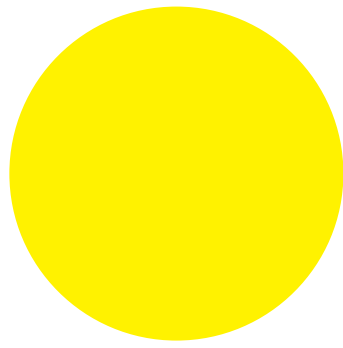


Tehran puppet museum reopens with 800 marionettes, gains national registration

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Araghchi calls for global shift from military intervention

Wars never create security, lasting peace

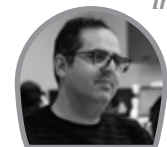
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UNGA can open new economic channels for Iran

By Delaram Ahmadi
Staff writer

INTERVIEW

As President Masoud Pezeshkian and Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi prepare to attend the United Nations General Assembly in New York, Iran is facing a new phase of economic pressure from the United States. Washington has expanded its sanctions campaign to financial institutions, trade networks and companies accused of helping Iran maintain access to international markets. The latest measures have also increased the risks for foreign banks and businesses dealing with Iran.



Mohammad Amin Mokarrami

Against this backdrop, the UN General Assembly can provide Iran with an important diplomatic opportunity to strengthen economic ties with other countries and discuss practical ways to maintain trade and financial channels. Mohammad Amin Mokarrami, an economic journalist, told Iran Daily that the Iranian delegation can use its meetings in New York to promote new payment mechanisms, protect energy trade, strengthen cooperation with BRICS and regional partners, and attract investment into Iran's infrastructure and connectivity projects.

IRAN DAILY: With the United States expanding sanctions from individual companies and banks to wider financial and trade networks, what economic measures can President Pezeshkian and Foreign Minister Araghchi promote in New York to strengthen Iran's access to international markets?

MOKARRAMI: Iran needs to use the UN General Assembly as an economic and diplomatic platform, not only a political one. The Iranian delegation can explain how expanding sanctions are affecting normal trade, banking, shipping and access to essential economic services. One important step would be to strengthen economic cooperation with countries willing to maintain trade with Iran, particularly major Asian economies and BRICS members. Iran can use meetings with foreign leaders and economic officials to discuss settling trade in national currencies, expanding barter arrangements and reducing dependence on financial channels exposed to US sanctions.

The delegation can also seek broader international support for legitimate trade with Iran, including food, medicine, energy and other essential goods. At the same time, Tehran can present specific investment opportunities in energy, transportation, mining and agriculture.

The goal should be to turn diplomatic contacts in New York into practical economic arrangements that can continue after the General Assembly ends.

Given US pressure on Iranian oil exports, shipping companies and maritime networks, what can the Iranian delegation do in New York to protect energy revenues and keep trade routes open?

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Energy and shipping are critical because restrictions on oil exports and maritime transportation directly affect Iran's foreign-exchange revenues and trade.

Images appear to show heavy damage at US base in Kuwait after Iranian retaliation

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Newly published photos show the aftermath of Iranian strikes on US military assets in Kuwait during a US-Israeli war on Iran that began in Late February.

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Fallout of US-Canada trade war won't be limited to North America



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Araghchi calls for global shift from military intervention

Wars never create security, lasting peace

International Desk

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi described the US and Israeli military aggression against Iran as "illegal, unjust and aggressive" and called for a global shift away from military intervention toward respect for national sovereignty.

Speaking by videoconference at the 2026 Global Town Hall hosted by Indonesia's Foreign Policy Community on Saturday, Araghchi said the war on Iran that began in late February was part of a broader pattern of "unpunished aggressions", including targeted assassinations of Iranian officials, threats against political figures and violations of national sovereignty.

"If these are not met with an effective response from the international community, they will gradually erase the prohibited boundaries of international law," Araghchi said.

He argued that decades of foreign intervention, military pressure and wars in the Middle East had demonstrated that military intervention did not create security and that coercion did not lead to peace.

The top diplomat said military force had increasingly ceased to be a last resort and had instead become a permanent mechanism for reshaping the political and security landscape of the region.

"Under such circumstances, aggression becomes institutionalized, and destruction turns from a consequence of war into an instrument for advancing political goals," he said.

The foreign minister also criticized what he described as the selective application of international law, saying human rights could not be treated as an inherent right for some nations and a conditional privilege for others.



Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi addresses via videoconference the 2026 Global Town Hall hosted by Indonesia's Foreign Policy Community on September 19, 2026.

● mfa.ir

He called for a change in the international system "from militarism to sustainable development, from interventionism toward respect for national sovereignty, from collective punishment toward the protection of civilians, from selective accountability toward universal justice and from endless wars toward lasting peace".

Araghchi said the international community faced a "historic and civilizational choice" between continuing along the path of militarism and confrontation or showing the political will and courage to change course.



"This fundamental turnaround ... is what today's world needs, and its time

is neither tomorrow nor in an uncertain future. Its time is now," he said.

Images appear to show heavy damage at US base in Kuwait after Iranian retaliation

International Desk

Newly released images appear to show extensive damage to several structures, including a bunker and runway, at a US military base in Kuwait following Iranian strikes. The images, published by MeidasTouch, suggest that several buildings were destroyed, with debris scattered across the site.

A bunker designed to protect military personnel also appears to have been struck apparently by a drone, while the base's runway appears to have been severely damaged.

Tasnim News Agency said it investigation concluded that the site was likely Camp Arifjan.

The findings are consistent with a separate report by ABC News this week, which included images and videos showing extensive damage to buildings and at least one aircraft at three US bases in Kuwait, including Camp Arifjan, and Prince



The photo shows the aftermath of Iranian strikes on US military assets in Kuwait during a war that began by the United States and Israel on Iran in late February.

● MeidasTouch

Air Base in late March.

A senior US military official described the damage as severe, saying rebuilding the affected bases would take decades. The official also criticized the Pentagon for a lack of transparency over continuing drone and ballistic missile attacks on US bases.

A Pentagon inspector general's report released on Monday said "hundreds of buildings and structures" had been damaged. It estimated the cost of the war at \$33 billion, while the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office put the figure at \$38 billion. US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth acknowledged that some Iranian weapons had penetrated US defense systems.

Sultan Air Base in Saudi Arabia.

Some US equipment and personnel were reportedly withdrawn from the Saudi base following the threat. CBS News also reported extensive damage to US bases earlier this week.

The Pentagon has not publicly released a detailed assessment of damage to US facilities in Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Oman and Jordan. Satellite imagery has repeatedly shown evidence of

Iranian attacks on US positions across the region. The Pentagon says 18 US service members have been killed and 824 wounded since the US-Israeli war on Iran began on February 28.

ABC News reported that images received from US personnel showed damaged buildings and an aircraft at three bases in Kuwait and one in Saudi Arabia.

One image reportedly showed an E-3 Sentry surveillance aircraft, valued at about \$270mn, damaged at Prince Sultan

South Korean groups protest US pressure to deploy troops to Hormuz



International Desk

South Korean civil society groups gathered near the US Embassy in Seoul on Saturday to protest US President Donald Trump's pressure on South Korea to deploy troops to the Strait of Hormuz. The demonstrators, hochanted slogans opposing any military deployment, a day after President Lee Jae Myung reiterated that Seoul would not send troops to participate in the US war on Iran, BBC reported.

"There will be no involvement or intervention in the war. We will not deploy troops or military assets in that manner," Lee told reporters at a press conference at the presidential Blue House on Friday.

