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Vessels pass through the Strait of Hormuz in this photo published by the Islamic Republic News Agency on November 22, 2026.
IRNA

US accusations of dirty bomb threat part of securitization strategy

TERVIEW EXCLUSIVE

With its campaign against Iran at an impasse, Washington is seeking to manage the crisis while keeping its options open. International affairs analyst Mani Mehrabi told Iran Daily that the United States has opted to combine military and economic pressure with continued diplomatic engagement. He also argued that allegations of Iran pursuing a "dirty bomb" or chemical and biological weapons should be viewed through the lens of "securitization," a strategy aimed at portraying Iran as an immediate security threat to justify potential future actions.



Mani Mehrabi

By Delaram Ahmadi
Staff writer

IRAN DAILY: Given Donald Trump's recent remarks on Iran, including his reference to new developments with the start of the New Year, as well as statements by other US officials, what do you see as Washington's next move toward Tehran? Do the signs point more toward an escalation of pressure or an attempt to open the door to negotiations?

MEHRABI: US policy toward Iran cannot be reduced to the simple binary of "war or negotiations." Donald Trump's recent remarks point to a tactical balancing act between maximum pressure, military deterrence and limited diplomatic openings, rather than a clear-cut shift toward either peace or full-scale war.

In this regard, two important issues must be distinguished when assessing Washington's recent actions: its desire to bring the current costly situation to an end and its desire to end the confrontation with Iran. These are not necessarily the same thing. The White House may seek to reduce the costs and manage the ongoing attrition without necessarily abandoning the broader confrontation or relinquishing its leverage over Tehran.

The Trump administration faces domestic constraints and cost-benefit calculations. On the one hand, the repercussions of the midterm elections and a possible shift in the balance of power in Congress in the New Year are narrowing the White House's window of opportunity. On the other, the economic costs of war, its impact on energy markets and its adverse effects on the Republicans' political standing are raising the price of entering a wider conflict. Meanwhile, the experience of regional confrontations has shown that military superiority does not necessarily translate into the ability to impose desired political outcomes.

This is why Washington has opted for a combination of military and economic pressure while keeping diplomatic channels open, rather than pursuing an all-out war. On the one hand, military warnings, claims of control and a naval blockade, as well as Israel's insistence on a more aggressive approach amid concerns over Iran rebuilding its military capabilities, indicate that the military option remains on the table. On the other, consultations between Trump's special envoys and Qatari officials in Berlin, efforts to advance proposals for reopening the Strait of Hormuz, and Trump's stated interest in a grand bargain all suggest that the diplomatic track has not been closed.

Nevertheless, given the considerable gap between Washington's demands and Tehran's red lines, keeping this channel open does not mean that the United States is prepared to settle for limited or temporary understandings. Under the current circumstances, diplomacy should instead be viewed alongside military and economic pressure, primarily as a tool for sending messages and gauging the other side's position.

The recent meeting between Donald Trump's envoys, Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner, and Qatar's prime minister and special representative in Berlin has once again highlighted Doha's role in mediating between Tehran and Washington. Does Qatar have sufficient leverage to bring the two sides closer and break the current deadlock?

The meeting should be seen as a sign of Washington's efforts to keep diplomatic channels active, as mentioned earlier. At the same time, it reflects regional countries' concerns about the possibility of another confrontation between the United States and Iran. Given its relations with both sides, diplomatic experience and effective communication channels, Qatar can relay messages and help lay the groundwork for indirect negotiations. However, Doha's ability to facilitate dialogue does not mean it has the leverage needed to resolve fundamental disagreements. On the one hand, Tehran is insisting on a complete lifting of the naval blockade, the removal of sanctions and the release of its frozen assets. On the other, Washington wants the nuclear issue to be included in the negotiations. Therefore, unless both sides demonstrate the political will to moderate their positions and move toward a common framework, Qatar's diplomatic capacity alone will not be enough to break the current deadlock. Rather than offering a way to resolve the differences between the two countries, its mediation efforts primarily reflect regional states' concerns about being caught up in the fallout from the confrontation between Washington and Tehran.

How should recent accusations about the possibility of Iran using dirty bombs be analyzed in terms of their political and security objectives?

Claims that Iran may be seeking to develop a "dirty bomb" or chemical and biological weapons — allegations firmly rejected by the Islamic Republic of Iran and compared to earlier narratives used to justify the war — can be analyzed on several political, security and psychological levels:

First, psychological operations and the battle of narratives: Although a "dirty bomb" is fundamentally different from a nuclear weapon, the term immediately evokes fears of radiation and insecurity in urban areas in the public mind. Raising the issue in the media can be used to heighten public concern and put pressure on the other side.

Second, justifying hostile and security-related measures: In foreign and security policy discourse, attributing unconventional threats or banned weapons to a country can create a ready-made pretext for intelligence operations, intensified security pressure or new military actions, before public opinion and allies begin to question the need for further intervention.

Third, exploiting domestic and alliance dynamics: For an administration facing domestic criticism over the costs of war while also consulting with allies such as Israel over the level and pace of pressure, highlighting new "existential or security threats" can serve as a tool for consolidating domestic support and keeping partners aligned.

From a strategic perspective, this issue can be analyzed within the framework of the concept of "securitization." Securitization occurs when an issue is taken beyond the realm of political disagreement and presented as an immediate and exceptional threat to national security. Under such circumstances, governments can invoke the need to counter that threat to justify their own actions.

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Strait of Hormuz will remain closed until US accepts Iran's conditions: *FM*



Vessels are anchored in the Strait of Hormuz in this picture taken from the port city of Bandar Abbas, Iran, on November 16, 2026.
IRNA

International Desk

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi reiterated Tehran's conditions for reopening the Strait of Hormuz, stressing that the strategic waterway will remain closed until the United States accepts Iran's "reasonable and lawful" demands.

Speaking at a ceremony marking Oman's National Day on Saturday, Araghchi said reopening the Strait of Hormuz would not be difficult if the US accepted Iran's reasonable conditions in line with international law.

"There is no solution to the current situation unless the US acknowledges its mistakes and fulfills its previous commitments," he added.

He further emphasized that Iran is prepared to continue negotiations while it is ready to defend itself.

Pointing to the close relations between Iran and Oman, Araghchi said the two countries' ties are based on mutual respect, shared interests and cooperation.

Tehran and Muscat maintained regular consultations on regional issues, particularly the establishment of new security arrangements in the Persian Gulf, he reiterated. The foreign minister said one of the major lessons of previous wars was that regional security must be ensured by the countries in the region, noting that talks on this issue have already begun.

Iran closed the Strait of Hormuz following the launch of the American-Israeli aggression against the country on February 28.

The Islamic Republic and the United States agreed on a 60-day reopening period as part of a Pakistan-mediated memorandum of understanding in June, but American violations forced Tehran to close the chokepoint again.

Tehran has conditioned reopening of the waterway on the realization of a number of prerequisites, including cessation of American interference in regional maritime traffic.

US naval blockade

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the ceremony, Araghchi said the US naval blockade imposed on Iran is entirely illegal.

He stressed the importance of allowing more time for consultations among regional countries and for mediators to continue their work.

The foreign minister expressed hope that the blockade would be lifted through a rational process based on reason.

The US imposed its illegal blockade on Iran in April, after suffering defeat on the battlefield and failing to impose its terms during the Islamabad negotiations.

Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi also said on Saturday that Iran views the blockade as an act of war and will take whatever measures necessary to break the siege.

Gharibabadi said Tehran had conveyed its position on the US blockade to Washington through messages delivered via intermediary countries.

His comments come amid reports that Iran might dispatch a convoy of oil tankers to China in defiance of the US maritime embargo, with sources saying the country would target oil installations in regional countries allied with the US if Washington decides to attack or seize the tankers.

Gharibabadi said, however, that Tehran was giving diplomacy a chance to resolve its disputes with Washington through indirect negotiations.

