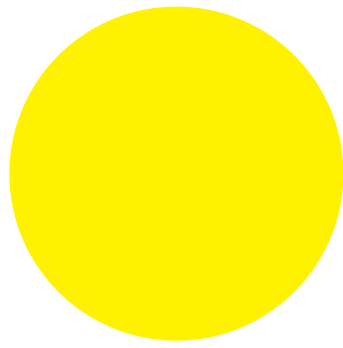


Russia pledges help to restore Iran's damaged heritage sites



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# Iran Daily

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## Israel hits Beirut's Dahiyeh in deadly airstrike; Iran vows payback

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### Pezeshkian, IRGC general urge national unity as peace with US nears

National Desk

President Masoud Pezeshkian called for national unity ahead of the expected signing of a peace memorandum between Iran and the United States, warning that attempts to sow divisions at home represented the greatest threat facing the country.

"Preserving national unity and cohesion is the country's most important priority under current circumstances," Pezeshkian said during a meeting with a group of domestic media chiefs, adding that Iran was passing through "one of the most sensitive periods" in its history.

Pezeshkian warned that efforts to create rifts within the country and fuel political and social polarization constituted "the greatest threat facing Iran."

"This is exactly what the enemy is waiting for," he said, urging supporters of the Islamic Establishment to remain committed to the country's official decisions.

In recent days, some participants in nightly gatherings held in major squares in cities across Iran since the joint US-Israeli aggression on the country have chanted slogans against Iranian negotiators, accusing them of "betrayal" for pursuing a peace arrangement with the US.

Pezeshkian said all political groups must consider themselves bound by the country's strategic decisions as those decisions were adopted through legal mechanisms.

"Decisions regarding war and negotiations are the responsibility of the Supreme National Security Council (SNSC), a council in which representatives of all branches of power, including the Leader, are present," he said.

The president added that the SNSC had concluded that the path of dialogue should be pursued.

Separately, Brigadier General Seyyed Majid Mousavi, commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Aerospace Force, echoed the call for unity in a message addressed to Iran's "insightful" people.

Mousavi urged people to move "not one step ahead and not one step behind" the Leader.

"Avoid any words that endanger your sacred unity," he said.



President Masoud Pezeshkian (c) poses for a family photo with a group of local media chiefs in Tehran, Iran on June 14, 2026.

president.ir

### Israel steps up efforts to derail Iran-US understanding

By Delaram Ahmadi  
Staff writer

#### INTERVIEW EXCLUSIVE

As Iran and the United States move closer to an understanding aimed at ending the war, Israel has not only refrained from halting its attacks on Lebanon but also struck Beirut's southern suburb at a moment when the signing of the arrangement appeared imminent. Tehran has consistently insisted that any cessation of hostilities must encompass all fronts, including Lebanon, while Beirut in particular has long been regarded by Iran as a red line. Previous Israe-

li attacks on Beirut had already triggered limited military tensions between Tehran and Tel Aviv.

Although US president Donald Trump later described the strike as unnecessary and called on Israel to halt its attacks across Lebanon, the incident nevertheless raised questions about Washington's seriousness in restraining its ally. In an interview with Iran Daily,



Mansour Barati

Israel's preferred model, prompting Tel Aviv

to seek ways to disrupt the process.

**IRAN DAILY: How do you assess the timing of Israel's actions in Beirut as Iran and the United States edge closer to an understanding? Is Israel trying to influence the negotiations and the prospective arrangement, or is it merely pursuing its own objectives in Lebanon?**

**BARATI:** Israel views any understanding or agreement between the United States and the Islamic Republic of Iran that leaves intact part of Iran's nuclear and missile capabilities in a negative light. During the two recent wars, Israel's leadership sought to inflict the maximum possible damage on Iran's defense infrastructure and nuclear program and even

pursued political regime change inside Iran. Although significant damage was inflicted on the country—with some estimates placing the losses at as much as \$270 billion—Israel ultimately fell short of achieving its more ambitious objectives.

Now that the contours of the initial understanding between Tehran and Washington have become clearer, and it appears that ending the war and reopening the Strait of Hormuz will come first, followed by two months of negotiations on a nuclear agreement and supplementary arrangements, Tel Aviv has stepped up its efforts to derail the process.

Another highly significant factor is Lebanon's inclusion in the understanding at Iran's insistence. The imposition of a ceasefire in

Lebanon from outside the battlefield would amount to a major setback for Israel's leadership, particularly Prime Minister Netanyahu. Israel has traditionally pursued distinct security assumptions regarding its neighboring countries, and on this issue it also differs from the United States on certain aspects of its agenda.

**How do you assess the prospects for ending the war in Lebanon if an Iran-US understanding is signed?**

**Could such an arrangement pave the way for de-escalation, or does Israel have objectives in Lebanon that would drive it to continue military operations?**

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# Araghchi: Regional security cannot be achieved without Iran

## International Desk

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said regional security cannot be achieved by sidelining or excluding Iran, stressing that recent events have underscored the need for cooperation and respect for the interests of all countries in the region. Speaking at a meeting with grassroots social activists and organizers of public gatherings on Sunday, Araghchi highlighted the role of public participation in countering external threats and supporting the country's strategic objectives. The minister said Iran's strength on the world stage stems not only from its military capabilities but also from national unity, the resilience of its people and their continued support for the country. Referring to what he described as the achievements of the 12-day war and the recent US-Israeli attacks on Iran, Araghchi said the country had secured not only tactical and battlefield successes but also strategic gains that are increasingly shaping regional and international dynamics. On regional security, Araghchi said the recent conflict demonstrated that lasting stability, economic progress and security can only be achieved through cooperation, mutual understanding and recognition of the shared interests of all regional countries, including Iran. Araghchi stressed that any future regional security framework must involve all countries in the region and be based on collective cooperation, a principle that Iran has consistently promoted.

"The experience of the recent [US-Israeli] war showed that regional security cannot be shaped based on the exclusion or disregard of Iran," he said.

"Countries in the region have gradually come to the realization that sustainable security, economic development, and regional stability are only possible through cooperation, understanding, and consideration of the common interests of all countries in the region, including the Islamic Republic of Iran."

Pointing to Iran's achievements during the 12-day war imposed by the Israeli regime and the United States in June 2025 and their recent 40-day aggression, he said the Iranian nation did not only gain field and tactical victories, but succeeded in realizing valuable strategic breakthroughs "whose effects can be observed in regional and global equations."

The foreign minister stressed that recent events completely shattered the enemy's long-standing narrative that portrayed Iran as "weak, isolated, and vulnerable" country which is not able to withstand sanctions and economic pressures and revealed the Islamic Republic's true power to the world.

## FM spox says Iran's resistance secured foes' defeat

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baqaei marked the anniversary of the Israeli regime's military aggression against Iran, carried out with US support, saying the country's resistance and determination thwarted the attackers' objectives



Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (3rd R) speaks in a meeting in the capital Tehran on June 14, 2026.

● IRNA

and turned their plots into defeat. In a message posted on X on the first anniversary of the June 13 aggression, Baqaei shared a verse by renowned Persian poet Saeb Tabrizi, saying the aggression was launched "under the delusion of victory" against a land "whose steely resistance and determination to defeat its enemies is renowned throughout history." "Today marks the anniversary of the beginning of the military aggression by the Zionist regime, with the cooperation of the United States," he wrote.

"However, the steadfast will, resistance, and self-sacrifice of the Iranian nation ultimately turned into defeat and disgrace the dream of an enemy that today admits: 'We did everything.'"

He added the events demonstrated Iran's power, resilience, and pursuit of dignity, adding that the nation's determination had become a lasting example in history. The criminal US-Israeli aggression against Iran began on February 28 with airstrikes that assassinated senior Iranian officials and commanders, including Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

Iranian Armed Forces responded by launching daily missile and drone operations targeting locations in the Israeli-oc-



cupied territories as well as US military bases and assets across the region. On April 8, forty days into the war, a Pakistan-brokered temporary ceasefire between Iran and the US took effect. Since then, both Israel and the US have violated the truce, triggering Iran's strong retaliatory strikes. Iran and the United States are set to sign a Pakistan-mediated memorandum of understanding within the next few days.