Trump has openly criticized South Ko-

rea's refusal to participate in the war against Iran and scaled back major joint military exercises between the two countries' armies this summer.

Reports earlier this month said South Korea was considering deploying military assets to the Strait of Hormuz, which has remained under Iranian control since the early stages of the US-Israeli war against Iran in late February. Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei warned on September 7 that any military presence by other countries in the Persian Gulf or the Strait of Hormuz would amount to direct support for the aggressor and carry serious consequences.

Iran restricted transit through the Strait of Hormuz in response to the US-Israeli aggression that began on February 28.

Iran weighs holding parliamentary, presidential elections together in 2028

National Desk

Iran is working to hold parliamentary and presidential elections simultaneously in April or May 2028, the Interior Ministry spokesman Ali Zeynivand said on Saturday, in a move that would bring forward the parliamentary vote and align the two electoral cycles. "A working group was formed to merge the two elections. It comprises the Interior Ministry, the Parliament's Research Center, the Guardian Council and the Expediency Council," Zeynivand was quoted as saying by ISNA.

"After reviewing the issue, we found that it is possible to merge



the elections without changing the constitution," he added.

"Nobody opposes this issue either. We are finalizing the matter so that, after obtaining more precise views from the relevant bodies, we can submit it to Parliament in the form of a bill," Zeynivand pointed

out.

Under Iran's current electoral timetable, the next parliamentary election is scheduled for February or March 2028, while the presidential election is due to be held in May or June of the same year. Zeynivand expressed hope that both elections could instead take place in April or May 2028.

Iran's local council elections, which had been scheduled for spring this year, were postponed because of wartime conditions. Iranian officials said the elections would be held two months after the end of an ongoing war that began with joint US-Israeli strikes on late February.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

CARTOON



Bushehr Free Zone can become Iran’s top export terminal: *Businessman*

Economy Desk

A member of the Bushehr Chamber of Commerce and the Iran-Kuwait Joint Chamber maintained that the Bushehr Free Trade-Industrial Zone, with its strategic position in the Persian Gulf, direct access to open waters, and proximity to the countries bordering this body of water, has the capacity to become one of the country’s most important export terminals.

Sirous Dehqani, however, told IRNA that the realization of this goal requires a focus on local advantages, the development of logistics infrastructure, and the facilitation of administrative and commercial processes.

“Furthermore, on this path, the specialization of export terminals for non-metallic minerals and petrochemical products, the mechanization of loading and unloading processes, and the establishment of a single administrative and electronic window must be prioritized,” he added.

The member of the Bushehr Chamber of Commerce said that the approach of the free zone should not be based

on “scattered efforts,” but rather investments must be concentrated on the “main and local advantages of the province”.

According to Dehqani, directing investment toward the processing, granulation, and export of non-metallic minerals — including limestone, gypsum, and clinker — and providing the infrastructure for bulk and container exports of these products can play a role in the development of non-oil exports.

The development of downstream petrochemical industries and the processing and standard packaging industries of fisheries and aquatic products, in accordance with the needs of the markets of Arab and Asian countries, are also among the capacities that Dehqani believes must be taken into consideration.

The member of the Iran-Kuwait Joint Chamber emphasized that the main goal should be the creation of added value for the province’s manufactured products and the prevention of raw material sales, “so that the Bushehr Free Zone can play a more effective role in the regional trade chain”.

The photo shows the front gate of the Bushehr Free Trade-Industrial Zone Organization in Bushehr, southern Iran.

● IRNA



Necessity of modernizing port and logistics infrastructure

Dehqani considered the reduction of cargo dwell time and vessel waiting time as factors affecting the increase in the competitiveness of ports and said: Equipping wharves with modern and mechanized loading and unloading facilities and using continuous loading equipment can increase the speed of port operations and reduce the costs caused by vessel stoppage.

He described the development of port backlands, the creation of silos and smart warehouses, and the development of combined transportation and the proper connection of transportation networks to port terminals as other infrastructure needs of the Bushehr Free Zone.

“The connection of Bushehr province to

the national railway network, the completion of the Bushehr railway project, and the development of desalination, electricity, communications, and logistics services infrastructure must be taken into consideration in the development plan of the free zone,” Dehqani reminded.

Attracting domestic and foreign investment, developing non-oil exports, creating added value for petrochemical, agricultural, fisheries, and mineral products,

creating employment and developing human resources, and strengthening maritime transit will be among the most important functions of this zone.

“The approach of the Bushehr Free Zone should not be merely import-oriented, but must be based on industry-orientedness, export-orientedness, completion of the value chain, development of the sea-based economy, and trade facilitation,” he emphasized.

Chabahar Airport ready to resume full operations



Economy Desk

Chabahar Airport in southeastern Iran, after conducting technical

and operational assessments, has achieved the necessary readiness to return to Iran’s aviation operational cycle following the earlier US-Israeli attacks.

According to the country’s Civil Aviation Organization, a delegation of inspectors and technical experts from the offices of airport operations oversight and aviation operations examined and evaluated the infrastructure, facilities, and airport and air navigation equipment, IRNA reported.

This visit was conducted with the aim of examining the level of readiness

and capability for safe utilization of civilian infrastructure and sections used in civil aviation; sections that had suffered damage during the recent imposed war.

During this assessment, the status of equipment and systems related to airport operations and air navigation services, the extent of damage repair, and also the technical and operational requirements needed for the resumption of airport activity were examined.

Based on the results of the technical and operational assessments con-

ducted, Chabahar Airport’s readiness for the resumption of aviation activities was confirmed.

Director General of Crisis Management of Sistan and Baluchestan Governorate Majid Mohebbi had previously said that in the recent attacks by the US and Israel, in addition to some military infrastructure, parts of the port area, maritime surveillance and monitoring, and also airport facilities of the province had been damaged.

Mohebbi, stating that the airports of Iranshahr, Saravan, and Konarak had

suffered damage, added: “At Konarak and Iranshahr airports, the damages to infrastructure facilities have been significant.”

The attack on airports and other public and service facilities in various provinces of Iran indicates the criminal and unlawful expansion of America and Israel’s target list to civilian infrastructure and public services; attacks whose effects have not been limited merely to physical damages and have directly affected the lives, health, security, livelihood, and access of citizens to essential services.

Banking, trade, and transit Hemmati’s 2026 regional tour, Iran’s economic pivot

By Golzar Aghaei
Economic policy specialist

OPINION
EXCLUSIVE

Abdolnaser Hemmati, governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI), has logged five foreign trips in six months, targeting payment corridors, blocked assets, and border trade. When Hemmati traveled to Istanbul on September 13, 2026, to attend the meeting of central bank governors from Islamic countries, it marked the latest stop in a year of intensive financial diplomacy. The trip — part of a broader 1405 regional tour that has already taken him to Pakistan, Qatar, Russia, India, and Iraq — reflects a shift from reactive crisis management to an attempt to build alternative economic architecture.

Istanbul; money, mechanisms, and Muslim markets

In Istanbul, CBI Governor Hemmati met with the Turkish and Tunisian central bank governors on the sidelines of the Islamic countries’ central bank summit. Talks focused on expanding monetary and banking cooperation among Islamic states and creating new mechanisms for trade exchanges. For Iran — cut off from SWIFT and under renewed sanctions — this represents a possible parallel financial channel.

