



Islamic Republic of Iran
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Center for Public Diplomacy

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MFA DIGEST



Sohrevardi: Founder of Philosophy School of “Ishraq” (Illuminationism)

بزرگداشت شیخ شهید
شهاب الدین سهروردی



MFA News



Iran's FM in Telephone Talks

FM Araghchi, held telephone conversations with his counterparts from Pakistan, Egypt, France, Russia, Oman, Saudi Arabia and Iraq as well as the EU Foreign Policy Chief.



FM Araghchi in Kyrgyzstan for Shanghai Cooperation Organization Meeting



Science & Tech



US attacks civilian nuclear power plant



An Iranian deputy foreign minister says Tehran will take "appropriate" measures to defend its national interests and security following a US attack on the construction site of the Darkhovayn nuclear power plant in Khuzestan province.

In a post on X on Sunday, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs Kazem Gharibabadi strongly condemned the US aggression and said the attack on the power plant, which is currently under construction, represented a "dangerous assault."

He held the United States fully responsible for the consequences of escalation of insecurity and instability in the region, saying, "The US attack on the Darkhovayn power plant, which is under construction, is a dangerous assault on Iran's peaceful infrastructure."

The AEOI condemns a "terrorist" US attack on the construction site of the Darkhovayn nuclear power plant, saying the strike violated international law and targeted a peaceful nuclear facility under international safeguards.

Defense capabilities owe to martyred Leader's insights



Iranian caretaker defense minister says that the developed defense capabilities owe too much to foresight of the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khameni.

Brigadier General Seyed Majid Ebn-al-Reza made the comments during a meeting with lawmakers at the Parliament's Education, Research, and Technology Committee where he said that the transformation in the country's outlook on technology is one of the most significant achievements of the recent war.

He also said that despite all sanctions, restrictions, and shortages, Iranian scientists and engineers stood ground against global technological powers, leaving them astonished by the scientific capability, technical ingenuity, and rapid learning speed of Iranian specialists.

The caretaker defense minister emphasized that the strategy of the defense ministry is firmly based on relying on indigenous knowledge, the capacity of domestic experts, and the continuous development of defense technologies.

Iranian robotics teams excel at RoboCup 2026 in South Korea



Iranian robotics teams delivered an impressive performance at the RoboCup 2026 World Championship, winning multiple awards, including Best Technical Presentation, while advancing to the world's top four in several leagues.

Morteza Mousakhani, head of Iran's National RoboCup Committee, said the Iranian delegation attended the prestigious international event with the support of the Vice Presidency for Science, Technology and Knowledge-Based Economy, and returned home with "valuable achievements" for the country.

The RoboCup 2026 World Championship was held with the participation of more than 40 countries in Incheon, South Korea, and the world's leading schools and universities were in attendance. According to Mousakhani, the Iranian teams competed in six leagues over five days against representatives from countries including the United States, Canada, Germany, Croatia, Japan, and China.

In the Rescue Line league, the Iranian team won the Best Technical Presentation Award and secured first place in the documentation evaluation, he said. In the Rescue Simulation league, Iran claimed first

place in eight field competition rounds, second place in the documentation assessment, and second place in the team competition, he added.

Iran also reached the semi-finals in both the Soccer Vision and Soccer Infrared leagues, ultimately finishing fourth overall in each competition to rank among the world's top four teams, he noted.

Rad-1 radar satellite to be unveiled soon: Iranian official



The chairman of the Iranian Space Agency says that Iran's first domestically developed radar satellite, Rad-1, will be unveiled soon after a slight delay caused by technical considerations

Speaking about the country's space program on Wednesday, Hassan Salarieh, who also serves as deputy minister of information and communications technology, described Rad-1 as one of Iran's most significant space projects.

He said the satellite had originally been scheduled to be unveiled earlier in 2026, but the timetable was pushed back due to technical issues that are common in such projects. The official also said development is underway on Rad-2, a more advanced radar satellite with higher imaging accuracy than Rad-1.

Salarieh highlighted growing cooperation with the private sector in satellite development, saying future generations of domestically built micro- and nanosatellites will offer improved imaging capabilities. He added that the Ministry of Information and Communications Technology is also prioritizing the expansion of data- and satellite imagery-based services to enhance efficiency across various sectors of the country.

Iran Physics Olympiad team wins 3 gold medals at IPhO 2026



The National Physics Olympiad team of the Islamic Republic of Iran has

won three gold and two silver medals at the 56th International Physics Olympiad (IPhO).

IPhO 2026 was held in Bucaramanga, Colombia, from July 4 to 12, 2026. Hirbod Foudazi, Kian Zarabian and Mohammad Mirmohammadi earned gold medals for Iran. Nima Koushki and Amirsam Goharpay claimed silver medals.

The competition featured more than 90 countries and over 400 students from around the world. Iran's team members delivered a brilliant performance that once again showcased the scientific capabilities of the country's students.

