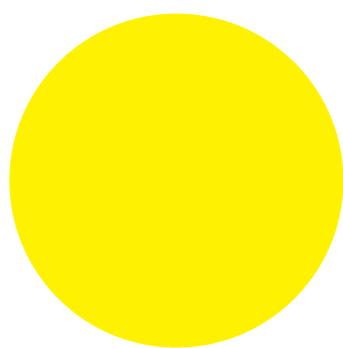


Salehi proposes joint catalog of Iran, Kyrgyzstan manuscripts 'Shahnameh,' 'Manas' set to anchor new cultural cooperation

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American aggression kills 38, injures 400 in southern Iran

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Learning from history of Hyderabad



By Ahmad Meydari
Minister of Cooperatives, Labor and Social Welfare

O P I N I O N
E X C L U S I V E

Attending the 12th BRICS Labor and Employment Ministers' Meeting, hosted by India in the city of Hyderabad, provided an opportunity not only to discuss the future of labor markets, skills development, social protection, and employment, but also to reflect once again on the fact that the history of cities can sometimes offer deeper lessons for the future of the world than many political documents.

Hyderabad is more than just a city; it is a story of cultural coexistence, flourishing trade, and, at the same time, a warning about the relationship between development and security. Founded in 1591 by Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah, the city traces its origins to the Qutb Shahi dynasty, whose roots lay in Iranian migrants and whose cultural legacy blended Persian and Indian traditions. Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah composed poetry in both Persian and Deccani, while Hyderabad's architecture and cultural heritage likewise reflected this civilizational fusion.

Under Qutb Shahi rule, diverse ethnic groups, languages, and faiths lived side by side, and free trade turned the region into one of Asia's leading economic hubs. Yet it was this very prosperity that opened the door to the East India Company. At the beginning of the 17th century, the Qutb Shahi rulers, guided by a policy rooted in trust and free commerce, granted the Company permission to conduct trade at the port of Machilipatnam, the dynasty's principal maritime gateway. The original objective was the exchange of goods and the expansion of trade. What followed, however, took a very different course.

The East India Company gradually evolved from a commercial enterprise into a military power. By raising a large army, it seized control of Bengal after the Battle of Plassey in 1757 and subsequently used the financial resources of that territory to bring vast swathes of India under its rule. Colonialism did not begin with an invading army; it grew out of trade and ultimately subjected one of the world's oldest civilizations to nearly two centuries of foreign domination.

Viewed through this lens, the history of Hyderabad also holds valuable lessons for the world today.

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Sitting Volleyball World Championships:

Iran claims record-extending ninth men's title

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Iranian players celebrate after winning the men's title at the Sitting Volleyball World Championships in Hangzhou, China on July 17, 2026.
● @iriparalympic



Strategic corridor initiative launched to link Iran to Central Asia, China

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Tabriz Bazaar preserves centuries of Iran's urban, architectural legacy

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Strategic corridor initiative launched to link Iran to Central Asia, China

Economy Desk

Iran, Afghanistan and Tajikistan have launched operational cooperation to establish a direct transport corridor linking Iran to Tajikistan through Afghanistan, marking the first practical step toward creating a faster, safer and more economical route connecting Iran to Central Asia and China, Iran's deputy roads minister said.

"Creating this corridor could play an important role in expanding regional trade" Reza Akbari, head of Iran's Road Maintenance and Transportation Organization, said on the sidelines of a meeting on the initiative in the north-eastern Iranian city of Mashhad, ILNA reported on Thursday.

Akbari said Iran and Tajikistan are currently connected through Turkmenistan, adding that the meeting aimed to examine and operationalize the Afghan route as a complementary

and more economical corridor for cargo transportation.

He said the three countries agreed to conduct a pilot shipment from Iran to Tajikistan via Afghanistan to assess actual transportation costs, transit times and potential operational challenges. The results will be used to evaluate the route's economic viability and prepare implementation plans.

Tajikistan has welcomed the proposal, Akbari said.

"This route will facilitate Tajikistan's access to open waters, the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman, while expanding the country's trade opportunities. Afghanistan, by serving as a transit country, will also benefit from the corridor's economic, transit and infrastructure development opportunities," he said.

The meeting also discussed road and transport infrastructure development in Afghanistan, upgrading border ter-

minals, simplifying customs procedures, standardizing transport documents, digitalizing processes and establishing a single trade window among the three countries, Akbari said.

He said the participants agreed on a joint memorandum recognizing the corridor as a priority area of trilateral cooperation.

"A comprehensive cooperation document will also be prepared to define the corridor's infrastructure, technical, software, legal and operational framework," he said.

Akbari said the three border crossings between Iran and Afghanistan — Dogharoun, Milak and Mahirud — could be connected



to the proposed corridor, adding that the advantages and capacities of each route were under technical review.

South Pars maintenance drive targets stable winter gas supply after refinery damage



Economy Desk

Pars Oil and Gas Company is carrying out an intensive turnaround program at 20 offshore platforms in the South Pars gas field to help ensure a stable natural gas supply during the winter after recent conflicts damaged part of the country's gas-processing infrastructure, a senior official at the company said on Friday.

Alireza Sarmadi, the company's production and operations manager, told IRNA that damage to several gas refineries during two recent conflicts had made maximum readiness of the offshore platforms for the cold season a top priority.

Iran came under a 12-day Israeli attack in June 2025 and a US-Israeli war that began in late February 2026.

The maintenance campaign

began in mid-April and is expected to conclude in September, Sarmadi said.

It is aimed at minimizing production downtime while carrying out technical inspections, repairing rotating and process equipment, and calibrating control systems to ensure the reliability of the facilities.

Sarmadi said this year's turnaround program differs from previous years because the maintenance schedule has been compressed due to operational constraints caused by the recent conflicts.

"Because processing capacity at the damaged refineries remains limited, prolonged shutdowns of the offshore platforms are not possible," he said. "As a result, the maintenance schedule has been tightened, while procurement of strategic parts has been managed through domestic manufacturers."

Sarmadi said logistical constraints, particularly restric-

tions on helicopter flights, had added to the challenges.

An Israeli air strike in March damaged several gas-processing facilities along the coast of Bushehr Province.

Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad said in June that Iran had restored about 30 million cubic meters of gas-processing capacity lost during the US-Israeli war.

South Pars, which Iran shares with Qatar, accounts for 70% of the country's natural gas supply and provides 40% of the feedstock required for gasoline production.

Sarmadi said part of the damaged refinery capacity had returned to production, but a full recovery would not be possible in the short term.

He said maintaining the stability of the gas network during the winter would require not only maximum readiness of production platforms but also efficient gas consumption by end-users.

Iran's pipeline gas exports rise about 3% in 2025 to 15.4 bcm, EI reports

Economy Desk

Iran exported 15.4 billion cubic meters (bcm) of natural gas via pipeline in 2025, up about 3% from a year earlier, according to the latest Statistical Review of World Energy published by the Energy Institute.

The figures, cited by Tasnim news agency, showed Iran exported about 15 bcm of pipeline gas in 2024.