Old world order cannot be restored with old photographs: *Top security official*

International Desk

Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Mohsen Rezaei said on Sunday that the global order has changed fundamentally after the US president shared an image on social media comparing the 1945 Yalta Conference with his recent meeting with Chinese and Russian presidents.

In a post on X on Sunday, Rezaei said Iran of 2026 is not the Iran of the 1943 Tehran Conference or the 1945 Yalta Conference, just as the United States of today is not the America of that era.

He described the United States as a "defeated" country rather than victorious in war, adding that the world has changed and



Mohsen Rezaei
IRNA

that "the current order cannot be taken back to the past with old photographs."

The Tehran Conference brought together the leaders of the United States, Britain and the Soviet Union in 1943 to coordinate their wartime strategy, while the 1945 Yalta Conference helped shape the post-World War II international order.

US President Donald Trump on Saturday shared an image on his Truth Social account comparing the 1945 Yalta Conference with a recent meeting involving himself, Chinese President Xi Jinping, and Russian President Vladimir Putin, captioning it "The Great Powers of 1945 and 2026."

The Yalta Conference, held in February 1945, brought together the leaders of the United States, Britain and the Soviet Union to discuss the post-World War II order and the future of Europe. Rezaei's comments came amid increased US military activity in the region and heightened tensions between Washington and Tehran.

The US has recently moved additional naval and military assets toward the Middle East, including carrier and amphibious forces, while strengthening air and missile defenses at bases and facilities in the region.

The deployments come amid continuing military confrontation between Washington and Tehran, with Iran repeatedly warning that US bases and naval assets beyond the region could be targeted in response to attacks on Iranian territory.

The US and the Israeli regime waged their first criminal war against Iran, which lasted 12 days, in June 2025. Their second aggression began on February 28, 2026, and came to a halt in early April after 40 days.

In both wars, Iran's resistance and successful retaliatory operations forced the aggressors to accept a ceasefire.

Qalibaf calls for 'sustainable deterrence' to remove to threat of war

International Desk

Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf said on Sunday that achieving "sustainable deterrence" is the only way to remove the threat of war against the country.

Speaking during a Parliament session on Sunday, Qalibaf said Iran has reached a point of military deterrence against its adversaries, such that the enemy has "come to the conclusion that it cannot launch a war similar to the 40-day war against us."

Qalibaf was referring to a recent aggression by the United States and Israel which began on February 28 and lasted for 40 days. As a result, the enemy had shifted its primary focus to undermining Iran's domestic security, exerting economic pressure and seeking to bring about the country's collapse from within, the top parliamentarian said.

Countering the enemy's strategy would require national unity, cohesion and the establishment of sustainable deterrence, he underlined.

"The only way to keep the enemy's threats away from our beloved Iran and its people is to achieve sustainable deterrence," the speaker said.

The United States and the Israeli regime waged their first illegal war against Iran, which lasted 12 days, in June 2025. Their



Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf speaks during a parliament session in Tehran on November 22, 2026.
ICANA

second aggression began on February 28, 2026, and came to a halt in early April after 40 days.

During the aggression, the US and the Israeli regime assassinated Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, along with senior military commanders, while thousands of civilians, including women and children, were also killed.

In both wars, Iran's resistance and decisive retaliatory operations forced the aggressors to accept a ceasefire.

Iran has also maintained a tight grip on the Strait of Hormuz since the early days of the second imposed war amid acts of mischief by Washington in the region.

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.

TENDER NO.: 08-21-0340012

First Announcement

NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY
AHVAZ-IRAN
N.I.S.O.C

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	UNIT
1	CASING 4-1/2 IN., 13.5 PPF, API GRADE L-80, SEAMLESS VAM , N.VAM, THREAD, RANGE 3, DRIFT LENGTH: 42 IN	30,000	LE
2	PUP JOINT, TUBING 4-1/2 IN., 13.5 PPH, 7 FT, PIN & BOX	65	NO
3	PUP JOINT, TUBING 4-1/2 IN., 13.5 PPH, 10 FT, PIN & BOX	65	NO
4	COUPLING TUBING 4-1/2 IN., (VAM-N. VAM-SEC)	500	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 than14 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 **153,665/53 EURO** or **310,686,343,220 RIAL**, in favor of NISOC.

ONLY ACCEPTABLE DELIVERY TERM IS CFR, BANDAR IMAM KHOMEINI, IRAN PAYMENT TERM IS C.A.D., SUBSEQUENT TO NISOC'S MATERIAL APPROVAL.

FOREIGN PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
Bldg. No. 104, Material Procurement Management Complex, Kouy-e-Fadaeian Islam (New Site), Ahvaz, Iran
Tel. No.: 061 34 12 4644
Fax No.: 061 34 45 74 37

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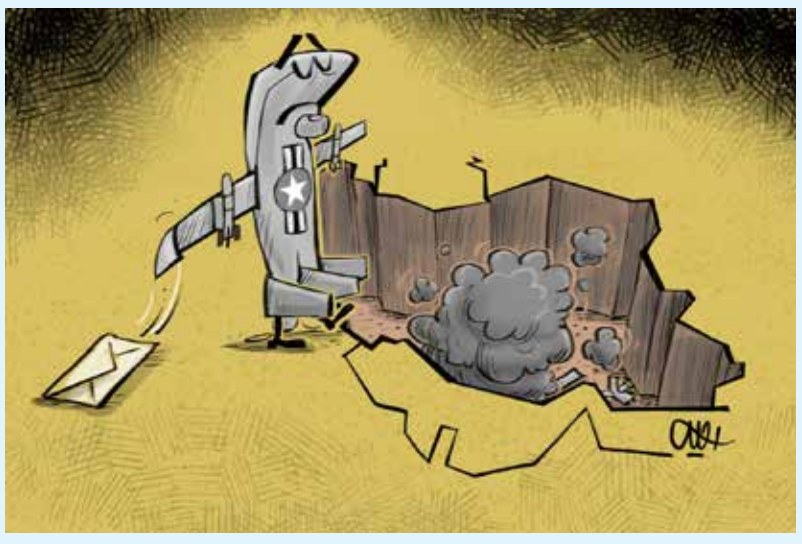
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Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

CARTOON



Agricultural sector grows 2.3% despite wartime pressures, minister says

Economy Desk

Iran's agricultural sector recorded 2.3% growth in value added last year and in the first quarter of the current Iranian year, which began on March 21, while creating about 70,000 jobs, Agriculture Minister Gholamreza Nouri-Qezeljeh said, highlighting the sector's resilience amid economic difficulties and wartime conditions.

Speaking in a televised interview late on Saturday, Nouri-Qezeljeh said the sector had maintained its activities despite difficult circumstances, adding that nearly 3.5 million metric tons of agricultural products worth about $3 billion had been exported in the first seven months of the current Iranian year.

He said Iran's diverse economic capabilities, extensive ties with neighboring countries and strong links between their peoples had helped sustain economic activity.

Recent developments had affected export and import costs as well as the final prices of goods for traders, but the objectives pursued by Iran's adversaries to weaken the country had not been achieved, he added.



Gholamreza Nouri-Qezeljeh
maj.ir

Iran has been under Western sanctions for years over its nuclear program, which have raised costs even in humanitarian areas such as access to medicines, though food and agricultural goods are formally exempt from sanctions.

Referring to the performance of different agricultural sectors during the war that began in late February and the subsequent US-imposed economic blockade of Iran's southern ports, Nouri-Qezeljeh said the circumstances had prompted greater reliance on domestic capabilities and producers, with output rising in some areas.

Fisheries, shrimp output rise

In the fisheries sector, catches from distant waters and the open seas increased by about 35%, despite continued insecurity in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz, he said.

The increase significantly reduced fish-processing factories' dependence on imported tuna, he added.

