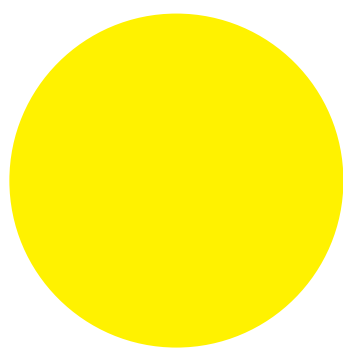


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Iran-Iraq ties too solid to be shaken by election outcome

I N T E R V I E W
E X C L U S I V E



Iraq's parliamentary elections, held on November 11, recorded a turnout of more than 56% of registered voters, a figure notably higher than the 41% participation seen in 2021. The contest brought together Iraq's main political forces, but absent from the race was Muqtada al-Sadr's Sadrist Movement, which boycotted the vote.

The outcome of the elections will play a decisive role in the formation of the next government, the choice of prime minister, and Iraq's regional positioning, especially in relation to Iran and the United States.

In this exclusive interview with Iran Daily, Iraq affairs researcher and analyst, Seyyed Reza Qazvini, examines the dynamics of the vote, its political consequences, and its implications for Iran.

IRAN DAILY: With voter turnout in Iraq rising from 41% in 2021 to over 55% in the latest elections, what impact might this have on the legitimacy of the new political structure and on the balance of power among the Shia, Sunni and Kurdish blocs? And what consequences could this shift have for stability along Iraq's eastern borders and Baghdad-Tehran relations?

QAZVINI: Let me first make a point about voter turnout. The figure of over 56% announced by Iraq's Electoral Commission falls within that body's own definition framework and has been widely criticized by political and electoral activists. If we consider all eligible voters above 18, the real participation rate would be around 41%. By the same realistic calculation, turnout in 2021 was about 38%. So yes, participation has increased this time, but not to the extent claimed by the commission—it's roughly a 3% rise. Now, let's get back to your question.

The recent elections have had little to no impact on the legitimacy—positive or negative—of Iraq's political system. The foundations of this system remain intact and continue to operate as before. Early indications suggest that the outcome does not point to any major transformation. The balance of power among the three main blocs—Sunni, Shia, and Kurdish—is not easily altered, and this election is unlikely to shake up that equilibrium. However, I believe what we can expect is some internal realignment within each bloc. The vote essentially served as a weigh-in among the parties and factions inside each of these three camps. As for Iran-Iraq relations, they are far too deep-rooted and solid to be thrown off balance by the outcome of a single election. Beyond geography and shared cultural and social ties, Iran's political influence among certain factions—by no means limited to Shia groups—has made Tehran-Baghdad relations quite distinctive.

Considering that the Sadrist movement boycotted the elections while public participation remained relatively high, can we say Muqtada al-Sadr's political weight in Iraq's future equations has declined? If his position weakens, what opportunities or challenges might that create for Iran in its political and security engagement with Iraq's next government?

The Sadrist movement remains a highly influential political and social force, particularly in the political sphere. While its social base is not easily expandable, its key strength lies in remarkable cohesion. In the 2021 elections, when the Sadrists won 73 seats and came out on top, they had secured only 885,000 votes—around 10% of the total. In other words, contrary to what some may assume, their participation or absence doesn't cause a massive gap in turnout figures. In the current elections, about 12 million people voted. Even if we assume one million Sadrists had participated instead of boycotting, overall turnout would have risen by only about 5% or 6%. That's in terms of participation. In terms of results, however, within the Shia camp, their presence could have redrawn the political map among Shia factions.

In my view, though, boycotting the elections was a mistake on Sadr's part. He had certain expectations—like many others, he anticipated low turnout and believed regional upheavals after October might spill over into Iraq, reshaping its politics.

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Iraq's Sudani scores 'major victory' in general election

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Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia' al-Sudani shows his ink-stained thumb in a thumbs-up gesture after casting his vote at a polling station in Baghdad during the parliamentary elections on November 11.

● AA

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Moscow says doubts E3's ability to play 'positive role' in Iran nuclear issue

Iranian, Russian FM's discuss upcoming IAEA meeting

International Desk

Russia's Permanent Representative to International Organizations in Vienna, Mikhail Ulyanov, on Wednesday expressed doubt about the European powers' ability to play a positive role concerning Iran's nuclear program.

"Russia, China and Iran are major players in what regards the nuclear program of Iran. They decide to a significant extent how the situation will develop. The so-called E3 (UK, Germany and France) also has the right to express its viewpoint. But their ability to play a positive role is highly questionable," Ulyanov said in a post on X.

His comments came nearly a week before a session of the International Atomic Energy Agency's Board of Governors. "Permanent Representatives of China, Iran and Russia met

today with the IAEA Director General Mr. Rafael Grossi and his team to exchange views on the forthcoming session of the IAEA Board of Governors," he added.

The issue was the main topic of a phone conversation between Iranian and Russian foreign ministers on Wednesday. According to the Russian Foreign Ministry, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi "discussed this situation within the IAEA Board of Governors where France, the UK and Germany have been seeking to launch an anti-Iranian campaign."

Meanwhile, the foreign ministers of the UK, France, and Germany discussed Iran's nuclear program during a trilateral meeting on the sidelines of the G7 summit on the same day.

The IAEA meeting, which is scheduled to be held from No-

vember 19 to 21, is of great importance for Iran as it is the first session after the expiration of UN Resolution 2231, which endorsed the 2015 Iran nuclear agreement.

The resolution had required the UN agency to carry out enhanced monitoring activities over Iran's nuclear program. However, with the expiration of the resolution, inspections of Iran's nuclear activities will now be limited to the obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Iran, Russia, and China had earlier sent a letter to the UN Security Council, formally announcing the expiration of the resolution. Meanwhile, the stance of Western countries regarding the expiration remains unclear.

The three European countries have illegally activated the "snapback" mechanism shortly before the resolution expired,



Permanent representatives of Iran, China and Russia to International Organizations in Vienna hold talks with the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency Rafael Grossi (3rd L) in Vienna on November 12, 2025.

which led to reimposition of the international sanctions against Iran.

Following this move, Iran —

which had already suspended its cooperation with the IAEA after a 12-day Israel-US aggression against Iran in June

— also withdrew from the agreement it had reached in Cairo on a new framework for negotiations with the agency.

Army chief: Iran-Afghanistan border wall key to enhancing security

National Desk

Iran's Army Chief Major General Amir Hatami on Wednesday highlighted the significance of a wall which is under construction along Iran's border with Afghanistan, saying it will play an important role in further enhancing the country's security.

During a visit to the country's northeastern borders, Hatami said various measures, such as digging trenches or building berms, had been taken in the past years. But the construction of the border wall is a fundamental measure to resolve some border issues with the "neighboring and brotherly country, Afghanistan." The commander also reviewed the progress of the construction of the border wall which is being

carried out by the Army's Ground Forces and affirmed the Army's full support for the project.

Iran shares more than 900 kilometers of border with Afghanistan. The 300-kilometer wall is set to be four meters high and equipped with barbed wire fencing. It is the first phase of the major project in Iran's eastern borders, which is under construction in the Khorasan Razavi Province. In January, Iranian military sources said 75 km of the wall had been completed so far.

