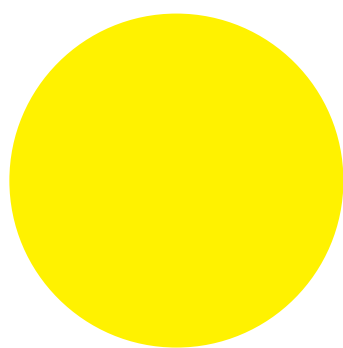


Iran, UNESCO
step up
cooperation
on protection
of damaged
heritage sites



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Iran's National Orchestra performs at the Opera House of Kazan, Russia, on October 1, 2026.
● IRNA

How Iran can build economic resilience under mounting pressure



By Barzin Jafartash
Industrial policy researcher

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

With mounting US economic pressure, including restrictions on oil exports, declining foreign-exchange revenues and sharp fluctuations in the exchange rate, the Iranian government needs to immediately put three key strategies at the top of its agenda to strengthen economic resilience.

This is in addition to measures already being taken, such as facilitating customs procedures, increasing strategic reserves of essential goods or raising the value of food vouchers. All of these measures are useful, but there are three fundamental strategies that the government needs to take seriously and is not currently pursuing with sufficient determination.

The first, and most important, is import substitution.

When goods can no longer be imported, either because of sanctions and a blockade or simply because there is not enough money to pay for imports, one option is to reduce consumption. That, however, leads to the situation currently being witnessed: weaker economic growth or even negative growth. Another path is to launch a broad import-substitution drive, replacing a significant share of the goods that were previously imported by defining a range of large, medium-sized and small projects. The private, public and quasi-public sectors can all become involved, creating employment, generating economic activity and, ultimately, producing goods domestically.

This is something Iran itself pursued to some extent after 2018, when then-US President Donald Trump withdrew from the JCPOA. Alongside restrictions on imports, efforts

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were made to establish production projects in the automotive sector and several other industries. This led to greater domestic production capacity and import substitution.



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Iran says seeks US concrete guarantees to end war

International Desk

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Saeed Khatibzadeh said Iran wants concrete US guarantees to end the war, stressing that Tehran is pursuing a diplomatic solution despite repeated US breaches of commitments.

Speaking to Russia 1 television on Thursday, Khatibzadeh said Tehran's policy is to bring the crisis to an end through diplomacy, even though Washington had repeatedly betrayed the negotiating process.

Khatibzadeh said that in recent weeks, following the US government's violation of the Islamabad understanding, Iran had kept its defensive capabilities at the highest possible level and remained prepared for any scenario.

At the same time, he said, Tehran had sought to prevent further regional crises by putting forward proposals through intermediaries, including Qatar and Pakistan.

One such proposal is Iran's seven-day initiative, which Tehran has submitted to Washington through Qatar, Khatib-

zadeh said. He added that Iran had recently received the US's response to the plan through the Qatari mediator. Araghchi outlined the initiative's details in New York on the sidelines of the 81st session of the UN General Assembly in New York, Khatibzadeh said.

Iran is seeking concrete US assurances that the war will end on all fronts, alongside the release of frozen assets, the lifting of the blockade and other measures it considers necessary, Khatibzadeh said.

Under the initiative put forward by the Islamic Republic, Iran would be prepared to reopen the Strait of Hormuz and begin negotiations at the end of the sixth day, provided the United States fulfilled all its commitments, he added.

Under Iran's proposal, he explained, Tehran would be ready to reopen the Strait of Hormuz and begin negotiations at the end of the sixth day if Washington fulfills all its commitments.

Iran rejects Bloomberg report

Meanwhile, an Iranian source rejected

a report by Bloomberg claiming that Araghchi privately proposed allowing international nuclear inspectors back into the country's bombed nuclear facilities in exchange for sanctions relief. The informed source told IRNA that, "No discussion of the issue was raised in the talks with the mediators."

Bloomberg claimed that Araghchi raised the idea in meetings at the United Nations with European and Middle Eastern diplomats in New York.

Back in February 28, the US and the Israeli regime launched an unprovoked war on Iran, assassinating Iran's Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, senior military commanders and thousands of civilians.

Iran responded with a series of retaliatory operations targeting US military assets and bases across the region.

The escalation ultimately forced the US and the Israeli regime to agree to a Pakistani-mediated ceasefire on April 8. They also signed the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding to end the war, but Washington soon violated the



Saeed Khatibzadeh
IRNA

agreement by failing to respect Iran's arrangements concerning the Strait of Hormuz.

The strategically vital waterway was largely closed during the war, severely disrupting regional maritime traffic

and placing further pressure on energy shipments.

The Strait remains closed, and Iran has made clear that it will not allow its reopening until the United States meets the demands Tehran has announced.

Era of 'cost-free' threats has come to an end: **IRGC**

International Desk

Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) on Friday warned the United States and Israel about new aggression against Iran, stressing that, "The era of cost-free threats has come to an end, and any act of aggression will be met with a painful and regret-inducing response".

The IRGC issued the statement to mark the second anniversary of the "Operation True Promise 2" which was Iran's answer to Israel's targeted assassinations of Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh, Hezbollah Secretary General Sayyed Haasan Nasrallah and senior IRGC commander, General Abbas Nilforushan.

In the statement, the IRGC said the operation has not only punished enemy aggression and crimes amid the "deadly silence" of in-



Ballistic missiles are launched from Iran toward occupied territories in retaliation for Israeli airstrikes on Iranian cities.
EPA-EFE

ternational bodies, but has also sent a clear message to Iran's adversaries, particularly Israel.

"The era of cost-free threats has come to an end, and any act of aggression will be met with a painful and regret-inducing response," the statement said.

October 2 marks the anniversary of the historic "Operation True Promise 2" which was carried out by its Aerospace Force in 2024. Iran fired waves of precision-guided missiles and drones at targets in Is-

raeli-occupied territories, striking the heart of the occupied lands and exposing the fragility of Israel's military deterrence to the world.

The statement again characterized the operation as retaliation for aggression and crimes committed by Iran's adversaries, accusing international bodies of remaining silent. It said the attack had delivered a direct warning to Israel that further incursions would carry consequences.

The IRGC added that the

strength demonstrated by the IRGC, alongside other Iranian Armed Forces, during the second and third US-Israeli imposed wars on Iran forced the United States to plead for a ceasefire. The IRGC assured the Iranian people and regional nations supporting the Axis of Resistance that its forces are at the highest level of readiness, with their fingers on the trigger to give an immediate, decisive, painful and regret-inducing response to any aggression or potential miscalculation by the "Great Satan's camp" and its regional proxies.

Iran blasts US, allies for abusing UNSC to advance own political agendas

A senior Iranian diplomat blasted the United States and its allies for repeatedly abusing the UN Security Council mechanisms to advance their own political agendas against countries.

Gholamhossein Darzi, Iranian ambassador and charge d'affaires of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations, made the remarks in an address to a Thursday meeting of the UN General Assembly on Russia's and China's veto of a Washington-backed draft resolution at the Security Council against Iran two weeks ago, Press TV reported.