Nouri-Qezeljeh also reported a 35% increase in shrimp production and farming, saying the gains demonstrated the country's production capacity and the ability of industry operators to maintain activity under difficult conditions.

Deputy agriculture minister for crop production Majid Anjafi said in August that Iran's agricultural output had surged to 137 million tons over the past year from 130 million tons, despite severe drought, water shortages, sanctions and energy imbalances. Anjafi said the past year had witnessed one of the most severe drought periods in 50 years, yet farmers and experts managed to increase production through improved methods and technology.

Iran rises 14 places in UN e-government development ranking

Economy Desk

Iran climbed 14 places to rank 87th globally in the United Nations' 2026 E-Government Development Index, up from 101st in 2024, recording its highest score since the assessment began in 2003, according to a report by ISNA.

Iran's score rose to 0.7427 from 0.6564 in the previous assessment, reflecting improvements in online services and telecommunications infrastructure.

The biggest gain came in the Online Services Index (OSI), where Iran's score increased 54.9% to 0.5845 from 0.3773, moving the country from the middle to the high-performance group.

Its score in the Telecommunications Infrastructure Index (TII) also rose, reaching 0.9564 in 2026 from 0.8987 in 2024. Iran maintained its position in the very high-performance group in this category.



Iran also made significant progress in the Local Online Services Index (LOSI), climbing 34 places to rank 65th globally, compared with 99th in 2024. Its score in this index rose 118.9% to 0.7525 from 0.3438.

The country's E-Participation Index score increased 93.62% to 0.3448 from 0.1781, moving its performance from the low to the middle group.

However, Iran's Human Capital Index score edged down to 0.6872 in 2026 from 0.6932 two years earlier, highlighting the need for further development of digital skills and information technology literacy.

Separately, a specialized committee on the Information and Communication Technology Development Index (IDI) has met with representatives of relevant government agencies, telecommunications operators and the Statistical Center of Iran to coordinate efforts to improve the country's performance in international assessments.

The committee aims to go beyond routine data collection and reporting by analyzing indicators, identifying strengths and weaknesses and improving data quality.

The latest results point to continued progress in Iran's digital public services and communications infrastructure, while highlighting the need for more integrated services, greater public participation and stronger digital skills to sustain improvements in e-government development.

US accusations of ...

Another point is that, in the aftermath of a military confrontation, managing the narrative surrounding threats takes on particular importance. Each side seeks to frame its own actions as legitimate self-defense while portraying the other side's actions as threats to international security. In this context, allegations involving unconventional weapons can heighten concerns among Washington's allies and influence the political decision-making environment.

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Given possible discussions between Xi Jinping, Vladimir Putin and Donald Trump on the Iran issue, what positions do you expect these two global powers to take? Can Beijing and Moscow play a more active role in containing tensions and supporting a diplomatic solution between Iran and the United States?

Both China and Russia stand to lose from an escalation of the conflict between the United States and Iran and further instability in the Middle East. They therefore have sufficient incentives to support a diplomatic solution. However, their motivations are not identical. China is primarily seeking regional stability and security of energy supplies, while Russia, alongside its security considerations, also factors in the need to contain US influence in the region. The recent trilateral consultations, moreover, produced no concrete outcome on Iran, demonstrating that overlapping interests among the three powers do not necessarily translate into an understanding on the issue of Tehran. In my view, Beijing and Moscow can play a more active role in easing tensions and keeping the diplomatic track open. Both countries would welcome an agreement that prevents war. Therefore, a more active role by Beijing and Moscow is plausible, particularly at a time when regional mediators lack the capacity to broker an understanding between the United States and Iran. However, the primary purpose of such involvement would be to contain the scope of the confrontation and prevent a shift in the regional balance of power to the detriment of their own interests. Expectations of their involvement should not go beyond that.

ECONOMIC LENS

Green economy: Moving beyond costly, polluting models of development



By Mohammadreza Hosseini Aliabad
Researcher in int'l economics

ANALYSIS EXCLUSIVE

The global economy is no longer assessed solely in terms of production levels, investment volumes, or national income growth. Alongside these indicators, the quality of development, resource efficiency, environmental preservation, and the way natural resources are utilized have gained increasing importance in evaluating countries' economic performance. In this context, the green economy has emerged as one of the key concepts in contemporary development discourse, seeking to establish a sustainable link between economic growth, social well-being, and environmental protection.

The green economy should not be understood merely in terms of reducing air pollution or adopting renewable energy sources. Rather, it encompasses a broad range of economic and technological approaches aimed at using resources more efficiently, lowering production costs, improving productivity, and creating new economic opportunities. In other words, the green economy seeks to demonstrate that environmental protection is not an obstacle to development but can instead serve as one of its driving forces.

One of the most significant contributions of the green economy lies in its potential to transform production and industrial structures. The adoption of resource-efficient technologies, optimization of production processes, recycling of raw materials, and effective energy management can reduce businesses' operating costs. In many industries, what is traditionally regarded as waste or an additional expense can, through effective management, become a source of economic value creation. This approach is particularly important for small and medium-sized enterprises, as reducing costs and improving productivity can strengthen their competitiveness in the marketplace. Furthermore, the development of renewable energy sources, particularly solar and wind power, has created new opportunities for investment and employment. Expanding these sectors not only contributes to diversifying the energy mix but also facilitates the emergence of innovative businesses, technological advancement, and the development of a skilled workforce. Along the same lines, industries associated with recycling, waste management, clean transportation, and energy-efficient buildings can evolve into new and productive segments of the economy.

For Iran, the green economy also offers considerable potential. The country's favorable solar radiation conditions across extensive geographical areas, diverse geographical features, skilled human resources, and industrial capabilities provide a solid foundation for developing environmentally sustainable economic activities. Investment in clean energy, improving energy efficiency in buildings, advancing modern agricultural technologies, and promoting the reuse of water and raw materials are among the areas that can simultaneously enhance productivity and generate added value.

Naturally, realizing these opportunities requires appropriate financing, technology transfer and localization, workforce training, and the active participation of the private sector. Public awareness and changes in consumption patterns can also play an important role in promoting a green economy. When producers, consumers, and investors all recognize the importance of resource efficiency, the conditions become more favorable for establishing a sustainable economic cycle.

An important point to consider is that the green economy does not belong exclusively to the present generation. Today's economic decisions also influence the quality of life and economic opportunities available to future generations. Preserving water resources, soil, forests, and biodiversity is, in essence, an investment in the natural assets upon which the continuity of economic and social activities depends.

Ultimately, the future of development is closely tied to societies' ability to strike a balance between wealth creation and the preservation of natural resources. The green economy offers an opportunity to redefine the concept of progress and move toward an economy that is more productive, innovative, and sustainable. Moving beyond costly and polluting development does not mean halting economic growth; rather, it represents an effort to achieve smarter growth—one in which the economy prospers while the environment is preserved for generations to come.

TENDER NO.: 08-38-0540013

First Announcement

NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY
AHVAZ-IRAN

N.I.S.O.C

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Item	Material Description	Quantity
01	● PARTS FOR "SJS- SERVAGROUP" TRIPLEX P ● USED FOR CEMENTING/ ACIDIZING SERVICE. ● FALIZ PAJOUHESH PARS ● TRAILER MOUNTED TWIN PUMP CEMENTING UN ● REF. SJS- SERVA GROUP ● FLUID- END ASSY ● FLUID- END ASSY, 3-1/2" ● P/ N: P60-34-000	2 NO
02	● FLUID- END ASSY, 4-1/2" ● P/ N: P60-44-000	2 NO

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The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of **17,532/79 EURO** or **37,000,000,000 RIAL**, in favor of NISOC.

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

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Flamingos return to Maharloo

Wetland still clinging to life



By Sadeq Dehqan
Staff writer

INTERVIEW

The return of migratory birds to Maharloo Wetland and the formation of vast expanses of pink flamingos along its waters have created an extraordinary spectacle in recent days in Fars Province, southern Iran. Yet, this natural beauty exists alongside troubling realities, including water pollution, dwindling water resources, and the desiccation of neighboring wetlands.

