg), both of whom captured gold in their respective weight classes in Zagreb.

Two-time world champion Kamran Qasempour will headline the 86kg event, while

Younes Emami – winner of two world bronzes – and Ali Mo'meni – a bronze winner in last year's U23 Worlds – will be among the favorites in the 57kg and 74kg divisions, respectively.

Iran names futsal roster for Women's World Cup

Sports Desk

Head coach Shahrzad Mozaffar named Iran's 14-player squad for the upcoming FIFA Futsal Women's World Cup – starting November 21 in the Philippines.

Iran will be joined by futsal heavyweights Brazil and Italy, as well as Panama, in Group D of the inaugural showpiece. Young pivot Maral Torkaman – the top scorer at May's Asian Cup – will spearhead the Iranian team in the Philippines – alongside five veterans: Farzaneh Tavassoli, Fereshteh Karimi, Nasimeh Gholami, Sara Shirbeigi and Tahereh Mahdipour, who were all part of the team when Iran won back-to-back Asian titles in 2015 and 2018. Iranian girls will get their campaign underway against eight-time Copa America champion Brazil – the top team in the latest FIFA World Ranking – on



● AFC

November 23, before facing Panama three days later.

Iran 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.

Mozaffar's side will leave for

the host country on Nov. 13 to play Poland and New Zealand (Nov. 16-17) in a couple of warmup friendlies before its opening game in the group phase.

The following is the full Iranian futsal squad for the Women's World Cup:

Farzaneh Tavassoli, Fatemeh Rahmati, Nastaran Moqimi, Elham Anafcheh, Mahtab Banaei, Shirin Saffar, Maral Torkaman, Fereshteh Karimi, Zahra Lotfabadi, Sara Shirbeigi, Nasimeh Gholami, Mahsa Kamali, Fereshteh Khosravi, and Tahereh Mahdipour.

Jahanbakhsh joins Dender in Belgian top flight

Sports Desk

Iranian midfielder Alireza Jahanbakhsh has joined FCV Dender EH in the Jupiler Pro League on a season-long deal with an option for a one-year extension, the Belgian top-flight club announced on Tuesday.

Jahanbakhsh, 32, had been without a club since parting ways with Dutch side Heerenveen at the end of last season and was eager to secure his future in Europe in the lead-up to the 2026 World Cup. The Iranian registered three goals and assists apiece in 20 games in his one-season spell with Heerenveen.

First introduced to the European club football with NEC Nijmegen in 2013, Jahanbakhsh enjoyed his most prolific spell with AZ Alkmaar between 2015 and 2018, contributing with 37 goals and 31 assists in 111 outings. The Iranian enjoyed his most successful campaign in the 2017/18 season, finishing as the Dutch league's leading marksman with 21 strikes, which convinced Brighton & Hove Albion to pay a then-club record €22.5 million to sign him. His contribution for the Premier League outfit, however, was limited to four goals and two assists in 61 games,

with 31 of those appearances coming in the starting XI. Capped 95 times for the national team, Jahanbakhsh has 17 international goals under his belt and was part of Iran's World Cup squad in the previous three editions. Dender sits rock bottom of the Belgian league table with four points, and has yet to win a game after 13 rounds of matches.

● REUTERS



Konar Sandal’s ancient story awaits rediscovery



Iranica Desk

Archaeological excavations at Konar Sandal in Kerman Province — one of the largest Bronze Age sites in Iran and a remarkable example of early urbanization in the country — have once again come to a halt due to a lack of funding. The renewed suspension comes after excavations had only recently resumed following a 17-year break. Nader Alidadi Soleimani, head of the Heritage Registration and Archaeology Department at the Kerman Province’s Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Organization, confirmed the pause in an interview with ISNA, stating that no archaeological excavations are currently being carried out anywhere in Kerman Province. “Our most recent excavation project was related to the ancient site of Jiroft, known as Konar Sandal,” he explained. “From 2001 to 2007, six excavation seasons were completed at this site, but afterward, the work was suspended for 17 years. In 2023, excavation permits were re-issued, and two additional excavation seasons were conducted.” The provincial budget for 2025 includes a specific allocation intended to continue the archaeological work at Konar Sandal. “We hope that excavations at this significant site will resume soon,” he said. “However, at the moment, I cannot say for certain that this will happen. Until the funds are officially allocat-

ed, it will not be possible to begin the next phase of work.”