At the OIC meeting, Hemmati said some external and sanctions-related pressure

is deliberately aimed at fueling perceived inflation, eroding public confidence, and turning economic hardship into social discontent. He stressed monetary discipline, exchange-rate stability, and prioritizing essential goods in foreign-exchange allocation as the central bank’s first line of defense.

The 1405 (2026) tour: from Baghdad to Moscow

In the six months after the 12-day war, CBI Governor Hemmati made five foreign trips, with the Istanbul summit the latest. The main stops were:

- **Iraq (August 2026):** Pursued banking claims from Iraqi banks and government; sought to sustain/expand approximately \$12 billion annual exports; met trade minister, finance minister, and central bank governor; focused on removing trade and banking obstacles and speeding up border procedures.
- **Russia (June 2026):** Pushed for expanded banking cooperation, more financing for bilateral trade, and a stronger role for Mir Business Bank in supporting the INSTC; announced a permanent banking committee; stressed lower transaction costs and mechanisms independent of conventional restrictions.
- **India (August 2026):** At the first BRICS finance ministers/central bank governors meeting, called for a dedicated BRICS financial corridor and integration of national payment networks.
- **Qatar (June 2026):** Pursued release of blocked Iranian assets — reportedly approximately \$12 billion, possibly up to \$25 billion; Qatar already holds about

\$6 billion transferred from South Korea in 2023.

Transit; the missing pillar

Transit is essential to Hemmati’s regional strategy. The INSTC, linking India, Iran, and Russia, has been a recurring theme. In Moscow, Hemmati emphasized Mir Business Bank’s role in supporting the corridor and removing obstacles to opening letters of credit (LCs) for Iranian traders. In Baghdad, he highlighted the need for new mechanisms at border entry points to speed up trade.

The activation of a permanent banking committee with Russia is also intended to keep transit-related financial agreements on track.

For Iran, transit revenue offers a way to monetize its geography and reduce reliance on oil exports.

The domestic anchor

All of this international maneuvering is anchored to a domestic reality that Hemmati has been unusually candid about. At the “Iran Economic Outlook 1405” conference, he disclosed that the CBI’s foreign exchange policy reforms had reduced daily currency demand at the exchange center from roughly \$600 million to about \$150 million, while foreign exchange returning to the trade cycle had doubled from \$2 billion in 2025 to over \$4 billion in the Persian calendar month of Bahman (January 22–February 19). Net foreign currency purchases added \$4.5 billion to Iran’s reserves. Yet he also delivered a stark warning:



The Governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) Abdolnaser Hemmati (4th-L) holds talks with his Tunisian counterpart on the sidelines of the summit of Central Bank Governors of Islamic countries on September 14, 2026.

● IRNA

real per capita income fell approximately 47% between 2010–2024, and gross fixed capital formation contracted by 13.2% in the third quarter of 2025. “Price stability alone does not create new goods and services,” he said, emphasizing that restoring purchasing power requires production, investment, productivity, and productive employment — a task beyond the central bank’s sole capacity.

A pivot under pressure

Hemmati’s 2026 regional tour is a rational but second-best response to Iran’s financial isolation. It seeks partial substitutes for SWIFT and dollar clearing through bilateral payment links with Russia, BRICS corridors, Iraqi banking-claims recovery, and Qatari asset release. These are mainly liquidity and transaction-cost measures; they can

ease trade financing and FX pressure, but they cannot drive growth.

Each external channel has limits: local-currency settlement faces convertibility and liquidity problems; BRICS corridors lack a settlement asset; Iraqi claims are largely one-time; Qatari asset releases are often restricted and may fuel inflation if not sterilized. Domestically, investment is contracting, per-capita income has fallen sharply, banks remain fragile, and fiscal dominance weakens inflation control. External financial diplomacy can buy time, but it cannot offset these structural problems.

Bottom line: It is a liquidity strategy, not a growth strategy — necessary but not sufficient. The key question is whether external openings mature fast enough to offset internal economic decay.

Fallout of US-Canada trade war won't be limited to North America



By Barbara Weisel

Former US chief negotiator of the Trans-Pacific Partnership

OPINION

On September 8, President Donald Trump further escalated the US-Canada trade war, banning the import of some Canadian goods, in response to Canada's retaliatory tariffs that took effect the same day. It is difficult to view Trump's actions against Canada as anything other than unnecessary, avoidable, short-sighted, and harmful to both economies. Crucially, these moves deepen widespread concerns about the Trump administration's trade policy — not only across North America, but with other key partners, including in the Asia Pacific.

Indeed, the administration's confrontational approach risks weakening the North American production platform that supports US competitiveness. The dispute also forfeits a chance to build a coherent trade framework that advances long-term US economic and strategic interests by aligning partners around shared goals rather than relying on coercion. Moreover, by focusing on bilateral relationships, the United States is missing a chance to shape global trade through commitments backed by a meaningful coalition of partners. Finally, a trade war with Canada — and with other US allies and partners — wastes time and diverts attention away from real and urgent strategic challenges the United States cannot afford to neglect.

How we got here

In July, the United States declined to extend the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), which was negotiated during the first Trump administration. The move left the agreement in place until 2036 but triggered annual joint reviews through then. As a condition for opening trilateral talks on extending the agreement for another sixteen years, the United States demanded progress in separate bilateral negotiations with Canada and Mexico. Discussions with Mexico were advancing, but Trump became impatient with the slow pace of negotiations with Canada and threatened to impose tariffs on Canadian goods unless Canada capitulated to US demands within thirty days.

Negotiations in that window seemed to be proceeding toward a successful conclusion, and businesses that have deep supply chains based on USMCA rules were relieved. But the deal collapsed in August, and the United States imposed a 50-percent tariff on \$20 billion worth of Canadian goods. Canada responded with dollar-for-dollar retaliatory tariffs that went into effect on September 8. Washington counter-retaliated the same day, banning imports of Canadian motorcycles, certain dairy products, and alcoholic beverages. It also modified the July tariff list, swapping out some products for others it said would better serve the public interest, and it ordered the removal of Canadian products from US government procurement programs accounting for more than \$50 billion annually.

Divergent goals

The two countries disagree on the cause of the breakdown in negotiations, but the collapse reflected a deeper erosion of trust on both sides and fundamental differences over objectives.

The United States focused on reducing its trade deficit with Canada, including by pressing for rules that would shift more manufacturing to the United States. It sought to rebalance trade and address barriers in specific sectors, including automotive, dairy, and alcoholic beverages, as well as align Ottawa's economic secu-



ity policies with Washington's. It also wanted to gain preferential access to Canada's critical mineral resources. Canada, by contrast, sought to build a "Fortress North America" that would eliminate tariffs among the United States, Canada, and Mexico and establish more common external tariffs. It also wanted specific tariffs — known as Section 232 tariffs — on Canadian steel, aluminum, autos, lumber, and other goods removed.

Before making major concessions, the Canadian government wanted assurances that the deal's terms would hold and that the United States would not later use new national security or other tariffs to undermine the balance of the bargain struck. The Trump administration is correct that access to the US market can be a powerful motivator for other countries to accept even disproportionate US demands. But accepting such terms while leaving Washington broad authority to impose new tariffs or make unilateral demands would put the Canadian government in a politically untenable position and cast Canada less as a US partner than as a vassal state.



The fifth Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) summit convenes in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on October 27, 2025.