Maharloo, a seasonal, hypersaline wetland that has become one of the region's principal avian refuges in recent years, continues to provide invaluable services to the environment and surrounding communities. According to environmental activists, however, these services have received insufficient attention.

Mohammad Javad Sayahpour, founder of Miras Parishan wetlands conservation non-governmental organization (NGO), told Iran Daily in the following exclusive interview that the considerable ecological significance of Maharloo Wetland and the substantial presence of birds in this habitat are partly attributable to the desiccation of other wetlands in Fars Province. He maintains that protecting Maharloo depends not only on water resource management and pollution reduction, but also on raising public awareness and securing the participation of local communities. He also discussed the wetland's potential to moderate the regional climate, control certain insect populations, and sustain biodiversity. The full text of the interview follows:



Mohammad Javad Sayahpour



A single flamingo lags behind the flamboyance at Maharloo Wetland, southern Iran, on November 21, 2026.
TAHEREH ROKH BAKHSH/ISNA

IRAN DAILY: What activities do you and the Miras Parishan NGO undertake, and what are your principal areas of focus?

SAYAHPOUR: My areas of expertise are environmental law and environmental sociology. My general approach to environmental issues is primarily informed by the social sciences and humanities. The Miras Parishan environmental NGO is an organization comprising young members of the local community surrounding the desiccated Parishan Wetland. It was established in 2014 and gradually expanded thereafter. The NGO currently has active branches and projects in several provinces, including Fars, Khuzestan, Hormozgan, and Alborz. Its principal focus is the wetlands of southern Iran. In Fars Province, besides Parishan Wetland, which is the birthplace and the point of departure for the NGO's activities, we also concentrate on Maharloo, Arjan, Tashk, Bakhtegan, and other wetlands of southern Iran.

What project are you pursuing at Maharloo Wetland?

At Maharloo, our focus is on raising public awareness. We have projects based on an approach known as CEPA, an acronym for Communication, Education, Participation, and Awareness in the environmental field. The objective of this approach is to enhance public awareness, expand educational capacity, and encourage public participation in wetland conservation.

Currently, we are pursuing specialized awareness-raising initiatives at Maharloo Wetland, targeting specific groups, including experts and specialized organizations in the counties of Shiraz and Sarvestan, so that they can develop a better understanding of the wetland and assume a role in its conservation.

When did this project begin, and which organizations have you collaborated with?

We planned and launched this project within the NGO in 2022, and it remains ongoing. Awareness-raising projects are neither temporary nor short-term in nature; they must be pursued continuously.

In this process, we have collaborated with the Fars Department of Environmental Protection, the provincial Elites Foundation, schools affiliated with the National Organization for Development of Exceptional Talents (NODET), civil society organizations, and environmental NGOs. Some initiatives have also been undertaken in coordination with Shiraz Municipality and the Sarvestan Governor's Office.

This project is essentially a multiyear awareness-raising process that gradually expands and matures, until we can fulfill our mission and establish groups capable of continuing the work of wetland conservation.

Which groups have you selected for awareness-raising initiatives, and why?

When we initially began working on Maharloo Wetland, we entered the area as researchers alongside a research team from the University of Tehran and conducted more than eight rounds of sampling across the watershed and within the wetland itself. This research began in 2021 and continued until 2023. Through this process, we developed a sound understanding of the wetland's condition, pollution, water resources, threats, opportunities, and future prospects.

Maharloo Wetland lies within the administrative boundaries of two counties, Sarvestan and Shiraz. In Sarvestan, some of our target audiences include non-governmental organizations, environmental activists, county officials, and local community leaders. In Shiraz, besides environmental NGOs and active environmental groups, we have also targeted students at exceptional-talent schools because these groups can serve as pioneers in raising awareness and mobilizing public participation.

Why do you consider public awareness and participation so important for wetland conservation?

For a wetland to remain sustainable, before viewing it merely as an ecological and technical phenomenon, we must also recognize it as a social phenomenon. Wetlands sustain damage, on the one hand, from human beings and human activities, while, on the other, they provide numerous services to surrounding communities. The people living around a wetland are, in fact, its social capital; a resource that can either become complicit in its degradation or contribute to its conservation.



The photo shows an aerial view of Maharloo Wetland, Fars Province, Iran, on November 21, 2026.
TAHEREH ROKH BAKHSH/ISNA

> For a wetland to remain sustainable, before viewing it merely as an ecological and technical phenomenon, we must also recognize it as a social phenomenon. Wetlands sustain damage, on the one hand, from human beings and human activities, while, on the other, they provide numerous services to surrounding communities. The people living around a wetland are, in fact, its social capital; a resource that can either become complicit in its degradation or contribute to its conservation.

To familiarize readers with the wetland, please describe Maharloo's current condition and its characteristics during different seasons of the year.

Maharloo Wetland covers approximately 24,000 to 25,000 hectares and is classified as a seasonal, hypersaline wetland. Its water is not particularly deep, and some sources cite an average depth of approximately 40 to 60 centimeters. Consequently, its water volume is relatively small compared with the overall expanse of the wetland.

Since Maharloo lies at the end of the watershed encompassing Shiraz and its surrounding areas, its water level depends on rainfall and the inflow of seasonal rivers. In years with adequate precipitation, the wetland can become inundated across a substantial portion of its expanse, as happened last year, when its inundation level reached approximately 90% by the spring of 2026.

During summer and through late summer and early autumn, the wetland's water coverage diminishes because of reduced rainfall and evaporation. In October this year, before the onset of rainfall, its water coverage had declined to approximately 20 to 30%. These figures, however, are based on our field observations and visual estimates; a new, precise satellite assessment is required to establish the actual extent. With the onset of recent rainfall, the wetland is once again expanding its water coverage, a normal occurrence in a natural seasonal wetland.

How has Maharloo's inundation during the current water year compared with previous years?

We use two indicators to assess the wetland's inundation: the first is measured at the peak of the rainy season, usually at the end of winter and in March, while the second is measured at the end of summer and in early autumn, when the wetland generally experiences its lowest water levels.

In March 2026, because of the 40-day war on Iran, we had no access to remote sensing and Geographical Information Systems (GIS) that would have enabled us to measure the wetland's precise extent. However, based on field observations, I can say that more than 90% of the wetland had been saturated. At the end of summer and in early autumn, I estimate its inundation level at approximately 30%. Given that many of the country's wetlands have dried up, this is not an especially poor situation, although it is far from ideal. We hope that continued rainfall will ensure favorable inundation conditions for the wetland this year.

The considerable presence of flamingos and other migratory birds at Maharloo has been particularly striking in recent days. Where do these birds come from, and why do they choose this wetland?

Iran lies along a migratory flyway for birds, and many migratory species travel from northern geographical regions, including Siberia, toward warmer areas, with some passing through Iran on their way to Africa.

Currently, flamingos, egrets, duck families, and other species are present at Maharloo in considerable numbers. However, I cannot provide precise population figures or specify the proportions of migratory and resident birds.

Regarding flamingos, however, existing observations suggest that a considerable proportion of their population, possibly as much as 60 to 70%, has established a permanent presence at Maharloo. These birds primarily feed on the brine shrimp found



A flamboyance of migratory flamingos opens their wings at Maharloo Wetland, southern Iran, on November 21, 2026.
TAHEREH ROKH BAKHSH/ISNA

in the wetland. Artemia is the only organism capable of surviving in the wetland's saline waters. Besides using the wetland as a migratory destination, these birds also reproduce there, and their chicks can be observed during certain seasons.

Has the increase in Maharloo's bird population in recent years resulted from the wetland's favorable conditions?

