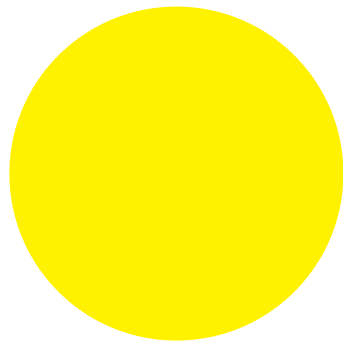




Iran's Tourism Ministry tops Seventh Development Plan in first-year assessment

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Iran Daily

Vol. 7976 ● Wednesday, November 12, 2025 ● Aban 21, 1404 ● Jumada al-Awwal 21, 1447 ● 100,000 rials ● 8 pages



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Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian addresses Parliament to defend his government's performance in the Seventh Development Plan in its first year in Tehran on November 11, 2025. president.ir



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Iran's legal path to holding US accountable for 12-day war

INTERVIEW EX-CLUSIVE



Following Israel's attack on Iran in June, the United States initially distanced itself from the conflict, with Secretary of State Marco Rubio saying that

the regime was acting independently, stressing that America's primary concern was protecting its forces in the region. However, the US later became directly involved, deploying its advanced B-2 stealth bombers and high-yield munitions to strike Iran's nuclear facilities. In a striking reversal, President Donald Trump recently admitted he was "very much in charge" of the Israeli war, contradicting earlier statements from his administration. In response, Iran sub-

mitted a formal letter to the UN Security Council, condemning the aggression as a "grave and flagrant violation" of the UN Charter and international humanitarian law.

Could this confession provide Iran with legal grounds to pursue action through international bodies, seeking accountability, compensation, or punitive measures? Mehrdad Mohammadi, an expert in international law, explores the legal avenues available to Iran and the mechanisms within global institutions that could be leveraged to hold the perpetrators to account, in an exclusive interview with Iran Daily.

IRAN DAILY: Given the Trump's explicit acknowledgment of a direct role in commanding the military strike against Iran in June, what legal and diplomatic mechanisms can Iran employ to establish Washington's responsibility?

MOHAMMADI: Legally, the primary framework would be the law of state responsibility as codified by the International Law Commission's Articles on State Responsibility (ARSIWA), particularly Articles 2, 4, and 8, which set out the elements of an internationally wrongful act attributable to a state. The US president's express of acknowledgment would constitute strong direct evidence of attribution, fulfilling the criterion of state conduct through its highest organ.

From a substantive standpoint, Iran could argue that the attack constitutes a violation of Article 2(4) of the UN Charter, which prohibits the use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, absent Security Council authorization or a lawful claim of self-defense under Article 51. Unless the United States can convincingly establish an imminent armed attack justifying pre-emptive self-defense, (a notion still highly

controversial in international law) the strike would amount to an unlawful use of force and an act of aggression under General Assembly Resolution 3314 (1974).

Diplomatically, Iran could pursue multilateral condemnation through the UN General Assembly under the Uniting for Peace procedure, seek emergency Security Council sessions, and mobilize regional organizations (such as the Organization of Islamic Cooperation or Non-Aligned Movement) to consolidate international political support. Bilateral diplomatic protest is also a classic instrument to signal the gravity of the breach.

Within the framework of international law and the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), what avenues are available to Iran for pursuing legal action in this case? And given the influence of Western powers within these international institutions, how

likely is Iran to succeed?

Iran's legal options before the ICJ are limited but not nonexistent. The court's jurisdiction is consensual, meaning that both states must have accepted its authority. Since neither Iran nor the United States currently maintains a general declaration under Article 36(2) of the ICJ Statute recognizing the court's compulsory jurisdiction vis-à-vis the other, Iran would need to identify a specific treaty basis that includes a compromissory clause referring disputes to the ICJ.

The most plausible, and historically used avenue (the 1955 Treaty of Amity) is no longer valid. The United States' withdrawal became effective in October 2019, rendering the treaty's compromissory clause unavailable for any acts of aggression occurring subsequently.

No other known bilateral treaty between the states provides a suitable jurisdictional foundation.

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Any future nuclear talks possible only if US shed its illusions: *Deputy FM*

International Desk

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Saeed Khatibzadeh on Tuesday underlined that any future nuclear talks with the United States will only proceed "once the US shed its illusions." Addressing the 12th Abu Dhabi Strategic Debate (ADSD), Khatibzadeh said Iran will never compromise on issues related to its national security, adding that no country in the world would do so. "If the other side seeks to achieve through diplomacy what it failed to obtain through military aggression, Iran's answer is No." The United States and its European allies have repeatedly called for any future agreement on Iran's nuclear activities to include its ballistic missile program as well. Tehran has consistently rejected that demand, saying its military capabilities

are non-negotiable. Tehran and Washington held five rounds of nuclear talks prior to a 12-day aggression by the Israeli regime against Iran in June, which derailed the negotiations. Washington later joined the aggression by striking key Iranian nuclear sites. However, Iran's missile attacks on Israel and the US military base in Qatar forced them to call for a ceasefire. Since then, the US has repeatedly said that it is ready to hold new talks with Iran. In October, US President Donald Trump said his country was prepared to make a deal with Iran when Tehran was ready to do so, adding, "The hand of friendship and cooperation (with Iran) is open." In response to a question on Iran's conditions for negotiations with the West, Khatibzadeh said, "There are numerous channels, but the messages

coming through are less reliable. At times, we receive excessive demands from different channels, and Iran's response is a definite 'No.'" Khatibzadeh also said Washington was sending Tehran contradictory messages about nuclear talks through third countries. But he said by striking Iran and its subsequent moves, the US has done everything in its power to make any "meaningful dialogue" impossible. "If the other side is committed to diplomacy, mutual engagement, compromise, and dialogue based on equal footing, then diplomacy makes sense; otherwise, it's impossible," Khatibzadeh said. Major gaps also remain between the two sides over the issue of uranium enrichment on Iranian soil, which the US wants to cut to zero, a demand Tehran has rejected.



Expressing pride in Iran's fully indigenous nuclear program, Khatibzadeh reaffirmed Teh-

ran's stance, saying that Iran is not seeking to build or acquire a nuclear weapon and stands

ready to work with the international community to ensure transparency in this regard.

Iraqis vote in parliamentary elections rife with political rivalries

International Desk

Iraqis cast their ballots on Tuesday in parliamentary elections marked by a boycott by a major political bloc. A total of 8,703 polling stations were open across the country for the general election. Members of the security forces and displaced people living in camps cast their ballots in early voting on Sunday. Only 21.4 million out of a total of 32 million eligible voters updated their information and obtained voter cards ahead of the polling, a decrease from the last parliamentary election in 2021, when about 24 million voters registered. More than 7,740 candidates, nearly a third of them women and only 75 independents, are standing under an electoral law that many believe favors larger parties. Polling stations were expected to close at 6:00 pm (1500 GMT), with preliminary results expected within 24 hours of closing. Just minutes after the polls opened, several senior politicians voted at the luxurious Al-Rasheed hotel in the capital, Baghdad. Prime Minister Mohammad Shia al-Sudani, who is running for a second term, arrived at a polling station in Baghdad to cast his vote, along with his mother. The election "asserts the principle of peaceful transfer of power" and "the people's commitment to this democratic practice," Sudani said. Sudani is likely to score a significant win. He rose to power in 2022 with

the backing of the Coordination Framework, a ruling alliance of Shia parties and factions. But with a single party or list unlikely to achieve an outright majority, he must win the support of whichever coalition can secure enough allies to become the largest bloc. Although they run separately, Shia parties within the Coordination Framework are expected to reunite after elections and pick the next premier.