Iran, which holds the world's second-largest natural gas reserves after Russia at around 34 trillion cubic meters, shipped 7.4 bcm of gas to Turkey and 7.5 bcm to Iraq in 2025, its two largest export markets.

The country also exported 0.5 bcm of natural gas to the former Soviet republics during the year.

Iran's high-pressure natural gas transmission network measured about 41,000 kilometers as of May 2025, making it the world's



A section of the Iran-Turkey natural gas pipeline is seen near the border between the two countries.

fourth-largest by network length and the largest in the Middle East.

Norway was the world's largest pipeline gas exporter in 2025, with exports totaling 115 bcm.

Russia exported 101 bcm, followed by the United States with 94 bcm, Canada with 87 bcm, Turkmenistan with 37 bcm, Algeria with 32 bcm, Azerbaijan with 23 bcm and Qatar with 19 bcm.

Learning from history

Economic development, trade, and engagement among nations are fundamental values, but historical experience shows that these values endure only when they are coupled with the preservation of independence, credible deterrence, and cooperation among sovereign states. History has repeatedly demonstrated that whenever a gap emerges between economic power and national security, the conditions become ripe for domination and intervention by stronger powers.

Each BRICS member represents a great and ancient civilization—civilizations that, throughout history, expanded culture, knowledge, trade, and wealth creation without relying on colonialism or the plunder of other nations. This is also the philosophy underpinning BRICS itself: strengthening multilateralism, advancing balanced development, fostering mutual respect, and promoting a fairer international economic and political order.

At the Hyderabad meeting, the central focus was cooperation on the future of labor, skills development, support for the workforce, and the advancement of social justice. Yet these objectives cannot be

achieved in a world engulfed by war, sanctions, insecurity, and instability. Sustainable development is meaningless without lasting peace, and productive employment can only take shape in an environment of security and international cooperation.

Against this backdrop, perhaps one of the most important questions facing BRICS today is how its member states can establish more effective mechanisms for dialogue, mediation, and peacebuilding in times of crisis and conflict. If BRICS aspires to play a meaningful role in shaping the architecture of the emerging global order, it must strengthen not only its economic cooperation but also its capacity to safeguard stability, security, and shared development.

For all its historical grandeur, Hyderabad serves as a reminder that civilizations flourish when tolerance, trade, knowledge, and security go hand in hand. Today, the aspirations of our nations remain the same: prosperity, peace, decent work, and a life lived with human dignity—an aspiration whose realization depends, more than ever, on cooperation and trust among the world's independent nations.

Iran could become sixth-largest steel producer with policy reforms, industry chief says

Economy Desk

Iran has the potential to become the world's sixth-largest steel producer if policy reforms are implemented, the head of the Iranian Steel Producers Association said, citing the country's untapped production capacity despite energy shortages and recent war-related damage.

Iran currently ranks as the world's 10th-largest steel producer with annual output of about 32 million metric tons, Bahram Sobhani told IRNA.

"If we set aside the recent attacks on some strategic steel facilities, our production potential is much greater than the current level. With policy reforms, Iran has the potential to reach sixth place globally," he said.

Sobhani said Iran was moving toward its long-term target of 55 million metric tons of annual steelmaking capacity, but actual production had remained above 30 million tons despite significant capacity expansion because of unstable fuel and energy supplies.

The country's two largest steelmakers, Mobarakeh Steel Company and Khuzestan Steel Company, were damaged during the US-Israeli war that began in late February. Parliamentary officials have since said reconstruction at Mobarakeh is progressing much faster than initially expected. Iran's Steel Association also said last month the country was expected to retain its position as the world's 10th-largest



steel producer despite losing about 30% of its production capacity in the attacks.

Sobhani said the steel industry accounts for 5.1% of Iran's gross domestic product, supports 8% of direct and indirect employment, and generated about 15% of the country's non-oil exports last year.

He added, however, that companies' profit margins had fallen sharply, from 33% to 6%, over the past five years.

"Part of the profits has been reinvested to increase capital and finance internal development so companies can withstand market fluctuations, but under the current energy supply conditions there is no guarantee of future profitability."

Energy shortages take toll

Sobhani said disruptions in electricity and

natural gas supplies had caused an estimated \$18 billion in lost revenue across Iran's steel value chain over the past five years.

"Our energy system faces a recurring crisis. Whenever natural gas is available, we face electricity shortages, and vice versa. This imbalance has severely disrupted the production of intermediate and finished steel products," he said.

He said Iran had the potential to produce more than 40 million metric tons of steel during peak production periods while domestic demand stood at about 20 million tons, leaving another 20 million tons available for export.

"But because of energy constraints, we lose about \$10 billion in export potential," he said.

Sobhani warned that shutdowns at strategic steel plants would directly affect downstream industries, including automakers and household appliance manufacturers.

He also called for changes to electricity pricing on Iran's energy exchange, saying power accounts for about 30% of steel production costs and that uncontrolled price fluctuations could threaten the industry's profitability and output.

He proposed setting aside dedicated trading sessions with controlled electricity prices for energy-intensive industries such as steel to reduce excessive market volatility.

Unilateral US measures violate Strait of Hormuz legal order

Mohsen Abdollahi



INTERVIEW EXCLUSIVE

Subsequent to the violation of article five of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Iran and the United States by Washington, the legal dimensions of said document and the modality of administering the Strait of Hormuz remain subjects of persisting contention. In this regard, Iran Newspaper has undertaken an examination of these developments in an interview with Mohsen Abdollahi, professor of International Law at Shahid Beheshti University. Abdollahi, while emphasizing that the United States was the first violator of this agreement, has articulated that Washington, through its disregard for the arrangements envisaged for the 60-day period of administering the Strait of Hormuz and negotiations with Oman, endeavored to institute a novel mechanism for transit and navigation in the Strait. According to him, that which is presently stated under the title of the "Omani Corridor" has been shaped under the influence of American policies and does not agree with the historical precedent of Tehran-Muscat collaboration in the administration of the Strait of Hormuz.



US President Donald Trump has said Washington plans to charge the equivalent of 20% of cargo moving through the Strait of Hormuz to recover the cost of protecting the waterway.
● CHETAN JHA/PRESS INSIDER

IRAN: A few days subsequent to the signing of the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding, the United States commenced the process of contravening its obligations. In your estimation, what impact have these measures exerted upon the credibility of the MoU and the mutual confidence between the parties? Can it be asserted that Washington has, in practice, initiated the collapse of this accord?

ABDOLLAHI: Primarily, one must attend to the fact that, in international law, the label of a document does not, in and of itself, determine its legal character. A document may be formulated under the title "Memorandum of Understanding"; nevertheless, should it possess specific and determinate obligations, it may be invested with binding legal effects. From my perspective, this Memorandum of Understanding, likewise, generated legal obligations for both parties. The accord was largely consummated through the mediation of third-party states. In negotiations conducted concurrently with ongoing military hostilities, the employment of general and flexible words is customary, yet this approach can engender divergent interpretations of the accord's provisions. The recent Memorandum, notwithstanding the endeavors of the Iranian negotiators, was not devoid of certain ambiguities. On the other hand, what merits attention is that the United States initiated an aggressive war against Iran; however, as a consequence of the defense mounted by the armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, it failed to achieve the objectives it had proclaimed prior to the commencement of hostilities. In my opinion, these very circumstances, coupled with the internal pressures within the United States following the acceptance of the Memorandum, constituted one of the factors that subsequently led to the manifestation of American duplicity in the execution of its commitments.