One of the principal reasons for the increase in Maharloo's bird population is the desiccation of other wetlands in Fars Province, including Parishan and Bakhtegan. When other wetlands dry up, birds lose their suitable habitats and are compelled to relocate. Consequently, the bird population at Maharloo has now increased.

However, not all these birds enjoy favorable conditions. Certain species that depend on specific food resources, such as fish, encounter limitations in Maharloo's saline waters and may have been compelled to inhabit this area because of the loss of their primary habitats.

Migratory birds generally arrive in the region in early autumn, and some remain at the wetland until late winter and early spring, before resuming their migratory journeys. However, certain species move in and out throughout the winter, while others have established a permanent presence at Maharloo.

What services does Maharloo Wetland provide to the environment and surrounding communities that have received insufficient attention?

One of the wetland's most important services is precisely its provision of habitats for birds. The presence of migratory birds and their species diversity constitute a major contribution to biodiversity, a service valuable not only to Iran but also to the global ecosystem.

A substantial portion of the diet of certain wetland birds consists of insects, and these birds can help regulate populations of certain insects, including pest species.

Another important service provided by the wetland is regional climate moderation. Maharloo Wetland, particularly when it has an adequate water expanse, can help reduce ambient heat during summer and moderate temperatures in neighboring cities, including Shiraz and Sarvestan. This water expanse functions as a natural temperature regulator.

Furthermore, the wetland plays a role in absorbing and controlling regional floods, contributes to the replenishment of groundwater resources, and, by generating humidity in the area, helps create favorable conditions for vegetation across the surrounding mountainous watershed.

These are the services the wetland provides to the area, and we benefit from them as long as it remains alive. However, if the wetland dries up, we will face consequences such as dust emissions and the displacement of sediment from its bed. Given the accumulation of pollutants, this sediment can pose a serious threat to human health.

What causes the pink and red coloration of Maharloo Wetland? Is this phenomenon an indication of the wetland's favorable condition?

The wetland's red and pink coloration is primarily associated with algal growth and algal blooms in saline water. When nutrient concentrations, such as nitrates and phosphates, entering the wetland through agricultural, industrial, and urban wastewater increase, conditions become conducive to algal proliferation.

If the concentration of these substances remains within the wetland's natural assimilative capacity, the ecosystem can absorb and filter them. However, when nutrient inflows exceed the wetland's capacity, it moves toward nutrient enrichment, or eutrophication.

In freshwater wetlands, this eutrophic condition may be accompanied by increased growth of plants such as reeds and reed beds. In saline wetlands, however, it can trigger algal blooms that produce red or pink coloration.

This phenomenon is exceptionally beautiful from a visual perspective, but at Maharloo, it can indicate increasing nutrient concentrations and pollution. Tourists visiting the wetland may be unaware of this, and may enter the water or come into contact with it, even though the water quality is not such that contact can be recommended without concern.

What tourism potential does Maharloo Wetland possess, and can this potential be harnessed for the region's economic development?

I am an unequivocal advocate of tourism, particularly sustainable tourism. Maharloo possesses considerable tourism potential, but its tourism infrastructure remains relatively underdeveloped.

A limited number of pedal boats operate around the wetland during seasons when water levels are high. However, this capacity falls considerably short of the wetland's actual potential.

On the other hand, caution is necessary when developing tourism because of water pollution. Tourism can be a positive development, provided that it is accompanied by an understanding of the wetland's environmental conditions, adequate public information, and standardized infrastructure.

What are the most significant threats currently facing Maharloo Wetland?

One of the most significant threats is the influx of pollutants into the wetland. Some pollution originates from surrounding agricultural lands, while another substantial portion is conveyed through the Chenar-Rahdar River, which flows toward the wetland from the southern and western parts of Shiraz.

Along this river, some wastewater from the Shiraz Industrial Town also enters the wetland. This is an extremely alarming environmental issue, and serious measures must be considered for wastewater management and treatment.

Another major threat is the depletion of the wetland's water resources and the restriction of river inflows. The construction of the Tang-e Sorkh Dam upstream of Shiraz, to its west, could affect the volume of water entering through the Chenar-Rahdar River and, consequently, Maharloo's water resources.

What measures should be undertaken to improve the wetland's condition and reduce its pollution?

The first measure is to reduce pollution sources and prevent pollutants from entering the wetland. Agricultural, urban, and industrial wastewater must be properly managed, and pollutant inflows must be prevented to the greatest extent possible.

At the same time, the wetland's water resources must not be restricted. Rivers flowing into the wetland must be allowed to maintain their natural flow, and barriers to water inflows, particularly rainwater and seasonal floodwaters, must be studied.

Wastewater management is also a complex issue. On the one hand, wastewater must be treated to prevent threats to human health and the environment. On the other, treated water resources must be managed in a manner that does not disregard the wetland's water allocation rights and environmental requirements. Therefore, protecting Maharloo requires comprehensive planning for water management, pollution control, and due consideration of the wetland's environmental water requirements.

> There are numerous services the wetland provides to the area, and we benefit from them as long as it remains alive. However, if the wetland dries up, we will face consequences such as dust emissions and the displacement of sediment from its bed. Given the accumulation of pollutants, this sediment can pose a serious threat to human health.

Finally, what would you like to say about Maharloo Wetland's future and the necessity of protecting it?

Maharloo Wetland may be one of the last hopes for the wetlands of Fars Province. Because of its saline waters, encroachment upon its lands has been less extensive than at certain other wetlands, and opportunities for its conservation still remain.

I hope that, through preventive planning, we can prevent the wetland's condition from deteriorating further. The most important measures are reducing pollutant inflows and raising public awareness. Maharloo provides significant environmental services and is important even at the international level, particularly for migratory birds and migratory flyways.

This wetland possesses the potential for international registration and recognition, and the Department of Environmental Protection is also pursuing initiatives in this regard. Ultimately, if we can make people aware of the wetland's value and encourage them to participate in its conservation, we can have greater hope for Maharloo's future.

Tourists engage in water activities at Maharloo Wetland, southern Iran, on May 9, 2026.
AMIR SADEGHIAN/TASNIM



AFC Beach Soccer Asian Cup:

Iran hammers Vietnam to march into last eight

Sports Desk

Iran thrashed Vietnam 10-2 to advance to the quarterfinals of the AFC Beach Soccer Asian Cup in Phang Nga, Thailand.

A second successive victory, following the 8-2 rout of Afghanistan on the opening day, saw Iran sit atop the Group B table, level on six points with Lebanon, which defeated Afghanistan 5-0 later in the day.

Davoud Baghdadabadi was the star of the show for Iran with a hat-trick on Saturday as head coach Ali Naderi's men continued their bid for a record-extending fifth title in 12 editions of the flagship continental showpiece.

Ho Quoc Hung's tentative attempt was saved by Seyedmohammad Dastan in the opening minute, but that was as close as Vietnam came to scoring before Iran showed its prowess.

Mohammad Masoumizadeh turned in an overhead kick from the right to get things going before Mohaved Mohammadpour powered home a close-range header after connecting with Seyed Nazim's lob.

Mohammadali Hassanabad's acrobatic effort then hit the sand and rolled past the right post to give Iran a three-goal lead in eight minutes.

Beleaguered keeper Nguyen Anh Quang failed to handle Mahdi Shirmohammadi's shot in the ninth minute and watched the ball bounce beyond him, while Dastan denied Tran Noc Bao's free kick at the other end to close the opening period.

Saeid Piramoun connected with Dastan's goal kick in the 16th minute before sending an overhead kick past Anh Quang. Baghdadabadi added to the scoreline in the same minute, lifting the ball over the keeper following a weak back pass by Noc Bao.

Vietnam pulled one back through Ngo Tan Tai, who slipped the ball between Dastan and the right post in the 17th minute. The keeper then turned away Pham Truong Du's stinging drive but was beaten in the 23rd minute as Pham nodded in from close range off a cross by Dao Gia Bao.