Sadrist Movement boycotts polls

The popular Sadrist Movement, led by influential cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, boycotted the polls. Sadr accused those in power of being "corrupt" and unwilling to reform. A close associate quoted him as urging his followers to stay home and treat election day as a "family day." Al-Sadr's bloc won the largest number of seats in the 2021 election but later withdrew after failed negotiations over forming a government, amid a standoff with rival parties. He has since boycotted the political system.

Corruption allegations

Ahead of the election, there were widespread allegations of corruption and vote-buying. Last week, security services arrested 46 people accused of illegally buying and selling voter cards in sting operations in several provinces, and some 1,841 cards in their possession were seized. Many have lost hope that elections



An Iraqi woman walks towards a voting booth at a polling station in Nasiriyah in Iraq's southern Dhi Qar Province on November 11, 2025 during Iraq's parliamentary elections.

● ASAAD NAIZI/AFP

can bring meaningful change to their daily lives and see the vote as a sham that only benefits political elites and regional powers. But for Mohammed Mehdi, a public servant in his thirties, voting is a right and a means to achieve change. While he does not blame those who chose to boycott, he said after casting his vote in Baghdad that politicians have spent heavily to win votes, "proving my vote is valuable – so I will use it." The current parliament began its term on January 9, 2022, and will last four years, ending on January 8, 2026. By convention in post-invasion Iraq, a Shia Muslim holds the powerful post of prime minister and a Sunni that of parliament speaker, while the largely ceremonial presidency goes to a Kurd. In the autonomous Kurdistan region, the rivalry between the Kurdistan Democratic Party and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan remains fierce.

Envoy: Iran joins int'l patent, trademark classification pacts

International Desk

Ali Bahreini, Iran's ambassador and permanent representative to the United Nations Office in Geneva, said the Islamic Republic has joined the Vienna and Strasbourg Agreements on intellectual property (IP) classification, becoming a party to all international treaties in the field. Bahreini unveiled the documents to join the agreements during a meeting with Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization Daren Tang on Monday. The two officials highlighted the pivotal role of intellectual property in national and global development and reaffirmed their commitment to deepening cooperation. The Strasbourg Agreement was adopted in 1971, establishing the International Patent Classification (IPC) system. The IPC provides a uniform



way to categorize inventions and technical information in patent documents, making it easier for countries to search, compare, and share patent data. The Vienna Agreement was adopted two years later. It created the Vienna Classification system for trademarks, providing a standardized way to categorize the figurative elements, such as logos and symbols, used in trademarks. The system helps national and international

Iran's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the UN Office in Geneva Ali Bahreini (L) and Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization Daren Tang hold a document as they pose for photo in Geneva on November 10, 2025.

● IRAN'S MISSION TO UN IN GENEVA

trademark offices organize, search, and compare trademark data more efficiently, promoting consistency and cooperation in global intellectual property management.

Iran's legal path ...

While the aggression would be assessed against Customary International Law (specifically the prohibition on the use of force), such claims face an insurmountable jurisdictional hurdle as CIL breaches cannot unilaterally confer jurisdiction upon the ICJ.

What specific expectations can Iran reasonably hold of the United Nations Security Council in terms of accountability and concrete action?

Legally, under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, the Security Council bears the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and

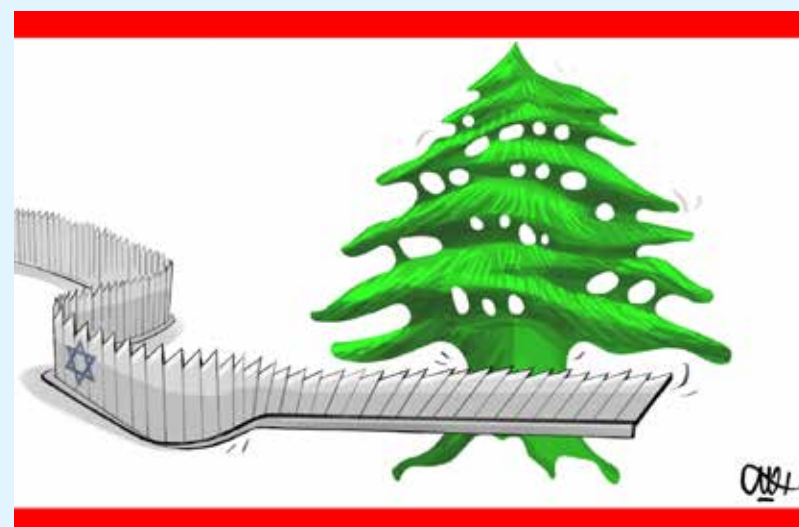
security. Iran could request an urgent meeting to present evidence of the unlawful attack and seek a resolution condemning the act, demanding guarantees of non-recurrence. It could also call for an independent fact-finding mission under the council's or secretary-general's auspices, or even propose targeted measures against individuals responsible for authorizing the strike. Realistically, however, given the United States' veto power as a permanent member (P5), the council is highly unlikely to adopt any resolution adverse to Washington's interests. Therefore, Iran's reasonable expectation would be limited

to placing the matter on record, compelling public debate, and using the Security Council as a platform for international advocacy rather than a mechanism for coercive enforcement. In parallel, Iran could appeal to the UN General Assembly for moral and political support, potentially invoking the Uniting for Peace resolution (GA Res. 377(V)), allowing the assembly to recommend collective measures when the council is paralyzed by veto. While such outcomes are non-binding, they reinforce Iran's legal narrative and contribute to the progressive development of international accountability norms.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

CARTOON



Pezeshkian urges MPs to back deficit-free budget, vows to tackle inflation



President Masoud Pezeshkian addresses an open session of Parliament on November 11, 2025.
● [president.ir](#)

said, shared by his cabinet. Pezeshkian warned that inflationary pressures ultimately would fall on ordinary citizens, even though “our duty is to serve the people.” He called for people’s livelihoods to take top priority in the next budget, warning that without resolving issues related to living standards, “anything we do will be going astray.” Pezeshkian said all unnecessary expenditures should be cut and redirected to household support and commodity vouchers. The president also appealed for cooperation in slimming down the state apparatus, saying, “Help so that the government becomes smaller.” He reaffirmed that his government was committed to implementing the SDP, which serves as a comprehensive blueprint outlining Iran’s economic, political, security, and foreign policy priorities until March 2029. Pezeshkian called for unity among the branches of power, saying that if officials maintained solidarity and proved

they were servants of the people, “no power could bring us to our knees.” He added that there was strong determination among the heads of the three branches of power, which should be mirrored across all administrative levels.

Energy efficiency on agenda

Pezeshkian also touched on Iran growing energy shortages and his government’s measures to bring them under control. He said that with just a 10% reduction in consumption, Iran could save the equivalent of 900,000 barrels of oil per day. The president noted that the country lost \$7 billion worth of gas annually due to flaring, but under his government, more than 10 million cubic meters of flare gas had been recovered, with further plans to control the rest. He added that the government had so far installed and connected over 1,800 megawatts of solar panels to the national electricity grid, bringing the daily total capacity for renewable power generation to 2,700 MW. He said the overall capacity was expected to reach 8,000 MW by the end of the current Perian calendar year (March 20, 2026).

Iran, China sign deal to jointly produce high-tech renewables inverters



Economy Desk

Iranian and Chinese firms signed on Monday a cooperation agreement to jointly produce advanced inverters used in the renewable energy sector and transfer the related technical know-how to Iran — a move that will enable the technology to be localized domestically for the first time, according to IRNA.