Iranian science VP lauds country's victory at China International Math Olympiad



Iran's vice president for science and technology has praised the country's national mathematics Olympiad team after it secured first place at the 2026 China International Mathematics

Competition (IMSC), describing the achievement as a testament to Iran's scientific potential.

In a message released on Saturday, Hossein Afshin congratulated the team, writing, "Every scientific achievement is more than a medal or a ranking; it is proof that Iran's human capital, despite every challenge, continues to compete at the highest scientific level."

According to Afshin, the championship reflected years of investment in nurturing young talent and demonstrated that Iran remains one of the world's leading sources of outstanding scientific ability. The students, he noted, presented a true image of Iran's scientific capabilities to the world through their knowledge, perseverance, and self-confidence.

Ensuring Iranian elites can participate in international scientific events has remained one of the Iranian government's priorities, with such opportunities allowing the country's young scientists to showcase Iran's academic capabilities on the global stage, he maintained.

Afshin also reaffirmed the government's commitment to supporting outstanding talents and elites.

Trade & Economy

US destruction of Global South convergence symbol in Chabahar



Washington, for the third time in days, subjected the maritime control tower of Shahid Kalantari Port in Chabahar in southeast Iran to aerial bombardment.

The strikes, which culminated in the complete demolition of the structure at dawn on Friday, represent America's systematic dismantling of vital economic and logistical infrastructure that serves as the very lifeline not only for Iran but for the entire region.

The tower, struck by three missiles, was purely a civilian facility for maritime safety and search-and-

rescue operations for fishermen, serving no purpose beyond maritime traffic control and vessel guidance.

Yet America, in a fabricated narrative, has claimed that the tower was "part of the Revolutionary Guards' maritime surveillance network." The reality, however, speaks for itself, for the facility was a completely civilian structure deliberately targeted.

Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization has confirmed that the Chabahar control tower was exclusively a civilian facility for maritime traffic control, vessel guidance, and navigational safety assurance.

The recent attacks have not been confined to Chabahar alone, but have also struck the civilian infrastructure in the provinces of Hormozgan, Bushehr, Sistan and Baluchestan, Khuzestan, and Lorestan.

Iran, despite facing oppressive sanctions and external pressures, has in recent years consolidated its position as a central actor in the region's economic and security equations.

Investment in Chabahar, which has exceeded \$480 million, demonstrates Tehran's determination to transform the port into the region's economic hub.

The investments include a 50 percent increase in storage capacity for strategic commodities, construction of new mechanized silos and covered warehouses, and the railway connection of Chabahar to Zahedan and Iran's national rail network.

Chabahar, as the southern gateway to the International North-South Corridor (INSTC)—a 7,200-kilometer multimodal transport network connecting India through Iran and the Caspian Sea to Russia and Europe—plays a vital role in reshaping global trade dynamics.

The corridor can significantly reduce transportation time and costs, serving as an alternative to traditional routes dominated by the West and charting a new economic order across the Global South.

Iran, Armenia agreed to set up joint energy working group

Iran and the Republic of Armenia will form a joint specialized working group in the field of energy with a focus on gas trade.

The agreement was announced following a meeting between Iranian

Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad and Armenian Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure Davit Khudatyan, held in Tehran on Saturday.

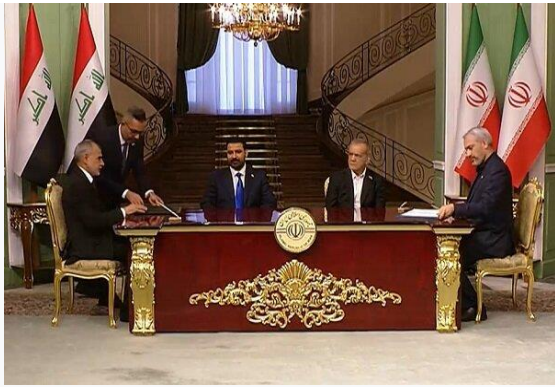
Hailing Armenia for standing by Iran during difficult periods, Paknejad reaffirmed Tehran's readiness to strengthen cooperation with its northwestern neighbor within the framework of its technical and economic capabilities.

According to the Iranian oil minister, the two sides reviewed a wide range of potential energy projects, including the expansion of bilateral trade, the export of technical and engineering services, refinery construction, and the supply of petroleum products to Armenia.

Paknejad also announced that Tehran and Yerevan have agreed to establish a joint specialized working group and proposed that it begin operations as soon as possible so that concrete outcomes can be evaluated during the next round of bilateral talks.

The Iranian oil minister noted that the existing energy partnership between the two countries is based on a gas-for-electricity swap arrangement. However, he said Iran has proposed a new commercial framework aimed at expanding natural gas exports.

Tehran, Baghdad sign four cooperation documents



During the official visit of Iraqi Prime Minister Ali Falih Kadhim al-Zaidi to Tehran on Thursday, Iran and Iraq signed four significant cooperation documents to strengthen bilateral relations.

Overseen by the Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and Iraqi Prime Minister al-Zaidi, the ceremony marked a deepening strategic partnership between the two nations.