Article 5 of the MoU has rendered any modification in the arrangements for the administration and navigational routes within the Strait of Hormuz contingent upon a mechanism mutually agreed upon by the parties. Can the unilateral American endeavor to establish a southern route be considered a violation of contractual obligations and incompatible with the principle of *pacta sunt servanda* (meaning "agreements must be kept")?

Article five of the MoU explicitly stipulates that, for 60 days subsequent to its signing, any transit through the Strait of Hormuz must be conducted in coordination with, and according to, the arrangements designated by Iran, albeit gratuitously. The a contrario

(meaning "contrary") inference from this provision could be that, upon the expiration of the 60-day period, the Islamic Republic of Iran would possess the authority to institute new arrangements, including the imposition of fees for transit. Conversely, this same wording also possesses the capacity to be interpreted to signify that, following the lapse of this deadline, transit would no longer be subject to the arrangements prescribed by Iran. In other words, the text of this article has been formulated in a manner that renders plausible both interpretive constructions. My interpretation is that the United States, exploiting this very ambiguity, disregarded the right that had been envisaged, at least for the 60-day period, for Iran within the MoU and, simultaneously, through negotiations with Oman, sought to exploit the conditions established after the cease-fire to consolidate a novel mechanism for transit through the Strait of Hormuz. On this basis, I am convinced that the first party to contravene the provisions of this Memorandum of Understanding was the United States. Washington, through the activation of the Omani Corridor, endeavored to exploit the opportunity created after the cease-fire to obtain advantages it had failed to secure during the war and, through this means, to attenuate Iran's position. Under such circumstances, it is natural that, following the violation of commitments by one party, the other party does not consider itself obligated to adopt a passive posture and does not permit the transgressing party, through exploitation of the created situation, to consolidate its position. From this perspective, one can regard the government of the United States of America as the initiator of the violation of the Memorandum of Understanding and, consequently, as responsible for commencing the process of breaching the cease-fire.

Iran has proclaimed its defensive attacks upon American bases in the region within the framework of the principle of "commitment in return for commitment". How do you evaluate Iran's response from a legal perspective?

With the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding, a cease-fire was established between Iran and the United States; consequently, the relationship between the two parties, from the standpoint of international law, exited the state of belligerency. As long as the cease-fire remains valid, neither party possesses the right to have recourse to force, unless, through the violation of commitments, it effectively nullifies the cease-fire and reinitiates a state of hostilities. For this reason, the measures undertaken by the United States



In straits such as Hormuz, which are situated entirely within the territorial sea of the riparian states, the principle of "concerted effort" or "community of interests" assumes particular significance. According to this approach, the interests and responsibilities arising from the administration and exploitation of the waterway must be exercised jointly among the riparian states, and neither party should unilaterally endeavor to impose arrangements that would impact the rights and interests of the other party.



Omani Sultan Haitham bin Tariq Al Said (c) receives Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (L) and top negotiator Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf on June 23, 2026.
● AFP

after the Memorandum, including military attacks, have constituted a violation of commitments and a practical termination of the cease-fire.

In response, Washington, in its official positions, has also spoken of the termination of the cease-fire, which, from a legal perspective, can be construed as a declaration of the conclusion of the state of affairs arising from the MoU. On this basis, Iran characterizes its reciprocal measures, including defensive attacks upon American bases in the region, not as the initiation of a new belligerency, but rather within the framework of the principle of "commitment in return for commitment" and as a reaction to the violation of obligations by the opposing party.

Now that disagreement, and even conflict, has arisen concerning the method of administering the Strait, can each of the two governments utilize the Strait in a manner that would restrict or abrogate the interests of the other party?

Should we refer to the historical practice of administering the Strait of Hormuz, this administration has always been predicated upon cooperation between the two governments of Iran and Oman. In practice, furthermore, no precedent exists wherein one party, without coordination with the other, has unilaterally instituted new arrangements for the administration of transit through the Strait.

In straits such as Hormuz, which are situated entirely within the territorial sea of the riparian states, the principle of "concerted effort" or "community of interests" assumes particular significance. According to this approach, the interests and responsibilities arising from the administration and exploitation of the waterway must be exercised jointly among the riparian states, and neither party should unilaterally endeavor to impose arrangements that would impact the rights and interests of

the other party.

Iran's practice in past years has likewise affirmed this perspective. For example, on one occasion, the United States proposed to negotiate with Iran, in the absence of Oman, concerning the establishment of a joint mechanism for the administration of the Strait and the issue of collecting fees from vessels; however, Iran did not accept this proposal because it maintained that Oman, as one of the two riparian states, should have a role in such arrangements. This approach demonstrates that, from Iran's perspective, any benefit accruing from the administration of the Strait of Hormuz must be exercised jointly between the two riparian states.

Nevertheless, it appears that the arrangements presently discussed under the designation of the "Omani Corridor" have been shaped under the influence of pressures and considerations arising from the policies of the United States and certain Western states, and they do not agree with the historical precedent of bilateral cooperation in the joint administration of the Strait of Hormuz, nor with the prior understandings between Tehran and Muscat.

Can it be asserted that Oman bears a legal responsibility to prevent the formation of such routes in the Strait of Hormuz?

This subject possesses complexities from the perspective of international law because there persists disagreement among states concerning the legal regime governing the Strait of Hormuz, including "transit passage" or "innocent passage". Furthermore, no special and mutually agreed-upon legal arrangements for the administration of this strait have, to date, been established.

On this basis, one cannot assert with certainty that Oman, merely by virtue of establishing what has been denominated the "Omani Corridor," has committed a violation of an international obligation because the substantiation

of such a claim, given the existing disagreement concerning the legal regime of the Strait, is attended by legal considerations. However, from a political perspective, one can state that Oman's concurrence with certain demands of the United States of America has been perceived, from the viewpoint of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as an unfriendly act. A portion of the recent developments, including the recent attacks by the armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran upon the positions of the United States of America in Omani territory, can be analyzed within this same framework.

What is the status, from the perspective of international law, of Trump's recent claim that the United States can secure the Strait of Hormuz and, in exchange, receive 20% of the value of transiting cargoes?

From the perspective of international law, such a claim possesses no binding legal foundation. A state cannot unilaterally declare that it assumes responsibility for securing an international waterway and, in return, demand a percentage of the value of transiting cargoes as remuneration, compensation, or under any other label. Of course, the possibility of agreement among states, shipping companies, or private vessel owners with the government of the United States of America does exist; meaning that, should the relevant parties consent to such a proposal, this matter could be examined within the framework of a bilateral accord. However, this would be predicated exclusively upon the consent of the parties and cannot be imposed obligatorily or unilaterally upon others.