## Qataris in Tehran

A delegation from fellow mediator Qatar arrived in Tehran on Sunday "to help facilitate the finalization of the agreement," AFP quoted an unnamed Iranian diplo-

mat with knowledge of the matter. Tehran and Washington have released conflicting information about the contents of the deal.

Tehran has insisted it will maintain control over the Strait of Hormuz, but the US has repeatedly said this would be unacceptable.

Since imposing its blockade on the strait in mid-April, which has thrown global markets into turmoil, Iran has demanded vessels obtain permission from its Armed Forces before transiting the waterway, and has established a new body to oversee it and collect tolls.

The US has responded with its own blockade of Iranian ports.

## Israel hits Beirut's Dahiyeh in deadly airstrike; Iran vows payback



The aftermath of an Israeli airstrike that targeted a building in Beirut's southern suburbs on June 14, 2026.

● AFP

## International Desk

The Israeli regime carried out a deadly airstrike on a residential building in Beirut's southern suburbs, violating a shaky ceasefire that Iran considers as a key condition for any broader agreement to end the war in the region. The airstrike, which targeted a five-story building in the

Ghobeiry area of the Dahiyeh district, led to several casualties, with the Lebanese National News Agency (NNA) later reporting that the aggression killed three people and injured 14 others.

The Israeli regime claimed that the deadly assault on Beirut's southern suburbs came shortly after Lebanon's Hezbollah resistance movement fired drones

into the occupied territories in retaliation for previous acts of aggression.

"The IDF has just struck Hezbollah ... targets in the Dahiyeh district of Beirut, in response to Hezbollah's firing at Israeli territory," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Israel Katz said in a joint statement.

"Israel will not tolerate fire directed at its territory," they added.

Israeli media claimed that the airstrike hit a Hezbollah command center, with footage showing an apartment building heavily damaged in the assault.

Citing Israeli and US officials, American news website Axios reported that the Israeli mili-

tary had informed the US Central Command (CENTCOM) shortly before carrying out the attack.

The latest aggression comes as Washington and Tehran are moving closer to a tentative agreement after months of indirect negotiations, with Pakistani officials indicating that a final text of a peace deal has been reached.

Iran has repeatedly stressed that a ceasefire in Lebanon is inseparable from any final agreement with the United States.

Ebrahim Rezaei, spokesman for the Iranian Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, has warned the enemies against any "miscalculations" after the airstrike on Beirut.

"One must not make any miscalculations; even if you want an agreement or understanding, its path is the disciplining of the Zionist regime. If this rabid dog is not controlled, it will bite us while the ink on the agreement

is still drying," Rezaei wrote on X.

## Qalibaf rebukes US for lacking will to fulfill commitments

The Iranian Parliament speaker, responding to the Israeli regime's attack on Dahiyeh, stated that if the US lacks the will or ability to fulfill its commitments, speaking of continuing the path is not possible.

Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf made the remark in a post on his personal X social media account in response to the Zionist regime's attack on Beirut's southern suburb of Dahiyeh.

"The Zionist aggression on Dahiyeh once again showed that America either lacks the will to fulfill its commitments or lacks the ability to do so. You cannot gain concessions by giving the green light to the regime. The good cop-bad cop game is outdated," Qalibaf said. "If you lack the will or ability to fulfill your

commitments, speaking of continuing the path is not possible."

## Iranian cmdr: warns of retaliation

Mohammad Jafar Asadi, the deputy inspector brigadier general of the Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters, warned that the Israeli attack on Dahiyeh "will not go unanswered."

"Without a doubt, these crimes will not go unanswered," Asadi underlined.

Last week, Iran launched a barrage of missiles at the occupied territories after the Israeli regime bombed Dahiyeh despite warnings that such attacks could trigger an Iranian response and jeopardize diplomatic efforts aimed at ending the war.

A fragile Pakistan-brokered ceasefire has been in place since April, but repeated Israeli attacks in Lebanon and continued US violations of the truce have raised concerns about the prospects for a wider agreement.

## Israel steps up ...

The prospects for ending the war in Lebanon depend on several factors. The first is the extent to which the United States, as a party to the understanding with Iran, is willing to pressure Israel to uphold the initial arrangement and constrain its freedom of action in southern Lebanon. Israel has demonstrated that it will make considerable efforts to preserve its ability to act independently in this arena. Nevertheless, if US pressure is serious, it can genuinely influence Israeli conduct. For example, if Trump is truly determined, he can certainly prevent Israeli attacks on Beirut. Another factor is the course of negotiations between the Lebanese government and Israel, which in turn depends on Israel's own behavior and whether it is prepared to withdraw from occupied territories. Ultimately, while an agreement may impose certain constraints on Israeli behavior in Lebanon, it is unlikely to guarantee a comprehensive ceasefire or ensure that Israel refrains from violating it.

If Iran and the United States reach an

understanding that includes Lebanon as part of the arrangement, to what extent would Washington have the capacity or political will to restrain Israeli military actions in Lebanon? What does the history of US-Israeli relations suggest about Tel Aviv's room for independent action under such circumstances? Based on the conduct that has been observed so far, Trump has not taken particularly serious steps to limit Israel's freedom of action in Lebanon, especially given that Israel has informed Washington ahead of its operations on each occasion.

Trump's objections to Israeli attacks have consistently come after the strikes were carried out, when he subsequently called for them to stop. If he is genuinely committed to implementing the agreement, however, he should prevent such attacks before they take place.

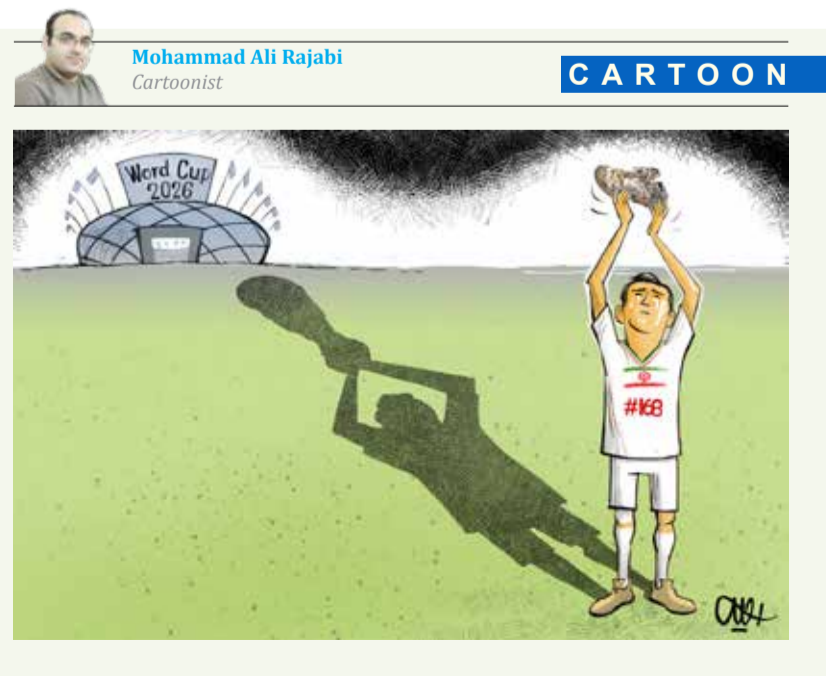
On the other hand, the proximity of nationwide elections also compels Netanyahu to project a degree of independence in his decision-making.

More broadly, how does Israel view a potential understanding between Iran and the United States? What threats and opportunities does it see in such an arrangement?

Israel opposes the underlying approach guiding an Iran-US agreement. It favors a one-sided arrangement tantamount to a capitulation document—what it refers to in the nuclear sphere as the "Libya model." Under that model, a country's entire nuclear capability would be packed into crates and shipped out of the country.

The agreement currently under discussion, however, is not based on a one-sided logic and includes benefits for the Iranian side as well. That is something Israel will find deeply unpalatable.

The lifting of some sanctions on Iran, the release of frozen Iranian assets, the end of restrictions surrounding the Strait of Hormuz, the eventual withdrawal of US forces from areas surrounding Iran's borders, and the separation of nuclear negotiations from the initial understanding all run counter to Israel's preferred model.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist

CARTOON

# New well in Phase 11 of South Pars pushes up output to 26 mcm

## Economy Desk

Iran has brought online the 11th well of the South Pars Phase 11 development, raising natural gas extraction capacity from the field's last developing section to more than 26 million cubic meters (mcm) per day, a senior official said on Sunday.