The cooperation agreement, signed in Tehran between an Iranian knowledge-based industrial group and a Chinese company, is supported by Iran’s ministries of energy, economy, and industry, mining and trade. Under the terms, the Chinese side is to invest \$150 million in production facilities in Iran.

The Iranian firm’s chief executive said the project will promote the use of new renewable energy technologies inside the country, noting that global and domestic demand for renewables has been steadily rising and has doubled each year in Iran, making the sector increasingly attractive for investment.

He added that the agreement aligns with Iran’s Seventh Development Plan (SDP), which emphasizes addressing electricity shortages by expanding renewable energy sources. More than \$15 billion is expected to be invested in renewables development under the plan, he said.

According to the company, localizing inverter production could prevent the annual outflow of around \$1.5 billion in foreign currency currently spent on importing the technology.

The firm described the deal as a “significant step” toward meeting Iran’s national target of adding 30,000 megawatts of renewable capacity.

The agreement comes as President Masoud Pezeshkian’s administration pushes to rapidly expand the country’s renewables sector to reduce electricity shortages.

The country generated about 2,700 MW from renewable sources as of November 2025, equal to roughly 2.8% of total daily power output of about 95,000 MW, according to official data.

The government aims to increase renewable capacity to 7,000 MW by March 2026 and 11,000 MW next summer, Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi said last week.

The deal was announced as Iran opened the 25th International Electricity Industry Exhibition and the 15th International Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Exhibition in Tehran on Tuesday.

This year, the two exhibitions are being held jointly for the first time, a move organizers said will strengthen scientific, commercial and technological collaboration within the sector.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Aliabadi described the exhibition as a venue for industry engagement and exchange. He said expanding renewable power remains a key priority for the ministry and reiterated plans to reach 7,000 MW of solar capacity by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2026).

Economy Desk

President Masoud Pezeshkian on Tuesday called on lawmakers to help his government draft a deficit-free budget for the next fiscal year, warning that continued overspending would stoke inflation and derail the country’s goals under the Seventh Development Plan (SDP).

“A budget without deficit means balanced development,” Pezeshkian told an open session of Parliament held to review the first year of the SDP’s implementation, IRNA reported.

He stressed that the country must grow proportionately or else “any plan we write will face a deficit and cause inflation.” The president blamed both the

government and parliament for fueling inflation.

“We draft a budget that runs a deficit and create expectations, while in fact there is no money. Therefore, the result is higher prices.”

He urged lawmakers to eliminate anything that reduces efficiency when drafting next year’s budget — a stance, he

Tehran, Tashkent set overall roadmaps to boost economic relations

Economy Desk

Iran and Uzbekistan have agreed on short-, medium- and long-term roadmaps aimed at raising bilateral trade and industrial cooperation, according to a statement from Iran’s Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade following talks in Tashkent.

During the visit, Mohammad Atabak, Iran’s minister of industry, mining and trade, held joint discussions with Laziz Kudratov, Uzbekistan’s minister of investment, industry and trade, and Babur Islamov, the country’s minister of mining and geology, mimt.govir reported.

The two sides reached agreements seen as paving the way for a significant expansion in commercial exchanges between the two countries.

“Even though cooperation is already on an upward trajectory, based on the firm determination of the presidents of both countries, we must reach the outlined goals,” Atabak said.

The talks focused on defining coordinated roadmaps to achieve agreed economic targets and on cooperation to resolve existing barriers in



Iran’s Minister of Industry, Mining and trade, Mohammad Atabak (2nd R) holds joint discussions with Laziz Kudratov, Uzbekistan’s minister of investment, industry and trade, and Babur Islamov, the country’s minister of mining and geology (not seen in the picture) in Tashkent on November 11, 2025.
● [mimt.govir](#)

customs procedures, banking channels and transportation links. Facilitating trade and boosting collaboration in the mining and mineral industries, where both countries see strong potential, were among the central issues discussed.

Atabak traveled to Uzbekistan at the head of a delegation of senior ministry officials, lawmakers from economic and industry committees, and industrial sector representatives. On the second day of the visit, the delegation toured major industrial companies and a technology park in Tashkent, accompanied by Iran’s ambassador and parliamentary members.

The delegation also met with Iranian businesspeople and traders based in Uzbekistan, where discussions centered on expanding private-sector involvement to support

increased bilateral trade.

Bilateral trade has expanded steadily in recent years, with official data placing its value at around \$500 million in 2023.

Speaking at the meeting with Iranian traders and businesspeople based in Uzbekistan, Atabak said trade between the two countries has grown by “about 58%” so far in the current Iranian calendar year (began on March 21), reflecting what he described as Uzbekistan’s role as a key economic link to Central Asia.

TPO: Iran, Kuwait sign five-part trade pact to enhance cooperation

Economy Desk

Iran and Kuwait have signed a set of agreements across five key sectors to expand commercial cooperation, following their first Joint Trade and Technical Commission meeting in more than a decade, an Iranian trade official said on Tuesday, Tasnim reported.

The 13th session of the commission was held in Kuwait City, 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.

Abdolamir Rabiavi, director of the West Asia department at Iran’s TPO, said the “most important achievement of this round of negotiations was the signing of agreements across five main areas by officials of the two countries.”

Rabiavi said the two sides agreed to hold an exhibition showcasing Iran’s industrial capabilities in Kuwait in 2026, and that Kuwaiti business representatives would travel to Iran to visit trade fairs and meet officials.

Cooperation between the two countries’ private sectors, led by their chambers of commerce, along with efforts to boost investment and remove trade barriers, were also part of the commercial and economic agreements, he said.



On food security, which Rabiavi noted as a priority for Kuwait, discussions were held on joint investment, supplying essential goods, technology transfer and training.

Industrial and standards cooperation focused on harmonizing regulations. Rabiavi said the two sides agreed to accelerate drafting and implementing a joint standards program to ease the exchange of mutually accepted products.

Industrial collaboration, technology transfers, and exports of Iranian machinery and industrial units to Kuwait were also included in the talks.

On customs, the two sides agreed to implement an existing cooperation and mutual assistance accord, and to draw up a joint action plan between their customs authorities.

Iran and Kuwait will also pursue the activation of their bilateral investment protection agreement and move forward with negotiations on a double-taxation avoidance treaty, he added.

Transport issues were

reviewed across land, sea and air corridors. At sea, Iranian representatives raised ongoing issues affecting Iranian vessels and crews in Kuwaiti ports. A joint working group with Iran’s Ports and Maritime Organization will examine required technical criteria.

On land transport, Kuwait agreed to consider allowing cargo transit from Iran’s Shalamchek crossing to Iraq and onward through the Safwan and Abdali border points to Kuwait.

In air transport, Iran requested an increase in direct flights. Both sides also agreed to strengthen direct shipping between Iran’s Khorramshahr port and Kuwait’s Al-Ahmadi port.

He said the commission represents “an important step toward expanding trade relations with Persian Gulf states.”

He added that Iran is also planning to intensify economic cooperation with Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, and that all agreed measures will be followed up by the relevant government bodies.

Washington's 2025 national defense strategy US starting from homeland in Western Hemisphere



● THE DEFENSE WATCH



By Alireza Ghezili
Former Iranian
ambassador to Mexico

OPINION

In early September 2025, experts at the US Department of War handed in a draft of the new National Defense Strategy (NDS) to Secretary of War Pete Hegseth. In this document, domestic and regional missions take precedence over countering global rivals such as Beijing and Moscow. For at least the last three presidencies — from the first Trump term in 2017 up to now — America's NDS has consistently identified Beijing and Moscow as threats to US national security, branding China as the nation's top rival. The new version, however, marks a major shift for the United States and its allies worldwide, and puts America's old reliable promises under the microscope. Its opening section states, "It is increasingly clear that China and Russia want to shape a world consistent with their authoritarian model."