The signed documents include an agreement on road freight transport and memoranda of understanding (MoU) for the Khosravi-Khanaqin-Baghdad railway project, Tehran-Baghdad sister-city status, and cooperation in public management, education and human resources.

These pacts aim to enhance regional transit infrastructure and administrative collaboration, underscoring a shared commitment to boosting connectivity.

Iran approves plan to reduce power restrictions on industries



The Iranian administration has approved a package of measures to reduce electricity restrictions on manufacturers and support industrial production following an emergency meeting headed by President Masoud Pezeshkian.

The decisions were made at an emergency meeting chaired by President Masoud Pezeshkian on Tuesday, hours after industrialists raised concerns over power shortages during the National Industry, Mining and Trade Day ceremony. The meeting, attended by senior officials and representatives of industrial associations, reviewed the country's electricity supply challenges and adopted measures aimed at maintaining stable industrial output. Pezeshkian stressed that supporting production, safeguarding jobs, and ensuring the uninterrupted operation

of industries remain among the government's top priorities.

The approved measures include reducing scheduled power cuts for industrial parks, allowing factories to make up lost production by operating on Fridays, requiring petrochemical complexes to secure their own electricity supplies, cutting energy consumption at large commercial centers, allocating new power generation capacity to industrial projects, promoting public energy conservation, and tightening enforcement against excessive electricity consumption by industrial units.

Iran seeks to triple trade with Pakistan to \$10bn



Iran's interior minister, visiting Pakistan on Tuesday, said both sides need to expand cross-border transport capacity to meet a \$10 billion trade target.

Iran's interior minister arrived in Pakistan on Tuesday leading a delegation of officials from multiple ministries, saying both countries aim to more than triple annual bilateral trade from \$3 billion to \$10 billion. Eskandar Momeni said upon arrival that the visit was aimed at developing relations and following up on agreements reached during President Masoud Pezeshkian's trip to Pakistan about one month ago. He was accompanied by representatives from the ministries of oil, agriculture, and roads and urban development.

Momeni said achieving the \$10 billion target would require an average of around 2,000 trucks or containers crossing between the two countries daily, while currently only about 20 percent of that capacity is being used. "Creating the necessary conditions on both sides of the border will be a main focus of discussions on this trip," he said.

The minister added that regional developments would also be on the agenda. Pakistan has served as the lead mediator between Iran and the United States throughout the current conflict.

Economy most important battlefield today: Pezeshkian



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian has declared the economy and the people's livelihood as the most important issues that his government has focused on in its battle against enemy's sinister plots.

President Masoud Pezeshkian made the remarks in a meeting with judicial officials at the Supreme Judicial Council where he described the economy and the people's livelihood as today's most important battlefield.

He further said that the enemies are making their utmost efforts to stop the Iranian nation from progressing.

He said that the enemies attempt to not allow independent and power Iran to make progress to achieve its goals through drawing different plots.

The president further vowed that Iran will spare no effort to defend itself against aggressors, calling on them to

realize that Iran will stand until the end to defend the country and the nation's interests

Iran's oil shipments reached 80m barrels in 26 days



TankerTrackers, a maritime traffic monitoring service, reported Iran has exported over 80 million barrels of crude oil and refined petroleum products over the past four weeks, with the shipments currently valued at \$6 billion.

According to Tanker Trackers, the Islamic Republic of Iran has exported more than 80 million barrels of oil and oil products during 26 days after a memorandum of understanding (MoU) inked between Iran and the United States.

The report put the value of the aforementioned crude oil exported from Iran in this period at over \$6 billion.

Now that the US Navy blockade is being reinstated more than a month ahead of schedule, it appears that

around 30 million barrels of Iranian crude oil have yet to depart,” the tracking group said.

“However, there are also more than 60 million barrels of floating storage capacity available within the blockade perimeter should Iran be forced to scale back its oil production.”

The evaluations indicate that, in case of emergence of any restriction in the sales and production trend, the capacity of reserving the country’s vessel at the geographical area, exceeds over 60 million oil barrels that can be used as a temporary tool for the management of oil supply.

Tehran hosting 33rd intl. cosmetics, cellulose products



The 33rd International Exhibition of Detergent, Hygienic, Cellulose and Related Industries (Beauty&Clean) has started its work at Tehran Permanent Intl. Fairgrounds with the participation of over 160 domestic and foreign firms.

This edition of the exhibition, which will run for four days, showcases the latest achievements, technologies, products, and services of the detergent, cosmetic, hygienic, cellulose industry, and related machinery for industry professionals, specialists, traders, and enthusiasts.