According to Iranian officials, the goal is to fight illegal crossings, drug smuggling, fuel smuggling, and to enhance border-control infrastructure.

Iranian authorities see the northeastern Khorasan Razavi Province, as well as North and South



Iran's Army Chief Major General Amir Hatami (4th R) walks along with several Army commanders during a visit to country's northeastern borders on November 12, 2025.

IRNA

Khorasan, as the top destinations for irregular migrants from Afghanistan. The region is also thought to be an entry point for terrorists.

Iran has allocated \$3.3 billion for construction of the wall.

Iraq's Sudani scores 'major victory' in general election

International Desk

The list backing incumbent Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani secured a big win in parliamentary elections, sources close to his alliance said on Wednesday.

Sudani's "Reconstruction and Development list has secured a major victory" following the vote on Tuesday, an official close to the premier told AFP.

Another two sources said the premier's alliance has "won the largest bloc" with approximately 50 seats.

Iraq's electoral commission was expected to announce preliminary results later this evening. Sudani, who hopes for a second term, has emerged as a major force in Iraqi politics, after he was brought to power three years ago by an alliance of Shia groups.

Iraqis cast their ballots on Tuesday, with a high turnout of 56.11 percent, a sharp jump from the record low of 41 percent in 2021.

With an outright majority almost impossible to achieve by any single list, the role of prime minister is determined by the coalition that can secure enough post-election allies to form the largest Shia alliance.

In past elections, naming a premier and forming a government has proven to be the most taxing post-election process.

In previous parliaments, parties from the Shia majority have struck compromise deals to work together and form a government.

By convention in post-invasion Iraq, a Shia Arab holds the powerful post of prime minister and a Sunni Arab that of parliament speaker,



Iraqi polling officials count ballots at a polling station after closing during the country's parliamentary elections in Al-Muhandiseen district in eastern Baghdad on November 11, 2025.

AFP

er, while the largely ceremonial presidency goes to a Kurd.

A total of 8,703 polling stations were open across the country for the general elections. 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.

More than 7,740 candidates, nearly a third of them women and only 75 independents, were standing under an electoral law that many believe favors larger parties.

The current parliament began its term on January 9, 2022, and will last four years, ending on January 8, 2026.

Iran-Iraq ties ...

He thought staying out of such a scene would eventually work to his advantage. But that miscalculation may now lead to some frustration within his support base, and signs of that are already visible.

His repeated boycott statements, the reprimands of followers who defied him, the expulsion of around 40 members who decided to run, and even his recent sharp-toned message to the representative of the religious authority in Karbala—all coupled with the public's higher turnout—don't paint a promising picture for him.

His fervent fans will inevitably expect him to step back into the political fray. Those around him, whose interests depend on direct involvement in parliament and government structures, are likely dissatisfied. In fact, before the vote, some figures in his political camp had urged him to allow indirect participation, but he refused. If Sadr doesn't rethink his strategy, he could run into serious trouble. The era of sending his supporters to storm parliament as a form of protest is long gone and similar moves in the future won't serve him well either.

Someone who has quit politics ten

times and always returned can do so again. I believe that even if the Sadrist's absence reduces their active political engagement, their participation could still offer opportunities for constructive involvement within official frameworks. Although the Sadr movement stands in clear opposition to the Coordination Framework—a Shia alliance close to Iran—its presence in parliament and Tehran's potential outreach to it could, in the end, open the door to some developments acceptable to Iran.

Given parliament's key role in choosing Iraq's president and prime minister, what scenarios are most likely for forming the new government? Could forces aligned with the "Axis of Resistance" and close to Iran gain a stronger foothold in the next administration?

It's a bit difficult to pin down a clear answer right now. Developments in Iraq are fast-moving, with multiple domestic and foreign factors in play, and the precise results for various political forces—including the resistance factions—are not yet known. Once that's settled, the tough bargaining over cabinet formation and the choice of prime minister will begin.

This time around, it appears the Americans are keen to weigh in more directly on the negotiations and the formation of the next government. The appointment of a special envoy of Iraqi descent by President Trump just days before the elections can hardly be called coincidental. Statements by that envoy, along with remarks from other US officials like Marco Rubio, suggest that Trump wants post-election Iraq—or Iraq after the October 7 Gaza and the ceasefire—to move in a direction aligned with Washington's preferred order.

Therefore, pressure on the resistance groups and US interference in shaping the new government in ways favorable to Washington and its regional allies should come as no surprise. Even if the resistance-aligned forces perform well electorally, the US will likely push hard to keep them out of the government-formation process and may even take steps to undercut the Shia Coordination Framework.

In any case, if pro-Iran factions manage to gain real power in the new parliament or cabinet—and if the US fails to keep them at bay—we could well see tensions flare up between Washington and Baghdad in the coming period.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

CARTOON



India's Chabahar waiver shows Washington's effort to preserve strategic ties

By Sadeq Dehqan
Staff writer

INTERVIEW EXCLUSIVE

Iran's strategic location and access to open waters make it a vital link in India's trade route to Central Asia and Russia, according to Mehdi Rang Rouna, vice president of the Iran-India Chamber of Commerce. He said India's trade through Iran's Chabahar Port holds "strategic importance" for New Delhi. The United States on October 30 granted India a six-month sanctions waiver to operate at Iran's southeastern Chabahar Port, a move New Delhi said would bolster its trade with Afghanistan and Central Asian countries.

"By maintaining India's waiver at Chabahar Port, the United States has effectively sought to preserve its strategic ties with New Delhi, which remains one of Washington's key partners," Rang Rouna told Iran Daily. Chabahar, Iran's oceanic port and the closest access point for India to Central Asian markets, has long been a focus of India's regional economic strategy. New Delhi views the port as a reliable corridor for expanding regional trade and has consistently called for the continuation of US sanctions exemptions for its operations there.

Rang Rouna said that cooperation between Iran and India in pharmaceuticals, agriculture, and food industries has continued despite the western sanctions against his country, adding that the active operation of Chabahar could "not only bring considerable economic benefits to both countries but also boost regional trade and international transit connections."

In an interview with Iran Daily, Rang Rouna discussed the current state and prospects of trade between Iran and India:

IRAN DAILY: How would you describe the current state of trade between Iran and India?

RANG ROUNA: Trade between Iran and India has seen ups and downs in recent years. During the period of nuclear negotiations that led to the JCPOA (the 2015 Iran nuclear deal), the two countries enjoyed robust trade relations. However, India maintains extensive trade with the United States and therefore follows Washington's sanctions guidelines, which has naturally affected its trade with Iran. The impact intensified after the US, under President Donald Trump, unilaterally withdrew from the deal and reimposed sanctions. Over the years, whenever Iran's relations with Western countries — particularly the US — fluctuated, bilateral trade also experienced shifts. Still, economic ties between the two nations have never been severed. Trade continues, though sometimes at lower levels.

At present, the two countries cooperate actively in food industries, pharmaceuticals, and agriculture — sectors largely exempt from sanctions. Most of these exchanges take place effectively between Iranian and Indian businesses.

Official customs data on the trade volume are not fully accurate, as a large share of Iran's trade with India occurs indirectly through intermediary countries. Only a limited volume of food, agricultural, and pharmaceutical products are exported directly and recorded in customs statistics. In addition, a portion of Iranian exports to India is carried out through intermediary companies and countries.