The National Defense Strategy traditionally lays out Washington's vision for its military posture at the start of each administration. Elbridge Colby, undersecretary of War for Policy at the Pentagon, is leading this rewrite. During Trump's first term, Colby played a key role in drafting the 2018 NDS, which gave priority to deterring China. A staunch advocate of US isolationism but also known as a hardline China hawk, Colby falls in line with Vice President J.D. Vance in pressing the president to pull back from foreign entanglements.

At first glance, this strategic shift may not be aligned with Trump's fiery rhetoric on China. The president still keeps up his hardline approach — slapping on staggering tariffs against Beijing and accusing Xi Jinping and Vladimir Putin of conspiring against the United States follow-

ing his meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un during China's Victory Day parade on September 3, 2025.

Yet, actions on the ground — from large-scale deployment of the National Guard across major cities to bolster law enforcement, to dispatching several warships and F-35 fighter jets to Central America and the Caribbean, to anti-narcotics operations along the Mexican border and attacks on Venezuelan boats — show that this strategy has already been put into motion even before its official release.

Moves by the US State Department have also backed up this reorientation. Secretary of State Marco Rubio chose Panama, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Guatemala, and the Dominican Republic for his first overseas trip, driving home the point about a steady regional strategy and President Trump's resolve to put the Western Hemisphere first. Meanwhile, the administration has tightened its focus on transnational organized crime and major drug cartels, classifying them as Specially Designated Global Terrorists (SDGTs). These steps suggest a clear consensus between the Pentagon and State Department that the Western Hemisphere — its hotspots, illicit networks, and great-power rivalries — is the new centerpiece of US strategic thinking.

As noted above, the 2025 NDS marks a sharp break from the 2018 and 2022 versions. The 2018 document replaced the post-9/11 "war on terror" paradigm with "strategic competition" among great powers as the greatest threat to US national security, putting China and Russia front and center in its defense planning. In 2022, China was labeled a "security challenge," with the main focus pinned on revamping integrated nuclear and missile defense systems to keep Beijing in check. In both documents, the Indo-Pacific was seen as the arena where American military credibility

and global order were most seriously tested.

By contrast, the 2025 draft — though still under review and open to final edits by the war secretary — turns the logic on its head. Under this new vision, the heart of national defense is to start from the homeland and the Western Hemisphere, while US security commitments beyond the hemisphere take a back seat unless they directly affect domestic or regional stability.

This doctrine rests on the premise that America's power and security stem not from abstract global positions but from numerous, high-quality relationships among actors. Over time, with increased interaction between individuals and institutions through trade, workers

sending remittances to their families, connections between professional associations, academic exchanges, and shared media ecosystems, these relationships grow thicker, shaping deeply interwoven dynamics between the United States and the nations of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Within the Western Hemisphere, these ties run deep and wide. Millions of US residents keep up links with relatives across Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean. Financial channels — remittances, cross-border banking, and investment — strengthen the fabric of those human ties. The scale of these economic, social, and cultural interactions creates fertile, stabilizing ground for productivity, flexibility, innovation, and



Actions on the ground — from large-scale deployment of the National Guard across major cities to bolster law enforcement, to dispatching several warships and F-35 fighter jets to Central America and the Caribbean, to anti-narcotics operations along the Mexican border and attacks on Venezuelan boats — show that this strategy has already been put into motion even before its official release.



Approximately 155 soldiers from the Illinois Army National Guard's 2-106th Cavalry Regiment come back to the US after a 10-month deployment to the US Africa Command area of responsibility in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

● SOCIAL MEDIA



cross-border integration. Yet, the same networks also open the door to illicit flows of goods, drugs like fentanyl, weapons, and laundered money.

The 2025 strategy takes on board the reality that "security cannot be achieved merely through state-to-state abstract ties; It begins with people and the institutional networks around them." In effect, it's an acknowledgment that the US cannot simply cut off the social and economic ties between other countries; It must manage and steer them, recognizing that much of America's vulnerability springs from the density of these regional relationships.

Across the Western Hemisphere, Washington faces a sharp paradox: It is both guarantor of security and a victim of its neighbors' instability. Violence and cartel activity in Latin America translate into drug overuse, illegal arms smuggling, cyber-enabled financial crimes, and empowered transnational gangs in the US. By contrast, turbulence in the South China Sea or Eastern Europe may rattle global markets but barely register in Americans' daily lives. This risk perception leads to a plain conclusion: "The closer the insecurity, the more it matters." Hence, "starting from homeland and the Western hemisphere" strategy is seen as the most pragmatic and sustainable foundation for US national security — one fully aligned with Trump's "America First" and "Make America Great Again" approaches.

Implications of 2025 strategy

1. The new doctrine doesn't mean the US is walking away from its global role. Washington will remain an active world player — but under different terms. This strategic reset injects realism into America's security calculus. For decades, the assumption was that Washington had to step in worldwide to uphold its reputation as the guarantor of global security and would therefore accept security responsibility in farther regions. Now, by "starting from homeland," the US draws clearer lines, basing interventions strictly on their tangible contribution to American safety and interest rather than abstract notions of global credibility.

2. The approach does not ditch competition with great powers — it reframes it. Under the new lens, Washington will channel resources more effectively to ensure that rivalry with China and Russia is handled primarily within the Western Hemisphere's periphery. Prioritizing the hemisphere is a more realistic and sustainable approach that minimizes overextension, avoids being dragged into costly faraway conflicts, and helps preserve national power over the long run. In other words, it transforms great power competition from an unlimited global contest into a series of manageable actions within regional

spaces where US interests are at stake.
3. The “starting from homeland” model signals that Washington will now pick and choose its overseas commitments with greater care. The Trump administration has made clear that its foreign interactions boil down to

two principles: “America’s interests first” and “cost-benefit calculation” — not shared interests with European, Asian, or Middle Eastern allies.
4. America’s partners in Europe, the Middle East, and the Indo-Pacific should expect that some security guaran-

tees or assurances long taken for granted will no longer be automatically implemented. Instead, they will be reassessed against the benchmark of effectiveness in protecting the homeland. The permanent security umbrella, established post-World War II through alli-

ance agreements aimed at preserving the status quo — often irrespective of a direct link to US security — can no longer be considered absolute. There are indications that Washington has already taken steps in line with this strategy. A Pentagon official and a European diplo-

mat confirmed that the Pentagon will cut funding this year for the Baltic Security Initiative, which annually provides hundreds of millions of dollars to Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia to help build their defense and military infrastructure. Moreover, NATO allies increas-

ingly anticipate that a portion of the approximately 80,000 US troops stationed in Europe will be withdrawn in the coming years.

The article first appeared on the Institute for Political and International Studies website.

Death knell for Summit of Americas?

