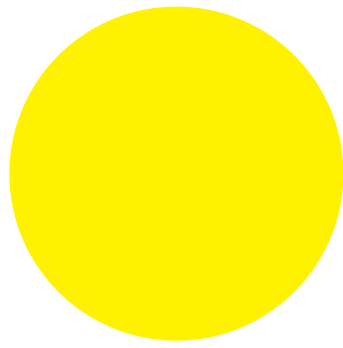


Israel bombs Beirut's southern suburbs despite Iran warnings

Qalibaf: 'Our Armed Forces are poised to strike, as always'



Iran Daily

Vol. 8135 • Monday, June 08, 2026 • Khordad 18, 1405 • Dhu al-Hijjah 22, 1447 • 100,000 rials • 8 pages



irandaily.ir

newspaper.irandaily.ir

IranDailyWeb

Tehran receives Pakistan's special message to Ayatollah Khamenei

Contradictory US positions complicate negotiations: **Baqaei**

2 >

Iran arrives in Mexico for World Cup amid US 'malicious acts'



Iran's captain Ehsan Haji Safi and teammates walk on the tarmac on arrival at the Tijuana International Airport in Tijuana, Mexico on June 7, 2026, ahead of the FIFA 2026 World Cup football tournament.

AFP

Sports Desk

Iran's national football team touched down in Mexico on Sunday ahead of the 2026 FIFA World Cup amid what Tehran called "political interference" by Washington to deny visas to some members of its support staff.

The tournament, jointly hosted by the United States, Mexico and Canada, begins on Thursday. The Iranian squad arrived in the border city of Tijuana after leaving their training camp in Antalya, Turkey, where they had spent almost three weeks preparing for the event and applying for visas to enter Mexico, Canada and the United States. Although Iran will play all of its Group G matches in the United States, the team will be based in Tijuana throughout the competition.

Iran said visas were not granted to 15 members of its support staff.

The Football Federation Islamic Republic of Iran (FFIRI), which its president Mehdi Taj was reportedly among those denied visas, described the move as "political interference in sport in its worst form."

Taj said Iran had been granted entry to the United States only one day before its matches.

"We do not know how far the Americans' obstruction will go," Taj said.

"It is truly strange that they interfere in football administration to this extent," he said. "We expect the malicious acts that have taken place to continue."

Earlier reports had suggested visas would be issued only on match days, but Taj said entry permits had instead been granted from the day before each fixture.

Iran's Ambassador to Mexico, Abolfazl Pasandideh, said on Saturday that the team had been informed it would be required under the terms of its visas to enter US territory on the day of its matches and leave afterwards.

The restriction could complicate compliance with FIFA regulations, which require a team's head coach to hold a pre-match press conference at the venue ahead of each game.

Iran have been drawn in Group G and will face New Zealand in Los Angeles on June 15, before meeting Belgium on June 21. They will conclude the group stage against Egypt in Seattle on June 26.



Pezeshkian: Investment, spending discipline key to financial stability

'Economic pressures result of war, sanctions and trade restrictions'

3 >



INTERVIEW EXCLUSIVE

Persian turquoise yet to secure its genuine share of global market: **Businessman**

Unofficial exports double official exports

4 >



Iconic Persian carpet designs set for global protection

8 >

Seizure of Iranian assets for war compensation, more pressure tactic than policy

By **Delaram Ahmadi**
Staff writer

INTERVIEW EXCLUSIVE

Several media outlets reported on Saturday that the United States is examining a proposal to use Iranian assets held abroad to compensate Persian Gulf Arab states for war-related damages. If accurate, however, serious questions remain about how such a plan could be implemented. Iran Daily discussed the issue with Javad Heirannia, an international affairs expert.

He argues that the proposal faces significant legal obstacles and is likely only part of Washington's pressure campaign aimed at compelling Iran to accept US terms.

IRAN DAILY: How feasible is such a proposal, and what obstacles would Washington face in implementing it?
HEIRANNIA: Arab states and Western countries have already moved in this

direction to some extent. Both a Human Rights Council resolution and a draft resolution introduced in the Security Council at Bahrain's initiative raised the issue of compensation from Iran. However, whether such compensation can be legally linked to the US government is a different matter.

Moreover, these are Iranian funds frozen in foreign banks. They are not under the direct control of the US government, meaning Washington is not in a position to authorize such a transfer. Even if the funds were held in American banks, there would still be legal complications in handing them over to Arab states.

Roughly \$24 billion is held in foreign banks and remains inaccessible to Iran because of SWIFT-related sanctions. There is also approximately \$7 billion in oil-related revenues stemming from Iranian oil seized by the United States in international waters. Even there, allocating those funds for this purpose would raise legal concerns, because the destination and use of those funds must be clearly defined under legal procedures. Under its own legal framework, the US government cannot simply authorize the Treasury Department to

spend those funds in Arab countries. In addition, Iran has stated that some Arab countries were part of the network involved in aggression against Iran. From a legal standpoint, that argument could itself call into question the compensation claims raised in those resolutions. Iran could even pursue claims of its own and seek compensation.

What options and tools does Iran have to respond? Would Tehran rely primarily on legal and diplomatic channels, or could it also resort to geopolitical and security leverage?

Both options are available. Iran could make use of its geopolitical leverage in the Strait of Hormuz and use it as a pressure point on Arab states and the United States to discourage them from pursuing such a proposal. At the same time, Tehran could pursue legal action through international organizations and institutions regarding compensation from countries that played a role in the aggression. If such a plan were formally advanced by the US, Iran could also challenge it before international legal bodies.

Furthermore, if the US administration

were to adopt such a decision, I believe it would seriously disrupt the negotiation process and could even lead to its collapse.

To what extent would Persian Gulf Arab states welcome such a proposal?

Given the current environment, and the fact that these countries are seeking to prevent tensions from escalating, I think they are likely to pursue a cautious approach. At least for now, I do not believe they are particularly eager to press ahead with compensation claims, especially through this specific US-backed mechanism.

The Arab states are making considerable efforts to ensure that the ceasefire, which paved the way for negotiations, ultimately leads to an understanding and eventually a comprehensive agreement. Qatar, Kuwait and Bahrain are entirely dependent on the Strait of Hormuz. Even countries such as the UAE, which can export oil through Fujairah, and Saudi Arabia, which can use its East-West pipeline in Yanbu, remain within the reach of Iran and forces aligned with it in the region.

Any escalation could further delay the full reopening and normalization of traffic through the Strait of Hormuz. Iran has also stated that both Saudi Arabia's East-West pipeline and the UAE's Fujairah port fall within the broader strategic framework of Hormuz-related security considerations. Given these realities, I do not think Gulf Arab states are currently interested in taking steps that could fuel further tensions.

What impact could such a proposal have on negotiations between Tehran and Washington?

Such a proposal could fundamentally undermine the negotiations because it would shift them into an entirely different phase. One of the central issues in the talks is the release of Iran's frozen assets, along with questions regarding the scale of the release, how the funds would be spent, and whether Iran would retain control over their management. At present, three scenarios are under discussion. The first is a limited fund in which the money would be placed under US management and used exclusively for humanitarian goods.

Page 2 >

Tehran receives Pakistan's special message to Ayatollah Khamenei

Contradictory US positions complicate negotiations: **Baqaei**

International Desk

Pakistan's interior minister was in Tehran on Sunday in a fresh bid to restart negotiations between Iran and the US, delivering a message from the country's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif addressed to Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei.

The message was handed over during a meeting between visiting Pakistani Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi in Tehran.

The two sides exchanged viewpoints on the latest developments concerning the ongoing diplomatic efforts aimed at ending the US-Israeli war of aggression against Iran.

There were no details on the contents of the message. Pakistani authorities have said Islamabad, with support from regional countries including Qatar,

Turkey and Egypt, has been working to help bridge differences between the United States and Iran and encourage efforts aimed at reducing tensions and ensuring the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz.

Talks between Iran and the US are at an impasse due to the US excessive demands; however, the mediator Pakistan is trying to revive the negotiations which aim to produce a memorandum to end the joint US-Israeli aggression against Iran, end a blockade on Iran's ports, and secure the release of frozen Iranian assets.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei said on Sunday that the main challenge facing the negotiations is the shifting US positions and the contradictory statements issued by its officials. "The main problem in negotiations with this US administration is that we have to constantly deal with shifting positions, red lines, and contradictory statements



Pakistan's Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi (L) hands over a message from his country's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif addressed to Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei, during a meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi in Tehran, Iran, on June 7, 2026. **IRNA**



from various American officials. This issue has made the negotiation process very difficult and complicated," Baqaei told CNN on Sunday.