On September 17, the Security Council failed to adopt the resolution renewing the mandate of the UN Panel of Experts tasked with monitoring the implementation of sanctions re-imposed on Iran via the so-called snapback mechanism in 2025. The resolution received 11 votes in favor, two against (China and Russia) and two abstentions. Darzi denounced the



Gholamhossein Darzi
IRNA

United States' "politically motivated, legally unfounded and cynical attempt" to revive the Panel of Experts.

He also described the vetoes cast by China and Russia as "principled and necessary acts defending the UN Charter, international law and the integrity and authority of the Security Council against its abuse".

Meanwhile, he urged the Security Council to uphold the UN Charter and international law and reject any politicization or manipulation of its mechanisms.

"Yet, the United States and its allies have repeatedly abused the Council's procedures and authority to advance narrow political agendas," he added.

Furthermore, the Iranian envoy blamed the current situation regarding Iran's nuclear issue on the unilateral US withdrawal from the 2025 nuclear deal, the European trio's non-compliance with their commitments, and the subsequent US-Israeli war of aggression against the Islamic Republic.

"While Iran pursued diplomacy in good faith, the United States chose aggression," he said.

Additionally, the Iranian diplomat rejected the claim of military diversion of Iran's nuclear activities "as a false narrative and a big lie first concocted by the Israeli regime in 2003 and repeatedly parroted by the United States and certain European countries ever since."

TENDER NO.: 01-31-0480003

Second Announcement



NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OIL COMPANY
AHVAZ-IRAN

The National Iranian South Oil Company (NISOC) is seeking to procure the specified goods listed in the table below through a Qualitative Evaluation Call for conducting a public tender via the Government Electronic Procurement System (SETAD). All stages of the tender process including the receipt of tender documents, submission of bidders' proposals, and the opening of bid envelopes, shall be carried out exclusively through the Government Electronic Procurement System (SETAD) portal at www.setadiran.ir. Bidders who have not previously registered must complete the registration process on the aforementioned portal and obtain an Electronic Signature certificate to participate in the tender.

Item	Material Description	Quantity
23	PART FOR "AIR PACK" RECIPROCATING AIR COMPRESSOR TYPE: HA-550-LT SERIAL NOS.T-1995-00449-1 TO 00449/3 AIR PACK REFERENCE: 7356-COM REF. AIR PACK NEDERLAND B.V 2 STAGE CYLINDER SET	388 NO

Vendors who intend to participate in aforesaid tenders are requested to send their "Intention To Participate" letter via fax to the following number along with their resume according to Qualitative Assessment Form no. 1, available at: www.setadiran.ir, not later than 14 days after the second announcement, otherwise, their requests for participation in the tender will be disregarded. The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of 8,842/10 EURO or 15,060,000,000 RIAL, in favor of NISOC.

ONLY ACCEPTABLE DELIVERY TERM IS DDP
NISOC'S WAREHOUSE, AGHAJARY IRAN PAYMENT
TERM IS C.O.D. SUBSEQUENT TO NISOC'S MATERIAL
APPROVAL.

NO ADVANCED PAYMENT WILL BE PAID

FOREIGN PURCHASING DEPARTMENT

Bldg. No. 104, Material Procurement Management
Complex, Kouy-e-Fadaeian Islam (New Site),
Ahvaz, Iran
Tel. No.: 061 341 24644 Fax No.: 061 34457437

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Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

CARTOON



China kiwifruit laboratory seeks deeper cooperation with Iran

By Delaram Ahmadi
Staff writer

FEATURE REPORT

A Chinese kiwifruit research laboratory has expressed interest in expanding cooperation with Iran, inviting Iranian scientists and businesses to collaborate on research, cultivation and the development of new kiwifruit varieties.

The China-New Zealand Belt and Road Joint Laboratory on Kiwifruit also hopes to work with Iranian partners to introduce red- and yellow-fleshed varieties to the Iranian market, subject to the agricultural conditions, regulations and standards of both countries.

Kiwifruit is a common autumn fruit in Iran, where an increasing number of farmers have turned to its cultivation in recent years as a profitable crop. Native to China, the fruit was introduced to New Zealand in 1904 by teacher Isabel Fraser. New Zealand growers spent years developing the first commercially viable varieties, and in the 1950s, as merchants began promoting the fruit overseas, it was given the name “kiwifruit” after New Zealand’s national bird, the kiwi.

Today, only a limited number of countries cultivate the fruit, with China by far the world’s largest producer. The country produces about 2.3 to 2.4 million tons of kiwifruit annually, accounting for roughly half of global production.

Iran also holds a significant

position in the global kiwifruit market, producing between 250,000 and 300,000 tons a year, or around 5% to 7% of global output.

Yet for many Iranians, kiwifruit is associated almost exclusively with the familiar hairy, green-fleshed variety, with relatively little awareness of the diversity of species and varieties found around the world.

A visit by Iran Daily to the China-New Zealand Belt and Road Joint Laboratory on Kiwifruit in Sichuan offered a glimpse into that diversity. Researchers at the laboratory said there are 54 wild kiwifruit species worldwide, including varieties with red and yellow flesh.

The joint laboratory is a collaboration between the Sichuan Provincial Academy of Natural Resource Sciences and New Zealand’s Institute for Plant and Food Research. It was inaugurated by the two countries’ top leaders in 2014 and became operational in the Sichuan Tianfu New Area in 2018.

The laboratory collects and preserves wild kiwifruit germplasm resources, while also conducting research into kiwifruit diseases and methods of treating them.

As part of its efforts to promote international scientific and technological exchange, the laboratory organizes science and technology exchange conferences as well as international symposiums on kiwifruit innovation and development.

It also holds international training workshops that have brought together scientists and technicians from countries including Egypt, Pakistan, Mongolia, Afghanistan, Nepal and Iran.

Seeking a bridge to Iran

Zhuang Qiguo, the Chinese director of the China-New Zealand Belt and Road Joint Laboratory on Kiwifruit, told Iran Daily that the institute has been seeking deeper cooperation with Iran in recent years.

“We know that Iran has abundant scientific and research resources. Through several bilateral exchange programs, some Iranian scientists have already visited our institute, but we are still at an early stage,” he said. The two sides have introduced their respective industries to one another, but have yet to establish concrete joint projects, Zhuang said.

He described the visit by an Iranian media organization as an opportunity to broaden those exchanges and build connections with a wider network of Iranian scientists and businesses.



Zhuang Qiguo, Chinese director of the China-New Zealand Belt and Road Joint Laboratory on Kiwifruit, briefs journalists on the laboratory's work.

“We hope you can serve as a bridge connecting us with more scientists in Iran and help us establish broader cooperation,” he said.

“It may seem like just a small step — simply introducing our institute — but it could mean a great deal for our future cooperation.”