Despite the challenges, what explains the persistence of trade between Iran and India?

Trade between the two coun-



Mehdi
Rang Rouna

tries has fluctuated but never stopped. One reason is mutual need. Iran and India have enjoyed centuries-old trade relations driven by cultural affinity, commercial interests, and economic complementarity. Today, many Indian products — such as bananas and spices — have a large market in Iran. India is also a leading producer of pharmaceuticals, and while Iran manufactures medicine domestically, parts of the raw materials are still imported from India. Conversely, Iran exports agricultural goods such as kiwis and apples to India in large quantities. These examples highlight the mutual dependence in trade. Iran also imports rice and tea from India.

What is your assessment of the outlook for bilateral trade?

The outlook is very positive. With a population of about 1.2 billion, India represents a vast market for Iranian exports. Iran can expand its presence in sectors like chemicals, petrochemicals, food, and agriculture. Geographical proximity is another advantage — sea transit between the two countries takes only six to seven days, a significant logistical benefit. If international political conditions improve, these advantages could lead to substantial growth in trade. India remains a key potential export market for Iranian goods including agricultural products, food, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, bitumen, and petrochemicals.

How have the snapback mechanism and new sanctions affected bilateral trade?

Before the reactivation of the snapback mechanism, the US had already granted India a waiver to invest in Chabahar Port to facilitate its access to Central Asia and Russia through Iran. India made some initial investments, but the process slowed due to sanctions and its close ties with the US. The potential remains strong, and recent reports suggest Washington has extended the waiver. By keeping India's exemption for Chabahar, the US has sought to maintain its strategic relationship with New Delhi. Chabahar's location as an ocean port near India signifi-

cantly reduces shipping time and costs. Full implementation of the project would benefit both sides — increasing Iran's transit revenues and providing India with a direct, shorter route to target markets.

As a result, the snapback mechanism has had little additional impact on Iran-India trade since India had already reduced its dealings with Iran after the US withdrawal from the JCPOA. No major changes have been observed since then. The UN Security Council on September 29 reinstated several sanctions on Iran's nuclear activities that had been lifted under the JCPOA, after France, Germany, and the UK triggered the deal's "snapback" mechanism.

Tehran, Tashkent poised to seal major bilateral cooperation pact



Economy Desk

Following a three-day visit by Iran's Minister of Industry, Mine, and Trade, Mohammad Atabak, to the Uzbek capital of Tashkent, Iran and Uzbekistan have taken a significant step toward strengthening bilateral trade relations as heads of state from both countries are expected to sign a comprehensive trade and cooperation agreement in the near future.

According to Iran's Ministry of Industry, Mine, and Trade, Atabak met on Wednesday, the final day of

his visit, with Uzbekistan's Deputy Prime Minister, Jamshid Khojaye, along with members of the technical delegations from both sides, ISNA reported. The two officials reached an agreement on the provisions of the new cooperation accord, which is slated for imminent signing. During his visit, Atabak also held talks with Uzbekistan's ministers of mining, investment, and trade to discuss ways to remove existing obstacles and to map out a medium- and long-term roadmap for collaboration between Tehran and Tash-

kent, reflecting the strong commitment of senior officials in both countries.

In addition, Atabak toured several major industrial companies and the Tashkent Technology Park, engaging with senior executives to explore opportunities for enhanced industrial and technological cooperation.

The visit marks a notable step in deepening economic ties between Iran and Uzbekistan, signaling a shared intent to expand trade, investment, and industrial collaboration across multiple sectors.

Bilateral trade between Iran and Uzbekistan has grown steadily in recent years, reaching about \$500 million in 2023. Atabak has said exchanges have increased by nearly 60% so far this year, underscoring Uzbekistan's importance as Iran's key gateway to Central Asia.

Iran, China seek to deepen ties in tech, digital sectors: Envoy

Economy Desk

Iran's Ambassador to China Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli underscored Tehran's focus on building a knowledge-based and digitally driven economy in an article published by the Chinese "People's Daily" on November 6, coinciding with the opening of Iran's national pavilion at the China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai.

According to IRNA, Rahmani Fazli wrote that Iran is committed to promoting strategic technologies and stands ready to expand cooperation with China in related fields. He identified areas of joint collaboration such as research projects, the development of emerging industries, clean production, and technical standards. Within the framework of China's Belt and Road Initiative, the ambassador pointed to major investment opportunities in infrastructure, advanced industries, renewable energy, smart transportation, and the green economy — sectors that, he said, could deliver tangible benefits for both



Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli

countries.

Rahmani Fazli also highlighted Iran's active and carefully planned participation in the 8th China International Import Expo (CIIE), where Tehran's national pavilion — organized by relevant Iranian agencies — aims to showcase the image of a "modern and progressive Iran" and strengthen innovative, technology-driven cooperation with China.

The eighth edition of the CIIE, the world's first import-themed na-

tional-level annual fair ran from November 5 to 10 in Shanghai. Iran's pavilion featured Iranian innovations including advanced nano-medicines, biomedical drugs, and diagnostic systems, as well as Iran's capabilities in medicinal plants and the potential to build joint value chains with Chinese partners.

In addition, Iranian handicrafts and artworks were displayed to celebrate the two nations' centuries-old cultural connections rooted in the ancient Silk Road.

Zohran is not alone

How global anti-austerity wave found its way to New York



New York City mayoral candidate Zohran Mamdani (c), flanked by Sen. Bernie Sanders (l), and Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, attends an election rally at Forest Hills Stadium in NYC's borough of Queens on October 26, 2025.

● ANDRES KUDACKI/GETTY IMAGES



Britain's establishment — from Conservatives to Labour's right wing — and the mainstream media, unable to shoot down Corbyn's anti-austerity platform, went after him with accusations of "antisemitism". This campaign, aimed squarely at his defense of Palestinian rights, ended up bringing him down. Corbyn's fall drove home a central lesson for the global left: Any radical challenge to the established order will be met not only with economic weapons but also with ideological and identity-based attacks — especially when it touches the question of Palestine. Mamdani's victory in New York, as an open pro-Palestinian voice, was historic precisely because it showed he had made it through the very minefield that destroyed Corbyn.



Then-New York State assemblymember Zohran Mamdani (front) voices his opposition to the United States' support of Israeli war crimes in Gaza by announcing a hunger strike, outside the White House on November 27, 2023.

● TOM WILLIAMS/CQ-ROLL CALL

OPINION

Zohran Mamdani's victory in New York was anything but an isolated political event. It was not a historical accident, but the late yet powerful expression of a global wave whose roots go back to the 2008 financial crash. That collapse wasn't merely an economic downturn; it was a full-blown ideological crisis that discredited two of the West's dominant beliefs: first, the neoliberal doctrine of the free market — hailed since the Reagan and Thatcher years as "the end of history" — and second, perhaps more importantly, the "Third Way" centrism of leaders like Bill Clinton and Tony Blair, who in the 1990s had already given in to this doctrine, merely trying to put a human face on capitalism.