However, he said that exchange of messages between the two sides continues through intermediaries.

He went on to say that while numerous unresolved matters remain between the two parties, the core issue is the need for the United States to recognize Iran's rights — especially its right to enrich uranium for peaceful purposes, as permitted under the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Baqaei emphasized

that Tehran insists on the removal of US sanctions and the release of its frozen assets, maintaining that the ongoing re-

strictions on those assets stand out as one of the most significant unresolved issues in the negotiations.

Israel bombs Beirut's southern suburbs despite Iran warnings

Qalibaf: 'Our Armed Forces are poised to strike, as always'

International Desk

Israel's military on Sunday launched airstrikes on Beirut's Dahiyeh district despite a ceasefire in place between the regime and Hezbollah resistance group, sparking a strong warning from Tehran to Tel Aviv.

According to Lebanon's state-run National News Agency (NNA), the regime's strike hit a residential building, damaging four of its seven floors. An unexploded weapon was found in the rubble.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said the strikes were in retaliation for the Hezbollah firing at northern Israel earlier, and that the attacks targeted "command centers" in the district which is seen as the resistance group's stronghold.

A ceasefire that was supposed to end the fighting between Israel and Hezbollah took effect on April 17, but has never been fully respected.

Earlier this week in Washington, Lebanese and Israeli envoys touted a conditional truce that would have required Hezbollah to stop firing, withdraw from near the occupied territories and would see Lebanon's army deploy to new "pilot zones" in the area, where it would exercise exclusive control. But Hezbollah rejected the agreement, demanding a



A Lebanese soldier stands guard as first responders work at the site of an Israeli airstrike targeting apartments in Beirut's southern suburbs on June 7, 2026. **AFP**

full Israeli withdrawal from Lebanese territory, and Israel warned it would strike Beirut's southern suburbs should Hezbollah attack northern Israel.

Sunday's attacks came a day after at least five people were killed in Israeli strikes, including Lebanese army personnel, one of them a general.

Iran's warnings

Iran had earlier warned that it would suspend peace talks with the United States if Israel attacks Beirut. Tehran has insisted that any deal to end the wider war — paused by a separate April ceasefire — must also halt the fighting in Lebanon. Israel earlier this month halted plans for attacks on Dahiyeh after US President Donald Trump reportedly told Netanyahu that attacking Beirut would not be acceptable for Washington. Trump's phone call came

after Iran warned that it would target the Israeli-occupied territories if it went on with plans to target Dahiyeh.

'Painful response'

Shortly after Israel's attack on Dahiyeh, Iran's Khatam-al Anbiya Central Headquarters issued a statement, saying that the regime's attack on Beirut will not go unanswered.

Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf also reacted to the regime's attack, saying that, "They are neither committed to a ceasefire nor believe in dialogue and by demonstrating through the naval blockade and violation of agreements regarding Lebanon that they only understand the language of power".

In a post on X, Qalibaf, who is also Iran's main negotiator in talks with the US, added that, "The

naval blockade against the Iranian nation and America's green light today to the Zionist regime (to attack Lebanon) turn American and regime bases and assets in the region into legitimate targets."

"Our Armed Forces are poised to strike, as always," he added.

Ebrahim Rezaei, spokesman for the Iranian Parliament's National Security Committee, also warned that Iran will "deliver a decisive and painful response" to the Israeli attack on Beirut's southern suburbs.

"These rabid dogs must be disciplined and put back in their place. Look at the sky over the occupied lands tonight," he wrote on X.

The conflict between Israel and Hezbollah began in March after the Lebanese resistance group launched military operations against the Israeli regime in response to its aggression against Iran.

The war has claimed at least 3,600 lives since March 2, according to the latest figures released by Lebanon's Health Ministry.

FM spox: Minab school carnage one example of US-Israel crimes against Iranians

International Desk

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman paid tribute to the victims of the Minab school massacre in southern Iran, saying it is just one example among hundreds of crimes committed by the United States and Israel against Iranians.

Addressing a Sunday ceremony in commemoration of the fallen children, Esmail Baqaei said that the city of Lamerd in the southern Iranian province of Fars was targeted on the same day that Minab school was bombed on February 28, and became a test ground for the United States' newest lethal weapon, namely a cluster missile that would explode into 180,000 deadly shrapnel.

The US attack on Shajare Tayyeb Elementary school in the city of Minab left 175 students and teachers dead. On the same day, the US carried out another airstrike on a sports hall in the city of Lamerd in Fars Province, killing 24 innocent Iranians and injuring over 130 others.

"Preserving the memory of these children is not simply a tribute to the past, but rather a responsibility to protect truth, justice, and humanity, and a covenant with the future," Baqaei stated.

He added that world nations, irrespective of all their diversity, have some traits in common, and this commonality is part of human nature.

"All nations cherish their lost children.



Grief over the loss of a child is a protection of human nature and conscience. Children are the most innocent and first victims of war; whether those who fall victim to bullets, bombs, and missiles, or those whose bodies and souls suffer permanent wounds, or those who bear the heavy burden of losing their fathers, mothers, and loved ones for the rest of their lives," Baqaei stated.

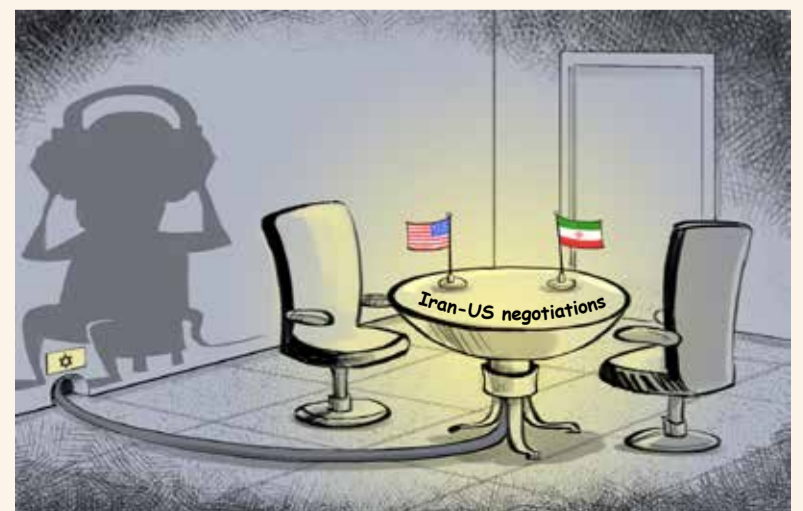
The Iranian diplomat emphasized that the fallen children of Minab and Lamerd, as well as many other minors martyred during the June 2025 and the recent 40-day US-Israeli wars of aggression, remind everyone of their responsibility towards the truth.

The spokesperson emphasized that the attack on the Minab school and the residential area of Lamerd is a clear instance of a war crime, saying that Iran will utilize all legal and international mechanisms to prosecute the perpetrators of these crimes.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

CARTOON



Seizure of Iranian ...

The second is a broader fund that would allow Iran access to a wider range of goods beyond humanitarian items, while Washington would still retain oversight of spending. The third scenario involves full release of the assets, with Iran exercising complete control over how the funds are used.

Under such circumstances, a plan to divert Iranian assets elsewhere would effectively alter the entire course of negotiations because the funds would no longer be made available to Iran in

the first place, an issue that has become one of the main sticking points in the ongoing talks.

My personal assessment is that the reports indicate that the United States is using it as a pressure tool to persuade Iran to accept American conditions in the broader understanding currently under negotiation.

Do you think the recent message from Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Pakistan's army chief Asem Munir to Iran's leadership is related to

this issue?

According to reports, one of the ideas discussed in the proposal concerns a mechanism for addressing Iran's frozen assets. It appears that the initiative is closer to the second scenario and reportedly envisions transferring those assets to a trusted third country acceptable to both Iran and the United States. In return for reciprocal steps by Washington and Tehran, portions of the funds would gradually be released. I believe this proposal has a better chance of success.

Pezeshkian: Investment, spending discipline key to financial stability

'Economic pressures result of war, sanctions and trade restrictions'

Economy Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said attracting investment was one of the government's key avenues for securing financial resources, while stressing that managing expenditures and eliminating unnecessary spending must also be pursued seriously.