Zhuang said the proposed cooperation could follow a path similar to the laboratory’s experience with New Zealand.

“In the beginning, a New Zealand scientist came to visit our country and our institute. That visit helped us connect with more resources and networks in New Zealand, and eventually we built the large platform we have today,” he said.

Given Iran’s position as a major kiwifruit-producing country, Zhuang said the laboratory could potentially introduce its red- and yellow-fleshed varieties to Iran through future cooperation.

From research to commercialization

During the visit, journalists were given the opportunity to taste several kiwifruit varieties, including sour, sweet and astringent types, as well as red- and yellow-fleshed varieties.



Zhuang said such first-hand experience could help introduce the potential of the different varieties to Iranian researchers and businesses.

“Perhaps through your introduction, we can gradually begin our cooperation — first within the scientific research community and then by bringing the research into industry and commercialization,” he added. However, Zhuang stressed that introducing new varieties is not simply a matter of transferring them from one country to another, as different varieties can perform differently depending on local agricultural

conditions.

“For example, a particular variety may grow very well in China but may not perform as well in Iran. That is why we need to conduct experiments and tests first,” he said.

He noted that establishing a successful partnership would require work on several fronts, including regulatory issues and assessments of soil and climatic conditions.

“We believe there is still a lot of work to be done to establish a partnership, including surveys and studies of land, soil and weather conditions,” Zhuang said.

Trade ties with Eurasian bloc gain momentum

Economy Desk

Trade between Iran and members of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) is on an upward trajectory despite ongoing challenges, the head of Iran’s Trade Promotion Organization said, as Tehran seeks to deepen commercial ties and strengthen private-sector cooperation with the bloc. Mohammad Ali Dehghan Dehnavi made the remarks during a meeting with Andrey Slepnev, Minister in charge of Trade of the Eurasian Economic Commission, expressing hope that the second meeting of the

Iran-EAEU Joint Committee would be held in Tehran soon, IRNA reported.

He said holding the joint committee meeting in Tehran could provide an opportunity to strengthen links between private-sector businesses on both sides and pave the way for new economic and trade partnerships.

Dehnavi was in Minsk to attend the 19th meeting of the Iran-Belarus Joint Commission for Economic Cooperation.

During his visit, an Iranian pavilion was held at an international trade and economic cooperation exhibi-

tion in Minsk from September 30 to October 2, where Iranian companies showcased their export capabilities and products.

A parallel trade and economic cooperation exhibition was also held in Iran, bringing together businesses to explore trade, investment and commercial opportunities with EAEU member states.

The events coincided with a meeting of EAEU prime ministers and an industrial exhibition in Belarus, providing a platform for business representatives to discuss potential areas of cooperation and investment.

Iran ready to offer investment projects to Turkmen, CIS partners

Economy Desk

Iran is ready to offer feasibility-tested investment projects in energy, transit, agriculture, industry and special economic zones to partners in Turkmenistan and other Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries, a senior Iranian official said Thursday, according to IRNA. Speaking at the Ashgabat Investment Forum, Mehdi Heydari, deputy economy minister and head of Iran’s Organization for Investment and Economic and Technical Assistance, said Tehran viewed the forum as an opportunity to open a new chapter in economic cooperation with Turkmen-

istan.

He highlighted joint investment, infrastructure development, technological cooperation and greater private-sector participation as key areas for expanding bilateral economic ties.

Heydari said stronger connections between regional markets would be central to future investment, pointing to the International North-South Transport Corridor, the Middle Corridor and closer links among Central Asia, the Caspian region, the Persian Gulf and global markets.

“Iran can provide Turkmenistan and other Central Asian countries with access to the Persian Gulf, open waters and Middle Eastern

markets, while Turkmenistan and Central Asia can help expand Iran’s access to the Eurasian economic space,” he said.

He identified energy, transit and logistics, agriculture and food processing, and industrial investment in free and special economic zones as priorities for future cooperation.

In the energy sector, Heydari highlighted gas swaps, energy transmission and storage, refining and petrochemicals. In transport, he cited investment in rail and road fleets, border terminals, logistics hubs and Caspian maritime connections. He also pointed to the potential to link Central Asian agricultural production

with Iran’s processing, packaging and distribution capacity, creating opportunities for joint access to regional and international markets.

Heydari cited existing cross-border projects, including the Korpeje-Kurt Kuy gas pipeline, Friendship Dam, Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Iran railway and Incheh Borun-Bereket rail link, as examples of successful bilateral cooperation.

He called for investment opportunities to be backed by clear institutional mechanisms, predictability and viable projects, and invited regional partners to turn economic dialogue into concrete joint investments.

Tehran, Baghdad push for resumption of flights

Economy Desk

Iranian Minister of Roads and Urban Development Farzaneh Sadegh and Iraqi Ambassador to Tehran Yasser Abdul Zahra Al-Hajjaj discussed bilateral issues, including the resumption of flights between the two countries, during a meeting in Tehran. Al-Hajjaj referred to US pressure on air transportation between

Iran and Iraq, saying the two sides were working to identify mechanisms that could help address the issue under the current circumstances.

“Flights between the two countries will resume soon,” he was quoted as saying by IRNA.

“Millions of pilgrims travel to the holy sites, while thousands of students and schoolchildren, as well as large Iranian and Iraqi

communities, travel between the two countries. There are also extensive trade ties between the two sides.”

He added that large numbers of Iranian and Iraqi nationals live in each other’s countries and that economic and people-to-people ties between the two sides were deep-rooted and strong.

“I believe such a decision [by the US] cannot diminish the depth of

relations between the two countries,” the Iraqi envoy said.

Sadegh, for her part, said ties between Iran and Iraq were deep and interconnected, adding that countries with little in common with Iran and Iraq in terms of culture, civilization, ethics and shared history and religion could not create division or separation between the two nations.

“Given the efforts currently

being made by both countries, we hope the issue of flights will be resolved as soon as possible and air connectivity between Iran and Iraq will improve,” she said.