The "austerity policies" rolled out by right-wing and centrist governments alike after 2008 broke apart that neoliberal consensus. These measures — privatizing public services, slashing health and education budgets, and bailing out banks at the expense of the working class — left behind a deep political vacuum. As Antonio Gramsci once warned, in the interregnum where "the old is dying and the new cannot be born," "monsters" emerge. The post-2008 crisis gave rise to two such creatures — or, more precisely, two radical and opposing responses: on one side, an exclusionary nationalism fueled by xenophobia; on the other, a renewed democratic socialism calling for class politics, anti-system struggle, and bold redistribution of wealth. Zohran Mamdani stands as the American, urban face of that second force.

Anglo-Saxon manifesto: Bernie Sanders, Jeremy Corbyn

This new left first took shape in the heart of the Anglo-Saxon world — the United States and the United Kingdom. In the US, Bernie Sanders, a senator who had long worked on the fringes of Washington politics as an independent socialist, ended up becoming the symbol of this revolt. His presidential campaigns in 2016 and 2020 turned around the word "socialism" from a Cold War slur into a legitimate political alternative for millions of young Americans. By going after the "billionaire class," demanding Medicare for All and tuition-free college, Sanders laid down the groundwork that paved the way for Mamdani's victory. Mamdani and members of "The Squad" are the direct political heirs of Sanders' "political revolution".

More importantly, Sanders set out to globalize this fight. In 2018, alongside Greece's former finance minister Yanis Varoufakis, he co-founded the Progressive International — a global hub meant to bring together leftist forces across borders against the emerging nationalist axis. This shows that the link between Mamdani and Sanders was not merely tactical, but part of a shared global strategy.

Across the Atlantic, Jeremy Corbyn sparked off a parallel story. His surprise victory in Labour's 2015 leadership race was a direct rebellion against "Blairism," the Third Way politics that had pulled the party to the center. Corbyn, like Mamdani, fought his way up not through party machinery but through a grassroots, youth-driven, radical movement called Momentum, backed by trade unions. His Labour

manifestos — calling for renationalizing railways and utilities and abolishing university tuition — stood out as the most radical programs presented by any major Western party in decades.

Yet the most telling similarity between Mamdani and Corbyn has to do with the weapon used against them. Mamdani, since his student days, faced attacks from lobby groups for his outspoken support of Palestine. In Britain, the same playbook was brought into play against Corbyn. The establishment — from Conservatives to Labour's right wing — and the mainstream media, unable to shoot down his anti-austerity platform, went after him with accusations of "antisemitism". This campaign, aimed squarely at his defense of Palestinian rights, ended up bringing him down. Corbyn's fall drove home a central lesson for the global left: Any radical challenge to the established order will be met not only with economic weapons but also with ideological and identity-based attacks — especially when it touches the question of Palestine. Mamdani's victory in New York, as an open pro-Palestinian voice, was historic precisely because it showed he had made it through the very minefield that destroyed Corbyn.

European echoes, lessons from Greece

This wave didn't stop short at the Anglo-Saxon world. In Spain, the 2011 anti-austerity movement known as the "Indignados" ("the Outraged") — akin to Occupy Wall Street — found its way from the field (streets) into parliamentary politics through the rise of Podemos. Like Mamdani's organizing in Queens, Podemos showed how

to turn public anger at corruption and inequality into an organized political force.

In France, Jean-Luc Mélenchon and his movement La France Insoumise (France Unbowed), through the NUPES coalition of leftists, socialists, and greens, stepped in as the main opposition to Emmanuel Macron, the poster boy of European neoliberalism. His rhetoric, like Mamdani's, drew on elements such as class justice and an uncompromising critique of power structures. But perhaps the biggest lesson came from Greece's Syriza. When Syriza swept into power in January 2015 as Europe's first radical anti-austerity government, it set off huge expectations among the global left. Yet within six months, then-prime minister Alexis Tsipras gave in to relentless pressure from the "Troika" (the European Commission, the European Central Bank, and the IMF) and signed onto an even harsher austerity package. Finance Minister Yanis Varoufakis called it out as a "financial coup". The collapse of Syriza drove home a bitter truth: Compromising with neoliberal power structures is a dead end. That realization pushed the next generation of socialists — including Mamdani and the DSA in the US — toward a more radical stance. They learned that you either break the system apart or get swallowed up by it.

Ideological red line: Palestine as symbol of anti-imperialism

What separates this new left from the old centrist left — from Biden in the US to Olaf Scholz in Germany and Keir Starmer in the UK — is not only economic policy but also foreign policy. The centrists remain deeply "Atlanticist," loyal to the US-led world order. The new left of Mamdani, Corbyn, and Mélenchon, however, is profoundly anti-imperialist and anti-colonial — a tradition that traces back to Mamdani's own intellectual roots and his father's legacy. At the heart of this divide lies Palestine, the ultimate litmus test. The new left, drawing on reports by human-rights groups like B'Tselem and Human Rights Watch, openly uses the word "apartheid" to describe Israel's treatment of Palestinians. It speaks up for the BDS campaign and calls for ending US military aid to Israel. In contrast, the centrist left shuts down any serious criticism of Israel by quickly throwing around accusations of antisemitism — as seen with Corbyn. Mamdani's firm, public, and unconditional support for Palestinian rights firmly places him at the core of this global anti-imperialist resurgence.

New York as new capital of global left

Zohran Mamdani's victory in New York came at a time when the global left was on the ropes. Corbyn had fallen, Podemos had weakened, and Syriza had capitulated. In this context, the triumph of a radical, Muslim, anti-imperialist socialist in the "capital of world capitalism" sent shockwaves through the entire movement; His victory was both symbolic and morale-boosting. This win catapulted Mamdani into one of the most prominent figures of today's Progressive International. Yet, as shown throughout, this radical global left didn't come out of nowhere. It was a direct response to the same structural crises — inequality, institutional decay, identity collapse — that also brought about its dark twin: the radical nationalist right. The two movements stand as polar opposites reacting to the same ailment. One offers socialist internationalism — workers united across borders — and the other promotes nationalist internationalism — a war of all against all. Now, with Mamdani's victory in New York — the city that epitomizes globalization — the stage is set for battle. New York, now under Mamdani's leadership, stands at the forefront of the global struggle between "Mamdani-ism," the face of the new global left, and "Trumpism," the face of the global right.

The article first appeared in Persian on Syaaq.



Election of Mamdani

What it means, what it doesn't mean

By William L. Anderson
Retired economics professor at
Frostburg State University

OPINION

To the Democratic Socialists of America and their fellow travelers, “The Moment” has arrived. With the victory of Zohran Mamdani in New York City’s mayoral election last Tuesday night, the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) has another attractive face to add to its advocates nationwide, someone to complement Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Sen. Bernie Sanders as socialism marches to its inevitable triumph over the entire United States. As one who believed that the US was on its way to a real revolution of free markets and personal freedom with the election of Ronald Reagan to the US presidency in 1980, and later his sweeping re-election in 1984, I realize that the DSA supporters who presently are giddy and ready to roll will experience the inevitable disappointment just as the free market supporters of Reagan did 40 years ago. However, before that moment arrives — and it will arrive — the socialists are going to do a lot of damage.

Elections can be complicated things, but governments are not. As Murray Rothbard wrote:

“If the bulk of the public were really convinced of the illegitimacy of the State, if it were convinced that the State is nothing more nor less than a bandit gang writ large, then the State would soon collapse to take on no more status or breadth of existence than another Mafia gang.”