At a meeting of the government's Economic Coordination Council on Sunday, officials reviewed various scenarios facing the country's economy, as well as government policies and plans for dealing with different economic conditions. They also decided on measures aimed at preserving economic stability, protecting people's livelihoods and ensuring the continued supply of the country's essential needs, according to president.ir. "Attracting investment is one of the important ways of securing resources, but alongside that, cost management and the elimination of unnecessary expenditures must also be placed seriously on the agenda," Pezeshkian said.

He added that excessive costs in executive bodies, government institutions and other sectors should be identified and reduced.

Pezeshkian also stressed the need to manage energy consumption.

"Effective conservation programs in the water, electricity and fuel sectors must be implemented, and the resources generated from these savings should be used directly to improve people's livelihoods," he said.

The country, already hit by Western sanctions over its nuclear program, faces growing external economic and maritime pressure, including US restrictions targeting its shipping and oil trade through a naval blockade imposed since mid-April. US President Donald Trump imposed the sea-based embargo on southern Iranian ports, aiming to pressure Tehran into a peace agreement after a 40-day conflict that began in late February.

The president also criticized some media analyses and narratives about the country's economic situation, saying that under conditions of economic war, sanctions and trade restrictions, not all price developments could be attributed solely to the government's performance. He added that the state broadcaster should not fuel public concern or portray the government's performance negatively through one-sided and undocumented analyses.

"Under conditions in which the government, because of national and security

considerations, is unable to disclose certain realities, the national media also has no right to create public anxiety and portray the government's performance negatively through one-sided and undocumented analyses," he said.

Iran's annual inflation rate rose to 53.9% in the 12 months ending in the second month of the current Iranian year, compared with the corresponding period a year earlier, the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) said this week. Point-to-point inflation, which measures changes in consumer prices compared with the same month a year earlier, stood at 77.2%, the CBI said.

Referring to what he called "inaccurate and unfair media narratives" about the causes of rising inflation, Pezeshkian said, "At a time when the country's economy is directly affected by the US and Zionist regime's imposed war against Iran, the constraints resulting from economic sanctions and trade pressures, including the naval blockade, not all price developments can be attributed solely to the government's performance."

"Despite the losses and economic pressures resulting from these conditions, the government has mobilized the country's executive capacities to minimize the severe consequences of this eco-



President Masoud Pezeshkian heads a meeting of the government's Economic Coordination Council in Tehran on June 7, 2026. president.ir

nom and security war. Nevertheless, some narratives create the impression that none of these factors exist and that all problems stem solely from the government's performance," he said.

"Under the current circumstances, managing the country's economy requires responsible decision-making, honest dialogue with the people and avoiding promises that cannot be fulfilled."

The president also emphasized that supporting household livelihoods remained the government's strategic priority.

"People's livelihoods are a fundamental and non-negotiable principle for me. The government is obliged to use all available capacities to strengthen people's purchasing power and reduce economic pressure on different segments of society," he said.

Tehran stocks hit record closing high as benchmark jumps 2.3%



Economy Desk

Tehran's benchmark stock index rose more than 101,000 points, or 2.3%, on Sunday to close at a record 4.493 million points, according to IRNA.

Although the index had previously touched the 4.5 million level on January 13 and 19, it had never ended a trading session above the current level.

The market was supported by stronger buying interest from the start of trading, while the reopening of PAR-SAN and KALA shares without daily price fluctuation limits further reinforced the upward trend. The benchmark is now only a few thousand points away from en-

tering the 4.5-million-point range.

The equal-weight index, which reflects the performance of companies regardless of size, also climbed 2.58% to a record 1.203 million points, indicating that the rally was not limited to large-cap stocks and that small- and mid-sized companies also played a significant role in the advance.

About 95% of listed stocks closed higher during the session, while 5.421 trillion tomans (about \$30.3 million) of retail investor money flowed into equity trading, signaling continued investor appetite for the stock market.

The value of Sunday's trading exceeded 200 trillion tomans (about \$1.12 billion), while the to-

tal market capitalization of the Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE) stood at more than 13.3 quadrillion tomans (about \$74.3 billion).

At the same time, 1.482 trillion tomans (about \$8.3 million) of retail investor funds flowed out of fixed-income funds, while gold and silver funds attracted 222 billion tomans (about \$1.24 million) and 128 billion tomans (about \$715,000), respectively, in retail inflows.

The gains came after months during which the Tehran Stock Exchange faced heavy pressure from wartime conditions, political uncertainty and a prolonged trading halt, prompting many market participants to adopt a cautious outlook.

Trading on the TSE resumed after an 80-day suspension on May 19, with Iranian equities ending the session stronger than expected and showing early signs of stability following the prolonged halt caused by the war.

The stock market had been closed since February 28 following US and Israeli attacks on Iran and the outbreak of war.

Iran lagging in coal power use despite vast reserves: Mining official

Economy Desk

Iran has substantial coal reserves but generates almost no electricity from the fossil fuel, a senior mining official said on Sunday, even as global coal power output is projected to grow 10% by 2040.

Mohammad Masoud Samieinejad, head of the Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization, said Iran's coal resources are largely metallurgical in nature and are primarily used in steel production rather than power generation. "Iran has a notable geological position in coal, but this capacity has not yet been fully exploited," Samieinejad told ISNA. "Iran's share of electricity generation from coal is almost zero."

According to Samieinejad, proven coal reserves stand at about 1.4 billion tons, with probable reserves of 14 billion tons. Annual coal extraction currently reaches 3.5 million tons, which is processed into 1.7 million tons of concentrate - nearly all consumed by the domestic steel industry.

Globally, coal remains a major power source. Citing the International Energy Agency (IEA), the official noted that coal-



fired generation is expected to rise from 9.41 trillion kilowatt-hours in 2015 to 10.39 trillion kWh by 2040 - a 10% increase. China and India, the world's top coal consumers, are projected to use 4.34 billion and 1.22 billion tons respectively in 2025.

"The International Energy Agency (IEA) states that to limit global warming to two degrees or less, coal use without carbon capture and storage must be rapidly reduced," he said. The World Bank and WHO have also highlighted the health and economic advantages of cleaner energy alternatives, the deputy minister of industry, mine and trade added.

He said the country plans to develop its coal sector on a smaller scale. Under the coun-

try's Seventh Development Plan, Samieinejad said coal concentrate output should reach 2 million tons, and metallurgical coke capacity 2.1 million tons by the plan's end.

"Productivity increases, mechanization, and mine safety enhancement are among the most important strategies for this sector," he said, adding that reviving idle mines and moving away from traditional mining methods are also priorities.

Iran's total installed power generation capacity exceeds 100,000 megawatts, with thermal power plants accounting for the majority of output. Hydropower, renewables such as wind and solar, and nuclear energy make up smaller shares of the mix.

Ministers back digital push to boost tourism, rural prosperity

Economy Desk

Iran's telecommunications and cultural heritage ministers agreed to expand joint cooperation to develop communication infrastructure and digital services, aiming to boost tourism, strengthen local economies

and create new employment opportunities in rural areas. The agreement came during a joint meeting between Communications and Information Technology (ICT) Minister Sattar Hashemi and Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Minister Reza Salehi-Amiri, along with their deputies, IRNA reported.

"A unified and centralized design is needed for the development of data-driven governance," Hashemi said, stressing the need to avoid

fragmented, "isolated" actions in the technology sector.

The ICT minister also announced that the number of the country's Internet exchange centers would increase from one to three, located in different parts of the country, "so that services to the people can continue without interruption even in critical situations."

During the meeting, deputies from the telecommunications ministry presented a report on measures taken in areas related to cultural

heritage, tourism and handicrafts, as well as the development of rural communications. These measures include establishing stable connectivity at 50 tourist sites, providing communications for tourism-targeted villages, digitalizing cultural heritage processes, and readiness to create a national dashboard.

The deputies also put forward proposals for expanding joint cooperation and resolving issues related to communication development in tourist areas.



ICT Minister Sattar Hashemi (l) and Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Minister Reza Salehi-Amiri attend a meeting in Tehran on June 7, 2026. IRNA

Persian turquoise yet to secure its genuine share of global market: **Businessman**

Unofficial exports double official exports



IRAN DAILY: Please first elucidate the situation of Persian turquoise, Iran's standing in this precious stone globally, and the status of its production in the country.