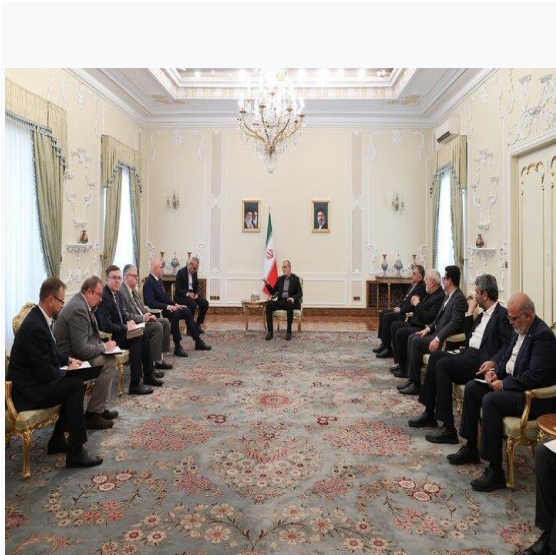
At this exhibition, participating companies are presenting their newest productions and technologies in the fields of detergents and cleaning products, cosmetic and hygienic products, cellulose products, raw and intermediate materials, machinery, equipment, production lines, and related specialized services.

Alireza Kiani, head of the Iran Detergent, Hygienic and Cosmetic Industries Association, stated at the exhibition's opening ceremony, referring to measures taken to secure raw materials for the detergent industry under current conditions: "At present, there is no shortage in the production of detergent products, and the market has achieved stability."

The 33rd International Exhibition of Iran Beauty & Clean, from July 13 to 16, is open daily from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Tehran Permanent International Fairground, welcoming

industry professionals, producers, specialists, traders, and enthusiasts.

Iran, Russia strategic partners, reliable friends: Pezeshkian



Iran and Russia are strategic partners and reliable friends for one another, according to President Masoud Pezeshkian on Monday.

In a meeting with the Russian Minister of Energy Sergei Tsivilev, the Iranian President emphasized the need to accelerate the implementation of strategic agreements between Tehran and Moscow and declared the readiness of the Islamic Republic of Iran to remove obstacles to joint projects.

Pezeshkian referred to the strategic level of relations between Tehran and Moscow and the extensive agreements between the two countries, and said; "Your presence in Iran and consultations with the officials of our country indicate the

resolve and will of both sides to implement the agreements, and it is expected that these agreements will move from the negotiation stage to the operational phase as soon as possible."

Referring to the extensive potential for cooperation in the fields of energy, oil, gas, petrochemicals, industry, trade in basic commodities, development of transit corridors, and other economic fields, the President stated: "Given the will and motivation that exists at the highest levels of the two countries, including from Mr. Vladimir Putin, President of Russia, to expand cooperation, it is not appropriate for the implementation of joint projects to face a slowdown."

Referring to the potential within the framework of regional and international organizations, including BRICS, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, Eurasia, and cooperation among the Caspian Sea littoral countries, Pezeshkian noted: "There are diverse and valuable areas for developing relations and implementing joint projects between the two countries, which should be employed in a favorable way."

Iran, Tajikistan to carry out joint agricultural projects



Iran's trade attaché in the Iranian Embassy in Tajikistan announced the review of the potentials of cooperation between the two countries in the agricultural field.

Mohammad Ali Amirfakhrian, referred to the holding of a specialized meeting with the managers of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Tajikistan, and said: "The capacities of cooperation between the two countries in the fields of seedling production, livestock breeding, veterinary medicines, fisheries, processing industries, modern irrigation, mechanization and investment in the value chain of agricultural products were reviewed and the continuation of expert consultations was emphasized."

According to the announcement of the Trade Development Organization

of Iran (TPO), he added: "The studies conducted show that the agricultural sector of Tajikistan has significant needs in areas such as seedling production, livestock breeding, development of related industries, increasing the productivity of water resources and modernization of production technologies, which overlap with the technical and specialized capabilities of Iranian companies."

Referring to the investment capacities in this sector, the Iranian trade attaché in Tajikistan stated: "Developing cooperation in the field of seedling production, industrial animal husbandry, animal breeding, production of veterinary drugs and investment in agricultural lands were among the most important topics discussed between the two sides."

NDF allocates \$2b in foreign currency to boost border region trade



The head of the National Development Fund (NDF), pointing

to the government's strategic outlook on border areas, announced the allocation of \$2 billion in foreign currency resources to support foreign trade in these regions.

According to IRNA, Mehdi Ghazanfari stated on Saturday at the signing ceremony of a memorandum of understanding for granting facilities to economic sectors in less-developed areas: Customers in this sector must be traders and exporters so that the process of repatriating resources can be carried out in foreign currency with complete confidence. He added: The memorandum of understanding for granting facilities (in Rials and foreign currency) to economic sectors in less-developed areas was signed between the National Development Fund and the Vice President's Rural Development Department.

The official continued: Our goal with this new approach is to prevent the accumulation of resources in the banking system and ensure that facilities are directly disbursed to final applicants. At the same time, this does not mean a change in the Fund's priorities; rather, the Fund will continue its activities with full strength in the sectors of oil, mining, new technologies, and the

reconstruction of war-affected areas with the same approach. Ghazanfari, emphasizing that rural development is one of the vital pillars of national development, stated: The era of villages benefiting from natural resources without the need for technology has ended. Today, it is expected that the same level of welfare available in urban centers will also prevail in remote areas, and this is precisely justice.