Given current public attitudes, voters are not convinced that the state is illegitimate, but rather that it is just doing a bad job and that the DSA can fix it. People in the MAGA movement also see state power as the premiere level of things, and their statist agenda reflects the belief that government intervention will result in a better economy and better life for them, even while Donald Trump continues to demand more inflation and pushes through tariffs that can only depress the economy further.

Socialists, of course, see the implementation of socialism as the highest order of society. Getting to that lofty place has been a different matter. It is a testament to our media age that American socialism now depends upon the young, good-looking faces of a Mamdani or an AOC. The one exception is the octogenarian Bernie Sanders, who still carries the look of the Brooklyn Trotskyite he was in his youth. It was once believed that only the most ruthless could make socialism work; thus, the mass murdering of a Lenin, Stalin, Mao, or Pol Pot was necessary to establish the ideal socialist state. Today, however, socialism comes with the buzzword of “democracy” and a pretty face.

For all the over-the-top celebrations and predictions that America’s future is democratic socialism, it is still an urban movement and will be centered around the large, wealthy cities, places that still depend heavily upon the very wealthy that the socialists claim they want to drive from their midst. Mamdani, AOC, and Sanders are all from New York City, and even for all the landslide talk, Mamdani only won slightly more than half the votes in an election in which his voters were by far the most enthusiastic.

The DSA will do well in cities like Portland, Oregon, Seattle, Washington, and half a dozen wealthy California cities, and Chicago. Democrats running those places have long tolerated the violence both from ordinary criminals that they refuse to jail and the black-clad pro-



testers who claim to know everything about an economy but never have held a job. Both the protesters and the violent criminals are vital to the governing efforts of socialists, serving as the movement’s shock troops, given that the DSA’s governing philosophy is an-archo-tyranny.

Doing well, however, refers only to being elected and having some control of the city councils since Democrats who govern like socialists inevitably lead their cities into states of decay and loss. For now, the socialists and their supporters are very good at making promises and using stirring rhetoric, but their belief that they can simply order a better state of things into existence is, and always will be, flawed. Not that more than a century of failure deters them as socialism is not about a state of affairs but rather a state of mind, so to people like Mamdani, AOC, and their supporters, socialism’s success is proven because they have won elections.

As for the rest of the country, it remains to be seen how well the socialists will do in elections outside of New York and the Left Coast. The DSA does not want to be seen simply as the dominant political power in a few big cities, and its members are in the process of becoming the driving force of the Democratic Party itself. Olivia Reingold writes:

“...this is just the beginning. The Free Press reviewed thousands of pages of internal Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) documents, which show that the organization’s leaders view Mamdani as a tool in their agenda to abolish prisons and borders, and ultimately end

in what they call the ‘barbaric order of capitalism’. The DSA, founded in 1982, is a political body dedicated to the doctrine of democratic socialism, which is a variety of socialism that simply specifies how it would like revolution to occur: peacefully, through the subversion of democracy. Mamdani, a dues-paying DSA member since 2017, is the tip of that spear.”

She continues: “The DSA held its annual convention in August, with the theme ‘Rebirth and Beyond: Reflecting on a decade of DSA’s growth and preparing for a decade of party building’. There, delegates voted to adopt a resolution titled ‘Principles for Party-Building,’ which stated that the purpose of the DSA is ‘to unite workers to win the battle for democracy and bring about socialism, not to seek a governing coalition with a perceived lesser evil under the current undemocratic political system’. The resolution stated that the goals go beyond the White House. ‘A socialist party in the United States,’ the document said, ‘must be a part of the global political movement of the working class.’”

Unfortunately for the DSA, that vaunted “working class” does not provide the base support for this movement any more than the “workers” drove the Bolsheviks a century ago. The political base of the DSA — like socialism everywhere — comes from economic and educational elites whose abstract views of what a society should be like dominate the political agenda. Of course, the so-called utopia that these socialist elites create fails to resemble the world they have claimed to produce, but even a century of socialist

Members of New York City Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) are seen in a November 2024 anti-Trump march with Zohran Mamdani (front-2nd R), mayoral candidate of the city.
● NYC DSA

For all the over-the-top celebrations and predictions that America’s future is democratic socialism, it is still an urban movement and will be centered around the large, wealthy cities, places that still depend heavily upon the very wealthy that the socialists claim they want to drive from their midst. Mamdani only won slightly more than half the votes in an election in which his voters were by far the most enthusiastic.

Zohran Mamdani (front) declares victory in the Democratic primary for New York City mayor on June 25, 2025.
● JULIUS CONSTANTINE MOTAL/
THE GUARDIAN



failure in Europe and Asia has failed to dampen the elites’ enthusiasm. Certainly, the pictures of cheering Mamdani supporters after the election proves the latter point.

This situation will not change any time soon. Mamdani declared in his victory speech,

“We will prove that there is no problem too large for government to solve, and no concern too small for it to care about. For years, those in City Hall have only helped those who can help them. But on January 1st, we will usher in a city government that helps everyone.” However, given that he ran his campaign on the theme that so-called oligarchs are stealing from everyone else, and that “wealthy” people must face large tax increases in order to pay for the free goods and services he has promised to everyone else in the city, it would be impossible for the NYC government to help “everyone”. Socialists have often depended upon demonizing a minority of the population and, in some instances, murdering many of them and expropriating their property in the name of “equality”. While Mamdani and his followers have not yet called for anyone to be killed (although they did cheer on the murders of Charlie Kirk and Brian Thompson), one doubts they will show any sympathy to the families of socialism’s victims, just as they demonized the families of Kirk and Thompson.

An electoral perspective

As noted earlier, Mamdani barely won half of the votes, and the two main candidates he beat — former disgraced Gov. Andrew Cuomo and political neophyte Curtis Sliwa — were hardly formidable opponents. For all the claims that Mamdani has toppled an oligarchy, the electoral results would hardly have been different had he run against two random people picked up from the street.

For that matter, while Mamdani was winning in NYC, another Muslim member of the DSA, Omar Fateh, was losing the mayoral election in Minneapolis to the progressive mayor, Jacob Frey, who has not exactly distinguished himself as a strong leader in the past five years. Although one must understand that the DSA supporters are not going away, they will have to win victories in competitive elections if they wish to complete their “hostile takeover” of the Democratic Party.

There are some things working in the DSA’s favor, the first being that as the US economy slowly implodes in the face of inflation and the destruction of economic opportunities, socialists certainly will try to step into the void. The promises of lower rents, free food, free medical care, and employment for all can be enticing when one is unemployed and facing the loss of a home. Likewise, President Trump’s tariffs are inevitably shrinking the economy, and his bellicose rhetoric and the government shutdown are not presenting an attractive picture to potential voters. But contra Robert Reich and others, Mamdani’s victory in a Democratic city is not proof that democratic socialism is about to sweep the country. Socialism might be popular with some people, but it still is a failed ideology that invariably implodes in economic failure. Nothing, not even young, attractive candidates, can change that hard fact. Unfortunately, while Mamdani’s election does not mean that the Hammer and Sickle will supplant the Stars and Stripes, neither does it mean we shouldn’t worry about socialists ruining our future. They will do so if the voters allow it.

The article first appeared on the Mises Institute’s website.