● ASEAN SECRETARIAT

Politics complicate compromise

In addition to differing negotiating goals, upcoming US and Canadian elections made compromise more difficult. The hardest issues in any negotiation are often left for political leaders to resolve at the end, and those talks can take time and become heated. Imposing tariffs — and negotiating in public — only makes concessions harder by encouraging both sides to dig in to protect their political standing. Nor was there any urgency: Under the terms of USMCA, the two countries had another decade to agree on changes. The United States has longstanding concerns it wants to address before concluding a deal, but both sides could have explored possible win-win compromises and returned to the table after their respective elections, when the political calculus might have shifted. The new tariffs will be a strain on businesses and consumers in both countries, especially given inflation caused by the Iran war and the broader Trump administration tariffs on countries around the world. But they appear to be more of an immediate political liability in the United States than in Canada. Canada sends nearly 75 percent of its exports to the United States, so the import bans and tariffs will increase economic pres-



The Trump administration is correct that access to the US market can be a powerful motivator for other countries to accept even disproportionate US demands. But accepting such terms while leaving Washington broad authority to impose new tariffs or make unilateral demands would put the Canadian government in a politically untenable position and cast Canada less as a US partner than as a vassal state.

sure, although some regions will be hit harder than others. However, Canadians have overwhelmingly supported Prime Minister Mark Carney's decision to walk away from negotiations and retaliate, and his Liberal Party won all three federal special elections last month. And the Canadian government has announced the goal of creating \$300 billion more in non-US trade in the next decade, including by negotiating new trade agreements with partners around the world, attracting more foreign investment, and building trade-enabling infrastructure. It also announced a \$7.5 billion expanded economic relief program for workers affected by US tariffs, building on the nearly \$25 billion in support it has provided since the Trump administration first imposed tariffs.

● GIBRUC/TELANGANA TODAY

By contrast, Trump's approval rating has fallen to its lowest yet, according to recent polls, with voters citing growing concerns about the cost of living and most rejecting Trump's trade policy. Some Republicans have raised concerns behind closed doors with Trump administration officials about the tariffs on Canada, but many stand behind him. Democrats are fiercely criticizing the Canada tariffs. Should Democrats take one or both houses of Congress in November, Trump may face additional constraints on his trade policies.

Notwithstanding these political dynamics, both sides have an interest in reaching agreement as soon as possible — but the damage to the bilateral partnership is likely to outlast the Trump administration. Lingering mistrust will make Canada less willing to cooperate with the United States on economic initiatives, including efforts to address shared challenges. The Trump administration's bilateral focus and reliance on tariffs — which it incorrectly sees as the only way to leverage US market power — will also limit opportunities to build broader coalitions better suited to tackling emerging trade problems, such as Chinese overcapacity.

In past negotiations, tariff threats were not necessary for other countries to accept US-proposed rules, even politically difficult ones. America's trading partners defended their interests, but they ultimately believed Washington would find mutually beneficial outcomes rather than insist on one-sided deals. They also believed that the United States stood for values and a rules-based trading system that they respected and wanted to help strengthen. That belief has been severely eroded.

The view from Asia

US trading partners in Asia are watching the US-Canada dispute closely for signs of how it may affect their own interests. Washington's action will reinforce the view that even close, strategically aligned, and economically important partners are not immune from US pressure unless they yield. While leverage from China forced the Trump administration to retreat from its tariff war and seek managed competition, Washington's reaction to Ottawa will make Asian governments even more cautious about defying the United States or provoking Trump.

Asian governments share Canada's concern about the lack of certainty and predictability that is likely to result from the agreements they are negotiating with the United States and the risk that the United States will impose new tariffs even after these deals are concluded. They may be unsure how seriously to take Trump's recent threat to the US Federal Reserve to "lower the [interest] rate or I'll stop trading with countries with which we have a deficit." Many are already anticipating new tariff announcements from the Section 301 investigation into countries with industrial



excess capacity that Washington deems harmful and ongoing Section 232 national security investigations. If Canada manages to negotiate outcomes that provide greater certainty about future tariffs, they will seek similar results. In addition, Canada's response to the US demands may also broaden debate within Asian governments about their own options. It is too late for Asian countries to coordinate a joint response to the United States or to impose tit-for-tat tariffs — steps none of them have seriously con-

sidered. Still, Canada's resolve may lead them to conclude that they have more time to negotiate and more room to maneuver, especially ahead of the US midterm elections. They also may try to use growing US public opposition to Trump's trade policies to press the administration to recalibrate its goals or to restrain future tariff actions. Like Canada, Asian governments are seeking to reduce their reliance on the US market and diversify their trade partnerships. They will continue to value US mar-

ket access, America's balancing role in the region, security ties, and cooperation on technology and other issues. But they also understand the limits of an increasingly transactional relationship and the reality that the United States has become a less dependable partner than they long assumed. In response, Asian countries will continue strengthening their trade networks, including the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, and building supply

chains and setting trade rules that offer more predictability and greater economic benefit. Also, like Canada, Asian countries have an interest in working with the United States on shared concerns, including those related to Chinese overcapacity, which has created economic stress across the region. But Washington's aggressive posture and implicit pressure to choose between the United States and China have made such cooperation more difficult. Asian governments

will continue to work with the United States on select issues, but many opportunities for progress are likely to be delayed or lost as they wait and see whether the United States rethinks its approach to its partnerships. Even if the US-Canada trade war ends, distrust of the United States will endure — and will extend well beyond North America.

The article was first published by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

Canada's retaliatory tariffs put Trump's trade strategy to test

By Roland Paris
Former senior advisor to the prime minister of Canada
O P I N I O N

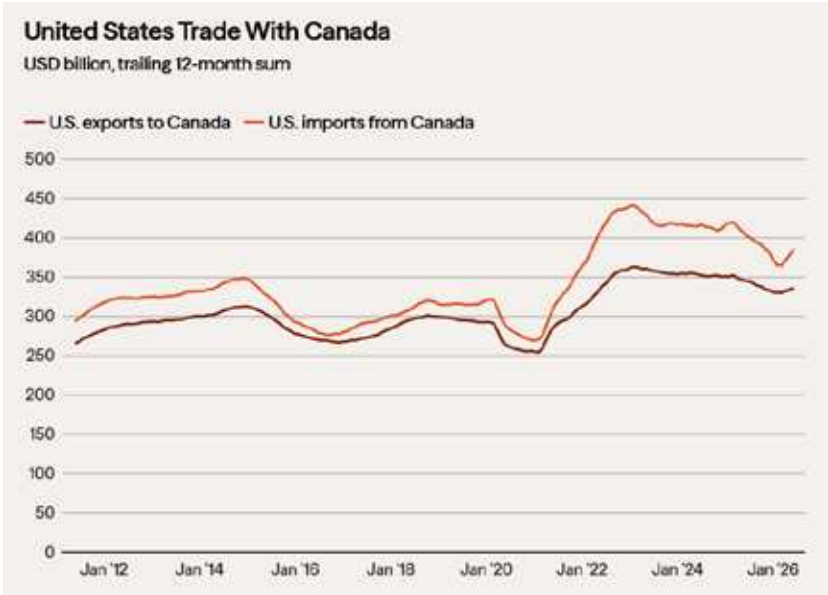
As Canada's new retaliatory tariffs against the United States came into effect on September 8, the Canada-US trade dispute entered a new phase — one that will be closely watched around the world. Apart from China, Canada is the only country that has imposed retaliatory tariffs on the US. The key question now is whether this strategy can succeed. The most recent escalation between the two neighbours began in August, when Canada's Prime Minister Mark Carney walked away from trade talks with the Trump administration after describing the US offer as 'unfair' and 'uneconomic' and saying that US negotiators had sought to limit Canada's ability to negotiate trade arrangements with third countries. The Trump administration then imposed additional tariffs of up to 50 per cent on certain Canadian imports under Section 338 of the Tariff Act of 1930 — an obscure, Great Depression-era provision giving the president broad powers against countries deemed to discriminate against US commerce. On September 8, Canada imposed 'dollar-for-dollar' counter-tariffs on a roughly equivalent amount of US goods. In response, Trump announced that the US would use Section 338 to ban imports of Canadian alcohol, motorcycles and some dairy products starting on September 29. Trump has piled on the pressure in recent weeks. He has called on Canadian leaders to 'fall in line', ordered that Lake Ontario — which straddles the Canada-US border — be renamed 'Lake America', and posted a map depicting the US as encompassing Canada (as well as Mexico, Greenland and Iceland). Trump and members of his administration appear convinced that Canada will eventually fold under US economic pressure. The imbalance in the relationship might seem to support that calculation. Bilateral trade exceeded \$870 billion in goods and services in 2025. But Canada is far more dependent on the US than vice versa: about two-thirds of Canadian goods exports go to the US, while Canada accounts for only about 15 per cent of US goods exports. The US economy is also roughly 13 times larger than Canada's. However, trade wars test not only economic strength but also political resolve — and here, Canada may have an advantage. Trump's trade policies and repeated calls for Canada to become the 51st US state have provoked widespread outrage among Canadians, reinforcing the view that the dispute is about sovereignty as well as trade. Recent polling suggests Carney has considerable room for manoeuvre at home. One survey found 85 per cent of Cana-