MEDALYAN: Turquoise is the first jewel and gemstone processed in Iran, and its processing possesses a history of approximately 5,700 years. It can be designated as the first national jewel. Of course, we possess another national jewel as well, named demantoid garnet, which has been extracted in Iran for several years now, which constitutes one of the rarest and finest garnet varieties in the world, extracted from a specific place in Kerman, and, idiomatically speaking, it is top-grade in terms of global pricing. Nevertheless, unfortunately, a cohesive and organized perspective toward jewels and precious stones does not exist in our country, and we do not derive appropriate economic benefit from this sector. Regarding turquoise, I shall state that this stone, due to its considerable antiquity, has secured its position internationally, and the entire world displays favor toward Persian turquoise; it is thoroughly recognized in the global market, and, in terms of mineral type and stone durability, it ranks among the finest turquoises worldwide.

What is our volume of production, and in which regions of Iran is it produced?

The majority of the product extracted from turquoise mines, after extraction, is processed and supplied. The greatest production of turquoise in Iran belongs to the northeastern province of Khorasan Razavi and the cities of Mashhad and Neyshabur, which also possess the highest share in the domain of turquoise processing and carving.

The city of Neyshabur has historically been our largest producer of turquoise. For several years now, the city of Babak in the southern province of Kerman, owing to the Babak turquoise mine, has also ranked among the major producers of turquoise in the country. The cities of Mashhad and Neyshabur annually supply at least 1.5 to 2 metric tons of carved turquoise. In total, the

production of carved turquoise in the country exceeds 2 metric tons per year. Approximately 75% of the turquoise market currently belongs to Mashhad and Neyshabur.

For which purposes are turquoise employed, and to which locations is it exported?

Naturally, the utilization of turquoise as a ring stone possesses the greatest application and market share; additionally, it serves as a pendant for necklaces and also features in various handicrafts.

After three to four years, through collaboration with the Parliamentary Commission of the Article 90 of the Constitution, we succeeded in persuading the Central Bank to delegate authority from the Ministry of Industry, Mine, and Trade and the Central Bank for turquoise pricing to occur within Mashhad itself.

Official turquoise exports currently flow predominantly to Indonesia. Turkey constitutes another one of our major export markets for turquoise, and this Iranian product is exported from Turkey, as the gateway to Europe, to other European countries. The Persian Gulf states and the United States itself — which ranks among the largest turquoise producers globally — also receive Persian turquoise. Likewise, China processes a portion of our raw turquoise and exports it. Thus,



Various pendants and rings made from Persian turquoise from a mine in the city of Neyshabur (Nishapur), northeastern Iran, is seen in a jewelry store in Iran.

● amitisart.net

Turkey and European countries, along with the countries of East and Southeast Asia, are major consumers of Persian turquoise.

What is the reason for this degree of popularity and demand for turquoise in Indonesia?

In the years prior to and at the beginning of the Revolution, our turquoise was sent to Saudi Arabia, and that country was considered one of our major markets. Indonesians, when they came for pilgrimages to Saudi Arabia, purchased this stone there, and our merchants realized that Indonesia could be a highly promising target market. In Indonesia, turquoise is regarded as a stone of victory, triumph, and luck; they carry it with themselves, and thus it has become established within their culture. We dispatch these stones as commodity shipments, sometimes in consignments of 100 to 250 kilograms, to this country.

Is turquoise unofficially exported as well?

The market for stones and jewels globally operates through passengers and does not proceed via formal exports because the volume of turquoise and other



By Sadeq Dehqan
Staff writer

INTERVIEW

Turquoise, that azure and ancient gemstone, has for centuries upheld the name of Iran — and its city of Neyshabur (Nishapur), in particular — within the global markets of precious stones. A stone not only renowned for its unique beauty and quality but also constituting a portion of Iran's historical and cultural identity. From archaeological artifacts dating back several millennia to contemporary ornaments, traces of Persian turquoise always appears throughout the history and art of this land.

Whereas the global gemstone market experiences a financial turnover of several trillion dollars, many experts contend that Iran's capacities in the domain of turquoise and other precious stones have not yet been fully exploited. On the other hand, despite the fact that Neyshabur turquoise continues to be recognized as one of the highest-quality and most renowned turquoises worldwide, Iran's share of the global market for this product does not correspond to its historical standing and quality.

Furthermore, the expansion of export markets in the countries of Southeast Asia, Turkey, Iraq, and the Persian Gulf states has placed novel opportunities before the players of this industry. Among these, matters such as official and unofficial exports, the development of ancillary industries like ring-making and handcrafted jewelry, the counteraction against counterfeit pieces, and also the amendment of export regulations constitute the most significant challenges and demands of the players in this field. To examine the position of Persian turquoise in global markets, the state of production and exportation, international competitors, foreign exchange earning capacities, and the obstacles hindering the development of this industry, Iran Daily has engaged in an exclusive dialogue with Majid Medalyan, the head of the Union of Turquoise and Gemstones of Khorasan Razavi Province, the full text of which you shall read below:

jewels is not sufficiently large to necessitate a container or similar means. An entire 250-kilogram consignment of turquoise occupies a space equivalent to that of a single seat on an aircraft; therefore, it can easily be exported in various unofficial manners.

Our unofficial exports flow mostly to the Persian Gulf states and Turkey; consequently, our official exports amount to 500 to 700 kilograms annually, while unofficial exports can reach double this figure, destined for Turkey, Iraq, and the Persian Gulf states.

What is the profitability capacity of the turquoise industry, and which countries possess the largest share of this market?

Currently, a single gram of an export consignment of turquoise is valued at a minimum of 40,000–50,000 Iranian toman (\$0.2–\$0.28), but we also possess turquoises priced at 40 to 50 million toman (\$228–\$285) per gram. Thus, gemstones such as turquoise present a highly lucrative market in terms of foreign currency generation. The turnover — or financial circulation — of gemstones globally exceeds \$2,000 billion annually, of which we hold a very insignificant share. At present, the United States possesses a very substantial production and share of the global turquoise market because it operates more than 30 large turquoise mines, most of which are located in the state of Arizona.

Nevertheless, the finest turquoise in the world belongs to Iran; Persian turquoise is exceptionally dense, whereas their turquoises are friable. On the other hand, our turquoises are very amenable to carving, and their processing and carving are also of superior quality.

Our most significant competitor in the global market, in terms of stone quality and production, is the country of Egypt, whose product is the turquoise of the Sinai Desert. Likewise, China's Tibetan turquoise represents an-



Persian turquoise from the Kerman Mine (without stabilisation)

● amitisart.net



The finest turquoise in the world belongs to Iran; Persian turquoise is exceptionally dense, whereas their turquoises are friable. On the other hand, our turquoises are very amenable to carving, and their processing and carving are also of superior quality. Commercially speaking, however, American turquoise is a recognized turquoise worldwide. Yet none of them, in terms of material and carving quality, compare to Persian turquoise.

other competitor, and the United States itself is also among our major rivals in the market; however, that country's turquoise is largely commercial and does not attain the quality of Iran's turquoises.

In the global market, the major market share is not held by Iran, but in Indonesia, the market is almost entirely controlled by Iran, because they possess a particular fervor and affection for Persian turquoise. Commercially speaking, however, American turquoise is a recognized turquoise worldwide. Yet none of them, in terms of material and carving quality, compare to Persian turquoise.

Currently, a certain category of turquoise exists in the market under the designation "Chinese turquoise," which is reputed to be fake and counterfeit. Could you provide some explanation?

This issue of authenticity versus counterfeit exists across all jewels. When a market develops for a gemstone such as turquoise, it is certainly profitable, and China seeks to produce a similar or synthetic version and supply it to the market. This is entirely natural. This phenomenon has also occurred with diamonds and certain other jewels; their synthetic versions have been manufactured in such a manner that only



The gate to Neyshabur (Nishapur) Turquoise Mine in Iran's northeastern province, Khorasan Razavi

● amitisart.net

specialized instruments can distinguish synthetic from natural. To identify counterfeit jewels from authentic ones, we have established, within the union, a diagnostic commission in collaboration with two laboratories in Mashhad, thereby preventing abuse. Within this commission, the union's stone identification experts distinguish, idiomatically speaking, the American, Neyshaburi, Damghani, and Kermani types. Subsequently, regarding whether they have been dyed or remain undyed, we send these specimens to a laboratory, where they are diagnosed, and for each natural turquoise, we issue a certificate.

Can a counterfeit turquoise be distinguished from an authentic one by visual inspection alone, without instruments?