Research goals and findings

Explaining the objectives of the excavations, Soleimani said that Konar Sandal is one of Iran’s largest Bronze Age archaeological sites and a key example of early urbanization. “Based on findings from the six previous excavation seasons, we have determined that the earliest settlement in this city dates back to the beginning of the third millennium BCE and continued until the end of that same millennium,” he noted. He emphasized that each new excavation season has the potential to yield fresh insights based on earlier discoveries, helping researchers gain a deeper understanding of this vast archaeological complex. “Therefore,” he added, “the primary goal of these excavations is research-oriented — to expand our knowledge and comprehension of this important site.” Speaking about last year’s excavation results, Soleimani explained that significant architectural remains were unearthed in the southern part of the site, near Konar Sandal South. “We also uncovered several artifacts, the most significant of which were seals impressed on clay,” he said. “These discoveries are particularly valuable because they shed light on aspects of the region’s cultural and economic structure, as



well as its system of trade and exchange during that era.” The archaeologist also highlighted the importance of Jiroft in archaeological studies, noting that southeastern Iran holds a special place in the country’s ancient history. “The presence of the Halilrud River and the fertile plains surrounding it led to the formation of human settlements in prehistoric times,” he explained. “By the beginning of the third millennium BCE, the first cities had emerged in this region. Jiroft was among the most significant of these urban centers, with Konar Sandal at its heart, located in the middle of the Halilrud plain.” He described Jiroft as “a prosperous and thriving city,” adding that archaeological findings indicate its inhabitants lived in comfort and were part of a highly skilled and artistic society.

Evidence of a rich civilization

Soleimani added that the beautifully crafted chlorite stone artifacts, now housed in the Jiroft Museum, the Kerman Museum, and the National Museum of Iran in Tehran, are powerful evidence of the region’s rich and sophisticated culture. “Alongside these,” he noted, “the pottery industry, copper-smelting furnaces, and metalworking are among the other defining features of this ancient civilization.” He explained that due to limited funding, archaeological efforts have so far remained largely concentrated on the Konar Sandal site. “However,” he continued, “the Old City of Jiroft was also excavated from late 2024 until April 2025. This site belongs to the Islamic period, and previous excavations were carried out there between 2001 and 2008 under the

supervision of Hamideh Choubak from the Research Institute of Cultural Heritage.” Discussing the findings from the latest excavations at the Old City of Jiroft, Soleimani explained that the work was mainly conducted in an area where the remains of a mosque had previously been discovered. “This new excavation season led to the identification of additional sections of the same mosque,” he said. “For example, part of the mosque’s courtyard extending northward was uncovered, which has enhanced our understanding of the structure and layout of the city’s Grand Mosque. In fact, the nature of this excavation was primarily research-oriented.” He noted that the building was first identified in the 2000s during earlier excavations of the Old City of Jiroft.

“Several excavation seasons were carried out at the site,” Soleimani added, “and it was determined that the mosque consisted of multiple courtyards and arcades. Based on both archaeological evidence and historical sources, this structure can indeed be identified as Jiroft’s Grand Mosque.” Expanding on the architectural details of the mosque, Soleimani said the structure includes a single minaret, stucco-decorated mihrabs — at least two or three of which belong to different historical periods — a courtyard, brickwork, and a washhouse (ablution area).

“Water channels supplying the washhouse were also discovered next to the mosque,” he added. “In addition, areas surrounding the mosque have been identified, including a stone-paved passageway leading to the building and parts of the adjacent urban fabric.” He emphasized that the Old City of Jiroft still requires extensive archaeological investigation. “If funding is secured,” he noted, “excavations at the site will continue.” Regarding the age of the Grand Mosque, Soleimani said, “The mosque’s original core likely dates back to the fourth century AH (10th century CE). It flourished and expanded during later periods, maintaining its importance as a central place of worship.” “Unfortunately, during the late 1990s and early 2000s, unauthorized dig-

ging took place in Jiroft,” he said. “Fortunately, those activities were eventually brought under control. However, even today, traces of illegal digging and damage caused by looters can still be seen in many archaeological sites, which is deeply concerning. This past spring, such incidents occurred again in Jiroft, but they were quickly contained, and we hope the situation has now been fully stabilized.”

Kerman’s vast archaeological landscape

Soleimani further described the rich archaeological landscape of Kerman Province, noting that more than 2,000 ancient mounds and sites have been identified in the Jiroft region alone. “This area forms part of the Halilrud cultural zone, which encompasses over 2,000 archaeological sites dating to various prehistoric and historic periods of Iran,” he explained. “The Jiroft Civilization is an integral component of this broader cultural landscape.” He added, “If we take the entire Kerman Province into account, the total number of archaeological sites is even higher — about 2,500 to 3,000 sites in all. The Halilrud cultural zone itself includes eight southern cities of Kerman Province — Rudbar, Faryab, Anbarabad, and Manujan, among others — all of which are extraordinarily rich in historical and archaeological heritage.”