The United States has recently imposed sanctions targeting Iran’s aviation industry as part of its broader pressure campaign. The measures also include secondary sanctions against foreign

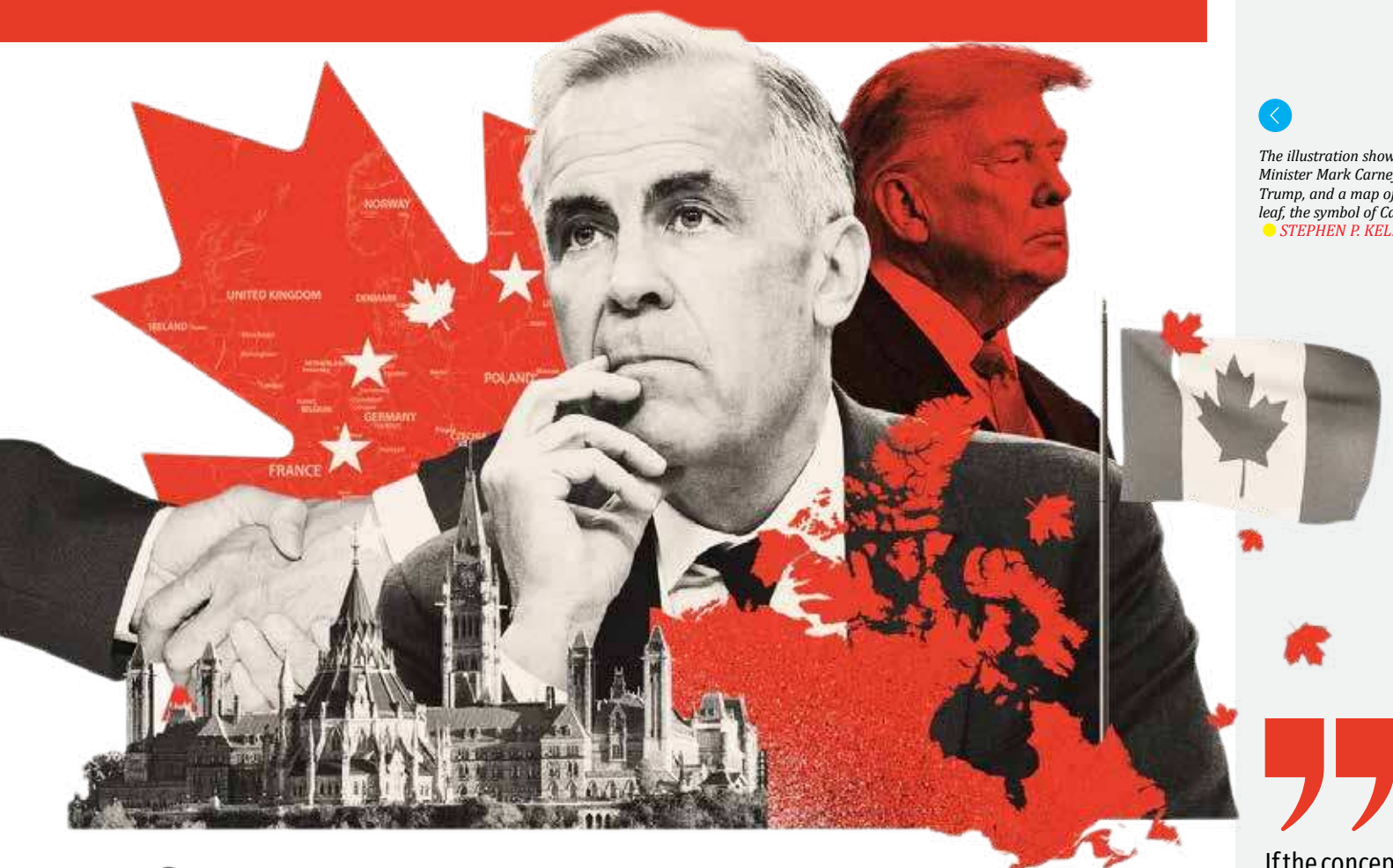
companies and intermediaries that provide Iranian airlines with fuel, airport services, spare parts or other support.

The measures have led to restrictions affecting some Iranian flights to other countries, including Iraq.

However, officials from both countries are pursuing efforts to bring back air links between Iran and Iraq.

‘Coupling without fusion’

Canada, Europe test a new kind of alliance



The illustration shows Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney (c), US President Donald Trump, and a map of Europe inside a maple leaf, the symbol of Canada.

● STEPHEN P. KELLY/GETTY IMAGES



If the concept of associate membership is yet to be properly defined — starting with meaningful legal substance — Carney's address gave it discernible geopolitical purpose. His argument rests on a lesson he has repeated since his Davos speech in January 2026: excessive economic concentration creates vulnerability. And only diversification can restore room for political choice. In Carney's own words in Strasbourg: 'The objective is not self-sufficiency. It is collective resilience.'



Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney (R) is welcomed by European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen (L) and Roberta Metsola, president of the European Parliament, upon his arrival at the European Parliament ahead of the State of the European Union address (SOTEU), in Strasbourg, France, on September 16, 2026.

● YVES HERMAN/REUTERS



In this configuration, the EU would remain the constitutional core of a wider system of concentric circles. Associated countries would be integrated into selected markets, programmes and security structures without acquiring the political rights reserved for members.

The law has yet to catch up with the politics

Nevertheless, at this stage the 'associate member' status remains a political expression rather than a legal category. Article 49 of the Treaty on European Union says that any European state may apply for EU membership. Canada does not meet that geographical requirement. Creating a formal new category of membership with institutional rights — representation in EU bodies, for example — would therefore require treaty revision. Under Article 48, amendments ultimately require ratification by every member state according to its procedures. That makes genuine constitutional 'associate membership' a very ambitious undertaking. There is, however, an easier route. Article 217 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU does permit agreements with third countries establishing an association based on reciprocal rights and obligations, common action and special procedures. Such association agreements require unanimity in the Council and the consent of the European Parliament. Brussels and Ottawa could therefore deliver most of what Carney envisages without embarking on the long and painstaking journey of treaty revision. Politically, such an option could suit Canada better. Carney stressed after his speech that sovereignty would be preserved and that any final arrangement would be put to a vote in Canada. He also played down the importance of what Brussels eventually calls it. The difficult negotiations would concern regulatory alignment, market access and reciprocal obligations rather than the 'nomenclature'.

In Canada, opposition is already visible. Pierre Poilievre's Conservatives support trade and defence links with Europe but have warned against EU taxation, legislation or free-movement rules applying to Canada. And they argue that Parliament must scrutinize any transfer of authority. In Europe, diplomats have questioned what associate membership would mean and noted that von der Leyen's proposal had not been agreed with the member states beforehand. EU candidate countries could also reasonably ask why Canada should receive privileged access while they undergo years of regulatory and political reform to qualify for membership. But the immediate warning sign is more tangible. Ten EU member states — including France, Italy, Poland, Belgium and Ireland — have still not ratified the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), nine years after its provisional application began. That unfinished business points towards the political challenges ahead. How likely are EU member states to reach agreement on Canada's associate membership when a simple free trade agreement struggles to secure full ratification?

CETA would be the best framework available to provide the commercial foundation of a new Canada-EU association. Defence cooperation through SAFE already offers a template for selective participation in EU instruments. Negotiations would now need to proceed on digital trade, research, student and youth mobility, critical minerals and energy. Institutional arrangements would then gradually build around them.

To borrow an apocryphal line from Lenin, there are decades when nothing happens and weeks when decades happen. These past few days in Strasbourg may come to be remembered as one of those moments when history accelerates.

The EU and Canada are testing how far integration can be achieved between countries that want greater strategic independence without merging their political institutions. Success could have implications far beyond the Atlantic. One conclusion can already be drawn, however: another kind of transatlantic relationship is possible.

The article was first published by Chatham House.