Iran's first geothermal power plant connected to national electricity grid



The Minister of Energy said: The Meshgin-Shahr geothermal power plant in Ardebil, with a capacity of five megawatts and an investment of 10 million euros, has been connected to the national electricity grid and has entered the cycle of electrical energy generation.

Iran Sports

Iran march into 2026 Asian Junior Handball Championship QFs



Iran defeated India 63-14 on Tuesday to book their place at the 2026 Asian Junior Handball Championship quarterfinals.

The Iranian team had previously defeated Kuwait and Qatar, lost to South Korea and Japan and were held to a draw against the UAE in Group B, Tehran Times reported.

Iran are scheduled to play in the quarterfinals on Friday. Group A consists of China, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Chinese Taipei, and Hong Kong. The 19th Asian Men's Junior Handball Championship is being held in Chuzhou of China from 15 to 26 July 2026. The event serves as qualification event for the 2027

IHF Men's Junior World Championship.

Republic of Korea hold the distinction of being the most decorated team overall, having won a total of 13 medals, comprising three gold, seven silver, and three bronze medals. The host nation China, claimed their lone championship title during the 2nd edition in 1990, which was held in Tehran, Iran.

The Asian Men's Junior Handball Championship is the official competition organized by Asian Handball Federation for junior men's national handball teams of Asia, and takes place every two years.

Iran U18 volleyball becomes Asian champion undefeated



Iran defeated Japan 3-2 (23-25, 25-22, 25-17, 25-22) on Saturday to win

the AVC Boys' U18 Volleyball Championship for the eighth time.

The victory underlined Iran's continued dominance in Asian youth volleyball, with the team producing a composed and resilient performance to overcome a determined Japanese side, according to Tehran Times.

Iran reached the final with an impressive unbeaten run, overcoming the Philippines, India, Bahrain, South Korea and China. Throughout the tournament, the team displayed consistency, tactical maturity and remarkable teamwork, reinforcing the country's reputation as one of Asia's leading volleyball nations.

Earlier on Saturday, Chinese Taipei secured the bronze medal by edging China 3-2 (20-25, 25-23, 14-25, 25-21, 15-13) in another closely contested encounter.

The title adds another chapter to Iran's remarkable history in the competition. The country first won the championship in 2001 and enjoyed an extraordinary streak of six consecutive titles from 2005 to 2014. Iran's record in the tournament also includes three silver medals (2003, 2022 and 2024) and one bronze medal (2018), highlighting its sustained excellence at the youth level.

Iran clinch record ninth men's sitting volleyball world title



Iran's men's sitting volleyball team defeated Bosnia and Herzegovina 3-1 in the final of the Sitting Volleyball World Championships in Hangzhou to secure a record-extending ninth world title.

The championship match, held on Friday in Hangzhou, saw Iran produce another commanding display under head coach Hadi Rezaei. The Iranians team won the match 3-1 (25-21, 25-20, 20-25, 25-16) in the final match, Tehran Times reported.

The victory further cements Iran's position as the most decorated team in the history of the World Championships. The Iranian squad went unbeaten throughout the tournament.

Guided by Rezaei, Iran not only lifted the world crown but also secured qualification for the Los Angeles 2028 Paralympic Games.

For a team already regarded as a global powerhouse, this latest triumph was another emphatic statement: Iran remain the undisputed kings of men's sitting volleyball.

Zarrinkamar wins gold medal in World Taekwondo Championships



Hana Zarrinkamar won the gold medal in the final of the World Taekwondo Championships by defeating an opponent from the Czech Republic.

The Iranian women's national taekwondo team finished its campaign at the Korea Open International Taekwondo Championships with a total of five medals: one gold, one silver, and three bronze. The women's division competitions took place on Tuesday in Chuncheon, featuring 228 athletes. Hana Zarrinkamar led the Iranian squad by capturing the one gold medal.

Pezeshkian, Qalibaf congratulate Spain on FIFA World Cup championship



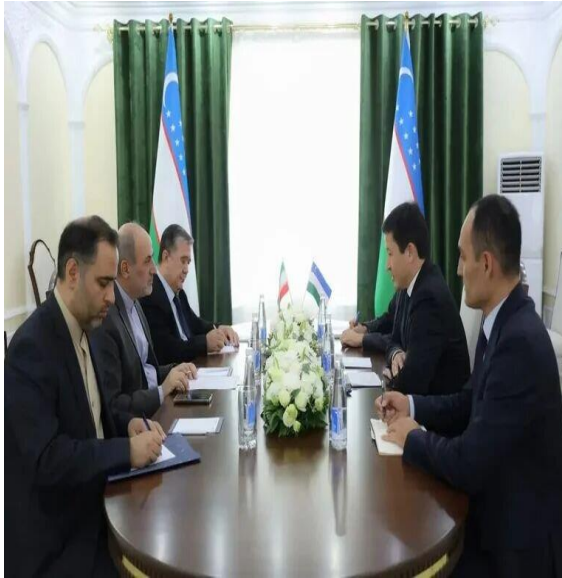
Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf have extended their congratulations to Spain over winning the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

In a message posted on X on Monday, Pezeshkian offered his congratulations to the Spanish government and people following the national team's "well-deserved" World Cup championship. "The joy of the friendly nation and government of Spain is the joy of the Iranian nation and government," he wrote.