Yes. Certain criteria exist for recognizing stones, their mineral types, and the intrinsic nature of stones. For instance, 100% of the turquoises currently produced in Neyshabur are entirely distinguishable in terms of shape, color, texture, and material. However, some turquoises possess an intrinsic nature similar to other turquoises; this category constitutes approximately 10% of turquoises, and within this segment, our turquoise may resemble American turquoise. For those turquoises whose provenance is indeterminate, we perform a diagnosis regarding authenticity or counterfeitness, but no certificate is issued for them, lest, for

example, an American turquoise be traded under the name of Persian turquoise in the market.

What recommendations do you offer for the advancement of this industry and the augmentation of its revenue generation?

Precious stones, and specifically turquoise, possess a very favorable market. We have submitted a proposal to the Ministry of Tourism and Handicrafts to permit exports through airport departure points and allow travelers to carry up to 10 kilograms. Currently, a traveler is not permitted to export more than five or six rings. A portion of this prohibition arises from restrictions concerning the export of metals such as gold and silver.

Typically, turquoise is set in silver as a gemstone, resulting in products such as rings or pendants; however, due to restrictions on the export of silver and gold metals, the export of large quantities is not permitted. Therefore, we have proposed that they allow up to 10 kilograms to be exported via travelers and air freight because the foreign currency earning capacity of stones materializes when they are exported, idiomatically speaking, mounted upon silver and other metals. Precious metals, in combination with gemstones, generate added value. Metals further accentuate the beauty of gemstones. They increase the added value of a gemstone by a minimum of 25%. For



A rough turquoise stone found in Neyshabur (Neyshabur), northeastern Iran.
amitisart.net

example, a stone priced at 5 million tomans (\$28), when mounted on silver, experiences at minimum a 25% increase in its price. We possess a highly favorable market for these rings and gemstones in Turkey and Iraq because Iran's manual ring-making industry is unparalleled globally, and we hold the foremost rank in this domain. Within Mashhad alone, there exist upward of 2,000 individual workshops engaged in ring production, each employing at least 4 or 5 individuals, and we enjoy a very robust

market in this field in Iraq, the Persian Gulf states, Turkey, and other parts of the world. Our manual ring-making faces no rival globally.

A portion of the effort related to our proposal has progressed thus far, and it is scheduled for approval by the cabinet. Should it be finalized, substantial foreign currency earnings will accrue to the country. Currently, countries such as Turkey, Thailand, China, Hong Kong, and others impose no restrictions on the export of finished silverware because that

foreign currency and revenue return to their countries and to the income of their citizens.

So, what is the impediment regarding Iran's export of products manufactured with turquoise?

Unfortunately, the regulations pertaining to silver and gold are identical within the Central Bank. Gold is a strategic metal for the entire world; therefore, the regulations for gold, its importation, and its exportation must remain under governmental control.

Silver, however, is not such. Currently, one gram of silver is valued at approximately 450,000 tomans (\$2.5), whereas one gram of 18-karat gold is valued at 18 million tomans (\$102) — that is, roughly over 400 times higher. Nevertheless, stringent regulations concerning the entry and exit of gold in our country are applied also to silver.

Hence, the regulations on silver must be revised, and their entry and exit from the country must be facilitated. Throughout the entire world, the entry and exit of silver metal are free; its entry and exit resemble that of copper or zinc metal. Therefore, silver is not a strategic commodity toward which governments need to be sensitive. On the other hand, in a single silver ring, for example, 10 grams of silver are utilized, the value of that silver amounting to 4.5 million tomans (\$25).

Yet the artistry of Iran's silver engravers generates an added value of 5 to 6 times that amount upon this ring, dramatically elevating the price of the silver employed therein. We possess reputable brands in the domain of ring production and manufacturing in Iran. By facilitating exports through passengers, we can contribute both to employment and to the country's revenue generation.

Symbolic meaning of turquoise in Iranian culture

SUMMARY

What follows is an edited AI-generated summary of an interdisciplinary article, written by Kaluash Zhetpisbayeva of the Al-Farabi Kazakh National University in Almaty and Bayan Jubatova and published in the Journal of Oriental Studies in June 2021.

The paper examines how turquoise functions as both a mineral and a cultural symbol in Iranian culture, using extralinguistic evidence from mythology, religion, folklore, linguistics, and Persian literature. The paper does not report an empirical sample or statistical analysis; instead, it synthesizes textual and cultural sources to argue that turquoise's physical properties, especially its blue color and perceived "living" qualities, underpin its symbolic associations with water, victory, protection, health, beauty, generosity, luxury, and the soul. The broader significance is that turquoise operates as a key cultural sign through which Iranian beliefs, aesthetics, and religious practices are expressed and transmitted.

Key findings

- Turquoise is repeatedly framed as a multi-symbolic cultural object in Iranian tradition, associated with victory, protection from maleficence, health, abundance, beauty, generosity, luxury, and the soul rather than as merely a decorative stone.
- The blue color of turquoise is central to its symbolism because it is linked to water, life, rain, and the mythic figure Tishtar. This association explains why blue became culturally sacred in Iranian thought.
- Religious discourse elevated turquoise's status: narrations attributed to the Prophet and



Rakhsh, the red chestnut stallion who is covered with an exceptionally ornate bright turquoise green and ultramarine blue saddle, gallops among the horses of Shah Afrasiyab after his rider, Rostam, fought the div [demon] Akvan in this 16th century folio from Book of Kings auctioned in London, the UK.
SOTHEBY'S

Imams describe turquoise rings as beneficial for prayer, poverty relief, fertility, and problem-solving, reinforcing its sacred reputation.

Persian poets used turquoise extensively as a literary metaphor, with the stone appearing as a symbol of the sky, eyes, beauty, royal splendor, and the transience of life. The article states that variants of "piruze"/"firuze" (meaning turquoise in Persian) appear 70 times in works of Ferdowsi, 60 times in works of Nizami Ganjavi, and 50 times in works of Jami.

For example, Ferdowsi recounts Qaren's description of Nowzar, the ninth Shah of the Pishadian dynasty of Persia, as such:

به دستوری شاه پیروزه تخت
بنازم پس ترک شوریده بخت

With the command of the king on turquoise throne / I will attack the unfortunate Turks ...

As yet another example, the great Persian poet Saadi tries to show the girl's natural beauty by comparing it with a turquoise stone,

which is recognized as a symbol of beauty:

انگشت خوبروی و بناگوش نلغریب
بی گوشوار و خاتم فیروزه شاهد است

Beautiful fingers and delicate lobe of ear /

Can be a witness (of beauty) without turquoise earrings and rings ...

- Turquoise's material properties support its cultural metaphors: its color variability, use in jewelry, and tendency to change color were interpreted as signs of life, death, and renewal, making it a particularly rich symbolic object.
- The stone retained high value in Iran due to quality and availability, with Neyshabur identified as a major source of highly valued varieties such as "Abu Ishaq" or "Soleimani," contributing to its prestige in both domestic and external trade.

Objectives

The study aimed to determine the symbolic meaning of turquoise in Iranian culture by correlating its physical properties, structure, and functional uses as a natural mineral with its cultur-

al value for Iranians. The authors explicitly address a gap in Iranian studies, arguing that turquoise has not been sufficiently studied as a cultural phenomenon through extralinguistic materials. The central research question is how turquoise acquired and maintains its symbolic significance across Iranian religious, literary, mythological, and everyday contexts.

Methods

The paper uses an interdisciplinary qualitative approach at the intersection of mineralogy, mythology, cultural studies, folklore, linguistics, religion, Sufism, literature, and art. The main analytical methods are linguo-cultural analysis, etymological analysis, and interpretation. The evidence base consists of extralinguistic materials, including historical references, religious narrations, Persian poetic texts, scholarly works, and cultural descriptions of turquoise in architecture, jewelry, and medicine. No original participant sample, experiment,

or numerical dataset is reported.

Results

The article argues that turquoise's symbolism emerged from the interaction of material properties and cultural interpretation. Its blue color became associated with water and life, especially through the mythological figure Tishtar, a protector of rain and abundance. The authors also show that turquoise was embedded in religious practices: narrations claim it helps eyesight, eases hardship, prevents poverty, and supports prayer, while one narration says it was a gift from Gabriel to the Prophet (PBUH) and then to Imam Ali (PBUH).

In literature, turquoise is used as a metaphor for the sky, eyes, beauty, natural landscapes, royal power, and the brevity of life; it also appears in descriptions of cups, thrones, crowns, rings, and palace decoration. The paper further notes that turquoise was historically prized in Iran and that Persian sources recognized Neyshabur turquoise as especially valuable. No null results or formal significance testing are presented.