US President Donald Trump (L) speaks with Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney at a working lunch with leaders of G7 and the Middle East, in Evian-les-Bains, France, on June 16, 2026.
● **ASEAN SECRETARIAT**

dians support rejecting the proposed US trade deal, while 80 per cent back retaliatory tariffs even if they result in higher prices. Another poll approval of the Carney government at a new high of 70 per cent. Whether such high levels of public backing will endure is uncertain. Carney's standing could weaken as the economic costs start to bite, particularly if tariffs lead to significant job losses despite Ottawa's financial assistance to affected sectors. And while Trump's threats have fostered unusual unity in Canada's often fractious federal poli-

tics, longstanding divisions might reassert themselves. Separatist sentiment will be tested in Quebec's provincial election on October 5 and in Alberta's October 19 referendum, which includes a question on beginning the process towards a future vote on independence — that Trump-aligned figures have expressed support for. By contrast, Trump's approval ratings have fallen sharply and there is little appetite among Americans for an escalating trade war with Canada: nearly 60 per cent oppose further tariffs on Canadian goods and almost 70 per cent favour compromise with their northern neighbour. Several US sectors and states also rely on trade with Canada, like the automotive sector and the swing states of Michigan and Ohio. Still, Trump's enthusiasm for tariffs shows no signs of waning. Even if Democrats were to gain control of Congress



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For Canada, therefore, neither political change in Washington nor litigation offers a quick solution. But 'winning' does not require compelling Trump to back down. Success might instead mean demonstrating sufficient political and economic resolve to improve the terms on which negotiations eventually resume — a more achievable objective, given the depth of Canadian public opposition to US demands.

after November's midterm elections, legislation curtailing presidential tariff powers could still face a Trump veto. This requires two-thirds majorities in both chambers to override, which they are unlikely to achieve. Nor can Canada count on the US courts for rapid relief. Trump's novel use of Section 338 will likely face legal challenges, as some of his previous tariffs have, but a final resolution could take months or years. For Canada, therefore, neither political change in Washington nor litigation offers a quick solution. But 'winning' does not require compelling Trump to back down. Success might instead mean demonstrating sufficient political and economic resolve to improve the terms on which negotiations eventually resume — a more achievable objective, given the depth of Canadian public opposition to US demands. At the same time, Canada's strategy is not limited to managing the confrontation with Washington. Ottawa is pursuing a broader goal of reducing Canada's economic dependence on the US by deepening ties with other partners, particularly in Europe and the Indo-Pacific, while investing in the energy, critical minerals and infrastructure needed to reach new markets. Carney has set a goal of doubling Canada's non-US exports over the next decade and attracting new foreign investment in Canada, drawing on his experience as a former central bank governor and investment banker. His strategy will gather momentum this month. On September 14–15, Carney hosted the Canada Investment Summit in Toronto, bringing together major global investors. He will then travel to Strasbourg as a guest of honour for European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen's State of the Union speech, where she is expected to announce a deeper partnership between the EU and Canada. Carney will address the European Parliament the following day. Whether Canada can resist US pressure while diversifying its economic partnerships — demonstrating a 'third way' for other countries facing similar pressure — will not be clear for some time. Trade relationships can take years to bear fruit, as can the major infrastructure and resource-development investments aimed at bringing more Canadian goods to world markets. Diversification can reduce Canada's vulnerability, but it cannot quickly replace the economic relationship with its largest trading partner. The more immediate test is whether Canada can withstand US pressure long enough to secure better terms when negotiations eventually resume. The Trump administration appears to be betting that the imbalance in economic power will ultimately force Ottawa to concede. The coming months may show that it has underestimated Canadian resolve.

The article first appeared on Chatham House.

Aichi-Nagoya 2026 Asian Games:

Iran surrenders lead to fall to Kuwait in handball opener

Sports Desk

Iran's men's handball team got off to a losing start at the Aichi-Nagoya 2026 Asian Games, relinquishing a first-half lead to suffer a 26-24 defeat against Kuwait in Group B on Saturday. Kuwaiti left wing Abdulaziz Al-Shammari led his team with a game-high 11 goals, followed by Saif Al-Adwani, who contributed four.

Mohammadreza Oraei and Younes Asari were the top scorers for Iran, scoring six goals apiece.

Iran, which entered the competition without its key overseas-based players due to their club commitments in Europe, made a strong start and controlled the early stages of the

match, maintaining its advantage to take a 15-13 lead into halftime.

Kuwait, however, gradually closed the gap after the break and eventually brought the game level. The two sides then exchanged the lead several times as the match entered its closing stages.

The bronze medalist at January's Asian Championship on home soil, Kuwait was more clinical in the closing minutes, establishing a 26-24 lead and holding on for the victory.

Tensions boiled over late in the match when Iranian player Oraei became involved in an altercation with Kuwaiti players. The Kuwaiti players appeared to prevent Oraei from moving forward during a play, trigger-

ing a confrontation between the two sets of players.

"We played very well. I congratulate the Kuwait team. They are one of Asia's most experienced teams and have a good coach. We have to accept that we have a young squad. Nevertheless, we played very well and I am truly proud of our team," said Iranian captain and goalkeeper Mohammad Siavoshi, who made nine saves for a 33% save rate.

When asked what ultimately made the difference between the two sides, Siavoshi said: "I think handball is a game of opportunities, and today we gave away too many chances in the second half. I think we were very good in the defensive phase and performed well, but unfortunately in attack we



couldn't capitalize on our opportunities."

"In handball, you'll be punished if you don't put your balls into the goal, and that is one of the problems we always face. There are still many games left. Our young players will have to learn from today's setback and regroup ahead of the future games," added the Iranian skipper.

Chasing a third handball medal in the history of the multi-sport event – and first since the Guangzhou 2010 silver – Iran will look to bounce back against Asian champion Bahrain next on Monday.

