

July 2017

## Politics:

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani is [scheduled](#) to take oath as the Islamic Republic's 12th President on August 5, 2017.

Iran hosted the 13th Operational Working Group Meeting on International Counter-Terrorism Mechanism in Tehran. 75 officials from 29 regional and international organizations in the counter-terrorism sector are [attended](#) the two-day conference, including Interpol's Secretary-General Jurgen Stock.

Provincial police commander Hossein Rahimi reported that Iranian police forces [seized](#) large quantities of weapons from the so-called Jaish al-Adl terrorist group in Iran's south-eastern province of Sistan and Balouchestan.

Female member of Iran's Parliament Parvaneh Salahshouri declared that women parliamentarians are [committed](#) in their support of NGOs and women from different political groups and organizations to improve conditions for women inside Iran.

Iran's Vice President for Women and Family Affairs Shahindokht Molaverdi held negotiations with President Rouhani to [increase](#) the number of women in government ministerial positions.

Shahindokht Molavardi stressed President Rouhani's positive attitude regarding the role of women in cabinet. She [declared](#) that the taboo surrounding female Iranian ministers had been broken and to expect more women in cabinet.

Iran's former Vice President Hamid Baghaei has been [summoned](#) and detained for the second time. Baghaei is considered a close confidant of former Iranian President Mahmoud Amadinejad.

## International Relations:

In [retaliation](#) for last month's terrorist attacks in Tehran, Iran launched missile strikes against the Islamic State's command centres in the Syrian town of Dayr al-Zawr.

Iran's navy [launched](#) a major military drill in the Caspian Sea code-named 'Sustainable Security and Power'.

Iran's Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) [seized](#) a Saudi Arabian vessel trespassing on the Islamic Republic's Bushehr coast.

President Rouhani held a phone conversation with Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani. Rouhani [reaffirmed](#) the importance of strengthening Iranian-Qatari relations amid Qatar's on-going diplomatic row with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif met with French President Emmanuel Macron and his French counterpart in Paris. They discussed [enhancing](#) bilateral cooperation, especially in the field of economics.

Foreign Minister Zarif [met](#) with Italian Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni alongside several other Italian officials in Rome. They discussed enhancing bilateral relations and issues regarding regional and global security.

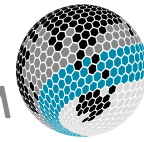
Foreign Minister Zarif met with Director-General of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) Ahmet Üzümcü. Zarif [stressed](#) Iran's position against the use of chemical weapons.

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Arab-African Affairs Hossein Jaber Ansari met with Russia's Deputy Minister of Defence Lieutenant General Alexander Fomin. They discussed the [protracted](#) peace process of the Syrian conflict.

Ali Akbar Velayati, senior advisor to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, met with French Secretary General of Foreign Affairs Christian Masset. Velayati [called](#) for all European countries to establish independent policies on the Middle East.

On a two-day official trip, Foreign Minister Zarif visited the North African countries of Algeria, Mauritania and Tunisia. The regional leaders aimed to explore ways to strengthen relations and [exchange](#) views on developments in the Middle East.





Iran's Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Reza Salehi-Amiri announced that Saudi Arabia has agreed to all of Iran's requests regarding the [provision](#) of security for Iranians participating in this year's annual Hajj.

Iran has summoned the Swiss envoy, who represents US interests in Iran, to [protest](#) recent remarks made by US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson. Last month, Tillerson stated that the Iranian government "continues activities and interventions that destabilize the Middle East".

Foreign Minister Zarif met with Tunisian President Beji Caid Essebsi in Tunis. They [discussed](#) security issues regarding Syria and the Persian Gulf.

President Rouhani met with Head of the National Iraqi Alliance Ammar Hakim. Rouhani [reaffirmed](#) Iran's support for enhancing Iraq's stability and unity.

## Economics:

Iran [signed](#) a multi-billion-dollar deal with French energy company Total. The deal is set to facilitate further expansion of economic and technological cooperation between the two countries.

Iranian Minister of Agricultural Jihad Mahmoud Hojjati met with Director General of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Jose Graziano da Silva. Da Silva underscored FOA [intentions](#) to promote and develop cooperation with Iran.

Iran's trade with the European Union has [increased](#) by 127% to €6.5 billion in the first 4 months of 2017 compared to the same period in 2016.

Deputy Head of Iran's Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mine and Agriculture Hassan Hosseini Razavi Khorasan announced that a [joint](#) trade chamber between Iran, Germany and Switzerland will be established by the close of the year.

Iranian officials announced that several major international contracts in the petrochemical sector will be [finalised](#) soon.

Iranian airline companies Zagros and Iran Airtour signed several deals with the European company Airbus to [purchase](#) a combined 73 planes.

The Head of Ports and Maritime Office of Bushehr Province announced that Iran [exports](#) over 1,100 tons of food products to Qatar each day from Bushehr. Qatar remains diplomatically and economically isolated from the GCC after Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and the UAE cut ties with it in June this year.

Senior Russian officials [announced](#) that Russia has commenced production of equipment for the construction of new reactors at the Bushehr nuclear power plant in Iran.

## NEW MESF IRAN PUBLICATIONS

### 'Picturing Pasargadae: Visual Representation and the Ambiguities of Heritage in Iran',

*Ali Mozaffari*

This paper analyses the relationship between visual representation and Pasargadae, a UNESCO World Heritage site in southern Iran.

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### 'Reclaiming Heritage through the Image of Traditional Habitat', in The Making of Islamic Heritage: Muslim Pasts and Heritage Presents.

*Ali Mozaffari and Nigel Westbrook*

This chapter explores the dynamic relationship between culture, habitat and social space inside Iran before expanding the analysis to the Muslim world.

To view click [here](#)

### 'The Return of the 'Idea of Iran' (2005-2015)', in Tourism and Political Change, 2nd ed., 186-99.

*Ali Mozaffari, Ramin Karimian, and Sajad Mousavi.*

This chapter examines tourism in Iran through the lens of its recent political history.

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