The articulation of such claims can, from both the political and legal dimensions, conduce to the reinforcement of our country's arguments. Iran has consistently emphasized that the provision of security, the control of transits, and the undertaking of measures related to environmental protections in the Strait of Hormuz entail costs, and these costs are far more limited in comparison with the figure propounded by Trump. Whereas the figure of 20% of the value of cargoes constitutes a considerable sum, the demand that Iran has raised concerning the costs associated with its responsibilities in this region has been considerably lower than such figures. From this perspective, the American proposal can indirectly place greater emphasis upon Iran's argument concerning the necessity of attending to the role of riparian states in securing the region and, ultimately, conduce to the strengthening of Iran's positions.

The article first appeared in the Persian-language newspaper Iran.



Iran-US disagreement over paragraph 5 most formidable impediment

The Memorandum of Understanding signed between Iran and the United States currently finds itself at one of its most critical junctures: Donald Trump, in contradictory statements, simultaneously speaks of the termination of the cease-fire and of the continuation of negotiations. How may this existing condition be analyzed?

AHMADI: Yes, the condition that has materialized is, to a certain degree, ambiguous. Still, little information is available concerning the July 7 incident in the Persian Gulf. Iran has neither claimed responsibility for the attack upon two or three vessels on that day; nor, however, has it denied it. Subsequent to these events, a series of aggressions was perpetrated against targets along Iran's coastlines and, on one occasion, against two bridges near Aq Qala, in Golestan Province. The assault upon these two bridges, in particular, bore significant indications and was of considerable importance. Perhaps one may state that the revocation of the oil and petrochemical sanctions waiver was the most momentous development over the past week. This waiver was comprehensive and without flaw; in such a manner that it enabled the participation of sanctioned Iranian entities, including those companies affiliated with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, permitted the export of petroleum and petrochemical products from Iranian origin to the United States, and allowed for the settlement of transaction funds in US dollars, and encompassed additional instances of this nature. Donald Trump has, furthermore, declared the end of the cease-fire, although, simultaneously, he has also spoken of the possibility of continuing negotiations. For so long as the parties retain the capacity for dialogue, one may remain hopeful for a return to the path of negotiation.

The reinstatement of oil sanctions, the imposition of novel sanctions, and military aggression each, in their own manner, violate the paragraphs of the Islamabad MoU. Now, the critical question is for how much longer this document shall endure beneath the weight of these pressures? Precisely so. The revocation of the waiver issued by the US Department of the Treasury concerning petroleum and petrochemical products constitutes a violation of paragraph 10 of the Memorandum of Understanding.



ing. Military attacks, likewise, are deemed a contravention of the entirety of this understanding. On the opposing side, the United States claims that Iran has not implemented paragraph five and, furthermore, asserts that the Tuesday attacks upon several vessels were perpetrated by Iran and thus constituted a breach of the memorandum. Consequently, as of today, the Memorandum of Understanding is apparently nullified; however, the issue is that at least one of the two mediators, namely Pakistan, continues to pursue, with seriousness, the perpetuation of the process and the salvaging of the memorandum.

Certain analysts maintain that the continuation of the current state of affairs shall lead to a war more extensive than the 40-Day War, whereas a number of others contend that the exchanges of fire between the two sides constitute a kind of accumulation of leverage for the negotiating table. In light of the prevailing trajectory and evidence, which of the two analyses is closer to the factual reality on the ground?

At present, and at this juncture,

I do not align myself with those analysts who suggest the likelihood of a large-scale war. However, I do believe that the probability of a return to a widespread and full-scale war, which prior to July 7 seemed impossible, has risen over the past week. Certainly, for Trump, it would be a politically egregious debacle to concede that all paragraphs of the Memorandum of Understanding, except the paragraph pertaining to the Strait of Hormuz, are to be implemented. In other words, should the paragraph concerning the Strait of Hormuz remain unexecuted, Trump shall become utterly discredited within the domestic politics of the United States and, to a certain extent, regarding the standing of that nation on the international stage. Of course, between the pre-July 7 condition and all-out war, certain intermediate states exist; among them, Trump's reversion to the maritime block-

✓ This screengrab shows an explosion at Bandar Abbas, southern Iran, as three Corsair unmanned surface vessels, fired by the US military, hit the port on July 12, 2026.
● US CENTRAL COMMAND



INTERVIEW

The violation of numerous paragraphs of the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) by the United States, coupled with the American claims regarding the cessation of the cease-fire, alongside media conjectures concerning the start of a novel round of technical dialogues between Iran and the United States, have imposed a state of contradiction and obscurity upon the political and diplomatic atmosphere. The recent American assaults upon points within the territorial confines of Iran have, moreover, served as the commencement of a fresh period of military and political hostilities between the two polities. Washington, simultaneously, claims that Tehran has violated the provisional Islamabad accord, whereas, according to Iran's interpretation, any navigation through the Strait of Hormuz must proceed in accordance with the arrangements designated by Iran, and any endeavor to convey vessels through the southern corridor of this waterway, absent coordination with Iran, shall entail consequences. Tehran, cognizant of the significance of resolving this matter with the accompaniment and cooperation of Oman, aspires to formulate a mechanism that, while providing the groundwork for the execution of the Islamabad understanding, shall likewise furnish the conditions for the exercise of sovereignty by the two neighbors over this waterway. The Saturday journey of Abbas Araghchi, Iran's minister of Foreign Affairs, to Muscat may, similarly, be evaluated within this identical framework. Existential evidence, inclusive of Iran's actions and determinations in recent weeks, indicates that, for Tehran, the implementation of the memorandum's paragraphs, as a document that seeks to safeguard the nation's interests, occupies a position of primacy, and this priority shall remain valid for so long as the condition of securing interests is realized. In this same context, an interview has been conducted with Kourosh Ahmadi, a former Iranian diplomat and analyst of international affairs, concerning the prevailing status of Iran-US negotiations and the challenges that confront them.

Kourosh Ahmadi



ade of Iran's ports, to which I previously alluded. In such a condition, limited military attacks — that is, low-intensity warfare — in the manner witnessed over the past week, may likewise persist. This is a condition that ought not to be acceptable for Iran. Iran's socio-economic circumstances do not permit the formation of such a state.

During the recent imposed war, the Strait of Hormuz functioned as one of Iran's most significant deterrent instruments. However, with the events of recent weeks, it appears that the United States does not wish to entrust the management of it to Iran and Oman. Will the perpetuation of this condition create a new impasse, or can the existing antagonism be managed?

Concerning the Strait of Hormuz, paragraph five of the Memorandum of Understanding exists, and it is evident that the parties disagree over the interpretation of its provisions. Iran's interpretation of this paragraph is that the United States has ceded management and sovereignty over the Strait of Hormuz to Iran, and that decision-making regarding vessel transit through this strait, the traffic separation schemes, and their supervision, must be undertaken by Iran. Conversely, the opposing party's interpretation is that the "arrangements" that Iran is to consider pertain to the reopening of the strait and the safe passage of vessels, and subsequently, in the second sentence, reference is made to particulars of these arrangements, such as demining and the removal of military and technical obstructions along the route, to be executed by Iran. It is likewise specified that Iran, Oman, and other regional states shall confer with one another concerning the future administration of the strait and maritime services. Iran's interpretation of the "arrangements" it must adopt, as well as of the phrase "future administration" raised in negotiations with Oman, is that sovereignty over the entirety of the Strait of Hormuz shall reside with Iran. Whereas the opposing party infers from "future administration" and "maritime services" matters such as the management of vessel traffic, the installation of signs, maritime beacons, and analogous items, and this very divergence in interpretation has engendered the problem. Two additional factors have, moreover, created ambiguity for others. First, Iran estab-

lished the Persian Gulf Strait Authority (PGSA) and, in its corresponding statement, spoke of the prohibition of passage for vessels that have not obtained transit authorization from this organization. This matter has been construed as Iran's intention to exercise sovereignty over the entire strait and to issue transit permits under specific conditions.