In a message to presidents of Spain's Senate and Congress of Deputies, Qalibaf said Madrid's support for the Palestinian people and also its backing for Iran during the US-Israeli imposed war are highly appreciated.

Tourism & Nature

Tehran, Tashkent discuss direct flights and visa facilitation



Tehran's ambassador to Tashkent and the head of Uzbekistan's Tourism Committee have discussed expanding tourism cooperation, increased direct flights and facilitated visas for Iranian citizens during talks in Uzbekistan's capital, according to Uzbek media reports published on Friday.

According to Uzbekistan's UZ Daily, Iranian Ambassador Mohammad Ali Eskandari met Abdulaziz Akkulov, chairman of the Tourism Committee of Uzbekistan, and proposed easing visa issuance for Iranian travelers. The discussions also focused on promoting tourism

opportunities in Iran and Uzbekistan, and developing cooperation in medical tourism. The officials also agreed to make greater use of the two countries' historical and cultural heritage to promote Uzbekistan's tourism market in Iran and steadily increase reciprocal tourism exchanges.

Iran and Uzbekistan have sought to deepen economic cooperation by expanding trade, transport connectivity and investment links. The two countries have also worked to strengthen regional transit corridors and broaden cooperation in logistics and other sectors to support cross-border trade.

Ancient Espi Mazget up for restoration, tourism development by private sector

Authorities in Iran's northern Gilan province plan to protect, restore and develop the historic Espi Mazget monument for tourism through a partnership with a private investor, a senior provincial official said during a visit to the site on Saturday. Ali Bagheri, deputy governor-general of Gilan province, said the provincial

government was pursuing the participation of a private-sector investor to conserve, restore and prepare the historic monument for tourism use while preserving its historical character.



Espi Mazget, meaning "White Mosque," is located about 80 km west of Rasht, the provincial capital, and 22 km south of Talesh in Gilan province, which is bounded by the Caspian Sea. According to sources, the monument dates to the pre-Islamic period and continued to be used during the Seljuk and Safavid eras.

Only the monument's main entrance, part of its prayer hall and several adjoining walls remain standing. The entrance features a high arch associated with Seljuk architecture. Espi Mazget has often been described as a former Sassanid-era (224-651) fire temple that was later converted into a mosque.

Tehran, Seoul discuss roadmap for cultural, tourism cooperation at UNESCO meeting

July 24, 2026 - 18:17



Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri and South Korea's Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism Choi Hwi-young agreed on Friday to pursue closer cooperation in cultural heritage, tourism, handicrafts and creative industries during a meeting held on the sidelines of the 48th session of UNESCO's World Heritage Committee in Busan.

The two ministers discussed expanding bilateral cooperation through a comprehensive framework covering cultural heritage, tourism, handicrafts, digital museums, smart tourism, creative industries and new technologies, IRAN reported. Salehi-

Amiri said South Korea's hosting of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee reflected its role in cultural heritage protection and cultural management.

He also expressed hope that Iran's nomination of the Cultural Landscape of Alamut would be inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List during the committee's current session, becoming the country's 30th World Heritage site. The Iranian minister said Iran had identified more than one million historical sites, with more than 43,000 registered nationally, alongside dozens of UNESCO World Heritage properties and 58 sites on UNESCO's Tentative List.

Iran says six border crossings ready for Arbaeen pilgrim traffic



Iran has completed preparations at six main border crossings with Iraq

for the upcoming annual Arbaeen pilgrimage, introducing upgraded cooling systems, expanded passenger facilities and redesigned transport services to improve the movement of millions of pilgrims, a senior road transport official said on Friday.

Ali Khanqaei, deputy head of the Iran Road Maintenance and Transportation Organization, said planning for the Arbaeen border crossings had begun at the start of the year, with authorities seeking to address shortcomings identified during previous pilgrimages. The six crossings serving Arbaeen pilgrims are Mehran, Shalamcheh, Chazabeh, Khosravi, Tamarchin and Bashmaq.

"We have tried to eliminate the shortcomings of previous years and prepare the border terminals so that pilgrims can cross with the fewest possible difficulties," Khanqaei told the Iranian Students' News Agency (ISNA). He said cooling systems at all border terminals had been upgraded and emergency power generators installed to ensure uninterrupted services in the event of electricity outages.

Authorities have also installed misting systems, expanded shaded areas and covered pedestrian routes to provide more comfortable

conditions for pilgrims travelling during the summer heat, he said.

UNESCO renews concern over damage to Golestan Palace in Busan session



UNESCO has renewed concern over damage to Tehran's Golestan Palace caused by the shock wave and debris from nearby military strikes, as the protection of cultural heritage during armed conflict returned to the agenda of the 48th session of the World Heritage Committee in Busan, South Korea.