Touraj Dehqani, CEO of state-run Pars Oil and Gas Company, said the start-up of the well had added about 2.5 mcm per day to the phase's production capacity, according to IRNA.

"Increased production from Phase 11, in addition to helping ensure stable feedstock for South Pars refineries, holds special importance for safeguarding

shared resources and increasing the Iran's share of extraction from this giant gas field," Dehqani added.

The phase has two platforms, SPD11B, which is currently producing, and SPD11A, which has yet to be completed.

Dehqani said the new well at SPD11B had completed flow testing, acidising operations and connection to the platform before entering service.

Phase 11 is the last development project of South Pars which Iran shares with Qatar in the Persian Gulf. Its development was awarded to state contractor Petropars after foreign companies left Iran in 2019 fearing US penalties.

The phase came on stream in August 2023 with an initial production capacity of 7.5 mcm per day after years of delay.

Development of the border phase has accelerated since the current government took office in August 2024, with daily gas extraction climbing from 12 mcm to more than 26 mcm.

South Pars, the world's largest gas field, is responsible for 70% of Iran's natural gas supply and 40% of the feedstock needed for the country's gasoline production sector.

It has 40 offshore drilling rigs, hundreds of wells, and thousands of kilometers of underwater pipelines across 24 development phases.



IRNA

## Hybrid inverters, energy storage now focus of Iran's renewables expansion



IRNA

### Economy Desk

Iran has entered a new phase in its renewable energy development, focusing on advanced technologies such as hybrid inverters and energy storage systems, a deputy energy minister said on Sunday.

Mohsen Tarzatab, head of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (SATBA), made the remarks at an event inaugurating the equipping and launch of 17 specialized solar energy training centers, ILNA reported.

"In recent years, the main focus was on building and operating solar power plants, but now we are moving toward more advanced technologies, including hybrid inverters, energy storage systems, and combined solutions for power generation and storage," Tarzatab was quoted as saying.

"The introduction of these technologies has created new educational needs, and it is necessary to equip training centers, universities, and skill development institutions across the country to train specialized personnel in these fields," he added.

The official said the five-year development plan for the renewable energy industry has set a target of training about 200,000 people in various renewable energy fields.

"There is readiness to deploy necessary educational equipment, including solar systems, hybrid inverters, and energy storage devices, at training centers so that instruction is aligned with the world's latest technologies," he said.

### Ministry targets 12 GW of renewables

Tarzatab also noted an acceleration in the development of solar power plants. "We have planned to reach 12,000 megawatts (MW) of renewable power plants by the end of the year (March 2027)," he said, adding that last year's capacity stood at around 4,300 to 4,500 MW, which would mark a threefold growth compared to last year, he said.

Tarzatab said last week that the current renewable power plant capacity has surpassed 5,000 MW, equivalent to 5% of total electricity generation.

Iran's total installed power generation capacity has exceeded 100,000 MW, 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. Renewable energy plants, with an installed capacity of 5,101 MW,

make up 5.1%.

At Sunday's event, Tarzatab also highlighted the progress of renewable energy projects across the country. "Currently, more than 1,000 workshops and projects related to renewable power plant construction are active across 31 provinces, and various Iranian companies are participating in these projects," he said.

"Estimates show that more than 50,000 people are now employed in workshops and projects related to renewable energy, and this number will increase with the development of these projects," he added.

The official also addressed the expansion of rooftop and small-scale power plants. SATBA's program is not limited to large plants, he said, adding that the development of household, commercial, and agricultural plants, as well as so-called "rooftop power" systems, is being seriously pursued.

"In these models, a combination of solar panels, hybrid inverters, and batteries is used, and citizens can supply part of their electricity needs through these systems," he said.

"Based on studies, there is potential to develop about 15,000 megawatts of small-scale and branch power plants in the country, which could play a key role in reducing the electricity imbalance and increasing public participation in power generation," he added.

"Achieving these goals requires developing specialized training, training professional technicians and operators, and equipping training centers across the country," Tarzatab said.

## Cyberattack-hit services at four Iranian banks being restored



IRNA

### Economy Desk

Services at four major Iranian banks disrupted by a cyberattack are being gradually restored, Iran's Informatics Services Corporation (ISC) said on Sunday, after technical measures taken to protect shared banking infrastructure temporarily affected some customer services.

A cyberattack on Saturday brought down services at four major Iranian banks, though no customer data was compromised, the Banks Coordination Council (BCC) said, according to IRNA.

The council said that the attack

targeted a shared communications infrastructure used by Bank Melli, Bank Tejarat, Bank Saderat and the Export Development Bank of Iran, prompting technical teams to implement protective measures and temporarily affecting some banking services.

BCC secretary Alireza Qeitali said continuous monitoring of the relevant systems and infrastructure was underway and that efforts were being made to restore the services required by customers to normal conditions as quickly as possible.

According to the ISC, disruptions affecting Bank Tejarat and Bank

Saderat has been dealt with, while the remaining two banks would return to normal operations soon. "Some services at Bank Melli have also gradually become available, while the Export Development Bank of Iran is providing essential services to customers through in-person branch operations," Esmail Aryani, the ISC public relations director, said.

Aryani added that in-person services at Bank Melli branches had resumed and that the bank's card system would be activated later on Sunday following technical efforts by staff.

He expressed hope that service disruptions at all four banks would be fully resolved.

Authorities did not disclose the parties responsible for the attack or specific details about the attack methods.

This cyberattack occurred as the United States and Iran were engaged in last-minute negotiations to sign a memorandum of understanding for peace, with mediation from countries such as Qatar and Pakistan.

A US-Israeli coalition launched aggression on the country on February 28 that was halted by a ceasefire announcement on April 8.

## Tehran stocks surge 2.6%, break above 4.8m points in record rally

### Economy Desk

The benchmark Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE) index rose 2.61% on Sunday to surpass the 4.8-million-point resistance level and close at 4.818 million points, extending a record-setting rally. According to IRNA, the benchmark index gained 122,000 points at the close of trading, while the equal-weight index climbed 33,590 points to reach 1.299 million points.

The biggest contributors to the benchmark's advance were National Iranian Copper Industries Co., Shiraz Petrochemical Co. and Esfahan Oil Refining Co.

The most actively traded stocks were Iran Khodro Co., SAIPA Co. and Bank Mellat. Trading in Bank Mellat totaled 9.7 billion shares worth 12 trillion rials (about \$7.0 million), while 22.3 billion shares of Iran Khodro changed hands with a value of 12 trillion rials.



IRNA

Tehran stocks also hit a record closing high last Sunday as the benchmark index jumped more than 101,000 points, or 2.3%, to close at 4.493 million points.

The gains came after months during which the TSE faced heavy pressure from wartime conditions, political uncertainty and a prolonged trading halt, prompting many market participants to adopt a cautious out-

look.

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.

# A true union of seminary, university

## Davood Feirahi opened a path death cannot touch

### OBITUARY

It will never be forgotten that the coronavirus took a pre-eminent Iranian religious neo-thinker. The untimely death of Davood Feirahi, a professor of Political Science at the University of Tehran, on November 11, 2020, has left a hole. According to Feirahi's attending physician, upon initial examination, this great thinker had pulmonary involvement exceeding 80%. The news of his passing immediately precipitated extensive reverberations across media outlets and social networks, and numerous individuals expressed profound sorrow. Nevertheless, even subsequent to the passage of several years, it remains necessary to better comprehend this luminary figure through the perspectives of his colleagues and associates, after a concise introduction has been made.

### In pursuit of dynamic jurisprudence

Throughout his tenure in the capacity of a professor at the University of Tehran, Feirahi attained renown for several components: a profound comprehension of dynamic Islamic jurisprudence, mastery over contemporary human sciences, a democratic disposition, and, ultimately, a peaceful temperament. These components are reflected within the many obituaries of his collaborators, friends, students, and followers of his discourses. He was considered amongst those intellectuals who critiqued tradition and who endeavored to propagate a modern perspective on religion and politics. From this vantage point, one can situate him within the category of neo-religious thinkers.