By Vijay Prashad
Historian, journalist
OPINION

The government of the Dominican Republic has announced that the X Summit of the Americas (SOA), scheduled to be held in Punta Cana on December 4–5, has been postponed to 2026. This is the first time an SOA has been postponed.
There is no reason to think that the conditions for holding such a meeting will be better three or six months from now, so it’s more likely the summit will be canceled. If so, this might very well ring the death knell of the SOAs, precisely at a time when they are more needed than ever, given the deep differences cutting across the hemisphere.
As the premier diplomatic event of the Western Hemisphere, the SOAs have been around for a little over 30 years. They provide a useful, some would say vital, forum for presidents and prime ministers from across the continent to get together and interact with the US president, whom they rarely meet in person. Indeed, the summits were established in the halcyon days of multilateralism in the 1990s, when international cooperation flourished after the end of the Cold War and the sky seemed the limit in terms of what could be achieved in transborder projects.
The first SOA took place in Miami in 1994, and the most recent in Los Angeles in 2022. Democratization and the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) were the initial drivers for their agenda. Yet even after these faded, the idea that there is much to be gained by leaders from the Americas getting together to address common concerns kept them going. After all, it is difficult to say that some of the main challenges faced by countries in the Americas today, like the drug trade, illegal migration, organized crime, and climate change, do not need some form of collective response.
The SOAs, of course, build on the idea of Pan Americanism — the notion that there is something beyond the differences in language, history, and level of development that binds the countries of the Western Hemisphere, or the New World, and makes them different from the tired Old World across the Atlantic.
This can be a controversial concept. Many on the Left have denounced it as a non-transparent attempt to provide cover for US imperial designs to facilitate the exploitation of Latin America and the Caribbean to benefit American capital. However, this overlooks the fact that in a globalized and interdependent world, regions have their own dynamic, that there are “interna-



tional neighborhood” issues that need addressing, and that, in the end, it is by talking to each other that we can solve problems and find common ground. And those dialogues will be more fruitful and productive if they are institutionalized and structured, rather than undertaken in an ad hoc, spur-of-the-moment fashion.
President Trump dislikes multilateralism and international fora of various kinds — so much so that he skipped the VIII SOA in Lima in 2018, the first time a US president ever did so. And we all saw that after meeting with President Xi in Seoul on the sidelines of the APEC Leaders’ Summit, he left immediately, without attending APEC’s formal proceedings. Indications are that, at least one reason the SOA was postponed this time around, apart from the difficulties in agreeing on a final declaration,

which has been the official line, is because Trump was unwilling to commit to attending, which led to the host country’s decision to postpone, and effectively cancel it.
Still, the D.R. summit was already on the rocks. A few weeks ago, the Dominican government announced with great fanfare that it would not invite Cuba, Nicaragua, and Venezuela to the summit. This went down like a lead balloon in the region, with Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum saying that under such circumstances, she would not attend, and Colombian President Gustavo Petro criticizing the announcement and saying he would not attend either.
In this non-invitation, the Dominicans were following the US playbook from 2022 when Washington’s exclusion of the group of countries John Bolton called “the troika of tyranny”

led to the ultimate fiasco of the Los Angeles SOA, with the attendance of a mere 23 leaders (out of 35) and no final declaration. Moreover, the D.R. had originally spoken about “an inclusive summit,” code for inviting Cuba et al, but later bowed to strong pressures from the State Department to toe the US line.
There is no doubt that this whole exercise is a big failure of Dominican diplomacy. You don’t attempt to play in the big leagues if you are not ready to carry the ball across the finish line. More importantly, however, it is also a significant failure of the US State Department. Both Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Deputy Secretary Christopher Landau are what is known as “old Latin American hands,” speak fluent Spanish (Landau spent part of his childhood in Chile) and have been managing many Latin Ameri-



Mounted police patrol the streets of Los Angeles before world leaders from the Western Hemisphere gather in California for the Summit of the Americas from June 6 to 10, 2022.
● NBC

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Argentine President Javier Milei (R) talks to US President-elect Donald Trump at Mar-a-Lago in Palm Beach, Florida, on November 14, 2024.
● JOE RAEDLE/GETTY IMAGES

can issues on the front burner of US foreign policy, including Panama, Venezuela, the effect of mass deportations, and the US-Brazil spat.
Part of their strategy has been to work closely with the smaller Central American and Caribbean countries, as well as with those in South America, like Argentina, Ecuador, and Paraguay, that are ideologically aligned with the Trump administration.
One result of that was a highly unusual and unorthodox recent statement signed by the US and a number of these countries celebrating the defeat of the MAS (or Movement for Socialism) ruling coalition in Bolivia and claiming that the election result will end “the economic mismanagement of the past two decades”.
This is a factually incorrect assertion, given that Bolivia from 2010–2019 had one of the best economic performances in the hemisphere, consistently growing above 4 percent a year, except for 2019, when it grew at 2.2 percent, a higher growth rate than that of the US.
The truth is that these efforts to “divide and rule” by building coalitions with the region’s smaller countries to counter the likes of Brazil, Chile, Colombia, and Mexico by pressing the former to follow Washington’s diktat to the letter were bound to end in epic debacles, like now with the 2025 SOA.
But the US self-sabotage of the SOA is especially puzzling for another reason. We have heard much about how Washington, in the second Trump administration, will be retreating from the “pivot to Asia” launched under Obama to prioritize instead the defense and strengthening of the Western Hemisphere. And yes, both Rubio’s initial visits abroad and the issues mentioned above all underscored how the Americas have been front and center in the US foreign policy agenda.
But how does this square with boycotting one of the key diplomatic hemispheric institutions, like the SOA? What comes next? Defunding the Organization of American States — as Deputy Secretary Landau did not rule out at the OAS General Assembly in Antigua earlier this year — or closing the Inter-American Development Bank?
It may well be that the SOAs have run their course and that the time has come to give them a decent burial. Many said that the 2022 Los Angeles SOA showed that they were on their last gasp. The problem is that pushing them over the cliff while insisting that, for the first time since World War II, Washington’s top foreign policy priority is the Western Hemisphere is a contradiction in terms.

The article first appeared on Responsible Statecraft.

Riyadh 2025 Islamic Solidarity Games: Iran bags eight more medals, makes men's volleyball final

Sports Desk

Iranian athletes collected eight more medals on the third day of action at the Islamic Solidarity Games in Riyadh, while the country's national volleyball team booked its place in the men's final.

Iliya Salehipour headlined Iran's medal hunt on Monday, winning gold in the snatch, bronze in the clean and jerk, and silver in the total in the men's 88kg weightlifting event.

The Iranian lifted 162kg on his third and final successful attempt to edge Uzbekistan's Sarvar Zafarjonov by one kilogram for the ultimate prize in the snatch category. Zafarjonov, however, made amends by claiming the clean and jerk gold with a lift of 202kg – one kilogram ahead of Oman's Amur Salim Al-Khanjari – while Salehipour settled for bronze with 197kg.

Salehipour registered a total of 359kg to conclude his campaign with the silver, with Zafarjonov grabbing his second gold with 363kg.

"Thank God I managed to win a medal after several competitions. This is my first gold, the result of years of hard work and intense training," Salehipour said.

"I competed at the World Championships in Norway 20 days ago and had to take part in the Games without any rest to maintain my fitness level. I came here aiming for a clean sweep of golds, but I'm still pleased with what I achieved."

There was further weightlifting

success for the Iranians on Monday, as Reihaneh Karimi claimed double bronze medals in the women's 69kg event.

The Iranian lifter got off to a slow start, finishing sixth in the snatch, but after missing her first two attempts, she managed to lift 126kg on her third to place third in the clean and jerk, before a total of 221kg earned her a second bronze medal.

Table tennis double

Elsewhere, Iran's male and female teams added two table tennis medals to the country's haul in Riyadh.

The trio of Amirhossein Hodaei,

Benyamin Faraji, and Mohammad Mousavi-Taher settled for silver in the men's event after a final defeat to Kazakhstan.

Mousavi-Taher and Faraji surrendered a one-game lead to lose 2-1 (14-16, 11-5, 16-14) to Alan Kurmangaliyev and Aidos Kenzhigulov in the doubles contest, before Hodaei fell to Kirill Gerassimenko in straight games.

Faraji was also beaten by Kurmangaliyev in three games as Kazakhstan sealed an 8-1 victory. Earlier in the day, a semifinal defeat to Türkiye saw Iran claim bronze in the women's competition.