The other problem is that some have presumed Iran intends for vessel traffic to occur solely along a route it designates within its own maritime territory, and that no transit shall take place in the southern half of the Strait of Hormuz. Perhaps it would be preferable for Iran to provide elucidation in this regard. Last Friday, moreover, the Council of the International Maritime Organization adopted and published a statement that apparently was formulated on the basis of those same two presumptions to which I referred. In this statement, Iran's actions are condemned on several counts.

At present, Trump's threats have become one of the obstacles to the formation of any agreement. How do you evaluate the impact of this matter upon the current process?

That is correct, and these threats are a violation of the Memorandum of Understanding; however, the issue is that, following an extensive war, verbal attacks are not exceptionally unusual. Our officials ought not to pay any mind to these statements and threats. Trump is, in general, an individual who lives in the moment and, influenced by environmental circumstances, vocalizes whatever enters his mind. Therefore, his highly contradictory pronouncements should not be taken too seriously. In Iran, too, statements and threats against Trump have been articulated, which is likewise natural. The raising of the subject of prosecuting the American president, following the aggressions and crimes that have occurred, is, to a great extent, natural for certain segments of the populace to propound. What is significant regarding these verbal threats by the American president is that our officials should concentrate seriously upon advancing the strategy that has been formulated and should not permit Trump's rhetoric to divert them from the course they deem beneficial for the nation.

The interview first appeared in Persian on IRNA.

Sitting Volleyball World Championships: Iran claims record-extending ninth men's title



Sports Desk

Iran's men's team defeated Bosnia & Herzegovina 3-1 (25-21, 25-20, 20-25, 25-16) on Friday to win the Sitting Volleyball World Championships in Hangzhou, China, cementing its status as the most decorated team in the history of the Iranian sport.

The victory also secured Iran's qualification for the Los Angeles 2028 Paralympics, where it will chase a record-extending ninth gold medal.

Meisam Alipour spearheaded Iran's attack with a match-high 24 points, including an impressive seven aces, while Morteza Mehrzad added 23 as Iran retained its dominance by claiming a record-extending ninth men's world title – its third in a row – in the 14 editions of the global showpiece. Sadeq Bigdeli and Hossein Go-

lestani contributed nine points apiece for Iran, while Mirzet Duran led Bosnia & Herzegovina with 17 points. Safet Alibasic (14) and Ermin Jusufovic (10) also reached double figures for the European side.

Friday's victory was Iran's second over its familiar rival in Hangzhou, following a 3-1 win in the pool stage. It also marked Iran's fourth consecutive victory over Bosnia & Herzegovina in a major final, having also prevailed in the title showdowns in 2018 and 2022, as well as the gold-medal contest at the Paris 2024 Paralympics.

Iran was in a league of its own throughout the tournament, conceding only three sets in seven matches.

Iran began its Pool D campaign with a comeback 3-1 victory over Poland before defeating Bosnia & Herzegovina. A comfortable

straight-set win against Japan then secured top spot in the group and a place in the round of 16 for head coach Hadi Rezaei's side.

Iran went on to sweep Croatia before defeating the United States and Kazakhstan in straight sets to book another final meeting with Bosnia & Herzegovina.

Meisam Hajbabaie, Hamidreza Abbasi, Mahdi Babadi, Ali Akbari, Davoud Alipourian, Masoud Emami, Mohammad Nemati and Jamal Nazari were the other members of Iran's squad at the World Championships.



Iranian players and coaching staff celebrate after winning the men's title at the Sitting Volleyball World Championships in Hangzhou, China, on July 17, 2026.

● FLICKR

WT World Cup Team Championships: Iran crushes Russia to secure mixed crown

Sports Desk

Iran capped off the World Taekwondo World Cup Team Championships on a high by securing the mixed team title in Chuncheon, South Korea, thanks to an emphatic straight-round victory over Russia on Thursday.

Mohammad-Hossein Yazdani, Amirina Bakhtiari, Hasti Mohammadi, Amirreza Sadeqian, Abbasali Keshi, Yalda Valinejad and Baran Nemati all featured for Iran, which had begun its campaign with a comeback victory over Morocco before defeating Thai-

land in successive rounds to book a place in the final.

Iran took control from the outset of the final and never relinquished its advantage. The opening round was closely contested early on, but the Iranians gradually established their superiority through disciplined performances and timely substitutions by coaching duo Mehrouz Saei and Payam Khanlarkhani. Maintaining the initiative throughout the round, Iran secured a 75-60 victory to move within one round of the title.

The second round was even more one-sided as Iran raced into an early lead and gave Russia little opportunity to respond. Launching a series of relentless attacks while displaying clear technical superiority, the Iranian team widened the gap throughout the contest before cruising to a commanding 115-25 victory.

The triumph marked a second medal for the female members of the Iranian squad, who had claimed a bronze medal in the women's event on the previous day of the competition in

Chuncheon.

After opening with a victory over India, the Iranian women rebounded from a semifinal defeat to Russia by beating Thailand in straight rounds in the bronze-medal contest.

The opening day of the tournament, however, proved disappointing for Iran, as the men's team suffered a shock first-round defeat to Thailand, missing out on a record-extending seventh title. The three-day tournament will be followed by the Korea Open G1, which gets underway on Friday in Chuncheon.



Iranian mixed team members offer a military salute on the podium after winning the gold medal at the World Taekwondo World Cup Team Championships in Chuncheon, South Korea, on July 16, 2026.

● WORLD TAEKWONDO

Asian Cadet Judo Championships: Historic feat as Shakibaei wins women's gold

Sports Desk

Iran's Mahsa Shakibaei made history by winning the country's first-ever gold medal at the Asian Cadet Judo Championships on Thursday. The teenage judoka achieved the milestone with a victory

over Chinese Taipei's Lin Pei-Hsin in the women's -52kg final in Amman, Jordan. Shakibaei produced a series of commanding performances to stand atop the podium, opening her campaign with a victory over Uzbekistan's

Kumushbibi Ergasheva to advance to the semifinals. She then defeated Syria's Sham Almawardi to book her place in the gold-medal contest.

The triumph adds to an already impressive résumé for Shakibaei, who also won gold at last year's Asian Youth Games in Bahrain, further underlining her status as one of the country's brightest young prospects. Elsewhere, Iran's Reza Nejadkachiani finished empty-handed in the men's -55kg division.

The Iranian opened with a victory over Kuwait's Hussain Mumen before defeating Kyrgyzstan's Ramis Asilbekov to reach the quarterfinals.