He maintained that the domain of jurisprudence must coordinate itself with contemporary developments and establish a direct, not delayed, proportionality with society's social, political, cultural, and economic transformations, and underscored that, through this lens, the co-existence of religion and democracy constitutes a feasible phenomenon. Within this identical intellectual framework, according to Feirahi, jurisprudence and religion not only do not contradict the people's right of choice but, through a meticulous examination of this domain, do not even permit such contradiction; and, in the event of a correct interpretation, they themselves can function as an inhibiting agent against the imposition of restrictions upon the incontrovertible rights of individuals. Paraphrased, Feirahi personally belonged to the adherents of a lenient approach to religion, and he undertook efforts toward the practical realization of this approach. He posited that, for the improvement of Iran's internal conditions, attention must be directed toward the essence of governance instead of rulers. In this context, he believed that the essence of the state apparatus in Iran has been poorly constructed; despite various political transformations that have occurred in the period starting with the Constitutional Revolution in 1906 up to the present, no remarkable corrective action has been undertaken concerning this unsuitable structure.

### Feirahi from the seminary to the university

Davood Feirahi was born in the city of Zanjan in the year 1964. He pursued religious sciences until the completion of pre-



liminary studies at that city's theological school and subsequently studied the intermediate and advanced levels (*sath* and *khārij*) of jurisprudence and the *uṣūl* (principles) discipline of jurisprudence at the Qom Seminary from 1987 until 2001. Concurrent with his studies at the Qom Seminary, in 1987, he was also accepted into the undergraduate program in Political Science at the University of Tehran and continued this discipline through the doctoral degree in Political Science with a specialization in political thought at the same university. Feirahi's doctoral dissertation, entitled "Power, Knowledge, and Legitimacy in Islam," was successfully defended in 1999. This dissertation, written under the inspiration of Foucault's methodology and Gadamer's hermeneutics, examines the power-knowledge nexus

during the medieval Islamic period and explores the genesis of medieval political knowledge. Prior to this, during his master's program, Feirahi also wrote a dissertation entitled "Shia Political Thought during the Qajar Period". This earlier dissertation is dedicated to the political thought of renowned Shia jurists in the Qajar era and endeavors to investigate the most significant Shia jurisprudential-political schools that were developed during the Qajar period and had preserved their presence in the Constitutional Revolution and the Islamic Revolution (1979) and thereafter in Iran.

From 1999, he became a faculty member and associate professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Tehran. The supervision of numerous doctoral and master's theses concerning Islamic political thought constituted an-

other of Dr. Feirahi's activities. He was also a visiting professor at Mofid University in Qom and a member of the Central Council of the Association of Seminary Teachers and Researchers of Qom.

### Feirahi's authored works; enduring relics of his perspective

He is the author of 10 books and, additionally, has approximately 60 articles published in journals and scientific conferences within the domain of Islamic political thought. Among the most significant titles of books by Davood Feirahi are the following: "Power, Knowledge, and Legitimacy in Islam," "The Islamic State and the Productions of Religious Thought," "Political System and State in Islam," "History of the Evolution of the State in Islam," "Methodology and Political Thought in Islam," and "Religion and State

in the Modern Era". One of the principal discourses within Feirahi's oeuvre is political jurisprudence. In his two-volume work, titled "Jurisprudence and Politics in Contemporary Iran," he endeavors to analyze the problem of law and its relationship with political jurisprudence and, in a certain sense, to recount the destiny of this dialogue over the past 100 years.

Concerning the political system and state in Islam, various discussions have been advanced. In his book bearing that same title, Feirahi has attempted to examine and investigate the concept and characteristics of the political system and state in Islam. In this same context, he has written: "The state in Islamic society, akin to other human societies, not only signifies the existence of a collection of institutions but also indicates the presence of specific attitudes and modes of action and behavior, which have been called Islamic civility and, in fact, are considered a part of Islamic civilization. The state in Islamic culture is neither an accidental or coincidental matter nor a passive or neutral organization that can be disregarded."

He also maintains that, to date, the concept of the state in Islam has not been adequately clarified or specified because the examination of the concept of the state in Islamic thoughts represents one of the most difficult concepts; whoever addresses it profoundly becomes cognizant of its difficulties. In "Political System and State in Islam," Feirahi dedicates his effort toward acquiring knowledge of the various concepts of the state from the perspective of politico-Islamic theories that have taken shape over the course of time.

## Death does not prevail over this path

By Khosro Talebzadeh  
Journalist

It is difficult to accept the non-existence of Davood Feirahi. At the onset of his illness, I was in contact with him. He expressed gladness that he had no serious problem, but, it appears, coronavirus's stratagem is deception, and it thoroughly deceived Feirahi. They say that coronavirus infiltrates through human beings' vulnerabilities and becomes lethal, and Feirahi's vulnerability was precisely this: he was, like a rustic individual devoid of duplicity and affectation, like an optimistic thinker, and like a well-mannered, virtuous person toward everyone. This very openness of his caused his undoing. He was displeased with anything connoting closure — whether spiritual or physical, intellectual or

political, whether denominated tradition or modernity. The openness of his thought had rendered the boundaries of his intellect limitless; yet, he did possess boundaries, and he knew perfectly well who he was and where he stood. He was criticized from both sides, by traditionalists as well as by modernists, because Feirahi did not exchange thinking for intellectual partisanship. He believed that there exist robust and precious assets and treasures within the repositories of our intellectual history, which we have, with open-handedness, neglected and have turned our faces toward another realm, or have remained ignorant of them. His intellectual openness had problems with the notion of closure itself — of any and every variety. Feirahi exhibited no indications of death — neither in



his age, nor in the freshness of his thinking, nor in his hope for the future, nor in his unparalleled endeavor. His death was an unforeseeable and unbelievable occurrence. But is death anything other than that which is unbelievable and

manifests itself at a place and time when it is not expected? Yet, did death encompass Feirahi, or did Feirahi encompass death? Indubitably, Feirahi's body was ensnared in death's grip and could not escape this trap alive; however,

"Feirahi" vanquished death. "Feirahi" performed the deed that he ought to have performed. He opened a path that originated from the depths of history, especially contemporary history, and that continues to flow until today and persists

into the future. His books and works represented the "quintessence of discourse". Feirahi endures within his works, into which death has no infiltration. Feirahi could, in hundreds of new written and oral works, have retold the path he traversed, expounded upon them, and become his own interpreter. If the truth of Feirahi's word and speech is heard, its length and breadth, its quantity and measure, and its expansion and explication would alter nothing. Feirahi belonged neither to the category of religious neo-thinkers who, throughout their lifetimes, continuously assume novel faces, nor to the category of those who stand upon a trembling ground whereupon time must forgive and correct their past. Feirahi stood where profound understanding and meticulous wisdom assisted him: the decorum of thought. In actuality, his defining characteristic was decorum and virtuousness, to which he was committed in his individual existence

and intellectual existence — indeed, it was his innate nature. He did not think for his own sake, nor was his thought for his own sake. It was for the sake of opening the closed work of this realm.

If Feirahi had lived for dozens more years — I wish that he had — in terms of foundations and principles, he would have been exactly what he was. Time would not have prevailed over Feirahi because he knew the age perfectly well; indeed, the age was with him. His intellectual horizon possessed a background that would not be altered by time, even though he would have produced greater fruits and more numerous works — and I wish that he had. However, the path Feirahi traversed ended with himself, not with his path. His path remains open for every aggrieved and anguished individual for whom thought, religion, and Iranian-ness constitute a concern, and death does not prevail over this path.

## He insisted upon teaching in religious attire



By **Rahim Abolhasani**  
Professor of Political Science at  
the University of Tehran

We lost one of the prominent, distinguished, and influential professors of the University of Tehran: Dr. Davood Feirahi — addressing the various dimensions of whose personality cannot be summarized within these few words. Nevertheless, in addressing some of his most manifest characteristics, it must be said that, upon first encounter, it was the professor's behavioral demeanor and ethical decorum that attracted everyone. As a colleague, I must state that I never, not even once, witnessed this kind and polite personality commit the slightest disrespect toward anyone. Analogous to what the late Professor Motehari articulated concerning the co-existence of attraction and repulsion within personalities, it must be said that even Dr. Feirahi's repulsion was accompanied by decorum and ethics and, consequently, was a cause of attraction. Another dimension is that he was a profound thinker who endeavored, in addressing the whatness, whys, and hows of a subject, to benefit from numerous and diverse currents of thought. Any form of dogmatism was absent from the realm of his thought. Feirahi was among the rare clerical figures who possessed, in perfection, an acquaintance with West-

ern thought; and, although he was an informed individual and a defender of Islamic principles and thought, he utilized, in his authored works, the thoughts of Western political science thinkers in the finest manner.