Neda Shahsavari and Setayesh

Illoukhani lost 3-0 in the doubles match, but Shima Safaei kept Iran's hopes alive with a 2-1 win over Sibel Altinkaya.

However, Shahsavari's straight-game loss to Ece Harac ended Iran's run in the tournament. Meanwhile, Mahdi Gholami secured Iran's third swimming medal in the Games, claiming the bronze in the men's 200m butterfly event. The 15-year-old Iranian finished the race in 2:01.35 minutes to stand behind Turkish swimmer Polat Uzer Turnali (1:58.14) and Azerbaijan's Ramil Valizada (2:01.16).

This was Gholami's second medal in Riyadh, having been part

of the Iranian quartet – alongside Mohammad Qassemi, Ali Rashidpour, and Matin Sohran – that won bronze in the 4×200m freestyle relay the previous day.

Hands on volleyball gold

Iran continued its emphatic run in men's volleyball, defeating Chad in straight sets (25-15, 25-19, 25-19) to secure a spot in Thursday's final with one game to spare in the round-robin phase. The fourth consecutive win tightened Iran's grip on top of the six-team table ahead of Wednesday's dead-rubber against Saudi Arabia.

The top two teams in the stand-

ings will face off again in the final. Sitting second to Iran, Türkiye is the favorite to meet Iran again in the showdown.

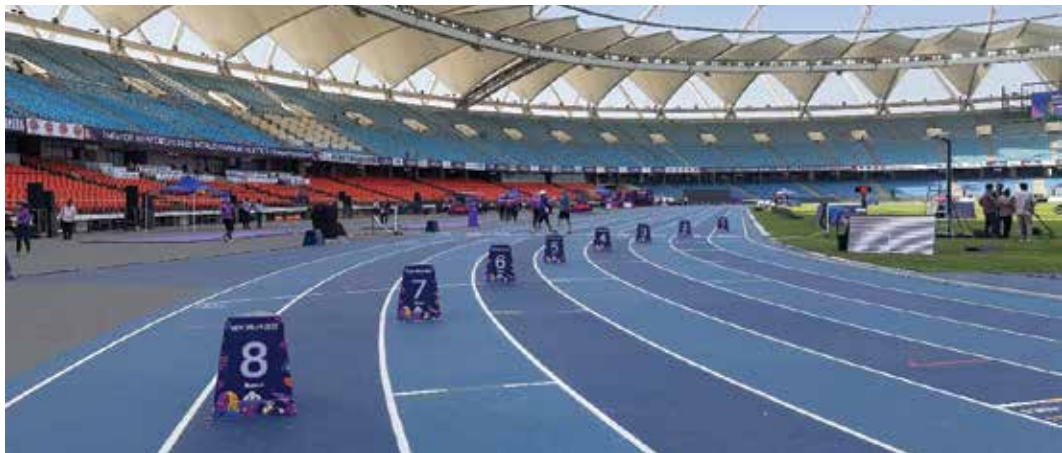
Despite a 3-1 victory over Türkiye earlier in Riyadh, Iran head coach Payman Akbari insisted that "it will be 50-50" should the two meet again in the final.

In the women's competition, Iran celebrated its victory with a straight-set demolishing (25-9, 25-10, 25-8) of Afghanistan on Tuesday. The result kept Iranian girls, who had suffered back-to-back defeats against Azerbaijan and Türkiye, in contention for a place in Thursday's bronze-medal matchup.



Iranian weightlifter Iliya Salehipour makes a clean and jerk attempt during his triple-medal winning campaign in the men's 88kg category at the Islamic Solidarity Games in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on Nov. 10, 2025.
● isg-2025.com

Iranian world champion could lose para athletics title over doping



● indiatoday.in

Sports Desk

One of Iran's gold medalists at September's World Para Athletics Championships could be stripped of the title after testing positive for doping at the competition in New Delhi, the chairman of the country's Sports Federation for the Disabled announced. Iran collected nine gold medals, along with two silvers and four bronzes, to finish third in the medals table at the showpiece event.

"The athlete's A-sample returned a positive result for a banned substance," Jalil Kouhpayezadeh said on Monday, adding: "The athlete was tested twice during the competition, but it's unclear which specific sample triggered the positive result."

Regarding the potential punishment for the Iranian contestant, Kouhpayezadeh stated: "The rules dictate the length of a ban based on the substance involved, and in this case, the athlete is likely facing a standard four-year suspension."

"However, the final decision is not yet made. The outcome will depend on the explanation we present, and the 'B' sample still has to be analyzed. A final verdict will only be issued if that second test confirms the initial finding. "A final ruling will be issued only once the doping violation is confirmed. For now, no sanction has been imposed against the athlete; we have simply been notified that the initial sample has tested positive for performance-enhancing substances."

"We have begun correspondence with the International Paralympic Committee through our National Paralympic Committee, but a final decision has not yet been announced," added the Iranian official.

All of Iran's gold medals in New Delhi came in the field disciplines, with Amirhossein Alipour, Mehran Nekouei-Majd, Aliasghr Javanmardi, and Yasin Khosravi capturing the ultimate prize across different men's shot put classes. Hassan Bajoulvand claimed the top honor in the men's discus throw F11 event, while Saied Afrooz, Sadeq Beit-Sayyah, and Ali Bazayr won golds in javelin throw.

Elham Salehi was Iran's only female gold medalist, triumphing in the javelin throw F54.

Iran to play Lebanon in friendly ahead of FIBA World Cup qualifiers

Sports Desk

The Iranian men's team will face Lebanon in a warmup friendly ahead of the opening window at the FIBA Basketball World Cup Asian qualifiers, the national governing body of the sport announced.

The game will take place in Beirut, but the exact date is yet to be confirmed.

Iran will begin its qualification campaign against Iraq on November 27 in Zouk Mikael, Lebanon, before facing the West Asian opponent again in the

first-round Group C – also featuring Syria and Jordan.

Iran will not be in action in the qualifiers until February 27 next year, when it hosts Jordan.

The top three teams from each of the four first-round groups will advance to the second round of the Asian qualifiers, where they will be divided into two groups of six.

The top three in the two groups will be joined by the best fourth-placed team in securing a berth at the 2027 World Cup in Qatar. Iran will step into the qualifiers fresh off an impressive run

under Greek head coach Sotiris Manolopoulos at the FIBA Asia Cup in August.

The three-time Asian champion defeated Guam (77-52), Japan (78-70), and Syria (82-43) to win the group and progress to the quarterfinals.

Iran then staged a sensational fightback to defeat Chinese Taipei 78-75 but was outclassed 92-48 by eventual champion Australia in the semifinals.

Manolopoulos' men bounced back to overcome New Zealand 79-73, securing a consolation bronze medal in Saudi Arabia.



● FIBA

15th National Handicrafts Exhibition opens in Kermanshah

Iranica Desk

The 15th National Handicrafts Exhibition officially opened on Monday, November 10, in Kermanshah. At the opening ceremony, Maryam Jalali, Deputy Minister of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts, and Tourism in charge of handicrafts and traditional arts, expressed hope that “family upbringing and the arts nurtured within families will ultimately contribute to the country’s development.” She noted that development is built on three key concepts — welfare, satisfaction, and meaning — all of which are essential for true progress. “These are values deeply rooted in Iranian culture,” she emphasized, according to chtn.ir. Jalali added, “In every vessel, garment, musical note, tablecloth, curtain, and carpet, there lies a meaning — and it is the artisans who create and carry these meanings.”