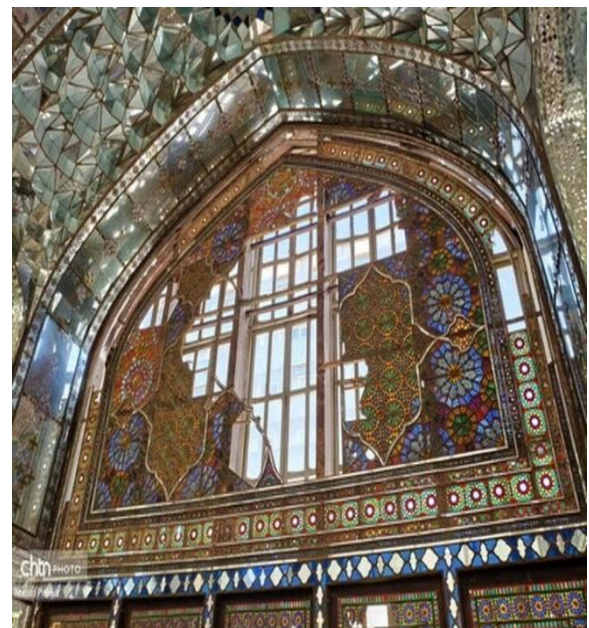
The issue was raised during the committee's meeting, which runs through July 29 in Busan, where UNESCO reiterated the need for states to comply with their international obligations to safeguard cultural heritage during armed conflicts.

According to Iran's Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and

Handicrafts, UNESCO recalled its concern over damage sustained by Golestan Palace, Iran's World Heritage-listed property, during joined military attacks by the US and Israeli regime against the Islamic Republic.

In its official report, UNESCO said the palace was damaged by the blast wave and falling debris following an attack near Tehran's Arg Square.

The organization stressed that the protection of cultural heritage during armed conflict is a binding obligation under the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and other international legal instruments, and called on all parties to refrain from actions that could endanger such sites.

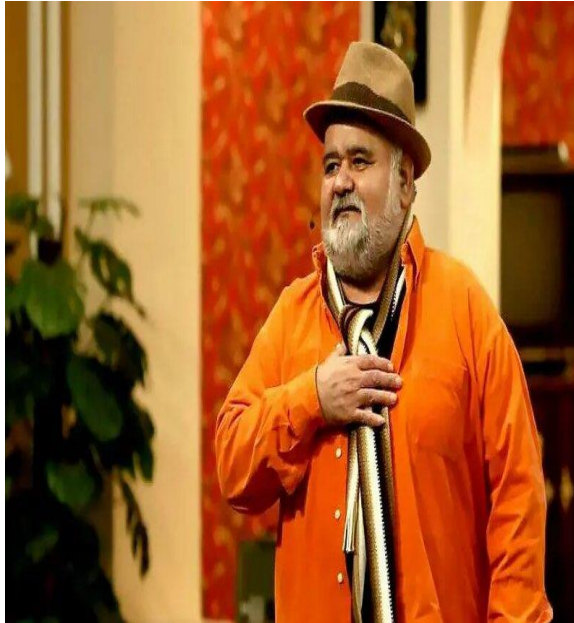




Society & Culture



Celebrated actor, comedian Akbar Abdi passes away at 66



TEHRAN- The renowned Iranian actor and comedian Akbar Abdi passed away at the age of 66 in Tehran on Friday night.

Abdi, who was suffering from various health issues in recent years, was hospitalized two months ago due to a heart attack. Following the passing of the veteran actor, President Masoud Pezeshkian issued a message expressing his condolences to his family, the honorable artistic community of the country, and all compatriots who have lived with the memories of his works.

Parts of Pezeshkian's message are as follows: "The late Akbar Abdi, a talented, stylistically unique actor and an unrivaled figure in the country's theater, cinema, and television, carved his name into a part of the collective and emotional memory of the Iranian nation through several decades of peerless performance".

The Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Seyyed Abbas Salehi also offered his condolences on the passing of Akbar Abdi in a message.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs Seyyed Abbas Araghchi, while expressing his condolences on the passing of Akbar Abdi, stated that the late actor, through his memorable performances, found a lofty and eternal place in the history of Iranian cinema.

For over four decades, Abdi played a wide variety of roles (mostly comic) in more than 150 films and TV series. Over the course of over four decades, he moved effortlessly between comedy and drama. Known for his sharp improvisation, mastery of regional accents, and ability to make

audiences laugh and cry in equal measure, Abdi leaves behind an irreplaceable body of work. The characters he brought to life, his humor, and his performances will remain part of Iran's cultural memory.

Iran's "Falling House" to premiere at 83rd Venice International Film Festival



The latest feature film by Iranian filmmaker Mohsen Gharaei, "Falling House," will have its world premiere in the Horizons section of the 83rd Venice International Film Festival, set to be held from September 2 to 12. "Falling House" marks Gharaei's follow-up to "Blockage," a 2017 drama that portrayed contemporary Iranian society and won best film at Busan before going on to play at

Rotterdam and Munich, Honaronline reported.