He was not a mere political thinker. Rather, he adopted an active and responsible stance toward the reform of society and the political system and the resolution of the country's political problems, and he paid the price for that stance as well. We do not forget that, in 2009, he was elected as the head of the political department at the Faculty of Law and Political Science of the University of Tehran; but, unfortunately, the officials of the University of Tehran at that time refused to confirm his qualifications and to issue his appointment decree as department head.

I wish to state that Professor Feirahi was not a reclusive thinker. On the contrary, he was present on the scene and was perpetually concerned with the people, the reformation of the country, and the legitimacy of religious identity. Based on his mastery over the history, thought, and political philosophy of the religion of Islam, Dr. Feirahi, in his last years, engaged with society's political issues with sensitivity and endeavored, in confronting the deviations that he observed being perpetrated in the name of religion within the political sphere, to communicate with society what was necessary and to defend the



JAMARAN

domain of religion. He consistently attempted to articulate society's problems within religious attire. At the peak of the pressures that existed, over his last three decades, within academic spaces against enlightened clerics — pressures that compelled some thinking clerics to remove their religious attire — he insisted upon teaching at the university in religious attire and upon preserving the sanctity of religion. Professor Feirahi, through his kind ethics and his excellent teaching method, was able to

offer highly fruitful and beneficial classes. He was not only a reputable author but also a highly skilled pedagogue, whose classes were enthusiastically received by the students of the faculty, to such an extent that, if he offered an elective class, the students would pursue that class even more assiduously than their core courses. He was an extraordinarily industrious individual. For this reason, within this same short lifespan, he left behind numerous works in the domain of contemporary Iran's political thought. Although, in my

belief, unfortunately, this very quantity of work caused his body to experience premature aging and to succumb easily to illness.

All of us regret his loss. However, Professor Feirahi, to the extent that the opportunity of a lifetime permitted, yielded his fruit. This is the custom of the history of all societies: that the pioneering elites are solitary, but, only later, will they exert influence; and, God willing, our society will also benefit from his opinions in the future.

## A thinker who was thinking of Iran



By **Alireza Hosseini Beheshti**  
Professor of Political Science  
at Tarbiat Modares University

Neither your awareness that death constitutes the conclusion of a stage of our existence — which all of us will, by necessity, traverse — nor your knowledge that, these days, many of your compatriots and fellow humans are embarking upon a journey without return, nor your cognizance that you have reached an age wherein those whom you knew and who knew you are abandoning you and departing, none of these provide consolation upon hearing the news of the passing of a beloved one among your beloveds. This grief, it seems, is perpetually alive. In a fear born of reluctance to check one's mobile phone — lest you learn of the death of another friend or relative — you bury your head in a book and grant your eyes the indulgence of gazing upon the beautiful autumnal nature, so as to experience moments of unawareness; but, again, you err, and you behold the news. Yet another friend, another colleague, another companion in conversations, Hojjatoleslam Dr. Davood Feirahi, professor of political thought at the University of Tehran, has passed away. In the effusion of friendship, he was open-handed, and, in confront-



FARARU

ing adversities, he was open-countenanced. When he spoke of the books he had written and the books he was in the process of writing, the radiance of the fervor of a concerned and profound thinker would ripple across his countenance. When he spoke of his anxieties concerning the future of the country and the nation, he would assume the stance of a committed intellectual and a compassionate critic. He never denied his knowledge nor his affection to any student, seminarian, professor, or researcher. Many times, he spoke to me about adopting the late Martyr Beheshti as a model for simultaneous study in the seminary and the university from the earliest years of his youth;

and how well and steadfastly he had trodden this path. And, above all, there was the purity that, in this era of impurity, filled every moment of the hours of your companionship with him.

We are all destined to depart, and no reality more naked than death exists in human life; yet, blessed are those who considered the world a bridge and crossed it safely, without committing injustice against another or against themselves. Blessed are those who lived in such a manner that every moment of their life serves as a reminder of goodness, and whose death leaves behind irreplaceable losses. I cannot write beyond this. This is the time for silence.

## What a premature flight



By **Hamidreza Jalaeipour**  
Assistant  
professor of  
Sociology at the  
University of  
Tehran

With profound sorrow, we witnessed the unexpected passing of Dr. Davood Feirahi, a neo-thinking cleric and professor of political thought at the University of Tehran. Alas!

He was a person of knowledge and thought as well as an ethical researcher in the public sphere. His research program, for which he labored for 30 years, was "the rational reconciliation between the science of jurisprudence and the science of politics". He was not merely a university professor; he frequently brought his intellectual products into the public sphere and into society and supported democracy and the co-existence of Iranians with one another. He had a responsible patriotism, and, on this path, he did not fall into



IBNA

the abyss of genealogical, racial, and divergent perspectives.

Beyond his attention to the science of jurisprudence and political thought, he paid special and illuminating attention to the history of Islam, the political experience of Islamic countries — especially the experience of Egypt — and, finally, to the contemporary politics of Iran. Dr. Feirahi, while being a person of knowledge, was extremely humble and a person of dialogue. He endured the hardship of travel and participated in all intellectual gatherings in every

corner of the country. He was committed to writing down and publishing his intellectual products, and, in this respect, he left behind a valuable legacy.

He absolutely did not commodify his scientific and professional competence for himself and his family, and he lived as a liberated and light-spirited individual. Alas, he suddenly flew away from among us at the zenith of his intellectual fertility. I offer my condolences for his untimely and agonizing death to his honorable family and to all people of culture and thought.

## In eulogy for my lost friend



By **Ahmad Naghibzadeh**  
Professor of Political Science at the University  
of Tehran

It is difficult and painful for me to speak in mourning for Feirahi. I shall keep those sentiments for myself and shall introduce him to you as I knew him. From an ethical standpoint, he was a man of integrity, good-tempered, and possessed of forbear-

ance, and he conducted himself with people in the manner that one expects from a cleric in the precise sense of the word. I never, not once, witnessed him engage in backbiting or wish ill upon anyone. He was devoid of prejudice and was extremely humble and modest toward the professors with whom he had studied during his student years. It was impossible for him to walk ahead of them. From a scientific standpoint, he was highly capable and correctly apprehended key concepts. He was an ex-

emplary embodiment of the unity of the seminary and the university. He taught Islamic subjects in such a manner that they ranked among the most attractive courses.

In my opinion, he rendered a great service to the culture of the Islamic Republic of Iran, even though some benighted individuals committed injustice against him.

In addition to theoretical courses, in the practical domain, he constantly sought a solution that would

be simultaneously Islamic and feasible and practicable in today's world. He was concerned with the intractable problems confronting the Islamic Republic: how to conjoin theocracy with democracy, what significance a political party possesses from the perspective of Islam, and how it can be justified. May he rest in peace.

The article first appeared in Persian in Iran Newspaper.

## FIFA World Cup:

## Iran given injury boost ahead of New Zealand game

## Sports Desk

Iran head coach Amir Qalenoee has been handed good news on six injured players ahead of his team's World Cup opener today, the Iranian Football Federation (FFIRI) has confirmed. Star striker Mahdi Taremi, along with Saman Qoddous, Rouzbeh Cheshmi, Mohammad Mohebbi, Mahdi Torabi and Shahriar Moghanlou, had been struggling with various injury problems since Team Melli arrived at its World Cup base in Tijuana, Mexico, last week. However, the FFIRI said a full squad was available for Saturday's training session. Iran will begin its Group G campaign against New Zealand at SoFi Stadium in Los Angeles, California, before taking on Belgium at the same venue next Sunday. Qalenoee's side will complete its group-stage fixtures against Egypt at Lumen Field in Seattle, Washington, on June 26. Despite playing all three group matches on U.S. soil, Iran moved its training base to the Mexican border city from Tucson, Arizona, as originally planned – a measure taken to avoid possible visa denials for members of the delegation in