● milkanonline.ir

She further expressed hope that, with the help of the younger generation, such exhibitions would serve as a bridge connecting today’s creative efforts to a brighter future for Iran. Meanwhile Bahram Soleimani,

Deputy Governor of Kermanshah for Political and Security Affairs, stated that, “Artists working in the field of handicrafts are, in fact, preserving and revitalizing our Iranian and historical identity.”

He stressed the need to establish mechanisms that would both enhance recognition of handicrafts and make them economically viable. “Developing the handicrafts industry not only contributes to Kerman-

shah’s economic prosperity but also showcases our cultural strength,” Soleimani said. He went on to explain that, given trade and commerce are key drivers of Kermanshah’s development, the province should harness the potential of the private sector alongside government support to revitalize the handicrafts sector. “Promoting and facilitating the export of Iranian handicrafts is another area that must be emphasized in future planning,” he added. Dariush Farmani, Director General of Kermanshah Province’s Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Organization announced that artists from 30 provinces across the country are participating in this year’s exhibition, which features a total of 233 pavilions allocated to artisans. “All 14 cities of Kermanshah Province are taking part with 37 pavilions,” he said. Farmani also mentioned that about 100 handicraft artists from across Iran have traveled

to Kermanshah to attend the event, 60 of whom are women. Additionally, 116 local artists from Kermanshah are showcasing their works. He added that, in addition to the main pavilions, 17 have been allocated to supportive institutions such as the Welfare Organization, Imam Khomeini Relief Committee, Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults, Municipality, Department of Sports and Youth, and the Basij Organization of Artists to assist and promote artists with special conditions. Farmani noted that the exhibition will run from November 10 to 14 at the Kermanshah International Exhibition Center, open to visitors daily from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. He also invited the people of Kermanshah to visit the exhibition, announcing that on Thursday and Friday, the visiting hours will be extended from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Peace, humanity in Cyrus Cylinder form Iran’s cultural foundation

Iranica Desk

“Iran is a culture that embodies the essence of several millennia of civilization, and its foundation rests upon the textual content of the Cyrus Cylinder,” said Alireza Askari, professor of archaeology at Shiraz University. The UNESCO decision, adopted by consensus in Samarkand on November 6, recognized the Cyrus Cylinder as “a foundational document in the history of human civilization,” and tasked the organization with integrating its teachings into education and human rights programs.



● IRNA

In an interview with IRNA on this occasion, Askari explained that the Cyrus Cylinder can be examined from two perspectives: first, within its historical context — the 6th century BCE (26 centuries ago) — as a document marking a historic conquest and the “birth of Iran”; and second, through the modern cultural interpretation of the Iranian nation, which regards this artifact as a civilizational legacy of global importance. He noted that the cylinder, inscribed in Babylonian (Akkadian) script, dates back to the conquest of Babylon — the capital of one of the world’s great ancient civilizations — by Cyrus the Great. The Achaemenid king, in organizing his new political system, sought legiti-

macy from Babylonian nobles and priests. “By writing and dedicating this cylinder to the Babylonian temples, Cyrus expressed his loyalty and respect toward the deity worshipped by the people of Mesopotamia,” Askari said. He continued, “After conquering Lydia (in present-day Turkey) and the land of the Medes, Cyrus had a grand plan to capture Babylon. However, he did not wish to approach this ancient civilization with hostility or aggression. Therefore, when he entered through the Ishtar Gate, he spoke respectfully of the Mesopotamian gods, composed the text of

izational heritage of Babylon, the greatest urban center of the ancient world, was transferred to Iran.” “As Iran was born in this period, the Cyrus Cylinder became the cultural cornerstone of Iranian society — a document built upon peace, culture, and civility,” he reiterated. Askari further explained that the significance of the Cyrus Cylinder extends far beyond its clay form. “Its content represents the very basis of Iranian culture and the civilizational principles of Iran’s intellectual and cultural geography. Iran carries a profound cultural and conceptual weight, and its foundation is the text of the Cyrus Cylinder,” he said. Discussing the continuity of this culture, Askari added, “A few decades later, when the Gate of All Nations was constructed in Persepolis and the Persian Empire expanded from India to Egypt and Europe, Darius and Xerxes also adopted this same civilizational foundation as the guiding principle of their governance.” He noted that throughout history, Iranians have repeatedly rebuilt themselves in the face of adversity. “After Alexander’s invasion, Iran was reborn, giving rise to the concept of ‘Iran-shahr,’” he said. Askari said that Iranian civilization, based on the spirit of the Cyrus Cylinder, is founded on mutual respect among human beings, reverence for religions, and an embrace of cultural diversity. “From ancient times through the Islamic era and into the present day, the foundation of Iranian thought has consistently rested upon culture, courtesy, and peace. Over millennia, this culture has flourished, giving rise to great poets and scholars, and its message has continued to inspire Iran’s cultural, artistic, scientific, and architectural achievements,” he said.

this cylinder, and dedicated it to the temple.” Askari emphasized that this act took place before the construction of the great Achaemenid palaces in Susa, Babylon, Ecbatana, and Persepolis. “The language of peace and courtesy used by Cyrus played a crucial role in legitimizing his rule over the newly conquered lands,” he said. In response to a question about the formation of Iran as a nation, Askari stated, “It was precisely after the conquest of Babylon that Iran took shape as both a geographical and political entity. The foundation of this vast territory was the Cyrus Cylinder — a classical document establishing the roots of Iranian culture. At that time, the cultural and civ-

Fekri Mansion in Bandar Lengeh tells story of wind, light

Iranica Desk



● IRNA

In the heart of Bandar Lengeh, Hormozgan Province, overlooking the turquoise waters of the Persian Gulf, stands Fekri House, a magnificent Qajar-era mansion whose elegant windcatchers still whisper tales of the past. With its intricate architecture and climate-smart design, the mansion is a shining symbol of southern Iran’s ingenuity and cultural identity. Built in the late Qajar period by Abdolvahed Fekri, a prominent merchant of Bastaki origin, the mansion served both as a family residence and a hub for trade and commerce. According to chtn.ir, its design reflects this dual purpose, featuring two distinct sections — the Andaruni (private family quarters) and the Biruni (guest and business area) — that separate domestic life from commercial affairs, according to chtn.ir. Occupying over 3,400 square meters, with 1,200 square meters of built space, Fekri House rises five meters above ground level. Its elevated base, five tall windcatchers, and maze-like corridors provide natural ventilation — an ingenious response to the region’s heat and humidity. Constructed from stone, Sarooj (a traditional lime and clay mortar), and plaster, the mansion’s ceilings combine African wood, palm-leaf mats, and reeds coated with Kahgel (mud

and straw). This blend of materials not only ensures durability but also harmonizes beautifully with the surrounding landscape. The building was designed and built by Mohyeddin Ostadi, a skilled local architect. Fekri House follows a rectangular plan with a north-south orientation. The southern entrance leads visitors through a small chamber into the outer courtyard, where three east-west garden plots create a serene atmosphere for guests. Three large rooms line the northern side — the central one, with its columned veranda and surrounding corridors, is considered among the house’s most striking features. A veranda with tall, slender columns fronts the main hall, showcasing the grace of southern Iranian design. Above, five windcatchers — each two meters square — draw cooling breezes into the rooms. Wooden supports reinforce them against the region’s strong southern winds. To the north lies the Andaruni courtyard, a 17-by-17-meter square anchored by a large pool surrounded by evenly spaced columns and multiple rooms. The northern hall, featuring two rectangular windcatchers, serves as the heart of this section, circulating cool air throughout the interior and ensuring comfort year-round. Smaller rooms flank the court-

yard, some once used by servants or as storage. To the west, a separate area houses two courtyards, a kitchen, and stables — all connected to the main courtyard via an arched passage. The thoughtful layout reflects the precision and order of daily life in the aristocratic homes of southern Iran. The mansion’s façade features decorative frames, pointed arches, and buttresses that enhance both its strength and beauty. Courtyard walls are adorned with ship-anchor motifs — a tribute to Bandar Lengeh’s deep-rooted bond with the sea and maritime trade. More than a building, Fekri House embodies the cultural essence of Bandar Lengeh. Set amid old gardens and overlooking the sea, its tall windcatchers rise like sentinels of heritage — symbols of the region’s intelligent, nature-adaptive architecture. Inscribed on Iran’s National Heritage List in 1996, Fekri Mansion has become one of Bandar Lengeh’s most popular tourist attractions, drawing visitors from across Iran and abroad. More than a century after its construction, the Fekri House remains strong and alive — a story carved in stone and wind, where architecture meets art, and where every breeze carries echoes of history, hospitality, and the enduring spirit of the Persian Gulf.