By Grégoire Roos

Director of the Europe Programme at Chatham House

OPINION

There is something rather extraordinary about the geopolitical times we live in. They are making what seemed impossible yesterday possible today, and what once sounded laughable increasingly credible. Recent proposals for closer integration between Canada and the EU undoubtedly belongs to that category. On September 16, European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen proposed making Canada the EU's first 'associate member'. The next day, Canadian prime minister Mark Carney used his address to the European Parliament to set out an unusually ambitious programme of economic and strategic integration. Canada and Europe, he argued, should cooperate across critical minerals, defence production, artificial intelligence and computing, energy, space and payments. They should move towards 'seamless' digital trade in non-agricultural goods and services. And they should expand opportunities for young Canadians and Europeans to live, work and study across the Atlantic. Canada also eyes access to the EU's Horizon research programme.

If the concept of associate membership is yet to be properly defined — starting with meaningful legal substance — Carney's address gave it discernible geopolitical purpose. His argument rests on a lesson he has repeated since his Davos speech in January 2026: excessive economic concentration creates vulnerability. And only diversification can restore room for political choice. In Carney's own words in Strasbourg: 'The objective is not self-sufficiency. It is collective resilience.'

That logic applies to both sides of the Atlantic. Canada remains extraordinarily exposed to the United States (US), which takes roughly seven in 10 Canadian exports. The EU has its own dependencies — including on US technology and secu-

rity capabilities, Chinese supply chains and, of course, energy imports.

In this context, both sides of the Atlantic see partnership as a timely opportunity. Seen from Brussels, Canada has much to offer: energy, minerals, Arctic reach, investment capital and advanced capabilities in areas including AI, quantum and space. Seen from Ottawa, the EU also brings a lot to the table: a single market of 450 million consumers, a still strong industrial capacity, world-class research networks and considerable regulatory power.

This momentum did not suddenly emerge that week. But the Carney and von der Leyen speeches moved the conversation a step further, giving stronger political expression to a relationship that has been deepening for some time. In June, for instance, Canada became the first non-European country formally brought into procurement under the EU's €150 billion Security Action for Europe (SAFE) defence instrument. The relationship is clearly strengthening well beyond trade. It now connects industrial policy, defence production, technology and economic security in ways that the EU has rarely attempted with a non-European power, Japan being probably the closest precedent.

A transatlantic hedge more than a new bloc

Donald Trump's swift reaction indicates the extent to which the notion of Canadian associate membership really matters. The US president described the prospect as potentially a 'hostile act' and threatened heavy tariffs on Europe if Washington concluded that the initiative was directed against the US. Carney responded that Canada would determine its own international partnerships.

Yet Carney was equally explicit that he is not seeking to construct a rival geopolitical bloc. His proposal might be better understood as an attempt to give countries exposed to great-power economic pressure greater freedom of action. In a way, this model resembles what architects would call 'coupling without fusion': two structures that reinforce one another against external pressure but retain their own

EU's first associate member?

How to make EU-Canada ties stronger, tighter




By Giuseppe Spatafora
Policy Analyst at the EUISS

O P I N I O N

During her State of the Union (SOTEU) speech in Strasbourg, Commission President von der Leyen addressed Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney, the first foreign head of government to attend the event. She proposed that Canada become the EU's first 'associate member'. The announcement reflected the strengthening political ties between Ottawa and Brussels.

Yet several obstacles stand in the way of Canada's closer integration with the EU. To turn the announcement into an enduring reality, the EU and its Member States should set out a clear political vision of what associate membership would entail. At the same time, they must sustain the deepening partnership with Canada through concrete action on economic security, energy, defence, and other areas.

A 'unique alliance' in the making

The case for closer ties between Ottawa and Brussels is straightforward. Canada is a NATO ally and shares Europe's values. European countries and Canada face common threats from Russia along their eastern and northern frontiers — as well as increasing economic pressure from China. Like the EU, Canada's relationship with the US has become strained under Trump 2.0: Washington and Ottawa are currently in an escalating tariff war, and the US president has repeatedly threatened to turn Canada into the 51st US state.

In light of growing threats and less reliable American support, Canada, the EU and individual European countries have stepped up the pace of their co-operation. They have signed over 30 agreements since January 2025. Canada has become an EU Security and Defence Partner, and the first non-European country whose companies can benefit from SAFE loans beyond the 35% threshold. Ottawa has enhanced defence cooperation with the Nordic countries, the Netherlands, the UK and Ukraine. In July 2026, Canada selected Germany's TKMS as preferred supplier for delivering Canada's next fleet of

submarines, its largest-ever defence procurement contract. Carney has pitched Canada as a key partner for the EU's economic security. The country's vast reserves of energy and critical minerals could help Europe tackle rising energy prices and reduce its dependence on hostile actors. In May, Germany secured a 20-year supply agreement for Canadian LNG, although it will take years for Canada to build up the necessary export capacity and infrastructure. Recent agreements between Ottawa and Brussels also cover critical emerging sectors, such as artificial intelligence, cyber and space.

What model to follow?

The idea of an 'associate membership' status — which does not currently exist — raises numerous questions about what this arrangement would involve, and whether EU Member States and Canada would both want it.

 *Canada's Prime Minister Mark Carney (c) announces that Canada has picked Germany's TKMS to build 12 submarines for its navy, at HMC Dockyard in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, on July 6, 2026.*

● INGRID BULMER/REUTERS

 *Canada's Prime Minister Mark Carney (front) and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen (c-r) arrive for the annual State of the European Union at the European Parliament in Strasbourg, eastern France, on September 16, 2026.*

● PASCAL BASTIEN/AP

ist — raises numerous questions about what this arrangement would involve, and whether EU Member States and Canada would both want it. Contemplating full membership would require amending the EU treaties to consider Canada part of geographical Europe. This is unlikely to happen. It would also cause uproar among EU candidate countries concerned about being leapfrogged in the accession process.

Other models short of membership exist. The EU and Canada could sign an association agreement, which could open the door to progressive integration (as with countries in the Eastern neighbourhood and the Western Balkans). The 'Swiss



Other models short of membership exist. The EU and Canada could sign an association agreement, which could open the door to progressive integration (as with countries in the Eastern neighbourhood and the Western Balkans). The 'Swiss model' provides for extensive but sectoral integration into the EU's *acquis* through separate agreements — short of membership. Accession to the European Economic Area (the 'Norway model') would allow Canadian participation across most of the internal market and enable free movement of people.

model' provides for extensive but sectoral integration into the EU's *acquis* through separate agreements — short of membership. Accession to the European Economic Area (the 'Norway model') would allow Canadian participation across most of the internal market and enable free movement of people.

Each of these options presents political difficulties for Ottawa. Canada would need to change its laws and regulations to align with the EU *acquis*, and substantially reduce its integration within the North American economy. While Ottawa is diversifying away from Washington, it still exports 75% of its goods to its southern neighbour, while the EU accounts for less than 6% of Canadian exports. These changes could complicate economic and political stability, potentially fuelling secessionist pressures in a country that is already facing a (non-binding) referendum in the province of Alberta in October.