what will be the most politically charged event in the country's sporting history. It will be the first FIFA World Cup hosted by a nation receiving the team of a country with which it is at war. The United States nevertheless declined to issue visas to 15 members of the team's support staff, including FFIRI chairman Mahdi Taj, Secretary-General Hedayat Mombeini and Vice-President Mahdi Mohammad Nabi. However, four members of the delegation have won appeals against the rejection of their visa applications. Those granted visas include a member of the team's technical staff working as an analyst and two officials from the federation's international department, but Taj's application was rejected again. Speaking to Italian outlet La Gazzetta dello Sport, former Inter striker Taremi said: "Sport and politics should remain separate," adding that the World Cup conveys a message in support of "a conflict-free world." Asked about the team's condition ahead of today's game, the Iranian talisman said: "If I speak purely about the physical and mental side, I can say I

feel good. My teammates and I remain focused on football. Of course, things always happen outside of the game, but the only useful thing to do in these situations is to try and maintain focus on what we can control." Taremi, who is set to play in his third World Cup, underlined his team's unprecedented build-up to the tournament, saying: "It's always said that once you step off the plane and enter the host country, you should feel an atmosphere of warmth and unity. Perhaps it's just my impression, but I don't feel it right now. "It's obvious there's a lot of tension, but I believe sport and politics should always be separate. Sport is about respect, peace and unity. The World Cup has an audience of billions of people and can promote these sentiments; it can push for a world free from conflict, not just for Iran but for everyone. "I'd only add that any country agreeing to host a World Cup must follow FIFA regulations and fulfil its responsibilities as a host nation. That's what I mean when I say politics should be separated and the principles of sport preserved. "We want to convey a message of peace through our game and



Iran's Mahdi Taremi (L) and Mohammad Mohebbi are pictured during a training session in their World Cup base in Tijuana, Mexico, on June 13, 2026.

MOHSEN DAVOUDI/FFIRI

our culture, which is very rich. The media does not portray it accurately to the world. I believe our people are proud of us simply for going there and playing under these circumstances. Now, after that pride, we need to bring them some joy, which means winning matches." Despite facing a series of obstacles in their World Cup preparations, Taremi and his

teammates will look to secure the country's first-ever knockout-stage berth in seven attempts. On Team Melli's chances of a historic breakthrough, Taremi, who came within inches of the feat in 2018 and 2022, said: "Let's not get ahead of ourselves. "Every match in our group will be difficult. Teams like Belgium

and Egypt have a lot of quality and experience, but New Zealand certainly should not be underestimated either. We respect all our opponents and focus on the best possible preparation for each encounter. "We know that if we do things well, we'll have a chance. And we could achieve a positive, even historic, result for Iranian football."

## Golmohammadi named Duhok coach in Iraqi top flight

## Sports Desk

Iranian coach Yahya Golmohammadi has taken the helm at Duhok SC, the Iraqi Stars League club announced on Saturday. "Welcome to the Eagles' Nest, Emperor," the Iraqi side wrote in a social media post confirming the appointment. Golmohammadi, who had been without a job since leaving Iranian top-flight side Foolad Khu-

zestan in January, is the second Iranian coach to join the Iraqi league in recent months. Alireza Mansourian took charge of Al Talaba last November, leading the club to a sixth-place finish. The 56-year-old has reportedly signed a one-year contract worth \$500,000 with Duhok. League champions in the 2009-10 season, Duhok finished the previous campaign in 10th

place, winning 13 of their 38 matches and losing 14 to finish 39 points behind champions Al-Quwa Al-Jawiya. A former Iranian international centre-back, Golmohammadi enjoyed the most successful spell of his coaching career with Persepolis, guiding the Tehran Reds to three Persian Gulf Pro League titles and a domestic cup trophy during his four-year tenure. He part-

ed ways with the capital club midway through the 2023-24 season following a falling-out with the club hierarchy. He then took over at Foolad ahead of the 2024-25 campaign and led the southern Iranian side to an impressive fourth-place finish. However, a run of poor results saw him leave the club by mutual consent midway through the following season.



## AVC Women's Nations Cup:

## Iran claims consolation win over host Philippines

## Sports Desk

Iran's women's volleyball national team found some consolation after defeating host Philippines in straight sets (25-21, 25-12, 25-21) in Candon on Sunday to finish seventh at the AVC Women's Nations Cup. Opposite hitter Elaheh Poursaleh led the scoring for Iran with 18 points, while outside hitter Fatemeh Khalili added nine. Middle blockers Zahra Salehi and Yasna Ahankoub contributed eight points apiece as Iran secured its third victory in six matches at Candon City Arena. Entering the tournament fresh off a second successive CAVA Championship title earlier this month, Iran got off to a losing start in Pool B, falling 3-1 to Indonesia before suffering another defeat by the same scoreline against Kazakhstan – a team it had beaten twice at the CAVA event. The Iranian women bounced back with a comfortable victory over Lebanon but were swept aside in

straight sets by defending champion Vietnam. A 3-0 win over Hong Kong saw Iran finish fourth in the six-team standings and advance to the seventh-place playoff. Despite recording its lowest finish in four appearances at the continental showpiece, Iran head coach Lee Do-hee said her players are making steady progress and expressed confidence in the team's future. "Regardless of the position we finished in, today's match against the Philippines was a very good opportunity to assess the players' progress," said the South Korean, whose team faced unprecedented circumstances in recent months after leaving Iran on April 21 amid wartime conditions in the region to continue its preparations in the Far East. "The Iranian players are improving and I am very optimistic about their future. They are young players and have plenty of room to develop further," Lee said, adding that her team is already look-

ing ahead to the Asian Women's Volleyball Championship, which begins on August 21 in Tianjin, China. Khalili, meanwhile, underlined the high level of competition at the Nations Cup. "We had hoped to achieve a better result, but unfortunately it didn't happen. However, we are not discouraged by the final outcome," she said. "I would also like to thank the federation for everything it has done for the women's national team. Hopefully, in future competitions, we will finally be able to turn our efforts into the results we are striving for and repay that support." "The tournament was very competitive this year, and Iran was drawn into a difficult group. Unfortunately, we were unable to achieve the results we wanted, and we are very disappointed about that. However, we finished the tournament with a victory. Hopefully, we can make up for it in future editions." Iran captain Shabnam Alikhani,



Iranian players celebrate a point during a 3-0 victory over the Philippines at the AVC Women's Nations Cup in Candon, Philippines, on June 14, 2026.

VOLLEYBALL WORLD

meanwhile, regretted the team's inability to execute some of the tactical plans prepared by the coaching staff during key matches. "Unfortunately, in some games we could not implement on the court what the coaching staff had instructed us and what we had

worked on in training. As a result, we ended up losing those matches," the veteran setter said. "For the first time, the women's national team had the opportunity to hold a long-term overseas training camp lasting more than 60 days.

"Unfortunately, we were unable to take full advantage of this opportunity, and we feel we have let our people down. I hope that in the future, and in upcoming tournaments, we can achieve results worthy of Iran's women's volleyball players."

# Khorramabad moves closer to UNESCO status

## Iranica Desk

The Director General of the Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Organization of Lorestan Province, Ata Hassanpour, has announced significant progress in the nomination process for the global registration of Khorramabad's historic sites, stating that the supplementary dossier for the complex has been prepared for submission to UNESCO's World Heritage List following archaeological excavations at Falak-ol-Aflak Hill and prehistoric caves.

Speaking to ISNA, Hassanpour said the dossier, which was submitted to UNESCO on Feb. 1, 2026, is expected to be reviewed and evaluated in July 2026, according to the usual process. He expressed optimism that the site could be inscribed on the World Heritage List alongside the Alamut nomination, noting that the necessary criteria for registration have been met.

He also announced the approval of a comprehensive 12-hectare development and conservation plan for the Falak-ol-Aflak area. The plan includes reorganizing the military complex located on the slopes of the castle, as well as restoring and rehabilitating historic walls while preserving their traditional architectural style. As part of the project, a 22-meter-long section of the wall on Dovazdeh-Borji Street will be reconstructed in line with historical methods and traditions.

Hassanpour also referred to planned changes in traffic management and public access around the site. He said the eastern side of Gap Bridge will be converted into a pedestrian zone.

He added that access from Mojahedin-e Islam Street toward the river-side area will also be redirected near Jalal Hosseini Park to reduce congestion in the area.