Iran's Tourism Ministry tops Seventh Development Plan in first-year assessment

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts claimed top-ranking performance in implementing the first year of the Seventh Development Plan, placing ahead of all other ministries, according to a comprehensive parliamentary report on November 11. In a statement, the ministry's Deputy for Parliamentary, Legal and Provincial Affairs, Javad Vahedi, revealed that of the 30 mandates assigned to the min-

istry under chapter 17 of the Plan, 13 (43%) were executed within the deadline and 7 (23%) after the deadline, IRNA reported. The remaining 10 mandates, though uncompleted, showed an average progress rate of nearly 45%. Vahedi stated the overall rating given by the Parliament classified the ministry's output as "very good", emphasizing that "in the first year ... more than 65%" of the mandates were realized. On inbound tourism, the

ministry reported that over 7.4 million foreign tourists entered Iran during the year, a rise from a base of 7.3 million, thus achieving more than 100% of the quantitative target set for the initial year of the plan. Vahedi described inbound visitors as "cultural ambassadors" and said the ministry will in its second year double-down on market segmentation, operational action-plans and a dedicated statistical system to distinguish tourists from general travelers.



20 high-quality films produced in first year of Iran's latest development program: *Minister*



Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's Culture and Islamic Guidance Minister Abbas Salehi said on Tuesday that 20 high-quality feature films had been produced in the first year of the country's Seventh Development Plan and that 19 of them had met the approval of the Parliament's Culture Committee. Speaking in the open session of the Parliament on November 11, Salehi said that the plan had provided an "opportunity" for ministry efforts in religion, media and related fields, and that from the outset

of the current administration the ministry had pursued the statutory mandates of the Seventh Plan in earnest, IRNA reported. He noted that all but one of the required cultural documents, regulations and program-based actions had been submitted to the Cabinet and approved by it, with one further plan pending ratification. He said some quantitative targets had been "fully met", "In some cases 100% of the actions and indicators have been realized," he claimed, pointing to the first year of the Seventh Plan as an "unsettled" budget year yet producing

"figures worthy of attention". Salehi also highlighted the expansion of art education institutions, and domestic production of computer games for children and adolescents, adding that the indicator set by the Culture Committee on that front had been fulfilled. On areas such as culture and expectations, mosque-based Qur'anic programs and related fields, he said the commission's target had been 45% achieved and another 25% was in progress, amounts he said were "credible" given the start-up context of the first year. Addressing headwinds, he said that certain directives assigned to the ministry had not been fully met because they rested with councils and committees, and not solely under the ministry's remit. He stressed that the ministry remains "responsible" but that "not all of these tasks sit on its shoulders". He added that the requirement to secure sufficient financing and manpower in sectors such as mosque-based Qur'anic bodies could not be addressed through routine budget lines and would need attention during the remainder of the Seventh Development Plan.

Iranian short film 'Black Scarf' awarded at French festival

Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian short film 'Black Scarf,' directed by Iranian filmmaker Alireza Shahhoseini, captured the Public Prize of €500 at the 29th edition of the Écran Libre International Short Film Festival in the historic town of Aigues-Mortes in southern France. The festival ran from November 7 to 9, IRNA reported. Produced by Shah Hosein Film, 'Black Scarf' is a 15-minute Iranian drama, listed in the Torino Film Festival catalogue as a 2024 production. It features actors Pasha Rostami, Tara Majidzadeh, Lotfollah Seifi, Mohanna Seyedi and the late Hatam Mashmooli, among others. The Aigues-Mortes festival, founded in 2011 and now celebrating its 29th iteration, champions emerging cinema and freedom of expression through short films and documentaries. According to the festival's rules, the



"Prix du Public" (Public Prize) carries a cash award of €500. Through its narrative, "Do you know anything about spiders? ... they eat their mates", the film explores ominous and intimate human dynamics, the producer's summary says. The festival said the award "recognizes the film that engages the audience most powerfully". The cash award and public acclaim could help the film "break out into further international circuits," said a spokesperson for Shah Hossein Film Company.

Iranian actor Homayoun Ershadi dies at 78

Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian actor Homayoun Ershadi, whose debut in Abbas Kiarostami's Palme d'Or-winning 'Taste of Cherry' (1997) brought him international acclaim, died on Tuesday at age 78 after a battle with cancer, Iran's House of Cinema confirmed. Born on March 26, 1947, in Isfahan, Ershadi studied architecture before relocating to Vancouver in the 1980s, where he worked for over a decade, IRNA reported. He returned to Iran in the 1990s and Kiarostami asked him, saying, "I want to make a film. Would you like to be in it?" In 'Taste of Cherry', Ershadi played a man driving across the outskirts of Tehran, searching for someone to bury him after his planned suicide. The film won the Palme d'Or at the 1997 Cannes Film Festival, establishing Ershadi's late-blooming acting career. He later gained international attention for roles in Marc Forster's Afghanistan-set 'The Kite Runner' (2007), Kathryn Bigelow's 'Zero Dark Thirty' (2012), Alejandro Amenábar's 'Ago-



ra' (2009), and Hassan Nazer's UK-set 'Utopia' (2015). In Iran, he starred in the female racing drama 'Lelah', the mountain village story 'Mahoor', and posthumously in 'The Hill of Kites'. Ershadi amassed over 90 credits in less than three decades, earning a reputation for bringing understated intensity to his characters. The House of Cinema hailed him as "a prominent figure of cinema, theatre and television," extending condolences to the artistic community. Known for his quiet presence and versatility, Ershadi bridged Iranian cinema with global audiences, proving that a late start could still yield a profound and lasting impact. He is survived by his children, who reside in Vancouver.

Notice of tender for export sale No. Z/1404/22

Golgohar Mining and Industrial Company

Hereby Golgohar Mining & Industrial Co. announces selling and export 70.000 metric tons of Iron Ore Concentrate (%Fe:66.50 ave) on basis of F.O.B at Rajaee Jetty Bandar Abbas - Iran. Interested bidders should find tender documents at Golgohar website: www.geg.ir. All bids on conformity to tender instructions must be submitted no later than 09:00 A.M. on 25. Nov.2025 to Golgohar complex in sirjan (50 km in shiraz road). Bidders are invited to the transactions commission department of the seller with an introduction letter of interested buyer and personal identification of the representative. Tender results shall be announced at 09:00 A.M. on 25.Nov.2025 at the office of the Seller.

GOLGOHAR MINING & INDUSTRIAL CO.

Analysis %		
%Fe Ave	66.50	
%FeO	Min 24	Max 28
%P Max	0.04	
%S Max	1	
%SiO2 Max	3.0	
%Al2O3 Max	0.7	
%CaO Max	0.8	
%MgO Max	2.5	
%Moisture Max	5.0	
Size ave	80%<0.46 mm	