Ali Mirshekari added Iran's seventh goal on the half-hour mark with an overhead kick past a rooted Anh Quang before Naderi's side rounded off the scoring with goals from Masoumizadeh and Baghdadabadi, who struck twice in the closing minutes.

The top spot in the group will be on the line when two-time defending champion Iran and Lebanon – a semifinalist in 2015 and 2017 – square off at Memories Beach Arena today.

"We analyzed them and, as a result, scored many times. It helped that we followed our game plan, which we did not do in our opening match," Masoumizadeh said after the game.

"Our current team is better compared to 2025, and we are in high spirits. Iran has won all our previous matches against Lebanon, and we will be well prepared," added the Iranian ahead of today's decider.



Iranian players celebrate their victory over Vietnam at the AFC Beach Soccer Asian Cup in Phang Nga, Thailand, on November 21, 2026.
AFC

World Para Taekwondo Championships:

Abdollahpour, Haqiqatshenas lead Iran's gold rush on Day 2

Sports Desk

Maryam Abdollahpour and Amirmohammad Haqiqatshenas continued Iran's impressive run at the World Para Taekwondo Championships by winning two gold medals on the second day of the competition in Muju, South Korea, on Saturday.

Abdollahpour defeated Brazil's Silvana Mayara Cardoso Fernandes – a winner of three successive Para Grand Prix series titles this season – in straight rounds to claim the top prize in the women's K44 -57kg division, adding to her bronze medal at October's Aichi-Nagoya Asian Para Games.

The 19-year-old prodigy opened her campaign with back-to-back victories over Mexico's Elsa Koyama Tamayo and third-seed Kamilya Dosmalova, both in straight rounds, before beating Turkey's No. 2 seed Gamze Ozcan 2-1 to book her place in the final.

In the men's K44 -70kg event, meanwhile, Haqiqatshenas rounded off his emphatic run with a 2-1 victory over Mexico's Juan Diego Garcia Lopez, the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic champion, in the final.

The Iranian picked up where he had left off in his gold-winning campaign at the Asian Para Games, beating Askar Dinmukhammed 2-0 in the first round and repeating his triumph over the Kazakh opponent at October's multi-sport event.

Haqiqatshenas also swept aside Brazil's Valter Sedano Delfino de Oliveira in straight rounds to advance to the last four, where he overcame Ivorian Boli Bi Assamoa Michel in back-to-back rounds.

Amirhossein Alizadeh was the other Iranian in action on Day 2, finishing empty-handed in the men's K44 -63kg division following a quarterfinal defeat to Aboubacar Sidiki Samake of the Ivory Coast.

Saturday's medals took Iran's haul to four after Ailar Jami and Zahra Rahimi had claimed gold and silver, respectively, in the women's competition on the opening day.

Jami, 18, who also won gold at the Asian Para Games, defeated Morocco's Naoual Laarif 2-0 in the K44 -47kg final.

Paralympic silver medalist Rahimi, meanwhile, had to settle for silver again in the K44 -52kg division after losing the final to China's Li Yujie, who had also beaten the Iranian in the Paris 2024 Paralympic final.

Featuring 407 athletes, the 11th edition of the World Championships forms part of the qualification pathway for the LA28 Paralympics.



Maryam Abdollahpour celebrates with the Iranian flag after winning the women's K44 -57kg gold medal at the World Para Taekwondo Championships in Muju, South Korea, on November 21, 2026.
WORLD TAEKWONDO

FIBA World Cup Asian qualifiers:

Manolopoulos names Iran's roster for Australia, Philippines tests

Sports Desk

Iran's men's basketball head coach Sotiris Manolopoulos named a 15-man squad for the upcoming games against Australia and the Philippines in the FIBA World Cup Asian qualifiers.

A group of 11 domestic players, featuring Arsalan Kazemi, Peter Gregorian, Seyyed Mahdi Jafari, Mohammadmahdi Rahimi (Esteghlal), Arman Zangeneh, Mobin Sheikhi, Mohammad Ghaffari (Palayesh Naft Abadan), Mohammad Jamshidi (Naft Zagros Jonoubi), Mohammad-Mahdi Heidari (Tabiat Eslamshahr), Matin Aqajaunpour (Kaleh Mazandaran), and Sarem Jafari (Naft-o Gaz Gachsaran), departed Tehran on Sunday for Seremban, Malaysia, where they will be joined by overseas players Mohammad Amini, Behnam Yakhchali, Salar Taheri, and Mohsen Asgarnia ahead of the crunch double-header.

The Greek head coach will hope to see his men recover from a disappointing start to their Group E campaign when they take on Australia at Karisma Arena on Friday before facing the Philippines at the same venue two days later.

Having topped the first-round Group C with back-to-back victories over Jordan, either side of a win against Syria in June, Iran opened the second round with a 93-91 overtime defeat to New Zealand before suffering a 68-56 loss to the Philippines in August.

Both games were staged in Pasay, the Philippines. Although the group opener was designated as a home fixture for Iran, Manolopoulos's side was forced to play at the neutral venue of SM Mall of Asia Arena due to security concerns amid the conflict in the region.

The same circumstances had previously forced Iran to move its home game against Syria to Amman, Jordan, in the first round.

The Iranian Basketball Federation appealed to the International Basketball Federation (FIBA) in September to have its hosting rights reinstated for the remainder of the campaign, but the request was rejected.

With the top three teams in the group standings qualifying for the World Cup, third-placed Iran remains firmly in contention for a place at next year's showpiece in Qatar. However, further slip-ups in the remaining four fixtures could allow Jordan, currently fourth on 13 points and level with Iran, to overtake it.



IRIBF

Iran finishes empty-handed at Karate World Cup

Sports Desk

The 2026 Karate World Cup in Hangzhou, China, proved one to forget for Iran after the country missed out on bronze medals in both the men's kumite and women's kata events on Sunday.

Iran's men's kumite team suffered a comprehensive 3-0 defeat to Russia in the bronze-medal match, with Mahdi Ashouri, Asian Games gold medalist Morteza Nemati, and Amirabbas Beig-Mohammadlou all falling to their opponents.

The Iranian team had got its campaign off to a flying start, defeating Australia, China, Algeria, and Montenegro to top its group before beating Italy in the quarterfinals. However, it lost to Türkiye in the semifinals on Saturday.

Earlier on the final day of the second edition of the competition, Iran's women's kata team also missed out on a medal. Featuring Fatemeh Sadeqi, Sepideh Amini, Zeinab Hosseini, and Zahra Rezaei, the Iranian quartet went down 6-1 to China in the third-place match.

On Saturday, Iran's women's kumite team, coached by Pegah Zanganeh, had also bowed out in the group stage after recording two victories and two defeats to finish third behind Italy and Egypt in Pool 3.



IKF

Jajarmi Husseinieh preserves Bojnurd's Qajar-era heritage

Iranica Desk

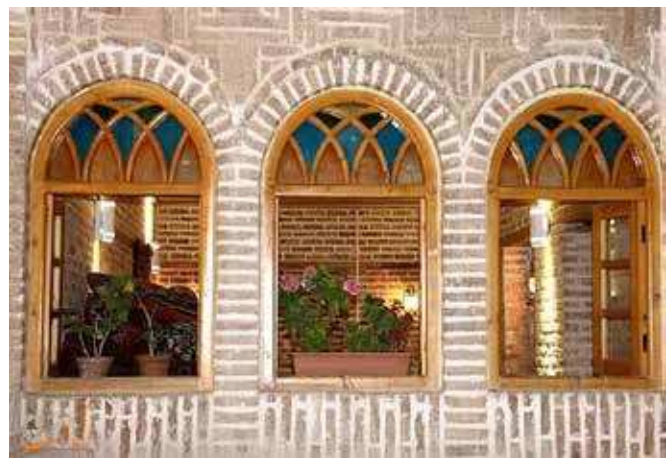
North Khorasan Province is best known for its pristine nature, Hyrcanian forests, summer resorts and the diverse cultures of its ethnic communities. Alongside its natural attractions, however, the province is home to valuable historic buildings, each of which tells part of the story of the region's past.