According to Hassanpour, the street leading to the entrance of Falak-

ol-Aflak Castle will also become pedestrian-oriented. The current entrance gate will be converted into an exit, while the main entrance will be relocated to another area. The new entrance will include an urban plaza and resting spaces for visitors, creating a welcoming gateway to the cultural and historic complex.

The official expressed hope that, with the implementation of these plans this year, residents and tourists will witness a new and unique face of Khorramabad's 12-hectare cultural, natural, and historical landscape, describing it as an exceptional site in Iran.

Hassanpour also highlighted plans to transform the province's caves into "cave museums." He said the project to convert six registered prehistoric caves around Falak-ol-Aflak Castle into cave museums, where prehistoric human life will be reconstructed and presented to visitors, is being actively pursued.



agah.ir

## Kamar Zarrin where Isfahan's development met its history

### Iranica Desk

In historic cities, whenever an excavator begins work on an urban development project, it encounters more than soil and stone — it confronts the identity and history of the city itself. The Kamar Zarrin passage rehabilitation project in Isfahan became a clear example of navigating the delicate boundary between urban development and cultural heritage preservation. What began as an implementation challenge and an institutional dispute eventually turned into a bittersweet experience that could reshape the approach to urban management in Iran's historic cities.

The recent opening of the Kamar Zarrin Site Museum marked the completion of one of Isfahan's most challenging and controversial urban and heritage projects in recent years. From its earliest stages, the project was caught between the municipality's development priorities and archaeologists' preservation concerns, according to IRNA.

After more than two years of controversy surrounding the historic passage, the first phase — including the passage and the site museum — has become operational. The second phase, involving the construction of a protective roof, has prepared the site for future scientific excavations, provided that the required funding is secured.

The story of Kamar Zarrin reflects the complexity of development in historic urban areas. The initial goal was simply to improve a passageway and implement an infrastructure project to facilitate movement. However, what lay beneath the surface revealed a different reality. During rehabilitation works, the discovery



IRNA

of archaeological evidence and historical layers halted excavation activities and transformed the project into something far beyond a conventional construction plan.

The sudden discovery of ancient layers changed the nature of the project and led to the creation of Isfahan's first urban archaeology model. At the time, objections raised by experts and archaeologists became a turning point, shifting the project from a purely construction-focused initiative into one integrated with archaeological research and the creation of a site museum.

Following the necessary approvals, official excavations began at Kamar Zarrin. What emerged from the ground exceeded initial expectations. The discovery of production workshops along what had once been a market corridor — including glassmaking, pottery, and metalworking workshops — revealed that this was not merely a historic route but a vital economic and social center of the city in previous eras.

These findings transformed Kamar Zarrin from an ordinary

passage into an open urban site museum: a place where citizens can continue their daily activities while visitors can explore the history of everyday life in Isfahan.

The second phase of the project, however, highlighted the challenges of coordination between institutions responsible for urban projects and those responsible for heritage protection. A leveling project near the Kamar Zarrin Mosque, conducted while archaeological surveys had already uncovered artifacts, pottery, and coins, became a source of tension between the municipality and cultural heritage authorities.

The situation escalated when, amid the atmosphere following the 12-day war period, excavation trucks entered the site unexpectedly at night through municipal contractors without coordination with the Cultural Heritage Protection Unit. The move raised concerns over possible irreversible damage to archaeological layers and historical evidence. The operation was halted after the intervention of heritage protection officials and, later, judicial authorities.



The incident became a significant lesson for urban management and heritage institutions, demonstrating that even temporary miscommunication between responsible bodies can impose serious costs on a city's historical identity.

Despite its challenges and controversies, Kamar Zarrin delivered something beyond a conventional construction project. It became a national experience in urban archaeology, demonstrating that urban development and heritage preservation should not be treated as opposing forces but should advance together through flexible and coordinated planning.

Isfahan, a city whose tourism economy is deeply connected to its cultural heritage and historical identity, cannot sacrifice history for development — nor can it consider history an obstacle to progress. The city's heritage is not merely a collection of old structures; it represents a sustainable economic resource. Failure to preserve historical identity within development plans could pose a serious threat to Isfahan's future economy.

The evaluation of the Kamar Zarrin project can be viewed from two perspectives: a specialized academic perspective, which may identify several shortcomings, and a practical perspective focused on managerial capacity and real-world constraints. From a realistic viewpoint, the project can be considered a relatively successful initiative.

The site museum represents a turning point in Isfahan's urban archaeology and offers a potential model for other Iranian cities struggling with the discovery of underground historical remains. The project has received a relatively positive assessment in Isfahan's municipal record because, according to some archaeologists, creating a public narrative around archaeological discoveries within an active urban environment has rarely been achieved in Iran.

Kamar Zarrin now serves as a living record of Isfahan's history, from traces of the pre-Islamic era to modern transformations. Visitors can observe evidence of everyday life across different periods, including workshop remains, water transfer systems,

historic routes, and production spaces that reflect the culture of the traditional marketplace.

These artifacts are not merely bricks and pottery fragments; they are witnesses to the city's growth, transformation, and decline throughout history.

The lessons of Kamar Zarrin offer valuable guidance for future urban projects. The most important recommendation is a shift from reaction to prevention: archaeological assessments should become an essential part of planning before any construction begins in historic areas.

If archaeological studies and preliminary surveys are carried out before construction equipment reaches historical layers, many financial costs and social tensions caused by project interruptions can be avoided.

The Kamar Zarrin experience shows that historic cities require a new approach: development aligned with heritage. This means urban projects must be designed from the beginning with archaeological considerations and preventive strategies, rather than addressing historical discoveries only after construction has already begun.

The project also highlights the need for careful decision-making and stronger cooperation among institutions. Avoiding future conflicts between stakeholders requires moving toward more integrated and multi-institutional management structures.

For future development projects in historic districts such as Isfahan, incorporating archaeological planning before construction is not only essential for protecting national heritage but also creates opportunities to design projects that support progress while strengthening the city's identity.

## New archaeological season opens at Hegmataneh

### Iranica Desk

The director of the Hegmataneh World Heritage Site has announced the beginning of the 25th season of archaeological excavations and studies at the historic site.

Reza Nazari said the excavations will continue until the end of July this year.

He added that the research is being carried out under an agreement between the Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department of

Hamedan Province and the Research Institute of Cultural Heritage and Tourism of Iran. The new excavation season follows the archaeological studies conducted during the 24th season, which took place in December 2025 and January 2026, chtn.ir wrote.

Referring to the objectives of the latest archaeological research, Nazari said the main goal of the 25th excavation season is to identify and clarify the defensive walls and fortifications in the southern and southeastern sec-

tions of the Hegmataneh historic site. He explained that before excavation activities began, interdisciplinary geophysical studies, including geomagnetic surveys and ground-penetrating radar investigations, were carried out. These studies aim to provide a clearer understanding of possible structures and architectural remains in the excavation areas.

He noted that the 25th excavation season at Hegmataneh is being led by Yaqub Mohammadifar, a professor of archaeology at Bu-Ali Sina University,

with the participation of students and under the supervision of the Hegmataneh World Heritage Site.

The continuation of archaeological research at Hegmataneh is expected to provide further insight into the historical development and urban structure of one of Iran's most significant ancient sites. Researchers hope that the findings from this season will help reveal more details about the site's defensive systems, architectural features, and the civilizations that shaped the region throughout history.



chtn.ir

# Russia pledges help to restore Iran's damaged heritage sites

## Arts & Culture Desk

Russia has offered to help restore Iranian historical sites damaged during recent attacks and agreed to expand tourism and cultural cooperation with Iran, senior Iranian heritage official Hojatollah Ayoubi said after meetings with Russian officials in Moscow. Ayoubi, senior adviser to Iran's minister of cultural heritage and head of the ministry's Center for International Affairs and Diplomacy, made the announcement at the conclusion of a visit to the Russian capital, where he attended the sixth International Travel Forum "Puteshestvie" and held talks with Russian cultural and tourism authorities, IRNA reported. The forum was held in Moscow from June 10 to 14. "We witnessed a strong determination within Russia's Ministry of Culture to introduce Iran's culture, art, history and cultural heritage more broadly," Ayoubi said. "They have also expressed readi-

ness to dispatch restoration experts to Iran promptly to assist in rebuilding damaged historical monuments." The discussions came as Iran advances efforts to safeguard and restore heritage sites affected by recent military attacks. Earlier this month, Iran's Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Minister Reza Salehi-Amiri said 149 historical sites across the country sustained varying levels of damage, with some suffering losses ranging from 10% to 90%. Tehran and Isfahan recorded the heaviest impact, including parts of the UNESCO-listed Golestan Palace and sections of the historic Chehel Sotoun complex. Ayoubi said Russian officials also signaled strong interest in accelerating tourism exchanges. During meetings with Russia's deputy minister of economic development for tourism and the head of Moscow's Tourism Committee, both sides discussed removing structural barriers that have limited travel flows between the two countries.