Conclusions

The authors conclude that turquoise has a deeply rooted symbolic role in Iranian culture and that its value extends far beyond its mineral composition. They interpret the stone as a cultural phenomenon whose physical beauty, sacred associations, and literary representations have shaped Iranian beliefs about water, victory, protection, abundance, and nobility. The paper suggests that these meanings continue to influence modern Iranian cultural identity and that the stone's symbolism is reflected across culture, crafts, religion, and poetry.



The article argues that turquoise's symbolism emerged from the interaction of material properties and cultural interpretation. Its blue color became associated with water and life, especially through the mythological figure Tishtar, a protector of rain and abundance. The authors also show that turquoise was embedded in religious practices.

AVC Women's Nations Cup:

Iran's Poursaleh rues failure to execute game plan after 'bitter' opener



Sports Desk

Iran's Elaheh Poursaleh lamented her team's failure to follow the coaching staff's instructions after an opening-day defeat to Indonesia at the AVC Women's Nations Cup in Candon, Philippines, on Saturday.

The prolific opposite scored a joint match-high 20 points but could not prevent Iran, which arrived at the tournament fresh from winning last week's CAVA Championship title, from slipping to a 3-1 defeat (25-15, 21-25, 25-21, 25-22) in Pool B.

"It was a bitter loss. It wasn't our day," Poursaleh said after the match.

"For much of the match, we failed to do what we were asked to do by the coaching staff.

"We'll have to make up for this defeat in the next matches, and



Iranian opposite Elaheh Poursaleh (19) hits a spike during a 3-1 loss to Indonesia at the AVC Women's Nations Cup in Candon, Philippines, on June 6, 2026.

● FIVB

that's exactly what we're determined to do."

Iran will return to action at Candon City Arena against Kazakhstan on Sunday in a repeat of the two meetings between the sides at the CAVA Championship in Kathmandu, including the final, both of which Iran won.

"We recently beat Kazakhstan twice, but we still have to remain fully focused against them. I just hope we can finish in the top two of the group and reach the semi-finals," added the 23-year-old.

Iran head coach Lee Do-hee, meanwhile, attributed the defeat to her players being "under a lot of stress throughout the match."

"Because of that stress, they were unable to move freely and show their true capabilities. We need to overcome this issue. The larger the venue, the more nervous the players seem to become, and this is something that requires more work to address," said the South Korean.

"Throughout the match, I kept reminding them that it was just a match and that they shouldn't

be nervous, but we were unable to change the situation.

"It's really unfortunate that we lost today. It was a match we absolutely should have won, but we let the result slip away and put ourselves in a difficult position. Now we must win our remaining matches."

Iran captain Shabnam Alikhani echoed her coach's assessment.

"The result was very important for us, and that created a great deal of psychological pressure on the players. I don't think we were prepared to deal with that challenge," she said.

The veteran setter nevertheless urged her teammates to bounce back and show their "true strength" as they pursue their "ambitious goal" at the tournament.

"Right now, we are not in a good place mentally, but we will try to regain our confidence and improve the team's psychological state so that we are ready for the upcoming matches," she said.

"We must win all of our remaining preliminary-round matches to advance to the semifinals as

the second-placed team in the group. It will be a very difficult task, but we are here with a very important and ambitious goal. I hope we can compete at full strength in the upcoming matches and once again show the true power of the Iranian team, just as we did in Nepal."

Iran will follow the Kazakhstan match with an encounter against Lebanon on Tuesday before taking on defending champion Vietnam on Thursday.

On the final day of the preliminary phase, Iran, which finished sixth in the previous edition, will face Hong Kong on Friday.

Elsewhere on the opening day of the tournament, Vietnam began its title defense with a comfortable straight-sets victory over Lebanon, while Kazakhstan came from behind to defeat Hong Kong in four sets.

In Pool A, the Philippines made a winning start on home soil with a straight-sets victory over Uzbekistan, with South Korea defeating Kyrgyzstan by the same score later on Saturday.

Ulaanbaatar Open Ranking Series:

Nokhodi wins 86kg freestyle gold, Rahmani bags bronze

Sports Desk

Iranian freestyle wrestler Mohammad Nokhodi looked comfortable in his new weight class, claiming the gold medal in the 86kg event at the Ulaanbaatar Open on Saturday.

Nokhodi, a five-time world medalist, including three silver medals, opened his campaign with a 10-0 victory over Mongolia's Byambadorj Bat Erdene. He followed that with another superiority win against India's Aryan Aryan before defeating Kyrgyzstan's Ma-

lik Shavaev 10-5 in an entertaining semifinal.

The Iranian was then awarded the gold medal after Bulgaria's reigning Olympic champion Magomed Ramazanov – best known to Iranian fans for his victory over Hassan Yazdani in the Paris 2024 final – withdrew from the championship bout due to injury.

The title marked Nokhodi's second Ranking Series gold medal of the year, following his triumph at February's Muhamet Malo Tournament in Tirana.

Ramazanov, meanwhile,

still enjoyed an impressive return to competition after more than a year on the sidelines, outscoring his opponents 23-2 on his way to the final.

Elsewhere on the opening day of the freestyle competition, Iran's Abolfazl Rahmani claimed a bronze medal in the 92kg division in only his second international appearance at the class.

The former Asian 86kg champion lost his opening bout to two-time world bronze medalist Azamat Dauletbekov of Kazakhstan on criteria after a 4-4 tie,

but bounced back to defeat Dauletbekov's compatriot Bekzat Amangali 8-6 in the repechage before beating India's Kumar Punit 4-0 in the bronze-medal match.

Saturday's results followed a strong Greco-Roman campaign for the Iranian squad in the Mongolian capital. Payam Ahmadi (55kg), Ali Ahmadi-Vafa (60kg) and Darnial Sohrabi (72kg) won gold medals in their respective weight classes, while Sohrabi's victory over compatriot Mohammad-Javad Rezaei in the final secured him a place on Iran's team for Oc-



Iranian freestyle wrestler Mohammad Nokhodi is seen in action against India's Aryan Aryan in an 86kg bout at the Ulaanbaatar Open in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, on June 6, 2026.

● IAWFIR

tober's World Championships in Astana, Kazakhstan. Mohammad-Mahdi Keshtkar (63kg) also booked his

ticket to the World Championships despite forfeiting his final bout with a groin injury, thanks to a 6-2 vic-

tory over Asian silver medalist Erfan Jarkani in an all-Iranian second-round contest.

Iran edged by Brazil in pre-VNL warm-up

Sports Desk

Iran surrendered a two-set lead to suffer a 3-2 defeat against Brazil in a warm-up friendly in Brasilia ahead of the upcoming Volleyball Nations League (VNL).

Italian head coach Roberto Piazza's men won the opening two sets 36-34 and 25-23, but the South American powerhouse rallied to take the next three, 25-23, 25-21 and 28-26.

The two sides will square off again on the opening day of the VNL preliminary phase in the Brazilian capital on Wednesday.

Despite the defeat, Piazza was pleased with his team's performance against one of the sport's global heavyweights.

"We agreed beforehand that the match would be played over five 25-point sets, and both teams used different lineups through-



Iranian players celebrate a point during a 3-2 defeat against Brazil in friendly in Brasilia, Brazil, on June 6, 2026.

● volleyball.ir

out the match," Piazza said. "I was a little disappointed with the fourth set because it was the only set that Brazil won by a wide margin. On the other hand, I'm pleased because we managed to play a normal level of volleyball against Brazil.

"Brazil is a very good team. We know they are ranked higher than us in

the world rankings. But we can improve – we can improve a lot.

"Right now, I feel good about where we are, but from tomorrow onward, we must focus entirely on the Volleyball Nations League," added the Italian. A demanding opening week awaits Piazza's men, who will face Bulgaria on Thursday before taking

on Argentina and Belgium later at the Nilson Nelson Gymnasium.

Iran will then travel to Orleans, France, for the second week of competition, beginning with a blockbuster clash against host nation and reigning Olympic champion France at the CO'Met Arena on June 24, followed by matches against the United States, Japan and Cuba.

The third and final week of the preliminary phase will see Iran take on Ukraine in Belgrade on July 15 before further encounters with Germany, Slovenia and Türkiye.