Among the old lanes of Bojnurd are buildings that preserve different aspects of the city's historical identity. The Jajarmi Husseinieh holds a special place among these sites. It is recognized not only as a valuable national heritage monument but also as a destination for visitors interested in cultural tourism.

The building is located on East Taleqani Street in the city's historic district, where traces of traditional Bojnurd architecture can still be seen among old houses and narrow lanes. Its location means that a visit to the Husseinieh is more than an opportunity to see a historic building; it also provides a chance to explore part of the historic fabric of North Khorasan's provincial capital.

Historical studies indicate that the building was constructed in the late Qajar period. An inscription above the entrance to one section of the building bears the date 1325 AH. Construction is attributed to master builder Gholamreza Bana-ye Yazdi, while its first owner was Haj Ali-Akbar Jajarmi, a well-known merchant of Bojnurd. The house was later endowed for holding mourning ceremonies for Imam Hussein (PBUH), after which it became known as the Jajarmi Husseinieh.





IRNA

The endowment not only changed the building's function but also turned it into one of the city's important religious and social centers. For years, residents of Bojnurd gathered at the Husseinieh during Muharram and Safar to hold traditional mourning ceremonies. These rituals became part of the city's collective memory.

For this reason, cultural heritage experts regard the Jajarmi Husseinieh as more than simply a historic house. They describe it as an example of the connection between architecture, culture and religious traditions in northeastern Iran. This has given the building significance beyond its age, with its social and cultural role also attracting the attention of researchers.

One of the Jajarmi Husseinieh's most important features is its architecture, which is based on the principles of Iranian houses from the Qajar period. The building was constructed around a central courtyard, with rooms arranged on two floors around it. This layout



not only created a calm environment but also allowed for better use of natural light and airflow.

The building is accessed through a Hashti, a traditional architectural space that served as a transition between the alley and the interior of the house. Beyond it, the central courtyard, with its pool and small gardens, is the first feature visitors encounter and still evokes the tranquility of traditional Iranian homes despite the passage of time.

Rooms with wooden windows and simple Orsi screens surround the courtyard, reflecting the construction style of affluent homes in the late Qajar period. This design responded to climatic needs while also protecting the privacy of residents and is considered a distinctive feature of Iran's inward-looking architectural tradition.

Although the Jajarmi Husseinieh is not particularly large compared with some historic houses in Iran, its architectural details make it one of the valuable examples of late-Qajar architecture in North Khorasan Province. The harmony of brick, wood and plaster creates a space that, despite its simplicity, showcases the delicacy of Iranian architectural craftsmanship.

Much of the building's beauty comes from its wooden doors and windows. All of the building's openings face the central courtyard, another characteristic of inward-looking Iranian architecture. This arrangement provided adequate light and ventilation while preserving the tranquility of the interior. The architectural style is more commonly seen in Iran's desert regions, making its presence in Bojnurd a notable feature of the building.

The entrances leading to the upper floor are decorated with plaster Muqarnas, while the eastern Ivan features brickwork and a decorative frieze. Although these ornaments are simpler than those found in the grand historic houses of cities such as Kashan and Yazd, they show that the builders sought to give the structure an artistic character while retaining its original residential function.

Preserving historic buildings requires more than simply listing them as national heritage sites; it also requires continuous restoration and maintenance. The Jajarmi Husseinieh suffered damage over the years as a result of natural deterioration, environmental changes and the passage of time. Restoration work, however, has helped preserve much of its architectural authenticity.

The monument was registered on Iran's National Heritage List on August 7, 2004. Its registration paved the way for systematic protection and restoration, and parts of the building were subsequently renovated and structurally reinforced.

A visit to the Jajarmi Husseinieh offers an opportunity to learn about Qajar-era residential architecture, the tradition of religious endowment, religious ceremonies and the lifestyle of Bojnurd's residents more than a century ago. Its location in the historic district also allows visitors to explore other historic sites in the city within a short walk and gain a broader picture of Bojnurd's past.

Spring and early autumn are the best times to travel to Bojnurd and visit the historic building. The city's mild weather during these seasons provides favorable conditions for exploring the historic district and visiting other cultural and natural attractions in the provincial capital. Although the Jajarmi Husseinieh has a distinctive atmosphere during Muharram and Safar, its architecture and historical significance remain appealing to heritage enthusiasts throughout the rest of the year.

Hirmand embroidery weaves culture into livelihoods

Iranica Desk

Hirmand in northern Sistan and Baluchestan Province is known for its agricultural activities and close ties to the Hirmand River. Alongside its natural and historical attractions, the city is also home to a rich tradition of handicrafts, including embroidery practiced by local women and girls.

Embroidery is a delicate and time-consuming craft made with thread, needles and fabric. By combining patterns and colors, artisans create intricate designs that reflect the region's longstanding artistic traditions.

In Sistan and Baluchestan, the craft has deep cultural roots and, beyond its aesthetic value, can provide opportunities for employment and income generation for local families.

In Hirmand, embroidery has become one of the handicraft fields receiving attention, with women taking part in training courses to learn the craft professionally.

What makes embroidery more than a decorative art is its potential to support home-based





employment. Artisans can start working from home with minimal equipment and sell a variety of handmade products in local and wider markets.

The experience of some embroidery entrepreneurs in Hirmand has shown that training in the craft can create employment opportunities for women, highlighting the importance of support for training, marketing and the sale of handicrafts.

Today, embroidered products are no longer limited to traditional clothing. The craft can also be used to produce a range of decorative and practical items, including cushions, tablecloths, prayer rugs, wedding ceremony textiles and other textile products. This diversity can help artisans reach new markets.

Embroidery is also part of the region's cultural identity. Passing the craft from mothers and previous generations to daughters and younger generations helps preserve an important part of local culture and artistic heritage.

At a time when many handicrafts face challenges such as limited markets, inadequate product promotion and difficulty reaching customers, targeted support for artisans can play an important role in keeping the tradition alive.

Training programs, permanent and seasonal handicraft markets, participation in exhibitions, promotion through social media and the development of online sales channels are among the measures that could help turn Hirmand embroidery from a home-based craft into an economic and tourism asset.

Every piece of embroidery is the result of hours of careful work and the meticulous arrangement of threads. Yet its value lies beyond its patterns and colors. Behind every stitch is the story of an artisan, the culture of a region and a family's effort to build a better future.

Embroidery in Hirmand can serve as a link between art, cultural identity, employment and household income. With continued training, institutional support, professional marketing and effective promotion, the craft could take the work of Hirmand's women beyond the city and into national and even international markets.

Preserving this tradition is therefore not solely the responsibility of artisans. It requires the support of cultural institutions, handicraft authorities, economic stakeholders and the public so that the needles and threads of Hirmand's women can continue to tell the story of the region's culture and identity.

Hirmand is located in the northern part of Sistan and Baluchestan, near Iran's border with Afghanistan. The area is known for its distinctive Sistani cultural heritage, traditional rural communities and landscapes shaped by the Hirmand River. Its location and cultural characteristics make the city and surrounding areas a destination for visitors interested in local traditions, handicrafts and the cultural heritage of southeastern Iran.

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Iran proposes SCO network to preserve historical manuscripts

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran has proposed a regional network to preserve and digitize historical manuscripts across the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), putting forward three initiatives to expand cultural cooperation among member states at a forum in the Indian capital.

Mohammad Mehdi Imanipour, head of Iran's Islamic Culture and Relations Organization, presented the proposals at the first SCO Civilizational Dialogue Forum in New Delhi, in northern India.

They include a network to protect written heritage, a center to translate and publish scientific and cultural works, and a platform for dialogue among young people from member states.

Iran also offered to host a regional center for preserving, restoring and digitizing manuscripts with the participation of interested countries.