Riyadh 2025 Islamic Solidarity Games: Iran strikes futsal gold on prolific Day 4



Iranian players celebrate after beating Morocco in the futsal final at the Islamic Solidarity Games in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on Nov. 11, 2025.
● FFIRI

Sports Desk

Iranian athletes enjoyed a medal-laden fourth day at the Islamic Solidarity Games in Riyadh, collecting four golds, two silvers, and five bronzes on Tuesday.

The pinnacle of Tuesday's action for Iran came in futsal, as Vahid Shamsaei's men secured the gold medal with a decisive 5-0 victory over Morocco.

In a rematch of the group-stage encounter, which ended 2-2, Amirhossein Gholami and Mahdi Karimi were on target in the space of two minutes, before skipper Hossein Tayyebi's sub-

lime volley from a well-worked set-piece gave Iran a three-goal cushion at halftime.

Morocco desperately pushed forward to reduce the deficit, employing a power play for much of the second half. However, Iran remained solid in defense, with goalkeeper Baqer Mohammadi producing a string of heroic saves, before Tayyebi and Gholami added late goals to seal the victory.

As if Iranians needed more reason to celebrate at fulltime, the triumph saw the Asian powerhouse avenge last year's World Cup last-16 defeat to the African champion.

Glittering girls

Elsewhere in Riyadh, Iranian girls spearheaded the country's gold rush in karate and weightlifting on Tuesday.

Fatemeh Sadeqi improved on her Konya 2021 silver by defeating Türkiye's Dilara Bozan 42.4-40.3 for the ultimate prize in the women's individual kata.

Meanwhile, former world bronze medalist Sara Bahmanyar defeated Uzbekistan's Gulshan Alimardanova 6-4 in a thrilling women's kumite -50kg final to claim the second ISG medal of her career, following her bronze in the 2021 edition. Iranian weightlifter Mahsa Be-



Iran's Fatemeh Sadeqi is seen in action during her gold-winning campaign in the women's individual kata event at the Islamic Solidarity Games in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on Nov. 11, 2025.
● IRNA

heshti also finished on a high note in the Saudi capital by grabbing three medals, including a clean and jerk gold, in the women's 86kg class.

Beheshti lifted 104kg to win the bronze, before a successful 134kg effort secured the top spot in C&J for the 15-year-old sensation.

A total tally of 238kg then saw Beheshti win her second bronze of the afternoon, finishing behind Egypt's Rahma Ahmed Elsayed and Rigina Adashbaeva of Uzbekistan.

There was further success for the country in weightlifting as Alma Hosseini Alma Hossei-

ni won a bronze medal in the women's 77kg category thanks to a 97kg lift in the snatch contest.

The men's 94kg event, however, proved a modest outing for Iranian Alireza Moeini, who had claimed a snatch gold – setting a world record in the process – and total silver at last month's World Championships.

Moeini lifted 171kg in the snatch, 11 kilograms short of his world record, to settle for silver, before taking the clean and jerk bronze and total silver with 203kg and 374kg, respectively. Mohammad Gholami won his second bronze in the swimming

event, standing third in the men's 200m freestyle.

The 17-year-old Iranian clocked 1:50.63 minutes to finish behind Turkish gold medalist Ahmet Mete Boylu (1:48.65) and Ilya Sibirtsev (1:50.04) of Uzbekistan.

Gholami was also part of the Iranian quartet – alongside Mohammad Qassemi, Ali Rashidpour, and Matin Sohran – that finished with the bronze in the men's 4×200m freestyle relay.

Tuesday's outcome took Iran's medal haul to six golds, four silvers, and 14 bronzes, leaving the country in the sixth place of the overall table by the end of the fourth day.

Iran's Zohreh Jafari named AFC Youth Coach of the Year

Sports Desk

Iran's Zohreh Jafari won the Youth Coach of the Year (Female) prize at the AFC Special Grassroots Awards 2025 in Kuala Lumpur on Tuesday.

This was the second major award for Iranian female coaches in less than a month, after Iran and Bam Khatoon manager Marziyeh Jafari was named the Asian Women's Coach of the Year at the AFC Awards in October.

The award was a fitting recognition of Jafari's hard work,

having dedicated 15 years of her career to cultivating female footballers in Iran.

The head coach of Sepahan U17 side for the past four years, Jafari is also the founder of a football academy, which has produced numerous players for national teams and top-tier clubs in the country.

Coming from a family deeply rooted in football, Jafari led Sepahan to the national youth title last season, cementing her status as one of Iran's most prominent grassroots coaches.

The 4th AFC Grassroots Football Conference commenced in the Malaysian capital on Tuesday, uniting leaders from across Asia to discuss the next phase of football development in the continent.

Taking place under the theme "Grassroots Football in Asia: The Next Chapter," the conference opened with the AFC Special Awards, which honored the unsung heroes who have made exceptional contributions to the development of grassroots as well as elite youth football in Asia.



● AFC

Young squad aims to restore Iranian women's taekwondo reputation at ISG

Sports Desk

Head coach Mahrouz Saei and her young squad will look to make up for a poor run at the World Championships when the women's taekwondo event of the Islamic Solidarity Games gets underway in Riyadh on Saturday. All of seven Iranian girls – including Olympic medalists Nahid Kiani and Mobina Nematzadeh – left the world showpiece in Wuxi empty-handed earlier in the month, raising questions over Saei being the right person for the national team job.

While Kiani (-57kg), and Nematzadeh (-53kg), as well as Saeideh Nasiri (-46kg), and Melika Mirhosseini (-73kg) failed to go beyond last 16 in their respective classes, Kowsar Asaseh (-62kg) and former world silver medalist Mahla Momenzadeh (-49kg) had their campaigns ended after two bouts, with Nastaran Valizadeh suffering a first-round exit in the -67kg division.

Four of the six Iranians are set to make their international senior debut in Riyadh, though they face a daunting task, with the event featuring top-tier competitors from Türkiye, Tunisia, and Egypt, all of which have named full-strength rosters for the Games.

Saina Karimi, 19, will represent the country in the -46kg contests, while Asian junior bronze



Melika Mirhosseini (red) will captain the Iranian women's taekwondo squad at the Islamic Solidarity Games.
● TAEKWONDO.IR

medalist Rozhan Goodarzi, 17, will be part of the -51kg draw. Hasti Mohammadi, 19, will vie for glory in the -57kg event, having won the WT Presidents Cup gold in Tehran last year, with 17-year-old Fatemeh Eskandarnia – an Asian junior silver winner in July – competing in the -63kg class.

Two-time Asian youth champion Yalda Valinejad (-70kg) and Mirhosseini (+70kg) are the two experienced members of Iran's squad in Riyadh, with the latter

eager to find redemption after her last-16 setback in Wuxi.

When Saei was appointed head coach of the Iranian women's team earlier this year, many believed the decision was driven by nepotism on the part of her older brother and the chairman of the federation, Hadi Saei, rather than her own coaching credentials.

The woeful run in Wuxi only fueled that debate, and Saei will now look to silence her doubters in Riyadh.