Iran will then take on another daunting test against South Korea on Tuesday, before concluding the group phase against



Iran's Ali Heidarian (13) makes an effort during a handball game against Kuwait at the Aichi-Nagoya 2026 Asian Games in Inazawa, Japan, on September 19, 2026.

IRIH

Kazakhstan the following day. The top four teams in the group will advance to the quarterfinals.



FIDE Chess Olympiad:

Iran defeats France in women's third round

Sports Desk

Iran's women's national chess team secured an impressive 3-1 victory over France in the third round of the FIDE Chess Olympiad in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, on Friday.

Iran recorded two wins and two draws against the French side, with Melika Mohammadi and Mobina Alinasab coming out victorious against

Marie Sebag and Deimante Daulyte-Cornette, respectively. Anousha Mahdian and Mitra Asgharzadeh, meanwhile, shared the spoils with their respective opponents, as the Iranian quartet – captained by Amirreza Pourramezani – celebrated its third team victory in as many outings ahead of the fourth-round clash against Serbia.

Friday's victory, which lifted

Iran to 10 points, was particularly notable as all four French players had higher ratings than their four Iranian players. Iran, however, produced a strong performance to pull off one of the upsets of the third round.

In the open event, meanwhile, Iran's men's team drew 2-2 with Belgium. Mohammad-Amin Tabatabaei and Reza Mahdavi claimed vic-

tories for Iran, while Bardia Daneshvar and Mahdi Gholami fell to their respective opponents.

Iran began its open campaign with a 4-0 victory over Mozambique before defeating Bolivia 3½-½ in the second round.

The 46th edition of the biennial Chess Olympiad will conclude with the Round 11 pairings on September 27.

Iran Women's Premier League:

Khatoon held by Ista as Tehran archrivals off to winning starts

Sports Desk

Bam Khatoon opened its Iran Women's Premier League title defense with a frustrating draw, while Tehran city rivals Persepolis and Esteghlal won their Matchday 1 games on Friday.

Kicking off a week later than originally scheduled following a sudden national team training camp, the new women's top-flight season got underway after a 221-day break, with the prospect of a first-ever women's Tehran Derby between Persepolis and Esteghlal drawing significant attention from football fans in the country.

Chasing a record 12th title in 19 editions – and fifth in succession – Khatoon was held to a goalless stalemate away to Ista Alborz in Karaj.

The match marked Sara Qomi's first game as Ista head coach, with her side producing a strong performance to frustrate Khatoon, which entered the game fresh off securing a place in the upcoming AFC Women's Champions League after winning the preliminary group last month in



Esteghlal's Hajar Dabbaghi celebrates her goal during a 2-0 victory over Palayesh Gas Ilam in the Iran Women's Premier League in Tehran, Iran, on Sept. 18, 2026.

IRNA

Hisor, Tajikistan.

The champions missed several opportunities and were unable to find a way past Ista's well-organized backline. The match ended in controversy after Khatoon reserve goalkeeper Nazanin Taherian became involved in a confrontation with the referee at the final whistle and slapped the official. Taherian was shown a red card and could face further disciplinary action.

Elsewhere, Esteghlal made a triumphant return to the

Women's Premier League after nearly a decade, defeating Palayesh Gas Ilam 2-0 at Tehran's Kargar Stadium.

The hosts produced an attacking display and were the better side in both halves, with Niloufar Azimi and Hajar Dabbaghi finding the net to secure all three points.

The Tehran Blues had previously competed in the fifth, sixth and seventh editions of the women's league before the team was dissolved. After rebuilding and earning suc-

cessive promotions from the second division, Esteghlal returned to the top flight under former national team head coach Maryam Irandoust.

Persepolis also made a winning start, defeating Ava 2-0 at Tehran's Shahid Kazemi Stadium.

The Reds, who finished seventh last season under Maryam Azmoon, entered the new campaign under new head coach Niloufar Ardalan. After a goalless first half, Zahra Qanbari broke the deadlock after the interval before Marzieh Nikkhah added a second to seal a morale-boosting home victory.

Chatrenour on fire

Golgohar Sirjan, last season's runners-up, began its campaign with a convincing 4-1 home victory over newly promoted Varash Nowshahr. Maryam Jahan-Nejati's side produced an impressive performance, with Afsaneh Chatrenour netting a hat-trick to inspire the victory. In the other match of the opening round, Sepahan defeated Malavan FC 2-0 at home.

Aichi-Nagoya 2026 Asian Games:

Golshadnejad lands host rival as Iranians discover karate fate

Sports Desk

Reigning world champion Atousa Golshadnejad will begin her bid for gold at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games with a tricky test against Japanese karateka Tsubasa Kama in the women's kumite -68kg weight class on Monday. The Iranians learned their pathways in their respective karate events on Saturday, with Fatemeh-Zahra Saeidabadi drawn against Turvanhxai Pa of Laos in the women's -55kg first round on Tuesday.

Six-time world bronze medalist Fatemeh Sadeqi will open Iran's campaign in the women's individual kata against Thailand's Monsicha Sakulrattanatara on Sunday.

The Iranian trio of Sadeghi, Zeynab-Sadat Hosseini and Sepideh Amiri will face Thailand



in the opening round of the women's team kata on Tuesday, which also features teams from Cambodia, Macau, Mongolia, Nepal, the Philippines, Chinese Taipei, the United Arab Emirates, and Vietnam. In the men's kumite, Morteza Nemati will face Kazakhstan's Nurkanat Azikanov in the -75kg category on Tuesday, while Ali-Asghar Asiabari will take on Qatar's Abdullah Babiker in the -84kg opening round. Mahmoud Nemati will

be Iran's sole representative on Wednesday, facing Laos' Vatthana Xayasan in the men's +84kg class. Iran will not have representatives in the men's -55kg and -60kg kumite events as well as the women's +68kg category. The country will also be absent from the men's individual kata, men's -67kg and women's -61kg kumite events on Monday. The karate tournament will conclude on Wednesday.



Neyriz combines historical heritage with natural attractions

Iranica Desk

Neyriz, a city in eastern Fars Province, brings history and nature together, offering tourists a different view of the province's attractions through its collection of historic structures, mountain landscapes, springs and scenic waterfalls. For travelers looking for a quieter and less-known destination, the city provides an opportunity to discover a part of Iran's historical and natural heritage.

The area around Neyriz is home to numerous historical sites. Ancient mounds, religious buildings and historic houses show that Neyriz is not merely a city with scenic nature but also contains layers of Iran's history.

One of these sites is Badrabad Castle Hill (Tal-e Qaleh Badarabad) in the Poshtkuh district, near Dehchah village, which was registered on Iran's National Heritage List in 2002. Such archaeological sites are important to history enthusiasts because they provide evidence of past settlement and human life in the region.

When Neyriz's historical attractions are mentioned, the Jaame Kabir Mosque is among the first sites that come to mind. The mosque is considered one of Iran's oldest religious structures and was registered on the national heritage list in 1933.

The mosque's architecture is also of interest to visitors. Its ivan and some other architectural elements have been linked by researchers to pre-Islamic architecture, particularly the Sassanid period. The mosque has also undergone changes and restoration during different historical periods, allowing features from several eras to be seen in its structure.

The mihrab and stucco decorations are among the mosque's notable features, giving visitors



Tarm Waterfall
● IRNA



Bakhtegan Lake
● IRNA

an opportunity to experience Iran's architectural history not through books and photographs, but in an actual historic structure. Neyriz is not attractive only to those interested in architecture and archaeological sites. The city is also regarded as one of Iran's important centers of calligraphy, and the Neyriz Museum of Calligraphy and Manuscripts is one of its cultural attractions.