Zanjan strengthens role as Iran’s metal handicrafts hub

Iranica Desk

Zanjan has established itself as Iran’s leading center for metal handicrafts, producing around 7,000 tons of various copperware and jewelry annually, according to Seyyed Mikaeil Mousavi, Director General of the province’s Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Organization. Highlighting Zanjan’s significant potential in the handicrafts sector,

Mousavi noted that the city has been designated as a World City of Filigree (Malileh), with an annual production of about four tons of silver products, ranging from jewelry to tableware, according to chtn.ir. He added that Zanjan’s traditional art of knife-making, a craft with deep historical roots in the region, continues to be one of the province’s most renowned handicrafts. “We are now

moving toward making this traditional art more practical and have prioritized training programs in this regard,” Mousavi explained. Addressing the importance of expanding export markets and promoting local handicrafts, Mousavi emphasized the need to establish export and sales networks within the province, given the high capabilities of local artisans and producers. “To enhance both do-

mestic and international sales, export-oriented initiatives centered on Zanjani producers and artists must be developed,” he said. The official further noted that out of the 299 recognized branches of handicrafts in Iran, 55 are active in Zanjan Province. Currently, around 12,000 people are engaged in the province’s handicrafts sector, reflecting its remarkable capacity and potential for growth.





Iran, Turkmenistan agree on cooperation in tourism, cultural development

Arts & Culture Desk

A joint meeting was held in Tehran on Tuesday between Deputy Secretary of Iran's Free Zones Secretariat Mehdi Mazinani and Ambassador of Turkmenistan Ylyas Gayypov, with the two sides agreeing to expand bilateral cooperation in tourism and cultural sectors. During the session, Mazinani and Gayypov reached agreements aimed at strengthening cultural and tourism exchanges between Iran's free and special economic zones and Turkmenistan. The Iranian and Turkmen officials underscored the deep historical, civilizational, and cultural bonds between the two countries, describing their shared border of over 1,000 kilometers as a "frontier of friendship." Emphasizing the need to leverage free trade and special economic zones to deepen bilateral relations, Mazinani

and Gayypov also discussed establishing direct flights between Turkmenistan and Iran's Kish, Qeshm, and Chabahar islands to boost tourism. Planned initiatives include a forthcoming visit by Turkmenistan's ambassador to Chabahar to explore potential investment opportunities, the dispatch of a Turkmen investment delegation to participate in hotel and tourism complex projects in Iran's free zones, and organizing joint tourism events, such as Iran Cultural Nights in Turkmenistan, which highlight the shared heritage of the ancient Silk Road and showcase the tourism potential of Iran's free and special economic zones. In the cultural section, both sides agreed to jointly organize a commemoration ceremony for Magtymguly Pyragy, the renowned Turkmen poet and symbol of cultural identity for both nations, emphasizing his role in strength-



Deputy Secretary of Iran's Free Zones Secretariat Mehdi Mazinani (R) and Ambassador of Turkmenistan Ylyas Gayypov meet to agree on cultural exchanges in Tehran on November 4, 2025.
● ISNA

ening cultural ties between Iran and Turkmenistan. The Turkmen ambassador, for his part, referring to Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei's statement that "Iran and Turkmenistan are kin with extensive cultural commonalities," stated that these shared cultural and historical bonds provide a solid foundation for expanding comprehensive cooperation. Gayypov stressed that such relations should be further developed through joint cultural, tourism, and economic programs. Both sides also reaffirmed their com-



mitment to continuing joint meetings and establishing an executive working

group to follow up on the agreements reached.

Mokri's 'Black Rabbit, White Rabbit' throws down gauntlet in Saudi festival

Arts & Culture Desk

The fifth Red Sea International Film Festival, taking place in the Saudi Arabian city of Jeddah from December 4 - 13, 2025, unveiled on Tuesday its main competition lineup of 16 films, which includes the newest work from Iranian filmmaker Shahram Mokri, "Black Rabbit, White Rabbit." The film — produced as a joint effort between Tajikistan and the UAE with Negar Eskandarfar as producer — was written by Mokri and Nasim Ahmadpour and features an international cast including Babak Karimi, Hasti Mahmayi,

Kubra Dilbova, and Bijan Davlyatov. Previously, Mokri's film won the "Asia's Future" award at the Busan International Film Festival and was also shown at festivals in London and Chicago. The movie is now Tajikistan's official submission for the Best International Feature Film category at the 2026 Oscars. The story centers on three intertwining narratives — a mysterious film device, an enigmatic audition, and a seemingly random road incident — woven together in Mokri's signature non-linear style, blending long takes with both dark humor



and elements of magical realism. "Black Rabbit, White Rabbit" is Mokri's fourth feature film. He is renowned for previous acclaimed works such as "Fish & Cat" (2013), which won the Special Prize in Venice's Orizzonti section, as well as "Invasion" (2017) and "Careless Crime" (2020), the latter of which won the Chicago jury prize and was also selected for Venice.