"Dialogue among civilizations should go beyond exchanging views and lead to joint cultural, scientific and educational programs," Imanipour said.

Separately, Iran's cultural counselor in India, Farideddin Faridasr, proposed an SCO network for written heritage and civilizational memory.

It would focus on identifying, cataloging, preserving and digitizing historical documents, sharing restoration expertise, organizing joint training courses and promoting shared linguistic and literary heritage, particularly Persian.

Faridasr cited the Noor International Microfilm Center, affiliated with Iran's embassy in New Delhi, as an example of Iran-India cooperation.

Since 1990, the center has worked with 72 Indian academic and cultural institutions, digitizing more than 150,000 Persian and Arabic manuscripts, restoring and preserving over 3 million pages of manuscripts and historical documents, and compiling nearly 300 detailed catalogs.

He also highlighted joint projects in Telangana state and Hyderabad, in southern India, to digitize, restore and preserve Persian manuscripts and historical records.

"Iran is ready to share its technical expertise and experience with other SCO members," he said.



The screen shows Mohammad Mehdi Imanipour (L), head of Iran's cultural organization, as he addresses SCO Civilizational Dialogue Forum in New Delhi, India, on November 21, 2026.
IRNA

Imanipour said Iran had proposed dialogue among civilizations to the United Nations General Assembly in 1998, an initiative that led to the designation of 2001 as the UN Year of Dialogue Among Civilizations.

He said future civilization should be based not only on economic growth and scientific and technological progress, but also on social justice, spirituality, ethics and human dignity.

On the sidelines of the forum, Imanipour met Indian Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat to discuss cultural and artistic ties.

Shekhawat highlighted Persian's historical place in India, saying: "Persian is not considered a foreign language for us."

He said the language was included alongside other classical languages under India's National Education Policy 2020.

The minister praised cultural activities organized by Iran's embassy, including film festivals, and called for cooperation with Iranian cultural institutions on manuscripts.

Imanipour said his organization operates 65 cultural offices worldwide and was ready to expand cooperation with India.

He proposed a joint cultural week in Iran and invited Indian artists to participate.

Shekhawat welcomed the proposal and said India was ready to cooperate. The two sides also discussed expanding collaboration in film and cinema.

Imanipour said Iran was prepared to play an active role in advancing cultural and civilizational ties among SCO members.

The proposals would require the participation and agreement of other member states to be implemented.

Mexican students get taste of Iranian cuisine

Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian chefs have introduced Mexican university students to the country's culinary traditions through a hands-on cooking workshop in Morelia, as Iran's embassy seeks to expand cultural ties beyond official diplomatic channels.

The workshop, titled "From Saffron to Chili: A Bridge Between Iran and Mexico", was held at Morelia Technological University in Michoacán state, in west-central Mexico. It was the first such event organized by Iran's embassy at the university.

Two Iranian chefs taught food science students to prepare kabab koobideh, an Iranian kabāb made from ground lamb, chicken tahchin, saffron rice cake with a crispy bottom and a flavorful chicken in the center, fesenjan, a walnut and pomegranate stew, and loobiya polo, rice cooked with green beans.

Saffron syrup and Sholeh Zard, a traditional saffron rice pudding, were also served. Spanish-language recipes were provided, while the university supplied the ingredients.

Officials said the workshop allowed students to experience another country's culture without traveling abroad.

They added that the institution had not previously hosted a similar event organized by a foreign embassy.

Iranian Ambassador to Mexico Abolfazl Pasandideh addressed university officials, government representatives, local and state officials, faculty members and students, describing food as an intimate way to understand other cultures. "Sometimes the aroma of a dish can bring two peoples closer than hours of speeches," he said.

Pasandideh highlighted shared Iranian and Mexican values, including family ties, hospitality, communal meals and the preservation of traditions.

He praised Michoacán's culinary heritage and the role of traditional women cooks in passing it on to younger generations. He also outlined Iran's regional food traditions, from dishes in the north near the Caspian Sea to southern seafood recipes featuring tamarind and saffron from northeastern Khorasan province.



Mexican students prepare traditional Iranian dishes during a cooking workshop at Morelia University in Michoacán, western Mexico.
IRNA

The ambassador referred to UNESCO's 2010 recognition of traditional Mexican cuisine under the Michoacán paradigm as intangible cultural heritage.

He stressed the importance of passing traditional knowledge from older generations to young people.

He also proposed a bilingual Persian-Spanish cookbook featuring traditional dishes from Iran and Michoacán, alongside the names and heritage of cooks from both cultures.

The initiative is part of the Iranian embassy's efforts to build direct links between the two countries through universities and engagement with younger generations.

Students took part in preparing the dishes, gaining practical experience of Iranian food traditions and hospitality.

Pasandideh said he hoped the exchanges would continue and that Mexican students would one day visit Iran and hear their hosts say: "This is your home".

Ali Ghamsari charts musical Silk Road

Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian composer and tar player Ali Ghamsari is taking traditional music beyond concert halls with a nationwide project that brings live performances to historic sites and cities across Iran, blending music with calligraphy and the country's cultural heritage.

Titled "Silk Road of Music", the journey will open on November 24 with a free performance at the historic Ersiyeh mansion, a historical house dated back to early 1900s, in Qazvin, northwest Iran. Ghamsari will improvise on the tar, a traditional Iranian string instrument, while calligrapher Kasra Karkazi creates a work live, bringing the sounds of Persian music into dialogue with the art of calligraphy.

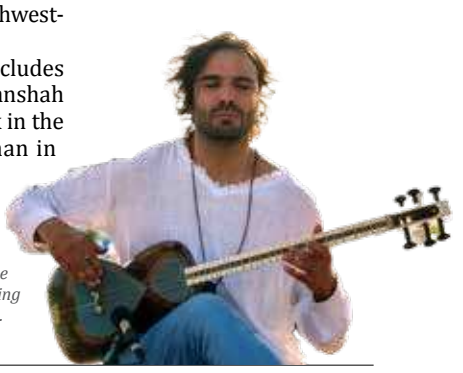
Together, they will create an opening manifesto for the journey. The work will be completed and signed by attendees before remaining at the mansion as the project's first keepsake.

Qazvin, a capital of the Safavid Empire for over forty years (1555–1598), was chosen for its rich history and its standing as Iran's calligraphy capital.

The journey will continue with the Hamnavazan-e Hesaar ensemble, taking performances to cities across the country. The first two ticketed concerts are scheduled for November 24 at Qazvin City Theater and November 25 at the Red Crescent Hall in Zanjan, also in northwestern Iran.

The planned route includes Hamedan and Kermanshah in western Iran, Arak in the central region, Isfahan in central Iran, and Shiraz, Estahban and Darab in the south. Further stops include Bandar Abbas and Lar in southern Iran, and Jam, Kangan and Bushehr along the Persian Gulf coast.

The itinerary also features Kazerun, Gachsaran, Behbahan, Ramhormoz, Firuzabad and Marvdasht in the south and southwest.



Ali Ghamsari performs on the tar, a traditional Iranian string instrument, in this file photo.
HASAN SHIRVANI/IRNA

TENDER NO.: 08-38-0540014

First Announcement

NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY
AHVAZ-IRAN

N.I.S.O.C

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	UNIT
1	● SLICKLINE SPOOLED ON IRON REEL ● H2S, CO2 AND CHLORIDE ION TRIM ● TYPE: SUPA-75 OR SANNICRO-26 ● STAINLESS STEEL UNS N08926 (ALLOY 25-6) ● REF. "SANDVIK (ZAPP-GROUP)", "BRIDON" ● SIZE 0.108 INCH X 20000 FEET	40	RL
2	SIZE 0.125 INCH X 20000 FEET	10	RL

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 than14 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 **46,375 EURO** or **95,585,539,360 RIAL**, in favor of NISOC.

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

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