Damage caused by US and Israeli strikes on Iran is seen at the Qajar-era Golestan Palace in Tehran, Iran, March 3, 2026.  
● IRNA

"There is a very strong will on the Russian side to rapidly expand tourism relations with Iran," Ayoubi said, noting that many Russian travelers currently visit destinations in the region despite Iran's extensive cultural and natural attractions. The two sides signed a Tehran-Moscow tourism cooperation action plan covering 2026-2028. One of the key initiatives seeks to facilitate financial transactions for Iranian and Russian tourists traveling between the two countries. The forum, held at Moscow's VDNKh exhibition complex, brought together representatives from Russia's regions and delegates from 32 countries, including Iran. Addressing a specialized panel on tourism and international co-



operation, Ayoubi highlighted new tourism routes across Iran and underscored the enduring strength of the country's civilization and cultural heritage. Salehi-Amiri has said technical assess-

ments and emergency conservation measures are already underway, while a national and international campaign is being organized to support the restoration of damaged sites.

## US-Israeli strikes ravage wildlife on Kharg Island

### At least 25 deer killed as war exacts environmental toll

#### Social Desk

At least 25 deer were confirmed dead on Iran's southern Kharg Island following attacks during US-Israeli aggression against Iran, with environmental officials warning the actual toll is likely significantly higher.

The deaths represent one of the most visible impacts of the war on Iran's wildlife, highlighting the often-overlooked environmental consequences of armed conflicts beyond human casualties, Press TV reported on Sunday. "The latest reports indicate that at least 25 deer have died on Kharg Island," said Masoumeh Safaei, deputy director of Iran's Office for Wildlife Protection and Management. "This figure only covers areas outside military zones, and the real number of casualties is higher than what has been recorded so far," Safaei was quoted as saying by Fars News Agency.

Environmental experts warn that the effects of warfare on wildlife extend far beyond direct fatalities. Explosions, habitat destruction, and prolonged exposure to intense noise can leave lasting physical and psychological scars on animal populations. According to Safaei, severe stress caused by nearby blasts also affected animals held in captivity.

At Tehran's Lavizan Bird Garden, some birds reportedly lost control of their behavior amid the shock of explosions and collided with enclosure walls, resulting in injuries and deaths. "Some birds experienced ex-



treme fear and stress due to the powerful sounds of explosions," she said, noting that authorities are still assessing the full extent of the damage. Reports have also emerged from a wildlife rehabilitation and conservation center in Alborz Province, where officials observed heightened behavioral stress among animals and a limited number of fatalities. While no large-scale losses have yet been officially documented among species such as wild goats, wild sheep, or large carnivores in natural habitats, specialists caution that the absence of reports does not necessarily indicate the absence of damage.

Many animals retreat to remote or inaccessible areas during periods of war, making comprehensive assessments difficult. Smaller species, including insects, rodents, reptiles, and animals living near or below the soil surface, are considered particularly vulnerable to blast waves and habitat destruction. Shiva Roustaei, an environmental researcher, said the indirect consequences of war can be more severe and

long-lasting than immediate casualties. "In many cases, the indirect effects of war are far more extensive than direct losses," Roustaei was quoted as saying by Fars News Agency. "Explosions and intense noise pollution increase the production of stress hormones in animals, weakening their immune systems and increasing the risk of disease, reduced reproduction, and even death."

She added that international studies have shown wildlife in conflict zones often experience disruptions to migration routes, feeding patterns, and breeding cycles. "In some species, miscarriage rates increase, while others display aggressive behavior or symptoms associated with depression," she said. Environmental specialists stress that wildlife constitutes an important part of a country's natural heritage and ecological security. They say documenting losses, monitoring affected populations, and implementing habitat restoration programs should become key components of post-conflict recovery efforts.

## Pakistani scholar joins Persian Language Academy

#### Arts & Culture Desk

Pakistani Persian scholar and bibliographer Arif Naushahi received honorary membership in Iran's Academy of Persian Language and Literature at a ceremony in Islamabad attended by Pakistani Minister for National Heritage and Culture Aurangzeb Khan Khichi, Iranian Ambassador to Pakistan Reza Amiri-Moghaddam, Iranian Cultural Attaché Majid Meshki, and a gathering of academics and Persian-language enthusiasts. The honor recognizes Naushahi's more than five decades of scholarship, teaching, and preservation efforts devoted to Persian language and literature in Pakistan, underscoring the enduring cultural ties

between Tehran and Islamabad, Tasnim News Agency reported on June 14.

Speaking at the ceremony, Khichi described Persian as a language that served as the official administrative and cultural medium across the subcontinent for nearly eight centuries.

"Pakistan's history and culture are deeply intertwined with the Persian language," he said, calling Naushahi's appointment "another chapter in the profound historical bonds between Iran and Pakistan." Amiri-Moghaddam said the honorary membership was awarded in recognition of Naushahi's distinguished contributions to Persian studies and with the aim of further expanding cultural rela-

tions between the two neighboring countries. He noted that Persian "remains alive thanks to the efforts and affection of the people of Pakistan."

Meshki said the selection of a Pakistani scholar reflected the academy's appreciation for the prominent place of Persian in Pakistan and the depth of cultural connections between the two nations. Born in Pakistan's Punjab province in 1955, Naushahi has dedicated much of his academic career to Persian manuscript studies, bibliography, and literary research. He has authored dozens of Persian-language books and donated around 10,000 Persian manuscripts and volumes to the Ganj Bakhsh Library in Rawalpindi.

## Magtymguly Pyragy keeps shared heritage alive across Iran, Central Asia



By Ali Rahbar  
Head of the Turkmen Cultural House

**OPINION**  
Magtymguly Pyragy is one of the most prominent literary and intellectual figures within the civilizational sphere of the Turkmen people and Central Asia. His stature cannot be confined merely to the framework of the national literature of a single ethnic group or country. His significance lies in the fact that he stands at the intersection of the region's linguistic, mystical, and ethical traditions and, through his poetry, has reproduced a kind of shared cultural language among the historically neighboring societies of Iran, Turkmenistan, and other Central Asian lands. In contemporary analyses of cultural diplomacy, Magtymguly can be regarded as one of the region's "transnational cultural luminaries" and "shared symbolic assets", concepts that emphasize the reality that certain cultural figures, by virtue of

the depth of their intellectual influence and the breadth of their social acceptance, transcend political borders and become part of a region's civilizational memory. Within this framework, Magtymguly's poetry is not only a carrier of ethical, justice-oriented, and mystical values, but has also functioned as a medium of communication between the cultural traditions of Greater Iran and those of the Turkmen and broader Central Asian world.

From the perspective of international cultural relations, the importance of such shared cultural figures lies in their capacity to generate what may be called "cultural trust capital." At times when relations between states may fluctuate under the influence of political and geopolitical variables, the sphere of culture and shared heritage can serve as a stable and low-tension layer through which dialogue can continue and mutual understanding can be strengthened. For this reason, revisiting the legacy of Magtymguly is not merely a literary endeavor; it is also part of

a long-term strategy for cultural engagement at the regional level.

At a deeper level, Magtymguly's works may be seen as a reflection of a kind of shared social ethic across the civilizational domain of Iran and Central Asia, an ethic that emphasizes justice, spirituality, social responsibility, and humanity's connection to truth. These elements have enabled his poetry, over time, to remain open to reinterpretation and to sustain its relevance, preserving its place in the cultural memory of successive generations throughout the region.

Accordingly, engaging with Pyragy through cultural and scholarly programs constitutes a form of investment in soft diplomacy and in strengthening the foundations of regional convergence. Such an approach can help redefine the relationship between Iran and Turkmenistan at the cultural level, elevating it from the realm of purely political interactions to a deeper level of civilizational understanding and shared consciousness.