According to information published about the museum, it houses a collection of manuscripts, old books and works by calligraphers. The mausoleum of Mirza Ahmad Neyrizi, a renowned calligrapher, is also located within the complex. The museum can offer a different experience for visitors interested in the history of writing, calligraphy and Iranian art.

In fact, the Museum of Calligraphy and Manuscripts can be considered part of the city's cultural identity, showing that in addition to its natural and historical attractions, Neyriz has a notable heritage in traditional arts. One of Neyriz's best-known natural attractions is Tarm Waterfall which is located on the southern slopes of the city in a mountainous area and takes on a different appearance during the wetter seasons.

Local sources put the waterfall's height at about 115 meters and describe it as the Middle East's



Jaame Mosque
● IRNA

tallest seasonal waterfall. The waterfall passes through gardens and the surrounding natural landscape, while during periods of high water flow, smaller waterfalls also form nearby.

The area around Tarm is not simply a dry, mountainous landscape. Fig, almond and walnut orchards, along with the region's vegetation, create a distinctive scenery. Therefore, if the trip is timed well, visiting the area can become one of the memorable parts of a family trip to Neyriz. Neyriz's natural attractions cannot be discussed without mentioning the region's lakes. Bakhtegan and Tashk lakes are among the major water bodies in Fars Province and form part of the valuable ecosystem of the area.

Tashk Lake is located in Bakhtegan area, and small limestone islands are among

its natural features. Narges and Gonban are two of the lake's known islands. Together with Bakhtegan Lake and other ecosystems in the region, Tashk forms part of the natural complex of Bakhtegan National Park.

Bakhtegan is also important for birdwatching. Species such as flamingos, cranes, geese and some waterfowl have been observed in the ecosystem, and during suitable seasons, the presence of migratory birds can add to the area's appeal.

The Bahram-e Gur Protected Area is another important natural attraction around Neyriz. Species such as the Asiatic cheetah, houbara bustard and Pleske's ground jay inhabit the area, and this diversity has made Bahram-e Gur one of the province's important natural areas.

Wildlife watching in such areas,

of course, differs from visiting an ordinary park or garden. Tourists should maintain a safe distance from animals and avoid feeding or approaching them. The purpose of visiting a protected area is to observe nature in its natural state, not to alter animals' behavior.

Neyriz also offers notable options for those interested in rural tourism. Dehmurd village is one such destination, located about 85 kilometers from Neyriz and attracting tourists because of its mountainous landscape and springs.

Horgan is another notable village in the region. The source of the Pahnabeh River is located within the village area, which has historically contributed to supplying water for agriculture in Neyriz.

The Palangan area lies south-east of Neyriz and is considered one of the county's attractive natural areas because of its valley, fig and pomegranate orchards and vegetation.

In spring, the growth of wildflowers, particularly poppies, can transform the appearance of the area. The presence of the Shah Yaqub Imamzadeh shrine and a pond attributed to Imam Hussein also makes the area appealing to visitors with religious and cultural interests. Palangan is located about 11 kilometers southeast of Neyriz.

The Pahnabeh Valley is located near a village of the same

name, with a river running through it. The flow of water and a waterfall along the route have created a lush environment, and the surrounding landscape becomes more attractive during suitable seasons. The area is appealing for nature tourism, but as with other natural areas around Neyriz, tourists are advised to check road conditions, weather and accessibility before setting out. Traveling to mountainous areas and valleys without adequate preparation can be difficult for families, particularly children and older adults.

A trip to Neyriz cannot be described simply as a historical or nature excursion. The city offers a range of experiences, from standing before a historic mosque and viewing centuries-old architecture to walking through nature, visiting springs and waterfalls, and watching birds in the surrounding ecosystems. On one side are the Jaame Kabir Mosque and the Museum of Calligraphy and Manuscripts, which reflect aspects of the city's historical and cultural identity; on the other are Tarm Waterfall, Bakhtegan and Tashk lakes, the Bahram-e Gur Protected Area, Palangan, Dehmurd and Pahnabeh. This diversity has made Neyriz an appealing destination both for families seeking a peaceful trip and for those interested in history and nature.

For a trip to Neyriz to become a lasting memory, visitors are better off not limiting themselves to a single attraction. Learning about the city's history, visiting its old structures, experiencing its natural landscapes and paying attention to local culture can provide a fuller picture of this historic city in Fars, which, in the shadow of the province's better-known destinations, still has parts of its tourism potential waiting to be discovered by travelers.

Iranica Desk

The beautiful and unique historic Khash Grand (Jaame) Mosque in Sistan and Baluchestan Province is a prominent symbol of Shia-Sunni unity dating back generations and is among the city's notable tourist attractions. According to IRNA, the mosque has long served, both before and after the Islamic Revolution, as a venue for religious ceremonies, public gatherings and meetings attended by Persian and Baluch communities and followers of Shia and Sunni Islam. It has also been a place for prayer and worship.

Khash has long been regarded as a center of friendship, brotherhood, solidarity and ethnic and religious unity in the region, where residents have maintained close social ties and worked together to address one another's concerns.

In the past, Khash lacked a suitable mosque for congregational prayer and worship. About a century ago, a benefactor named Emami, a Yazdi resident of Khash, took the initiative to build a mosque. Later, an army

Khash Grand Mosque stands as a historic symbol of Shia-Sunni unity

commander undertook the construction and completion of its minaret.

At the time, the groundwater table in Khash was very high. After the foundations were excavated and the first stones were laid, water began to rise. However, local residents and workers worked together, using stone and lime to prevent the water from advancing. The religious site subsequently became a symbol of unity and solidarity and a gathering place for worshippers. In later years, as the mosque could no longer accommodate Friday prayers and related religious and civic ceremonies, the Friday prayer leader and residents of Khash decided to build a larger mosque next to it that would better accommodate the number of worshippers.

The head of the Khash Department of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts said the original structure of the mosque dates back to 1928.

Malek Masoud Rigi told IRNA that the complex consists of two



● chn.ir

main sections: the mosque building and an attached minaret.

He said the mosque building has a floor area of 247 square meters

and is entirely covered. Its brick vaults rest on 16 columns, with every four columns forming a four-bay unit with a roof and four-part brick vaults, creating a columned prayer hall. A window has also been installed between every two columns to provide adequate lighting.

The official noted that the minaret of Khash Grand Mosque, dating from the Qajar period, has been registered on Iran's National Heritage List.

According to Rigi, the structure was inspired by traditional Iranian architecture and built as a freestanding cylindrical spiral minaret.

He said the minaret has a tall, elongated body, with bricks, mortar, sand, lime and plaster used in its construction. The structure was built with strong and durable bricks.

The minaret has a short, circular base decorated with various brickwork patterns and geometric designs. Another base with a gentle slope, corresponding to the inner slope of the wall, was

built on top of it.

He added that the minaret's diverse brickwork and numerous joints give it a distinctive grandeur. The second short base features narrow, elongated grooves separated by delicate bands.

He said that greater emphasis was placed on the religious function of the main prayer hall, while the architectural decoration reaches its peak in the minaret's brickwork. The decoration appears as courses of brickwork in the lower section, spiral relief patterns in the middle and upper sections, and a crenellated design at the top.

Rigi also pointed to the brick inscription on the minaret's body, saying it adds to the monument's authenticity and distinctive visual character. He noted that Khash Grand Mosque is located in the central part of the city, along Imam Khomeini Street.