His run was halted by another Kyrgyz opponent, Baiel Ismailov, who prevailed in the last-eight contest and sent the Iranian into the repechage.

Nejadkachiani kept his medal hopes alive by defeating Jordan's Wissam Eiealslman in his opening repechage bout. However, he fell to Saudi Arabia's Mutaz Hebah in his next contest, ending his campaign just short of the bronze-medal bout.



Iran's Mahsa Shakibaei (c) poses with her women's -52kg gold medal at the Asian Cadet Judo Championships in Amman, Jordan, on July 16, 2026.

● IRIJF

Asian Boys' U18 Volleyball Championship: Iran edges host China in five-set thriller to advance to final

Sports Desk

Iran came from behind to beat host China 3-2 (18-25, 25-14, 25-21, 23-25, 15-11) on Friday and secure a place in Saturday's final at the AVC Boys' U18 Volleyball Championship in Haikou. Abolfazl Pasha-Amiri led the scoring for Iran with 20 points as the team finished the match with 106

points, including 52 from attacks, 11 blocks and six aces, while capitalizing on 37 points from Chinese errors to avenge its five-set defeat to the host in the 2024 final in Manama. Playing in front of a vocal home crowd at the Haikou Wuyuan River Gymnasium, head coach Abdolreza Alizadeh's youthful side—most of whom are

competing in their first international tournament—overcame a hostile atmosphere to extend its unbeaten run and remain on course for a record-extending eighth continental title, which would be its first since 2014.

Iran has also claimed three silver medals (2003, 2022 and 2024) and one bronze (2018) in the pre-

vious 14 editions of the tournament.

Iran completed a clean sweep in Pool B, defeating the Philippines and India in straight sets on either side of a 3-1 victory over Bahrain to progress to the quarterfinals.

Alizadeh's side then defeated South Korea 3-1 (25-19, 25-19, 11-25, 25-18) on Thursday to reach the semifinals and secure qualification for next year's FIVB Boys' U19 World Championship, alongside China, Japan and Chinese Taipei. Iran will be looking to add to its two world titles, won in 2007 and 2017, after finishing fourth at the previous edition in Tashkent in 2025.

Kamyab Abdollahifar, Amir Ali Shams, Milad Salari, Ali Sheikhzadeh, Abolfazl Pasha-Amiri and Pedram Heydarisefat started for Iran, while Nima Piri, Sajjad Asadi, Amir Mohammad Hemmati, Amirreza Hosseinzadeh, Arash Qahremani, Alireza Valaei, Benyamin Olfat and Aydin Choudar also featured during the semifinal victory.



Iranian players celebrate a point during a semifinal victory over China at the Asian Boys' U18 Volleyball Championship in Haikou, China, on July 17, 2026.

● AVC

Tabriz Bazaar preserves centuries of Iran's urban, architectural legacy

Iranica Desk

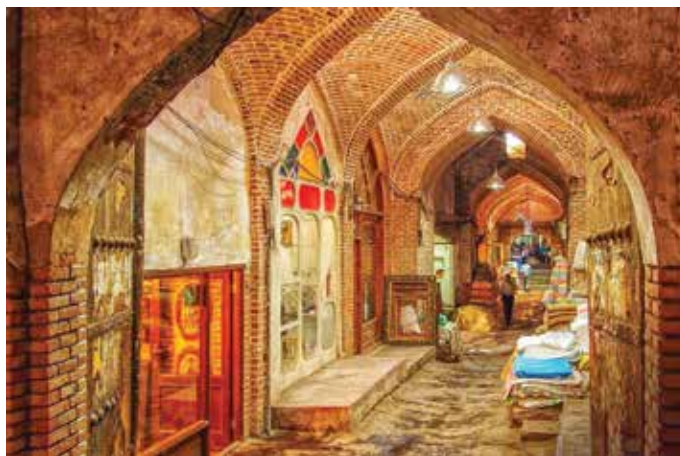
Throughout the history of Iranian civilization, bazaars have always served as some of the most important centers for the formation of social, cultural, and urban life. Among this valuable heritage, the Historic Bazaar of Tabriz holds a distinguished position as a unique complex reflecting Iran's sophisticated economic, social, and cultural systems developed over centuries. The Historic Bazaar of Tabriz was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2010 as the world's first historic bazaar to receive this recognition. Due to its outstanding universal value, the complex represents a rare example of the connection between architecture, commerce, culture, and urban life in Iranian-Islamic civilization. Covering an area of nearly one square kilometer, Tabriz Bazaar is one of the largest covered and interconnected bazaars in the world. Located along the historic Silk Road, the bazaar benefited from Tabriz's strategic position as a crossroads between East and West, making it a major hub for trade caravans, merchants, and cultural exchange for centuries. The historic bazaar was severely damaged by a devastating earthquake in 1193 AH, but it was rebuilt through the efforts of Iranian architects and craftsmen. The present structure mainly dates back to the late Zand and Qajar periods and continues to preserve the au-



thentic characteristics of traditional Iranian architecture. Before its world registration, the bazaar was listed as a national heritage site of Iran in 1975. Today, it stands as one of the most complete examples of traditional Iranian bazaars, presenting a living image of the relationship between architecture and urban life.

Architecture

Tabriz Bazaar is a remarkable collection of interconnected passages, *Timchehs* (domed commercial halls), caravanserais, courtyards, mosques, schools, bathhouses, and service spaces, all arranged according to the principles of Iranian architecture. High vaulted ceilings and domes decorated with artistic brickwork, interconnected brick structures, precise spatial proportions, and carefully designed circulation routes have transformed the bazaar into an



outstanding example of Iran's climatic and urban architecture. This architectural approach not only responded to commercial needs but also considered environmental conditions and social requirements. The structure of Tabriz Bazaar developed around two main axes, north-south and east-



irangard.com

River and are linked to the main sections through bridges and connecting pathways.

Amir Timcheh

Among the valuable spaces of Tabriz Bazaar, Amir Timcheh is one of the most remarkable examples of Iranian architectural art. Considered one of the most magnificent Timchehs in the bazaar, the structure was commissioned by Mirza Mohammad Khan Amir-Nezam Zanganeh, with its design attributed to Samad Memar, one of Tabriz's renowned architects. With its precise design, impressive central space, and harmonious geometric structure, Amir Timcheh represents a remarkable combination of aesthetic values, commercial function, and architectural craftsmanship during the Qajar period.

Living market

The significance of Tabriz Ba-

zaar is not limited to its size, architecture, or antiquity. Its true value lies in the continuous social life that has flourished within its spaces for centuries.

In this bazaar, commerce has become intertwined with culture and human interaction, creating an environment where generations have transmitted business traditions, social relationships, cultural practices, and patterns of urban life.

The presence of various groups, including merchants, wholesalers, retailers, money changers, scribes, warehouse workers, and porters, has transformed Tabriz Bazaar into a complete example of an economic and social system — one that has provided a foundation for human connections, knowledge exchange, and the development of social capital.

With hundreds of architectural and functional spaces, including passages, caravanserais, Timchehs, schools, mosques, and other urban elements, Tabriz Bazaar is considered one of the most complete examples of traditional bazaars in the world.