Aliakbari's 'Burial Permit' to be screened in US, UK, Turkey

Arts & Culture Desk

The short narrative film "Burial Permit," written and directed by Hashem Aliakbari, has been accepted into three prestigious festivals in the United States, England, and Turkey. The short narrative film "Burial Permit," written and directed by Hashem Aliakbari, will participate in the 25th Maryland Film Festival in the United States. The festival — held from November 5 to 9 at the historic

SNF Parkway Theatre in Baltimore — is one of the prestigious events of independent American cinema, showcasing creative works by prominent and emerging filmmakers from around the world, along with specialized sessions featuring renowned figures in American cinema for discussion and exchange of experiences. Additionally, the film "Burial Permit" successfully reached the semi-finalist stage of the 30th Rhode Island International Film Festival, one of the

festivals approved by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (Oscars). The film has also been accepted into The Bay International Film Festival (England) in January 2026, and the 5th Golden Bridge Istanbul Short Film Festival (Turkey) in October 2025. The short film "Burial Permit" is directed by Hashem Aliakbari and produced by Ghazal Mojtahedi, featuring actors such as Hamidreza Mohammadi, Navid Laeghi Moghadam, Sahra Asadollahi, Setareh Hey-



darabadi, Ali Ghiasvand, Touran Ramazani, with the presence of Amir Ghaffar Manesh, and child actor Mahtisa Pasandideh.

Deputy minister: Asian countries seeking health services from Iran

Social Desk

Deputy Tourism Minister Anushirvan Mohseni Bandpey announced on Tuesday that in the field of health tourism, the countries of Iraq, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Kazakhstan are seeking to receive health services from Iran. "Iran has civilizational, historical, cultural, natural, religious, and spiritual capacities, and in the health sector, thanks to the [1979] Islamic Revolution, we are witnessing the training of specialized and skilled human resources in all medical fields," Mohseni Bandpey said. "In the field of health, we are superior among the countries in the region, and in some medical fields, we

are on par with European and American countries." Stressing that a system has been designed for health tourism, whose oversight is entrusted to the Deputy Minister of Tourism and Ministry of Health, he said, "In this system, the type of service is specified from the moment health tourists enter the country until their discharge from the hospital." In the past, Mohseni Bandpey said, healthcare services were provided in a way that could not be tracked or monitored, but with this system, standard services are provided to tourist patients under the supervision of responsible authorities. "Every tourist traveling to Iran from South Asia spends an average of 1,270



Anushirvan Mohseni Bandpey

dollars, but this figure is three to four times higher in the health sector," he added. The number of foreign tourists entering Iran in March and April increased by 48.5 percent compared to the same period last year. Before the US-Israeli imposed war broke out in June, tourist arrivals increased by eight percent, but later, it was minus 22 percent; also, the number of tourists entering the country in July was minus 52 percent and in August was minus 68 percent.

INTERNATIONAL TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT (Prequalification Stage)

Consultant: Alborz Design and Structure Consulting Engineers
Employer: Islamic Republic of Iran Football Federation

The Football Federation Islamic Republic of Iran (FFIRI) intends to select a qualified contractor for the design, construction, and implementation of the new FFIRI Headquarters Building through an international two-stage tender (prequalification and bid evaluation) process.

All international companies with relevant technical, financial, and professional experience are invited to express their interest and obtain the prequalification documents.

1) Tender Subject: Design, Construction, and Implementation of the New FFIRI Headquarters Building

2) Employer: Football Federation Islamic Republic of Iran (FFIRI)

3) Project Location: Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

4) Tender Type: International, Two-Stage (Prequalification and Bid Evaluation)

5) Document Collection Period: From 2025/11/06 to 2025/11/14 obtainable via <https://tsalborz.co>

6) Deadline for Submission of Prequalification Documents: Until 2025/12/02 local time on <https://tsalborz.co>

7) Additional Notes:

- Applicants must possess valid technical and professional qualifications and relevant experience.
- Incomplete or late submissions will not be considered.
- All costs of participation shall be borne by the applicants.

For further information, interested parties may contact:
email: info@tsalborz.co

Football Federation Islamic Republic of Iran (FFIRI)