Khash is located in Sistan and Baluchestan Province, 185 kilometers south of Zahedan, on the route connecting the provincial capital with Iranshahr and Chabahar. The city welcomes travelers and tourists throughout the year.



Tehran puppet museum reopens with 800 marionettes, gains national registration



Arts & Culture Desk

Tehran's Ferdowsi Hall re-opened its Marionette Puppet Museum on Saturday, unveiling a collection of about 800 stage

puppets and securing national registration in a ceremony marking the birthday of veteran theater director Behrouz Gharibpour. Established by the Rudaki Arts

and Cultural Foundation in collaboration with Gharibpour's Aran Puppet Theater Group, the museum preserves a distinctive chapter of Iran's contemporary performing arts, bringing to-

gether puppets created for productions inspired by Persian literature, history and mythology, IRNA reported.

The collection features marionettes used in Aran's puppet operas since 2004, tracing more than two decades of work that combines theater, music and opera. The Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts presented the museum's operating license to Rudaki Foundation chief Mohammad Allahyari during the reopening ceremony. The museum will rotate its displays according to the group's performance repertoire, allowing visitors to encounter puppets from different productions while supporting their preservation. Special educational tours will also introduce visitors to the marionette-making process, from initial design and construction to preparing puppets for the stage. Founded in 2003 by Gharib-



pour, Aran specializes in puppet opera, a theatrical form in which figures are manipulated from above using strings and, in some cases, rods. The group has developed original productions drawing on Iranian musical traditions and the country's dramatic heritage, with the revival of national opera among its central aims.

Its repertoire includes 'Rostam and Sohrab,' 'Macbeth,' 'Ashura,' 'Rumi,' 'Hafez,' 'Layla and

Majnun,' 'Sa'adi' and 'Khayyam'. The productions have been staged in Iran, Europe and Asia. Ferdowsi Hall, a 140-seat venue dedicated to marionette theater, opened in February 2004 with 'Rostam and Sohrab,' directed by Gharibpour. The museum now offers audiences an opportunity to explore the puppets and theatrical elements behind Aran's productions beyond their appearances on stage.

'The Daughter of Lady Fairy' heads to Warsaw competition

Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian filmmaker Alireza Motamedi's latest feature, 'The Daughter of Lady Fairy,' will make its world premiere in the main competition of the Warsaw Film Festival in Poland, ISNA reported.

The film marks Motamedi's third feature after 'Reza' and 'Why Don't You Cry?' and continues the introspective storytelling of his earlier works. As in his previous films, Motamedi directs and takes on the lead role, IRNA reported.

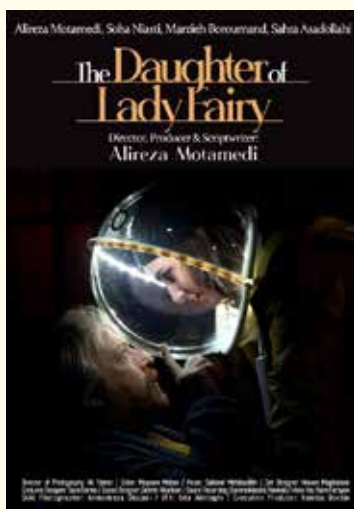
The cast also includes Soha Niasti, Marziyeh Boroumand and

Sahra Asadollahi.

The film follows a young woman working as a sound designer on a film dubbing project who returns after years away to confront her former lover. Her unexpected arrival stirs up old memories, forcing him to face unresolved emotions and painful truths about the past.

The 42nd Warsaw Film Festival, an internationally recognized A-list event, will run from Oct. 9 to 18 in the Polish capital.

Another Iranian production, 'The Caretaker,' directed by Mohsen Gharaei will also screen at this year's festival in the Encounters section.



'Peace Should Be Learned in Childhood' exhibition brings together illustrators from 20 countries

Arts & Culture Desk

The eighth international illustration exhibition 'Peace Should Be Learned in Childhood' opened at Tehran's Art Bureau, bringing together works by 20 illustrators and illustration groups from 20 countries ahead of the International Day of Peace (September 21).

The annual exhibition, which opened on September 18, uses children's illustration to explore peace and promote its values among younger generations, IRNA reported.

The event is organized by the Children's Book Council of Iran and the Iranian Illustrators Society, in collaboration with the Bratislava International Illustration Exhibition and the International Board on Books for Young People.

Ali Bouzari serves as the event's secretary, while Abbas Khan-Gholi contributes as an associate curator and poster graphic designer.



Alongside the exhibition, organizers are holding art and educational workshops for children ages 6 to 10, extending the program beyond the gallery and encouraging young participants to engage with artistic expression.

Visitors can view the works at the Paez Gallery of the Art Bureau through 25.

UNGA can open ...

In New York, the Iranian delegation can engage major energy-consuming countries and emphasize the importance of keeping commercial trade and energy markets open. Iran can discuss longer-term arrangements with oil buyers, including stable supply agreements and settlement mechanisms that reduce exposure to the US financial system.

Maritime cooperation is another important area. Iran can engage countries with major shipping, insurance and port industries to explore legal and commercially viable ways of maintaining trade flows. Cooperation among regional ports can also become more important if conventional routes face

restrictions.

Iran can present itself as a reliable energy and trade partner and seek support for maintaining normal commercial navigation. New York offers an opportunity to build diplomatic backing for these arrangements and establish direct contacts among governments, energy companies, traders and financial institutions.

What role can BRICS, regional partners and alternative financial mechanisms play in helping Iran maintain access to trade and finance as US sanctions become more comprehensive? BRICS and Iran's regional partnerships can become increasingly important as Washington expands financial sanctions

and secondary sanctions. However, these mechanisms need to move from political declarations toward practical economic arrangements.

In New York, Iranian officials can discuss expanding trade settlements in national currencies and developing banking channels that do not depend heavily on the US dollar. Iran can also promote cooperation among banks, export credit institutions and development banks in BRICS and neighboring countries.

The New Development Bank can be another part of this discussion, particularly in infrastructure and development projects. Iran can seek greater participation in projects involving transport, energy, logistics

and regional connectivity.

Regional cooperation is equally important. Improving customs procedures, transportation links and payment arrangements with neighboring countries could reduce trade costs. No single alternative can replace the global financial system overnight. Iran therefore needs a network of mechanisms, including local-currency trade, regional banking, development finance and stronger economic ties with BRICS members.

Beyond opposing sanctions, what concrete economic proposals could the Iranian delegation put forward in New York to encourage other countries to continue investing and trading

with Iran?

Iran can use the General Assembly to present a clear economic message that cooperation with Iran should be based on long-term commercial interests rather than short-term political pressure.

The delegation could present specific investment opportunities in energy, petrochemicals, transportation, mining, agriculture and infrastructure. Instead of making general calls for cooperation, Iran can offer concrete projects, investment frameworks and partnership models that foreign companies can examine.

Regional connectivity is another major opportunity. Iran's geographical position gives it the potential to connect Central

Asia, the Caucasus, the Persian Gulf and South Asia. Railways, ports, transit corridors and logistics projects can therefore be presented as regional projects rather than purely Iranian ones. Iran can also seek support for insurance and financial mechanisms that allow international companies to participate while managing sanctions-related risks.

The New York meetings should therefore be viewed as an opportunity to create an economic network around trade, investment and connectivity. The aim is not simply to ask countries to oppose US sanctions, but to show that continued economic engagement with Iran can also serve their commercial and regional interests.