Today, Tabriz Bazaar stands as a living testament to the capabilities of Iranian architecture and a global example of how cultural heritage can remain connected with contemporary life. After centuries, this historic complex continues to preserve the rhythm of urban life in Tabriz and remains a vibrant symbol of Iran's commercial and cultural identity.

Nature, architecture merge at Kamiz Castle



Iranica Desk

Amid the historic landscapes of Hormozgan Province, where mountainous terrain meets the vast southern plains, Kamiz Castle stands silently atop a rocky outcrop, preserving centuries of the region's history. Located in Rudan, the adobe fortress is considered one of the most valuable examples of defensive architecture in southern Iran and holds a special place among the province's historic monuments due to its construction methods, geographical setting, and architectural features. The castle's location near historic communication routes indicates that its builders not only took advantage of the region's natural landscape but also recognized the importance of controlling movement and access routes. Constructing the fortress on elevated rocky terrain provided extensive views over the surround-

ing plains, a feature that played a key role in its defensive function, according to chn.ir. Research suggests that Kamiz Castle flourished during the medieval Islamic period and served as an important settlement center in this part of Hormozgan. Although extensive archaeological excavations have not yet been carried out at the site, field surveys and studies conducted during its national heritage registration have provided researchers with valuable information about its historical background. During these investigations, researchers collected various cultural artifacts from the site, including unglazed pottery, fine buff-colored and Islamic glazed ceramics, blue-and-white vessels, and part of a glass ornament. These discoveries indicate that Kamiz Castle was once a place of habitation and daily activity. The variety of cultural remains also points to the region's con-



nections with important cultural and commercial centers during the Islamic period. Some researchers believe that the fortress may have been among the castles damaged and abandoned during Timur's campaigns in southern Iran. Although this hypothesis requires further archaeological studies and scientific investigation, the existing evidence highlights the historical importance of the site. One of Kamiz Castle's most remarkable features is the close integration between its architecture and the surrounding natural environment. Rather than altering the natural rocky landscape, the builders designed the various elements of the fortress according to the terrain's elevations and contours. This approach not only increased the structure's stability but also turned the natural landscape into part of the castle's defensive system, a level of harmony rarely seen in historic for-

tifications across Iran. Watchtowers and defensive structures were positioned around all four sides of the castle, with smaller towers built between them to reinforce the walls. These structures strengthened the fortress and enabled more effective defense of different sections, creating a coordinated defensive network. The natural characteristics of the site made many access routes to the fortress difficult and, in some areas, almost impossible to pass. As a result, the builders created strong protective walls and carefully controlled entrances, designing the access route in a way that allowed complete supervision. This design reflects their advanced understanding of military architecture and their intelligent use of natural advantages. A surrounding adobe wall formed the first defensive layer of the complex. In some sections, natural rock formations re-



eneshat.com

placed parts of the wall, further strengthening the connection between architecture and nature. The use of sun-dried mud bricks and clay mortar, in addition to being suitable for the local climate, demonstrates the continuation of indigenous architectural traditions in southern Iran, based on a deep understanding of the environment and the use of locally available materials. Although the passage of time, natural elements, and erosion have damaged parts of this valuable monument, the surviving towers, walls, and interior spaces still reveal its former grandeur. Among the remaining ruins, traces of the castle's spatial organization can still be observed, showing that the complex once served as one of the region's most important defensive centers. The first conservation and restoration efforts at Kamiz Castle were carried out in recent decades to prevent further deteri-

oration. During these projects, compatible materials were prepared according to the historic structure of the monument, and damaged sections of the walls were reinforced and restored to slow the process of erosion. However, experts emphasize that further research on the castle still requires archaeological excavations, detailed documentation, and specialized studies that could reveal unknown aspects of its history and role in the developments of southern Iran. Registered as a national heritage site of Iran, Kamiz Castle is recognized today as one of the most significant examples of adobe defensive architecture in Hormozgan Province. Beyond its historical importance, the fortress has considerable potential for cultural tourism development, introducing southern Iran's architectural heritage, and expanding archaeological research.



Salehi proposes joint catalog of Iran, Kyrgyzstan manuscripts

'Shahnameh,' 'Manas' set to anchor new cultural cooperation

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Abbas Salehi proposed a comprehensive joint catalog of manuscript collections held in Iran and Kyrgyzstan during talks with Eldar Attokurov, head of National Library of the Kyrgyz Republic, as the two sides explored deeper scholarly and cultural cooperation on the sidelines of the 23rd Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Culture Ministers' Meeting.

The manuscript initiative came alongside a broader push to expand cooperation around the Persian epic 'Shahnameh' (Book of Kings) and Kyrgyzstan's national epic 'Manas,' two literary masterpieces that Salehi described as a "natural foundation for practical cultural projects" spanning

miniature painting, traditional storytelling, music, and other artistic fields.

During his visit to the Kyrgyzstan national library, Salehi stressed the importance of identifying and making greater scholarly use of the valuable Persian manuscripts preserved in Kyrgyz collections.

He said advances in library technologies and artificial intelligence now make it possible to accelerate searches and improve access to manuscript data. "Using these advanced tools, information on manuscripts can be extracted more quickly and accurately and made available to researchers around the world," he said.

Calling for concrete cooperation beyond formal agreements, Salehi proposed launching a detailed inventory of manuscript holdings in both countries. "The first step is to at least examine each other's manuscript catalogs so we can identify where new information and previously unknown materials may be found," he said.

Attokurov welcomed the proposal, emphasizing the importance of safeguarding written heritage and strengthening joint cultural and academic cooperation between the two countries.

Earlier, in a meeting with the head of the National Museum of History of Kyrgyzstan, Salehi urged both sides to complement cultural agreements with practical projects that could be implemented without lengthy coordination. "The more we cooperate on Shahnameh and Manas, the more



Iranian Culture Minister Abbas Salehi (3rd L) meets with Head of the National Museum of History of Kyrgyzstan Eldar Attokurov in Bishkek (3rd R) on July 17, 2026, on the sidelines of the 23rd SCO Culture Ministers' Meeting. ● farhang.gov.ir

valuable our achievements will be," he said, noting that the two epics offer broad opportunities for joint programs in visual arts, oral performance traditions, music, and related cultural fields.

Manas, inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2013, is regarded as the world's longest epic poem and a cornerstone of Kyrgyz cultural identity, recounting generations of struggles to unite scattered tribes and resist foreign



aggression.

During his official visit, Salehi also paid tribute to celebrated Kyrgyz writer Chingiz Aitmatov at the Ata-Beyit memorial complex, recalling his four decades of familiarity with the author's works through Persian translations.

He laid flowers at Aitmatov's grave

and honored other prominent national figures buried at the site.

Salehi arrived in Bishkek on July 16 to attend the SCO culture ministers' meeting, where he is also scheduled to hold bilateral talks with regional counterparts and pursue a cultural exchange agreement between Iran and Kyrgyzstan.