On the European side, there also seems to be a limit to the appetite for closer ties. Ten Member States — many of which face elections in 2027 — still need to ratify the Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement (CETA) which was signed in 2017. Before the SOTEU speech, several European diplomats expressed reservations about Carney's proposals.

Raising the ceiling

The upcoming EU-Canada summit, scheduled to take place at the end of October in Montreal, provides a key opportunity for EU and Canadian leaders. They will need to set out concrete proposals for turning the idea of associate membership into reality.

This could take the form of an association agreement that would elevate the relationship and reflect the expansion of EU-Canada joint interests, going well beyond free trade. It could cover foreign policy coordination, defence, economic security, technology, energy, and democratic resilience. This agreement could become the new standard for EU partnerships with like-minded democracies beyond the European continent, like Japan or Korea.

Beyond the political level, the EU and Member States should continue to strengthen ties with Canada where possible. Provisions that will not apply until CETA is ratified, such as investment protection, could be explored in separate investment agreements. Following the precedent set by SAFE, Canadian companies could be granted privileged access to European procurement in key sectors. This could be particularly attractive to Ottawa given the recent move by the US to ban Canadian goods from federal civil procurement. Such measures could help increase the capital needed across both sides of the Atlantic for the development of AI and energy infrastructure, as well as trusted supply chains for critical raw materials.

On security and defence, Europeans and Canadians could deepen cooperation further. In addition to expanding exercises on Europe's eastern flank — where Canada leads a NATO multinational battalion in Latvia and runs a training mission for Ukraine — they could step up joint activities in the Arctic. The EU's upcoming Arctic Strategy could provide opportunities for joint action with Ottawa across domains such as energy, climate security and critical infrastructure protection. NATO's Arctic Sentry mission and the Joint Expeditionary Force (JEF), which Canada has just applied to join, are other useful frameworks for cooperation. Additionally, joint EU-Canadian missions could patrol the North Atlantic and Arctic waters, ensuring protection of critical undersea infrastructure and key naval routes.

The momentum is there for Europe and Canada to take their partnership to a new level. A political agreement shaping the vision for 'associate membership' status, together with stronger sectoral cooperation, could enable them to do just that.

The article was first published by the EU Institute for Security Studies.

Aichi-Nagoya 2026 Asian Games:

Iran cruises past Pakistan to reach men's volleyball final



Sports Desk

Iran's men's volleyball national team will chase a fourth successive gold medal at the Asian Games in today's final after securing an emphatic 3-0 semi-final victory (25-13, 25-15, 25-11) over Pakistan at the Aichi-Nagoya 2026 on Friday. Outside hitter Ali Haqparast led the way with a match-high 21 points, with opposite spiker Amin Esmailnejad adding 15, as Iran, entering the contest on the back of a gruelling five-set quarterfinal against South Korea on the previous day, made quick work of its opponent, finishing the match in just under one hour at the Okazaki Chuo Sogo Park Gymnasium. Middle blocker Seyyed Eisa Nasserli also reached double figures, chipping in 15 points, while outside hitter Morteza Sharifi finished with nine. Standing between Iran and the top prize will be host and volleyball powerhouse Japan, which defeated Iran in straight sets in the Continental Championship final on home soil in

September to book its place at the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics. Japan also emerged victorious in five sets when the two sides met in the Volleyball Nations League preliminaries in June.

Greco-Roman glory

Elsewhere at the multi-sport event, Iranian Greco-Roman wrestler Alireza Abdevali claimed the gold medal in the 77kg division in style, defeating reigning Olympic champion and home favorite Nao Kusaka 5-3 in the final. With Kusaka joined by two-time world champion Akzhol Makhmudov of Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan's Olympic silver medalist Demeu Zhadravey in the other half of the bracket, the 22-year-old Iranian capitalized on the favorable draw to add Asian Games glory to his two world under-20 titles. Given a bye in the first round, Abdevali defeated Indonesia's Andika Sulaeman by technical superiority (8-0) before beating Qatar's Iranian-born Shahin Baddaghi in similar fashion,

winning 9-0, to advance to the final.

"Perhaps few people fancied me against the Japanese opponent, but I wrestled boldly and with determination, fought hard and, thankfully, managed to win the gold," Abdevali said after the final.

"I believed in myself, and my coach, Hassan Rangraz, also believed in me," he said.

"Over the past year or two, I had not been able to wrestle the way I wanted and had not achieved good results either. But I am grateful that I managed to find my form again and become the Asian Games champion." Abdevali's triumph marked a second gold medal for the Iranian roster across six weight divisions.

Reigning world super-heavyweight champion Amin Mirzazadeh grabbed the 130kg gold on the opening day of the wrestling event, thanks to a 3-1 victory over Uzbekistan's Rafael Tsitsushvili in the final.

Mahdi Bali, meanwhile, added



PANAM SANI/IRVIV

a bronze to Iran's medal haul, recovering from a last-four setback against Japan's Yuri Nakazato – during which the Iranian surrendered a four-point lead to lose 5-4 – to defeat Kazakhstan's Islam Yevloyev by fall, while leading 5-1, in the third-place bout of the 97kg category.

Alipour settles for silver

Iranian sport climbing sensation Reza Alipour, entering the Asian Games as the two-time defending gold medalist, had to settle for silver this time around in the men's speed event. A former world record holder, 32-year-old Alipour clocked

5.36 seconds in the four-man final to finish behind China's teenage prodigy Chu Shouhong, who scaled the wall in 4.71 seconds for his third major triumph in a year, having also won the title at the 2025 World Games and April's Asian Championships.

Iran coach Qalaneoi accepts mistakes, vows to rebuild team ahead of Asian Cup

Sports Desk

Iran head coach Amir Qalaneoi has acknowledged shortcomings in the national team's recent performances and vowed to rebuild the side ahead of the 2027 AFC Asian Cup in Saudi Arabia.

In its first outings since the 2026 FIFA World Cup, Iran faced Uzbekistan and Russia in two friendlies during the ongoing international break, losing 3-1 to the Central Asian side in Fergana last week before suffering a 2-0 defeat against the European side in Kazan on Tuesday – results that fell short of expectations among fans and pundits in the country.

"I have heard all the criticism from experts, the media, former players and the people, and I have listened carefully," Qalaneoi told the Iranian Football Federation newspaper. "If criticism is well-intentioned, it is not upsetting for me; rather, it can be a guiding light.

"I don't want to run away from the recent results or make excuses for them. The technical responsibility for the team lies with me," he said. "If a wrong decision was made, the planning was not good enough, or we failed to make the best use of the players' abilities, I accept responsibility."