The top eight teams in the 18-team standings will advance to the VNL Finals, which will begin with the quarterfinals in Ningbo Beilun, China, on July 29. China has already secured a place in the Finals as host nation.

Asian Canoe Sprint Junior & U23 Championships:

Iranians cap off with 20 medals

Sports Desk

Iran enjoyed a successful campaign at the Asian Canoe Sprint Junior & U23 Championships, finishing with 20 medals, including four golds, across various categories in Turkistan, Kazakhstan.

The Iranian contingent also collected six silver and 10 bronze medals during the four-day competition.

On the final day of the championships, Iran added two gold medals through Shahla Behrouzrad and Eslam Jahedi in the paracanoe events. Behrouzrad struck gold in the women's KL3 500m final, clocking 2:27.460 to finish ahead of Uzbekistan's Mirzaeva Shakhnoza.

Jahedi also topped the podium in the men's VL2 500m event, posting a winning time of 2:45.022.

Meanwhile, Iran narrowly missed out on another medal, as its men's U23 K4 500m crew of Abbas Hosseini, Amirreza Barzegar, Abolfazl Jannati and Amirreza Oladian finished fourth in 1:31.066.

Uzbekistan claimed gold in the event, with Kazakhstan and Singapore taking silver and bronze respectively.



Iran's Shahla Behrouzrad won the gold medal in the women's KL3 500m event at the Asian Canoe Sprint Junior & U23 Championships.

● ICF

Lorestan's historic legacy sets national records

Iranica Desk

The Director-General of Lorestan Province's Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Organization has highlighted the province's significant role in Iran's cultural heritage landscape, saying that Lorestan was the country's leading province in the registration of national heritage sites until 2010 and continues to rank among Iran's top provinces in terms of heritage listings, archaeological areas, and heritage coverage. Ata Hassanpour told ISNA that Lorestan held the country's top position in national heritage

registrations until 2010, with nearly 2,000 sites listed in Iran's national heritage records. He added that the province still holds the record for the highest number of heritage registrations in a single year, noting that in 2006, Lorestan succeeded in registering 1,000 sites on the national heritage list. The official said that Lorestan currently ranks second in Iran after Fars Province, with around 2,700 registered national heritage sites. He explained that the change in ranking was due to the introduction of quotas for heritage registrations, with provinces that were previously

leaders receiving fewer quotas, while other provinces were given more opportunities to catch up. Hassanpour emphasized Lorestan's exceptional cultural heritage status, stating that the province ranks first in Iran in terms of the number of registered sites, with about 2,700 entries. He also said Lorestan leads the country in heritage area coverage, with a total area of approximately 28,000 square kilometers, and is also the national record-holder for archaeological sites. He noted that three major cultural heritage sites are active in



the province: the Falak-ol-Aflak Castle site, Borujerd's Historic Fabric site, and the National Historic Bridges site. According to Hassanpour, Lorestan serves as the headquarters for Iran's historic bridge network, with around 100 an-

cient bridges. He explained that the province's numerous rivers, including the Zal, Seymareh, Sezar, and Kashkan, along with its mountainous terrain, made bridge construction essential throughout history. He added that bridge-build-

ing in Lorestan dates back to ancient periods, including the Achaemenid, Parthian, and Sassanid eras, and continued into the Islamic period. He described the region as a national leader in bridge architecture and construction.

Silk Festival to be held in Torbat-e Heydarieh



● chn.ir

Iranica Desk

The Governor of Torbat-e Heydarieh, Khorasan Razavi Province announced that a Silk Festival will be held on June 11 in the town of Bayg, coinciding with the silkworm breeding and silk production season, as part of efforts to register the silk event on Iran's national tourism calendar.

Mojtaba Shojaei said the festival will feature a range of programs, including a specialized silk tour, visits to the silkworm breeding department, tours of silk-reeling workshops, a handicrafts exhibition, and a ceremony honoring veterans and pioneers of the silk-reeling industry.

He emphasized that all available resources will be mobilized to ensure the festival is held successfully, allowing the city's social assets and unique capacities to be properly introduced and recognized, according to chn.ir. Shojaei noted that Torbat-e Heydarieh, which produces more than 80 percent of Iran's silk, is known as the country's silk capital and the "land of white gold." He added that the festival will also support efforts to revive the Silk Road route, noting that Torbat-e Heydarieh is a member of the International Tourism Alliance of Silk Road Cities (ITASRC).

He continued that Torbat-e Heydarieh is the only region where the silk tradition remains alive through the operation of more than 300 traditional silk-reeling workshops.

The official added that Torbat-e Heydarieh has historically been located along a branch of the Silk Road, with the existence of 13 caravanserais and traditional inns across the county serving as evidence of this heritage.

He also noted that Bayg and the Besk village have been nationally registered by Iran's Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts as the country's only national silk-reeling town and village, respectively.

Untapped potential of Zanjan's protected areas

Iranica Desk

Today, tourism — particularly nature-based tourism, or ecotourism — plays a vital role in the economies of many countries. Unlike mass tourism, which often requires heavy investment in large-scale infrastructure such as luxury hotels, extensive road networks, and major transportation systems, ecotourism focuses on direct, affordable, and responsible experiences in natural environments. Ecotourists are travelers who explore beautiful, diverse, and peaceful landscapes with limited facilities while respecting the environment. Countries with rich biodiversity have often been more successful in attracting these visitors and generating foreign revenue. Iran, due to its unique geographical location and wide range of climates, has significant potential to become an important ecotourism destination. However, achieving this goal requires accurate identification of natural resources, careful planning, sustainable management, and increased public awareness, according to chn.ir.

The development of ecotourism not only creates employment and economic opportunities but also strengthens visitors' sense of responsibility toward nature conservation. In essence, ecotourism represents a thoughtful and environmentally friendly approach to the use of natural resources, where conservation and development advance together.

Tourism in protected areas is one of the most important forms of sustainable engagement with nature. It aims to introduce people to environmental values, promote a culture of conservation, and generate income for local communities. When properly managed, this form of tourism can support biodiversity protection while creating

opportunities for social and economic development around protected areas.

Protected areas, with their natural landscapes, valuable plant and animal species, and unique ecosystems, have considerable potential to attract visitors. One of the key factors behind successful tourism development in these areas is the participation of local communities. When local residents benefit from tourism, they have stronger motivation to protect their surrounding environment.



Anguran Protected Area
● kojara.com

Tourism in protected areas can only succeed when it is built on conservation, education, community participation, and scientific management. Under such conditions, nature is preserved while responsible and sustainable tourism opportunities are created. The development of ecotourism in Zanjan Province, supported by its diverse climates and rich ecosystems, represents a major opportunity for sustainable economic growth. With approximately 19 percent of its territory, under national protection, Zanjan has significant potential to attract both domestic and international nature travelers.

Transforming these resources from "strict protection" into "responsible and sustainable use" could create meaningful employment opportunities and generate tourism revenue. Integrated management of protected areas such as Anguran and Sorkhabad,

along with restricted hunting zones, provides a foundation for responsible tourism development.

The expansion of low-impact, environmentally compatible infrastructure — without damaging sensitive ecosystems — is essential for success in this field. Cooperation between local communities and government institutions is also necessary to raise awareness and encourage environmental responsibility.

As a green alternative to environmentally harm-

Anguran Protected Area

The Anguran Protected Area is a remarkable destination for wildlife enthusiasts, nature photographers, and adventure travelers. Located at the intersection of Zanjan, East Azarbaijan, West Azarbaijan, and Kurdistan provinces, Anguran offers visitors a combination of impressive mountain landscapes and rich biodiversity.

The area covers approximately 125,000 hectares, including 90,000 hectares of protected land and 35,000 hectares designated as a wildlife refuge.

With around 171 plant species, including shrubs, trees, and herbaceous plants, Anguran becomes a spectacular landscape of wildflowers during spring, attracting nature lovers and botanical enthusiasts. The area is home to valu-

able wildlife species, including Armenian mouflon, wild goats, brown bears, wolves, foxes, jackals, and lynxes. The best opportunities for wildlife observation are usually during early morning or evening hours, accompanied by experienced guides and within designated safe areas.

Anguran is also an attractive destination for bird-watching. Migratory birds such as black storks, flamingos, swans, and pelicans have made the region a popular destination for bird photographers.

The area is also rich in birdlife, including birds of prey such as golden eagles, black eagles, and owls.

With its diverse ecosystems, protected landscapes, and unique wildlife, Zanjan has the potential to become a leading destination for sustainable ecotourism in Iran — where conservation and economic development can progress together.