The film follows a modest family on the outskirts of Tehran who face the imminent destruction of their home as part of a vast redevelopment project. While Rashid, the father and a prison guard, is being accused of corruption, he discovers that his eldest daughter, Ensi, is secretly planning to leave Iran. As the bulldozers draw ever closer, the tensions within the household begin to rise.

Written by Gharaei and Amir Mohammad Abdi, "Falling House" stars Laleh Marzban, Rima Raminfar, Farhad Aslani and Elena Khakbaz.

Minab Awakening Lullabies intl. festival to be held in response to US-Israeli atrocities



The first International Minab Awakening Lullabies Festival is

scheduled to take place in the near future.

Organized by the Islamic Culture and Relations Organization (ICRO), under the secretariat of Maziar Rezakhani, the event aims to mobilize a global artistic response to the atrocities committed by the US and the Zionist regime in Minab. The festival has recently issued a worldwide call to mothers across all nations to record and share lullabies dedicated to the children of Minab, transforming a universal symbol of maternal love into a cry for justice and remembrance.

The festival secretary Maziar Rezakhani stated that the American-Zionist crime perpetrated on the first day of Ramadan War in Minab sparked grief and indignation among free people globally, Honaronline reported on Tuesday. "The enemy is currently engaged in a cognitive and narrative war, attempting to distort the facts and push this heinous crime into oblivion," Rezakhani remarked. "Consequently, providing a truthful narrative of the Minab massacre is now a strategic necessity."

Despite attempts by US and Israeli authorities to distance themselves from the carnage as images of the tragedy spread across social media, detailed forensic and digital

investigations have painted a starkly different picture.

Iran, Saudi Arabia discuss expanding cooperation on Hajj



The head of Iran's Hajj and Pilgrimage Organization and the Saudi Ambassador to Tehran have discussed ways to improve service quality for pilgrims and the timely issuance of visas for Umrah rituals. Alireza Rashidian, head of the Hajj and Pilgrimage Organization, met with Saudi Ambassador Abdullah bin Saud Al-Anzi on Sunday.

During the meeting, Rashidian expressed gratitude for the efforts and cooperation of senior officials and stakeholders from the host country in organizing the Hajj rituals and providing services to Iranian pilgrims. The two sides discussed and exchanged views on the most critical issues concerning the organization of Hajj and Umrah pilgrimages. They emphasized the need for continued cooperation and

necessary coordination to deliver enhanced services to pilgrims. A key focus of the meeting was the necessity of starting the Umrah visa issuance process for Iranian pilgrims in a timely manner, ensuring that Umrah operating companies can adhere to their scheduled timelines for the departure of applicants to the holy sites.

Iranian film star wins Best Actress Award at SCO Film Festival, dedicates it to Minab martyrs



Iranian actress Shabnam Ghorbani has won the Golden Crane Award for Best Actress at the 4th Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) International Film Festival, with the honor dedicated to the memory of the 168 students and teachers killed in the US-Israeli missile strike on a school in Minab, southern Iran.

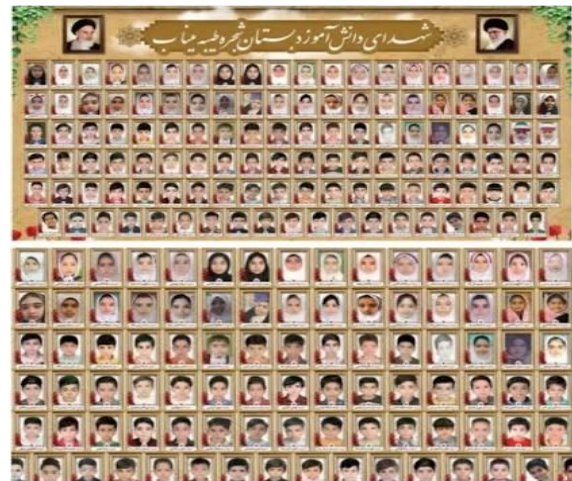
Ghorbani earned the Golden Crane Award in recognition of her

performance in the Iranian mystery drama *The Gambler*. *The Gambler*, produced by Sajad Nasrollahi and backed by Iran's Farabi Cinema Foundation, competed in the festival's main competition.

As Ghorbani was unable to attend the ceremony, *The Gambler* director Mohsen Bahari accepted the award on her behalf while wearing a shirt bearing the inscription "Minab 168."

The closing ceremony of the 4th SCO International Film Festival was held at the Rukh Ordo Cultural Center in Cholpon-Ata, Kyrgyzstan, on July 19. The festival ran from July 16 to 19 as part of Kyrgyzstan's presidency of the SCO and coincided with the organization's 25th anniversary.

The social mystery thriller has already received international recognition, winning the Special Jury Award at the fifth Across the Lake International Film Festival, held in North Macedonia from July 8 to 15.



Iran claim record-extending ninth men's crown in 2026 World ParaVolley Sitting Volleyball Championships