Qalaneoi also acknowledged concerns about Iran's prospects at the 2027 Asian Cup, where the three-time champion – a semifinalist in the previous two editions – will look to end a six-decade drought in the flagship continental showcase. "We will review our planning, address our weaknesses and, if necessary, make changes to the technical structure and the players we select," he said. "My goal is clear: I want to rebuild the national team, even better than before, so that at the Asian Cup we have a team worthy of Iranian football and capable of competing for major success."



Iran's Aria Yousefi (17) is seen in action during a 2-0 loss to Russia in a friendly game in Kazan, Russia, on Sept. 29, 2026.

● FIFRI

Qalaneoi stressed that his experience of difficult periods during his career would help him deal with the current situation. He pointed to his spells at Esteghlal and with the national team as examples of how teams can recover from setbacks through time, hard work and planning. However, Qalaneoi said acknowledging mistakes should not be confused with giving up.

"I accept the mistakes, but I will not surrender," he said. "My responsibility is to get through this stage and build a team that makes people feel again that this is the Iranian national team capable of fighting for major objectives." He also highlighted the need to strike a balance between experienced players and younger talents, while improving tactical preparation and coordination between different generations.

Qalaneoi identified the physical condition of players as another area requiring attention. He said Iran's high-intensity running figures had

dropped significantly between the June World Cup and the match against Uzbekistan.

According to the coach, Iran recorded around 8.28 kilometers of high-intensity running and 118.8 kilometers of total team distance against Egypt at the World Cup, compared with approximately 6.78 kilometers of high-intensity activity and 103.6 kilometers of total distance against Uzbekistan.

Qalaneoi said the decline should not be used as an excuse for the result but should serve as a warning about the physical demands of international football.

"We had a long preparation period before the World Cup, but we had only four training sessions before the match against Uzbekistan," he said. "This is a warning and a lesson, not an excuse." Qalaneoi concluded by asking Iranian fans to give the team an opportunity to recover.

"You have every right to be upset and to criticize," he said. "We accept responsibility for the results and will correct our mistakes. The defeats of today should not be the end of the road; they should be the starting point for serious rebuilding."

FIBA West Asia Super League Final 8:

Shahrdari beaten by Al Ula, fails to make its way to last four

Sports Desk

Iranian club Shahrdari Gorgan missed out on a semi-final spot at the FIBA West Asia Super League Final 8 after suffering a 99-84 defeat against Saudi Arabia's Al Ula Club in Zouk Mikael, Lebanon, on Thursday.

A second defeat in three outings saw 2024 bronze medalist Shahrdari finish third in Group B with four points – one behind Al Ula and two adrift of Lebanon's Sagesse, which enjoyed a perfect run on home soil to advance.

Elijah Stewart erupted for 44 points and five rebounds to lead the Saudi side, particularly helping turn the game in his team's favor late in the first quarter as Al Ula built enough momentum to eventually pull away.

It soon became a one-sided affair, with Al Ula cruising to a historic victory as the club became the first Saudi Ara-

bian team to reach the semi-finals of the pan-regional competition.

Mitch Creek came through with 17 points and seven rebounds, while David Michineau recorded a rare triple-double with 12 points, 11 rebounds and 11 assists. Ahmed Almkhtar also scored 12 points, including four three-pointers from six attempts.

Creek and Michineau helped Stewart erase Shahrdari's five-point lead during the opening quarter through a 13-2 scoring run, punctuated by a Stewart three-pointer, to put Al Ula ahead 24-18 at the end of the period.

Almkhtar and Mo Alsulwaillem then helped widen the gap to double digits, and Al Ula maintained its advantage until the final buzzer as Gorgan struggled to mount a serious comeback.

Creek pushed Al Ula's lead to 20 points for the

first time at 62-42 following a three-pointer with 7:47 remaining in the third quarter. The gap grew as large as 24 points twice later in the same period.

Jordan Stevens scored 22 points, albeit on 22 shots, to lead Gorgan, which failed to advance to the Final 8 semi-finals for the second time in three appearances.

D'Angelo Harrison supplied 17 points, eight rebounds and three assists, while Navid Rezaeifar added 13 points as the trio were the only Gorgan players to score in double figures in the defeat for coach Mehran Hatami.

"We lost the game, but the result didn't show the level of the players. My team is way better than what they did today. But our opponent played better. We deserved to lose," said the former Iran men's national team head coach.



● FIBA

Iran, UNESCO step up cooperation on protection of damaged heritage sites

Iranica Desk

Iran and UNESCO have agreed to expand technical and international cooperation to assess, document, restore and protect heritage sites damaged in Iran, with UNESCO planning to send representatives to conduct field assessments.

According to Mehr News Agency, the agreement was discussed at a meeting between Farhad Azizi Zallani, Director General of Iran's World Heritage Sites, and Lazare Eloundou Assomo, Director of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Dialogue on Heritage and Authenticity, organized by the UNESCO World Heritage

Centre in Hanoi, Vietnam.

During the meeting, Azizi Zallani presented an update on the condition of Iran's cultural heritage sites and complexes, particularly properties inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List that were damaged during the recent war. He also outlined the prospects for expanding cooperation between Iran and the World Heritage Centre, as well as the Iranian Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts' expectations regarding the organization's technical, specialist and international capacities.

The report outlined the extent of the damage, as well as ongoing expert assessments,

documentation efforts and emergency measures taken to protect, restore and safeguard the affected sites.

The discussions focused on expanding expert cooperation, exchanging technical knowledge and experience, supporting conservation programs, and facilitating the participation of international experts in assessing the condition of damaged heritage sites.

Eloundou Assomo, for his part, reaffirmed the World Heritage Centre's support for cultural heritage sites and properties inscribed on the World Heritage List. He said plans were underway to dispatch UNESCO representatives to conduct field



assessments, determine the extent of the damage, and identify

potential forms and areas of support and cooperation.

He also stressed the importance of maintaining expert-level communication and coordination among relevant institutions, saying continued professional engagement could help strengthen conservation efforts and facilitate more effective approaches to safeguarding Iran's World Heritage.

The two sides emphasized Iran's historical, civilizational and international significance in the field of cultural heritage and underscored the need to strengthen and expand cooperation between Iran and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, while making targeted use of existing capacities to protect shared human heritage.

Iran unveils 246 projects during Tourism Week

Iranica Desk

Despite wartime conditions and existing challenges, 246 tourism projects in 27 provinces were unveiled during this year's Tourism Week (Sept. 27-Oct. 4), while another 128 projects became operational during Government (Week Aug. 24-30).

According to IRNA, Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri made the remarks at a ceremony marking Tourism Week in Bushehr.

He said that, overall, 500 tourism projects had been unveiled or inaugurated across the country over the past year, stressing that "despite the pressures, the wheel of development never stopped turning."

"Tourism is an engine that sets all the wheels of the economy in motion, and the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts is determined to accelerate this process," Salehi-Amiri said.

He added that Bushehr must prepare for an influx of tourists from around the world, saying that during foreign visits, Iranian officials had observed a change in how other countries viewed and interacted with Iran. "The world is interested in seeing the new Iran up close," he said.