Babol creates opportunities for skilled artists in Mazandaran Province



● IRNA

Iranica Desk

Tabaristan, known today as Mazandaran Province, is an ancient land in northern Iran that has long been the birthplace of some of the country's most authentic handicrafts. These arts reflect the history, culture, and lifestyle of the region's people and once played a vital role in the local economy. Today, however, this valuable heritage is gradually being forgotten, losing its place in the daily lives of residents and in the regional economy. While handicrafts are now often seen as decorative or luxury items, they were once central to trade and commerce, forming the backbone of the local economy. Many traditional crafts have now faded into obscurity, leaving behind little more than their names. The few remaining visual and manual arts, created by talented Mazandarani artists, are pursued more as hobbies than as sources of livelihood, ISNA wrote. In the city of Babol, despite the presence of many skilled

artisans active across a variety of artistic disciplines, a permanent marketplace for selling their works remains absent. Numerous proposals have been suggested to address this issue, but the problem persists. Mehran Fallah, head of Babol's Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts, and Tourism Department, said that a meeting was recently held with several artistic associations and organizations, attended by the head of Babol's City Council, to find a fundamental solution. He said that during a visit by the Minister of Cultural Heritage to Babol, the establishment of a handicrafts marketplace was approved. "If a suitable piece of land is provided, we will act as soon as possible," Fallah added. Highlighting market access as a major concern for artisans, he emphasized: "Creating a marketplace is one of the key methods of sales and marketing that must be given serious attention." Fallah also noted that the department has issued 1,000 professional licenses

for Babol's artists to date, with 41 different handicraft disciplines currently active in the city. Babol City Council head Hamid Ghorbannia echoed these concerns, placing the establishment of a permanent marketplace for artisans among his priorities. He said, "Mazandaran is a hub for tourism alongside agriculture. With proper infrastructure, tourism revenue alone could cover the national budget." Ghorbannia added that eco-tourism areas located deep within the province's forests are ideal locations to introduce handicrafts to tourists. He also stressed the importance of improving interprovincial roads to boost tourism, "We have three main access routes to the provincial capital — Haraz (130 km), Firuzkuh (170 km), and Chalus, including the under-construction freeway (100 km). Completing these infrastructures and properly maintaining the coastal roads of Mazandaran Province will play a key role in attracting tourists."

Restoration revives historic Mamuniyeh Bathhouse in Zarandieh

Iranica Desk

The second phase of restoration work on the historic Mamuniyeh Bathhouse in Zarandieh, Markazi Province, has officially begun. This stage focuses on the reconstruction and strengthening of the interior wall plasters following the removal of debris and deteriorated layers.



● jahanememari.ir

Zahra Ranjbar Azad, head of the Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Department of Zarandieh, announced that given the significance of the Mamuniyeh Bathhouse as one of the most prominent architectural monuments of the Qajar era, this phase was launched this year to prevent further damage caused by moisture and natural erosion, chtn.ir wrote. She explained that during this stage, after localized demolition of damaged sections and the complete removal of debris, the worn and decayed plaster layers

not only reflects authentic Iranian architecture and traditional engineering techniques but also holds significant potential as a cultural tourism attraction in Zarandieh. Each stage of restoration is being carried out meticulously and scientifically, aiming to preserve the monument's originality and revive its former splendor." She further noted that in this phase, experienced traditional restorers are working under the close supervision of technical experts from the Markazi Province

Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Organization to ensure the highest standards of conservation. The head of Zarandieh's Cultural Heritage Department emphasized that completing this stage of restoration represents a major step toward revitalizing the cultural and touristic function of the Mamuniyeh Bathhouse. "Once the project is completed, the site will be open for public visits and will serve as a valuable cultural space for the community," she added. Zarandieh, covering an area of 4,150 square kilometers with a population of approximately 70,000, is the second-largest city in Markazi Province by area and fifth by population. It shares borders with the provinces of Tehran, Qazvin, Alborz, and Qom, lying about 80 kilometers from the capital and 240 kilometers from the provincial center, Arak. Historically, Zarandieh is home to several ancient settlements, particularly in Sadrabad, Zarand Kohneh, Mamuniyeh, and Mohamadabad, which archaeologists believe date back to the first millennium CE. Excavations in the city's ancient mounds have revealed gray soil layers rich in iron oxide, suggesting that some of the area's cultural remains may be as old as 3,000 to 4,000 years, underscoring Zarandieh's deep historical and archaeological significance.

Sahneh's hidden valley shining in autumn

Iranica Desk

Nestled among the winding valleys of Sahneh, in Kermanshah Province, near the scenic Bid Sorkh Pass, lies a pristine natural attraction that has remained largely unseen by tourists. Saeed Boroshan, head of the Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Department of Sahneh, told ISNA that a beautiful natural site near Bid Sorkh village has long gone unnoticed due to its dirt access road.

He described the region as "a hidden treasure" that has remained untouched for years. "Most tourists are unaware of its existence, and only local residents visit it," he said. Boroshan noted that the area becomes especially beautiful in autumn, when the waterfall and surrounding orchards display vibrant colors. He added that, beyond this site, Sahneh is well known across the province for its abundant springs and gardens, which take on extraordinary hues during the fall season.

Kermanshah Province in terms of tourism potential. Sahneh is situated approximately 55 kilometers from Kermanshah, on the primary road to Hamedan. The historical structures, buildings, and ancient monuments of Sahneh date back to very distant historical periods. Among these archaeological and prehistoric sites are the rock-cut tombs of Sahneh, carved into the surrounding mountains. These sites have long attracted researchers and archaeologists from across the globe.



"This site is located at the end of a valley, and locals call it Aliabad-e Dartang," Boroshan said. "The area features dense orchards and a stunning multi-tiered waterfall that together create a captivating natural scene." He added that the waterfall lies amid thick vegetation, offering a picturesque view, and that an ancient archaeological site is also located nearby. The official attributed the hidden nature of this attraction to the difficulty of reaching it. "This tourist spot is adjacent to a village that has been abandoned over the years and is now uninhabited," he explained.

He also highlighted the Darband of Sahneh as another major attraction in the area during this time. "Darband, with its natural spring and a river flowing through centuries-old trees, is well known among visitors and remains one of the most popular autumn destinations in Sahneh," he said. Sahneh is located in the eastern part of Kermanshah Province, along the main route connecting Kermanshah to Kangavar. To the north lies Sonqor, while Harsin borders it to the south. The city of Sahneh, along with its surrounding areas, rank among the most abundant regions in

The presence of historical treasures such as the Sahneh rock-cut tombs and other ancient monuments demonstrates that urban settlement and civilization in this region extend back to the Achaemenid, Parthian, and Sassanian periods. In more recent history, the renowned travelogue of Naser al-Din Shah Qajar describes Sahneh as a large village with a thriving population. He praised the fertility of the fields, the abundance of orchards, and the region's pleasant climate. Naser al-Din Shah also highlighted the prosperity of Sahneh's caravanserais and expressed his admiration for the beauty and richness of the area.



Iran's 'Guardian of the Field' scoops two awards at Minsk Listapad

Arts & Culture Desk

The Iranian-produced feature film Guardian of the Field, directed by Mohammad Reza Kheradmandan, claimed two honors at the 31st-edition of the Minsk International Film Festival Listapad in Belarus. The film was awarded a diploma "for deep immersion in the world of catastrophes and revelations of modern social society" and secured the Yuri Marukhin Memorial Award for Best Cinematography for its cinematographer Morteza Kafouri, ILNA reported. The film, produced by the Tehran-based Soureh Cinema Organization and shot by Morteza Ghafour, follows a village guardian's confrontation with social upheaval and crisis.