Regional dialogue tops agenda at Egypt National Day reception in Tehran

Social Desk

Head of Iranology Foundation Ali Akbar Salehi used Egypt's National Day reception in Tehran on Thursday to call for renewed dialogue and regional cooperation, saying countries caught up in the Middle East crisis should abandon the "blame game" and return to diplomacy before "it is too late." Speaking at the event hosted by Mohamed Diaa El-Din Abd Rabbo, head of the Egyptian Interests Section in Tehran, Salehi congratulated Egypt's government and people on their national day and described Iran and Egypt as two ancient civilizations whose ties stretch back thousands of years, IRNA reported. "The time has come to put aside the blame game, sit at the negotiating table, and work together to find a way out of the current crisis for the benefit of all countries and peoples of the region," Salehi said. The former



Head of Iranology Foundation Ali Akbar Salehi speaks during Egypt's National Day reception in Tehran on July 16, 2026. ● iranology.ir

foreign minister, who now heads the Iranology Foundation, said the Middle East was passing through what he described as an "artificially created crisis," arguing that policymakers bear a responsibility to resolve tensions through "reason and wisdom."

He said the Islamic Republic has consistently based its foreign policy on "rationality, wisdom and diplomacy," adding that Tehran seeks regional peace and stability because sustainable development cannot be achieved without security. "Iran has no desire

to see tensions escalate," Salehi said. "The greater the security in the region, the greater the benefit for Iran. We seek peace and security for all countries, not for a select few." He also pointed to ongoing consultations with regional partners, naming Egypt, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Oman among the countries working to help steer the region toward a diplomatic solution. Expressing optimism that constructive engagement could pave the way for lasting solutions, Salehi said misunderstandings between states are inevitable but should always be settled through dialogue rather than mutual accusations. On the sidelines of the ceremony, Salehi held talks with head of the Egyptian Interests Section in Tehran and met ambassadors and senior diplomats from Oman, Denmark, Germany, France, Italy, Romania, Britain and several Arab states accredited to Tehran.

Uzbekistan seeks closer medical cooperation with Iran

Social Desk

Iran's Ambassador to Uzbekistan, Mohammad Ali Eskandari, and Uzbek Health Minister Eldor Adilov agreed in Tashkent on July 16 to broaden bilateral cooperation in healthcare, pharmaceuticals, medical technology, and medical education, with both sides endorsing a roadmap for deeper collaboration and wider use of Iran's medical expertise.

During the meeting, Eskandari outlined Iran's latest achievements in healthcare, medical treatment, and medical education, highlighting the country's capabilities in pharmaceutical manufacturing, medical equipment production, scientific research, and health services. He also pointed to Iran's growing role in medical tourism and its ac-



ademic standing in a range of medical disciplines, ILNA reported.

Eskandari described Iran's health sector as a strong platform for expanding cooperation between Tehran and Tashkent, reaffirming Iran's readiness to share its scientific expertise, clinical experience, and healthcare inno-

ventions with Uzbekistan.

Adilov welcomed closer engagement and expressed Uzbekistan's readiness to implement the bilateral cooperation roadmap across the health sector.

He voiced support for expanding institutional ties and strengthening collaboration in medicine and public health. The two sides also agreed to deepen cooperation between universities, research institutes, and healthcare centers, while encouraging joint investment and collaborative projects in pharmaceuticals and medical equipment.

Both officials identified the exchange of Iran's medical knowledge and technological achievements as a key pillar of future cooperation, saying expanded scientific and clinical partnerships could further strengthen health relations between the two countries.

Iranian thriller wins Special Jury Prize in North Macedonia



Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian director Mohsen Bahari's debut feature 'The Gambler' captured the Special Jury Prize at the fifth Across the Lake International Film Festival in North Macedonia, organizers announced after the festival wrapped up on July 15.

The event, held across Dojran, Strumica and Gevgelija, spotlights Balkan and Mediterranean cinema and placed

Iranian cinema in special focus this year, IRNA reported. Marking its first international festival appearance, the social thriller drew attention with its contemporary cyber-security storyline. Bahari said the film is inspired by two real-life incidents that were dramatized for the screen, adding that its central theme follows a man who transforms over the course of a single night in an attempt to redeem a grave mistake. "War is no longer fought only with tanks and guns," he said. "Today, it can begin with a single code."

The Farabi Cinema Foundation production is also set to represent Iranian cinema in the competition section

of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Film Festival in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, where it is scheduled to screen in the coming days.

Produced by Sajjad Nasrollahi, 'The Gambler' previously won the Best First-Time Director Crystal Simorgh at the Fajr International Film Festival and earned five additional Crystal Simorgh nominations. The film stars Kourosh Tahami, Armin Rahimian, Shabnam Ghorbani, Amir Nouroozi, Roshan Rostampour, and Emad Emami. Its plot follows the aftermath of a cyberattack on an Iranian bank, as an experienced intelligence officer races to uncover the truth and safeguard national security.



Notice of tender for export sale No. Z/1405/11

Gol Gohar Mining and Industrial Company

Hereby Gol Gohar Mining & Industrial Co. announces selling and export 70.000 metric tons of Iron Ore Concentrate (%Fe:68 ave.) on basis of F.O.B at Rajaei Jetty Bandar Abbas - Iran. Interested bidders should find tender documents at Golgohar website: www.geg.ir. All bids on conformity to tender instructions must be submitted no later than 09:00 A.M. on 28. July.2026 to Golgohar complex in Sirjan (50 km in shiraz road). Bidders are invited to the transactions commission department of the seller with an introduction letter of interested buyer and personal identification of the representative. Tender results shall be announced at 09:00 A.M. on 28. July.2026 at the office of the Seller.

GOLGOHAR MINING & INDUSTRIAL CO.

Analysis %	
%Fe Ave	68.00
%FeO	Min 24 Max 28
%P Max	0.035
%S Ave	0.5
%SiO2 Max	2.2
%Al2O3 Max	0.6
%CaO Max	0.7
%MgO Max	2.2
%Moisture Max	7.0
Blaine (cm2/gr) Ave	1100
Size ave	80%<0.15 mm



Notice of tender for export sale No. Z/1405/12

Gol Gohar Mining and Industrial Company

Hereby Golgohar Mining & Industrial Co. announces selling and export 70,000 metric tons of Pellet (%Fe:65.50) on basis of F.O.B at Barco Jetty Bandar Abbas - Iran. Interested bidders should find tender documents at Golgohar website: www.geg.ir. All bids on conformity to tender instructions must be submitted no later than 09:00 A.M. on 28. July.2026 to Golgohar complex in Sirjan (50 km in shiraz road). Bidders are invited to the transactions commission department of the seller with an introduction letter of interested buyer and personal identification of the representative. Tender results shall be announced at 09:00 A.M. on 28. July.2026 at the office of the Seller.

GOLGOHAR MINING & INDUSTRIAL CO.

Analysis %	
%Fe	65.50 Ave
%FeO	1.0 Ave
%P	0.04 Max
%S	0.01 Max
%SiO2	3.0 Max
%Al2O3	0.7 Max
%CaO	0.7 Max
%MgO	2.5 Max
CCS (kg/p)	Ave 250
8-16 mm%	Min 90
-6 mm%	Ave 5
A.I%	Max 3.5
T.I%	Min 95
Prosioty%	19-24
Reducibility%	Min 90