Salehi-Amiri said a new tourism corridor in southern Iran was emerging and that "southern tourism" would become one of the country's main priorities in the national tourism calendar. He said Chabahar, Makoran, Hormozgan, Qeshm, Kish, Bushehr and Khuzestan would be promoted more extensively to domestic and international tourists.

"The southern coastline must become an active tourism corridor in Iran's tourism calendar, and Bushehr can become one of the country's hubs for marine tourism," he said.

Referring to Bushehr's potential for marine tourism, the



minister said the development of ports, marinas, hotels and coastal tourism complexes was essential to accommodate large numbers of visitors. He invited investors from across the country to invest in southern Iran, particularly Bushehr Province. He said tourism investment packages for Bushehr had been

prepared and added that, alongside support for air, road and rail transportation, the ministry would provide the necessary assistance to strengthen the province's tourism infrastructure. The minister also stressed the need to expand eco-lodges in Bushehr, saying the province has one of Iran's largest poten-

tials for ecotourism. The ministry, he said, would support operators throughout the process — from licensing and construction to the launch of their businesses — through financial assistance and interest-free loans. Highlighting Bushehr's cultural and historical assets, Salehi-Amiri said the province was not merely a tourism destination but also embodied a distinct identity and historical heritage.

"It has more than 6,000 years of history and civilization, extending from the Elamite civilization to the present day," he said.

The minister said some 670,000 people are currently engaged in handicraft production across Iran, with women accounting for 80 percent of them.

He also said Iran currently has 800 museums, of which about 300 are state-run, while the remainder — equivalent to 62.2 percent — are privately operated.

Speaking at the opening and re-

design ceremony of the Rais-Ali Delvari Museum in Tangestan, Bushehr Province, Salehi-Amiri said the government was pursuing a policy of "one museum for every city," with the aim of opening 100 new museums each year.

He described museums as the collective memory of nations and stressed the importance of accurate interpretation and storytelling in museums. According to the minister, qualified professionals with sufficient knowledge should be employed to present the history and culture of different regions of the country.

Referring to the renovation and modernization of the Rais-Ali Delvari Museum, Salehi-Amiri said the facility had been transformed from an ordinary space into a conceptual museum featuring modern design that could appeal to younger generations. "The Rais-Ali Delvari Museum is one of the most beautiful museums in Iran in terms of both design and concept," he said.

Forgotten buildings keep Bandar Anzali's history alive

Iranica Desk

Bandar Anzali, a city with a rich history, culture and architectural heritage, is home to buildings scattered throughout the city, each of which tells a part of its identity and collective memory. Some of these structures may receive little attention today, but their walls continue to preserve stories from Bandar Anzali's past.

"Music Jiga" and the "Municipality Building" are just two examples of these historic structures. Their stories continue to live on in different corners of the city, and Tourism Week (Sept. 27-Oct. 4) could provide an opportunity to revisit, introduce and revive this overlooked heritage.

"Music Jiga" was a space that gained historical significance through its governmental and public



Music Jiga
● wikipedia.org

functions, while various accounts of the site have remained part of the collective memory of local residents. The building bears a striking resemblance to Hafezieh in Shiraz. However, according to available sources, Hafezieh in Shiraz was constructed in 1935, while Music Jiga was built in 1932.

Zahra Jahani, head of

the Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department of Bandar Anzali, told ISNA that, according to available information, the Music Jiga building was constructed in 1932. At the time, Bandar Anzali's geographical position and extensive connections with Russia and other parts of the world, particularly European countries, brought

diplomats, merchants and travelers from various countries to the city. Under such circumstances, she said, the presence of a musical ensemble at the site to perform during ceremonies and welcome guests — particularly when the king or his guests were present — was of particular importance. However, Music Jiga was not merely a venue associated with official and governmental events; it also held a special place in the memories of local residents.

One notable account associated with the site concerns an orphanage in Bandar Anzali where children without parental care were housed. According to this account, at a designated time each day, the musical ensemble would walk along the route to the orphanage on Si-Metri Street, playing their instruments before



Bandar Anzali Municipality
● IRNA

arriving at the site, where they would perform for the public. Residents would gather to watch the performances, an event that, on the one hand, created a space for social interaction and, on the other, helped ease the children's suffering while raising public awareness of their circumstances, Jahani said.

Jahani also referred to the

Bandar Anzali Municipality Building, which is also known as the Municipality Theater and Cinema Building, although different accounts exist regarding the relationship between and distinctions separating these two structures.

One of the longstanding issues surrounding the history of urban administration in Iran is a historical disagreement among

cities such as Tabriz, Rasht, Bandar Anzali and Tehran over which city established the country's first municipality.

However, Jahani said, it is important to distinguish between a Baladieh (municipal administration) and a modern municipality when examining the issue. According to the explanation provided, the National Consultative Assembly issued a directive requiring cities meeting certain population and area criteria to establish a Baladieh, a measure referred to as the "Baladieh Resolution."

For this reason, the history of the establishment of a Baladieh cannot be equated with the date on which a municipality building was constructed. Different sources also give different dates for the construction of the Bandar Anzali Municipality Building.

TENDER NO.: 01-31-0480005

Second Announcement



NISOC
NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY
AHVAZ-IRAN

The National Iranian South Oil Company (NISOC) is seeking to procure the specified goods listed in the table below through a Qualitative Evaluation Call for conducting a public tender via the Government Electronic Procurement System (SETAD). All stages of the tender process including the receipt of tender documents, submission of bidders' proposals, and the opening of bid envelopes, shall be carried out exclusively through the Government Electronic Procurement System (SETAD) portal at www.setadiran.ir. Bidders who have not previously registered must complete the registration process on the aforementioned portal and obtain an Electronic Signature certificate to participate in the tender.

Item	Material Description	Quantity
25	PART FOR "AIR PACK" RECIPROCATING AIR COMPRESSOR TYPE: HA-550-LT SERIAL NOS.T-1995-00449-1 TO 00449/3 AIR PACK REFERENCE: 7356-COM REF. AIR PACK NEDERLAND B.V 2 STAGE CYLINDER SET	327 NO

Vendors who intend to participate in aforesaid tenders are requested to send their "Intention To Participate" letter via fax to the following number along with their resume according to Qualitative Assessment Form no. 1, available at: www.setadiran.ir, not later than 14 days after the second announcement, otherwise, their requests for participation in the tender will be disregarded. The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of **9,929/61 EURO** or **16,965,000,000 RIAL**, in favor of NISOC.

ONLY ACCEPTABLE DELIVERY TERM IS DDP. NISOC'S WAREHOUSE. AGHAJARI PAYMENT TERM IS C.O.D SUBSEQUENT TO NISOC'S MATERIAL APPROVAL. NO ADVANCED PAYMENT WILL BE PAID

FOREIGN PURCHASING DEPARTMENT

Bldg. No. 104, Material Procurement Management Complex, Kouy-e-Fadaeian Islam (New Site), Ahvaz, Iran

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