Festival officials opened the event on October 31 and closed it on November 7. Kheradmandan's work competed in the main feature film category and, alongside the dual award, helped Iran bring home multiple accolades at the Eastern European festival, media reports indicate a total haul of six to seven awards for Iranian entries this year. Commenting on the victory, producer Mehdi Faraji called the recognition "a tribute to the unseen crises that bind communities", noting that the festival serves as a "platform for global voices to reflect society's fault lines". Also, the film is being distributed domestically in Iran, where it has already drawn more than 250,000 cinema-goers.



Kish Island, Armenia eye direct flights to deepen tourism, trade ties

Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian island Kish and Armenia are in talks to launch a direct air link between Yerevan and the Persian Gulf tourism hub, officials said on Wednesday, after senior representatives from both sides met during the KishInvex2025 exhibition. Mohammad Kabiri, managing director of the Kish Free Trade Zone Organization, and Grigor Hakobyan, Armenia's ambassador to Tehran, discussed plans to strengthen tourism and commercial cooperation, including potential cargo routes from Yerevan to the Persian Gulf through Kish, IRNA reported. Kabiri said the two sides had held "constructive talks" focused primarily on opening a regular passenger service between Yerevan and Kish, a move he described as a "serious step" that would



require formal approvals. "Both sides expressed firm willingness to move it forward," he said, adding that tourism and trade were the two key pillars of the developing partnership. He noted that Kish, a duty-free resort island off southern Iran, aims to position itself as a gateway for regional economic and cultural exchange. "The main purpose of inviting foreign envoys to Kish is to showcase the is-

land's remarkable potential," Kabiri told reporters on the sidelines of the meeting. Hakobyan welcomed the initiative, calling Kish "a promising destination with vast facilities" and said he saw strong prospects for cooperation. The Armenian envoy proposed sending a delegation of tourism professionals and social media influencers to Kish to get a first-hand look at its attractions and business environment.

Persian Gulf University, Greece's Aegean University sign academic partnership



Social Desk

Iran's Persian Gulf University in the southern port city of Bushehr and Greece's University of the Aegean signed an academic cooperation agreement in Athens to expand joint research and educational programs, according to the Iranian Embassy in Greece. The accord, finalized in the presence of Iranian Ambassador Ahmad Naderi and Cultural Attaché Hamid Reza Zarei, aims to deepen collaboration between the two coastal universities through faculty and student exchanges, joint theses, and short- and long-term academic courses. It also includes plans for cultural festivals and research initiatives backed by international grants. The deal marks a rare higher-education

link between Iran and a European Union member state, underscoring a growing interest in cross-Mediterranean academic diplomacy despite political headwinds. Ahmad Shirzadi, president of Persian Gulf University, said both institutions share "maritime and scientific commonalities" that could anchor a broader academic relationship. "This agreement will define joint missions and create constructive outcomes for both sides," he said during the signing ceremony. He urged professors and students to take "practical steps" towards implementing the deal by identifying areas of mutual strength and launching collaborative projects. Shirzadi added that his university has introduced incentive packages to encourage participation, including support for visiting scholars and access to international research funds. Founded in 1991, Persian Gulf University is one of Iran's leading centers for marine sciences and engineering, located on the northern shores of the Persian Gulf. The University of the Aegean, headquartered on the island of Lesbos, operates campuses across several Aegean islands and specializes in environmental, maritime, and social sciences.

Iran to launch int'l network for nomadic women preserving intangible heritage

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran plans to set up an international network to connect nomadic women preserving intangible cultural heritage across West and Central Asia, a senior official said on Wednesday, describing the initiative as a step toward "sustainable livelihoods rooted in living traditions." Iran's Deputy Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, Ali Darabi, announced the plan during a national forum on women's entrepreneurial skills among nomadic communities held at the ministry's headquarters in Tehran on November 12, IRNA reported. He said the project, approved earlier this year by UNESCO's Regional Research Center, aims to boost cross-border collaboration and knowledge-sharing among women preserving traditional crafts, oral literature, and ecological wisdom. "Through this network, women who hold intangible heritage will be able to raise their voices louder at the regional and global lev-

els," he said, calling the effort "a pioneering cultural move" that bridges policy and tradition. He added that nomadic women are not only "guardians of language, art, and ritual," but also "the invisible pillars of social and economic resilience." The new network, he noted, will foster the exchange of local expertise on sustainable crafts, traditional resource management, and adaptation to climate change, areas where indigenous knowledge offers what he called "answers modern societies still seek." Iran's nomadic population, which historically made up more than 25% of the country's people, still plays a key role in national food security and rural production. Spread across 20 provinces, 101 tribes and nearly 600 clans manage around 60% of Iran's territory, according to ministry figures. "The living heritage of nomads is not merely a relic of the past," Darabi said. "It is our compass for the future, a future where living in harmony with nature, alongside progress, becomes the most valuable legacy for our children."

مزایده صادراتی بیلت آلیاژی ریخته گری مداوم

شرکت فولاد آلیاژی ایران

شماره مرجع مزایده: IASCO-EXPT-05

شرکت فولاد آلیاژی ایران (IASCO) در نظر دارد نسبت به فروش بیلت آلیاژی صادراتی، از طریق مزایده عمومی اقدام نماید. خاطرنشان می سازد که عرضه در چهار گرید منتخب و به شرح جزئیات ذیل انجام می پذیرد. از علاقمندان به شرکت در مزایده مزبور دعوت به عمل می آید که از تاریخ ۱۴۰۴/۰۸/۲۱ لغایت ۱۴۰۴/۰۸/۲۴ جهت اخذ اطلاعات مزایده و راهنمایی های لازم با واحد صادرات به شماره تماس های ۰۳۱۲۲۲۶۷۵-۹۸۳۵ و ۰۸۸۳۲۲۶۲۱-۹۸۲۱ و آدرس ایمیل Salesexp@iasco.net در ارتباط باشند. مهلت ارائه پیشنهاد قیمت مزایده یادشده حداکثر ساعت ۱۵:۰۰ روز دوشنبه مورخ ۱۴۰۴/۰۸/۲۴ می باشد.

Iran Alloy Steel Company

Tender Announcement for Export of CC-Alloy Steel Billet

Tender Ref. No.: IASCO-EXPT-05

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

1. Product Specifications and Commercial terms:

Main Tender Grades & Quality	Acc. to attached specification No.
9403I	C07KU9403I40408A030
* Other Grades may also be considered By Customer Request with related premium price. (Please clearly specify the desired grade, analysis and etc).	

● Size & Dimensions: (130*130) *12,000 mm

● Quantity: 30.000 MT (±10%) for each Grade.

● Delivery Time: approximately 20 days after receipt of advance payment.

● Delivery Term: FCA Yazd.

Note: FOB Bandar Abbas or may also be considered upon buyer's request, subject to amended delivery time and mutual agreement.

2. Tender General Conditions:

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

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

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

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

e. All payments shall be deemed valid only upon the Seller's receipt of official bank confirmation.

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

3. Offer Submission:

For instructions and further information, kindly contact the Export Department using the following details:

Tel: +9835-31222675 & +9821-88322621.

Email: Salesexp@iasco.net (For registration only, not to send any offer).

4. Closing Date:

Deadline for Offer Submission: **Monday, November 17, 2025 - by 3:00 p.m. (Tehran Local Time)**