Sorkhabad Protected Area
● kojara.com

able wildlife species, including Armenian mouflon, wild goats, brown bears, wolves, foxes, jackals, and lynxes. The best opportunities for wildlife observation are usually during early morning or evening hours, accompanied by experienced guides and within designated safe areas.

Anguran is also an attractive destination for bird-watching. Migratory birds such as black storks, flamingos, swans, and pelicans have made the region a popular destination for bird photographers.

Sorkhabad Protected Area

The Sorkhabad Protect-

ing in Lorestan dates back to ancient periods, including the Achaemenid, Parthian, and Sassanid eras, and continued into the Islamic period. He described the region as a national leader in bridge architecture and construction.

The area is also rich in birdlife, including birds of prey such as golden eagles, black eagles, and owls.

With its diverse ecosystems, protected landscapes, and unique wildlife, Zanjan has the potential to become a leading destination for sustainable ecotourism in Iran — where conservation and economic development can progress together.

Iconic Persian carpet designs set for global protection

Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian carpet authorities are stepping up efforts to protect the intellectual property of the country's renowned handwoven carpets, while pursuing a broader strategy to revive exports and strengthen the sector's global presence, Mohammad Veysian, deputy head of the Iranian National Carpet Center said in Tehran on Sunday ahead of National Carpet Day on June 10. Veysian said the organization has expanded cooperation with international intellectual property bodies to counter the copying of authentic Iranian carpet designs and motifs abroad. "Persian handwoven carpets remain the global benchmark for quality," Veysian told reporters. "Protecting the originality of Iranian designs in international forums has become one of our main priorities." He said specialized legal workshops

have been launched to help producers and exporters navigate international mechanisms for defending the intellectual property rights of Iranian carpets. The initiative comes as Iranian handwoven carpets continue to reach markets across 61 countries. Although annual exports currently stand at about \$50 million, officials said the breadth of destination markets shows the enduring appeal and recognition of Persian carpets worldwide. "The diversity of our export markets shows that Iranian handwoven carpets still hold a distinguished position internationally," Veysian said, adding that stronger support for producers and targeted market development would be needed to expand exports. Separately, Yahya Ale-Es'haq, chairman of Iran's Carpet Steering Council and an adviser to the Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade, announced the completion of a national transformation roadmap for

the handwoven carpet industry. The strategy, developed with universities, industry associations, veteran artisans and market specialists, covers production, design, marketing, exports and domestic consumption and is expected to be submitted to the cabinet for approval. "Carpet is not merely an export commodity. It embodies Iranian identity, artistry and generations of accumulated knowledge," Ale-Es'haq said. He described the revival of the sector as both an economic and cultural priority, noting its role in job creation, rural livelihoods and the preservation of traditional craftsmanship. While export revenues have fallen sharply from historical highs, he said the global reputation of the Persian carpet remains a powerful asset. "The Iranian brand and the Persian carpet's identity still provide a strong foundation for renewal," he said.



Officials also reiterated that only authentic Iranian carpets will be permitted at specialized domestic carpet exhibitions, part of broader efforts to safeguard the heritage and reputation of one of Iran's most celebrated cultural exports.

Tehran exhibition showcases Mexican art's message of peace, identity



Arts & Culture Desk

Mexican Ambassador to Iran Guillermo Puente Ordorica visited the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art (TMOCA) on June 7 and called art "a bridge between nations" as he toured a rare exhibition of Mexican printmaking that explores war, identity and collective memory, according to the museum. During a meeting with TMOCA Director Reza Dabirinejad, the

two sides discussed expanding museum cooperation and joint cultural initiatives, marking growing cultural exchanges between Iran and Mexico, IRNA reported. Touring the exhibition, 'Eleven Artworks by Mexican Printmakers,' Ordorica said Mexican artists have historically placed "human beings and human dignity at the center of their work," reflecting the country's experience of independence move-

ments and social transformation. He described art as a vital instrument for preserving cultural identity and reinforcing universal human values. "War is not the solution to differences," the ambassador said, adding that nations can achieve understanding and coexistence through diplomacy, dialogue and cultural engagement. "Cultural diplomacy and art build bridges between peoples." The exhibition, part of TMOCA's ongoing 'Art & War' series, brings together 11 works from the museum's collection and was extended through June 7 following strong public interest. At its core are two rare prints from the 1920s

by celebrated Mexican artists David Alfaro Siqueiros and José Clemente Orozco, whose works portray the struggles of the Mexican people during a period of profound political change. Nine contemporary prints complement the historic pieces, revisiting themes of independence, social identity and national memory. Together, the works trace how artists transformed the turbulence of history into enduring cultural narratives, allowing distant struggles to resonate across borders and generations. Ordorica also expressed the embassy's readiness to support joint cultural, artistic, cinematic and research programs with Iranian institutions.

National security impossible without environmental security: DoE chief

Social Desk

National security cannot be achieved without environmental security, Iran's top environmental official said on Sunday, as the country completed its scientific assessment of environmental damage from the recent 12-day conflict in June and pressed ahead with major conservation, pollution-control, and biodiversity initiatives. Speaking at a press conference in Tehran, Department of Environment (DoE) chief Shina Ansari said sustainable development depended on healthy ecosystems, water resources, and fertile soil, while highlighting the completion of documentation on wartime environmental losses and a series of nationwide environmental programs. "National security is not possible without environmental security," Ansari said. "Without healthy water and soil, there can be no lasting security." The DoE has finalized a sci-



up, while monitoring of water resources continued nationwide. She also highlighted progress in long-term environmental planning, including the completion of the Makran environmental zoning project, preparation of a comprehensive Caspian Sea environmental atlas, and the issuance of government ownership deeds for 18 wetlands. The official pointed to broader efforts to tackle air pollution and climate-related challenges, including a national dust-control program, continuous air-quality monitoring, flare-gas collection projects, and the expansion of protected areas to 330 sites under a new biodiversity strategy. Ansari said the government had also accelerated clean-transport measures, scrapping about 500,000 aging vehicles since the current administration took office and launching a program to replace 20,000 gasoline-powered motorcycles with electric models.

Centuries of Persian heritage shine at Baku festival

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran drew strong interest for its cultural heritage at the 14th International Festival hosted by ADA University in Baku, where diplomatic missions from more than 40 countries gathered to showcase their traditions, arts, and customs, according to the Iranian Embassy in Azerbaijan. The annual festival, held on June 5 by ADA University and attended by diplomats, students, academics, and members of the public, served as a platform for intercultural dialogue and international engagement, IRNA reported. Iran's pavilion highlighted the depth of the country's ancient civilization through displays of traditional handicrafts, including enamelwork, metal engraving, wood carving, and handwoven termeh textiles. Visitors also explored illustrated publications presenting Iran's cultural tradi-

tions, historical landmarks, tourism attractions, poetry, and artistic achievements. The exhibition drew significant attention as guests moved through dozens of national pavilions featuring cultural presentations, traditional music, cuisine, costumes, and crafts from across the globe. Iranian Ambassador to Azerbaijan Mojtaba Demirchilou attended the festival and engaged with visitors at the Iranian stand. He also toured pavilions representing other participating countries, particularly neighboring and friendly nations. The festival, one of ADA University's signature annual events, aims to broaden cultural understanding and strengthen international cooperation. Through its vibrant display in Baku, Iran offered visitors a window into a civilization whose artistic traditions continue to resonate far beyond its borders.



AMENDED AUCTION NOTICE SJSCO. B140503

Sirjan Jahan Steel Company is pleased to announce the sale and export of 10,000 tons **STEEL BILLET** (Size 150 x 150 mm), with the possibility of increasing the contract amount to 30,000 tons on basis of FOB Bandar Abbas (Other ports are negotiable) according to INCOTERMS 2020. Interested applicants are hereby invited to obtain the tender documents by visiting the official website of Sirjan Jahan Steel Company at sjSCO.ir, through the Sales and customer portal, Tender and Foreign Tender section. Alternatively, interested bidders may collect the physical tender documents in person from the head office of Sirjan Jahan Steel Company at the following address: 2nd FLOOR, No. 2, JOOBIN ALLEY, SHAHIDI STREET, JAHAN KODAK JUNCTION, TEHRAN, IRAN. All bids on conformity to tender instruction should be submitted no later than **Monday, June 15, 2026**.

For more information, please contact us at:
Tel: +2186084642