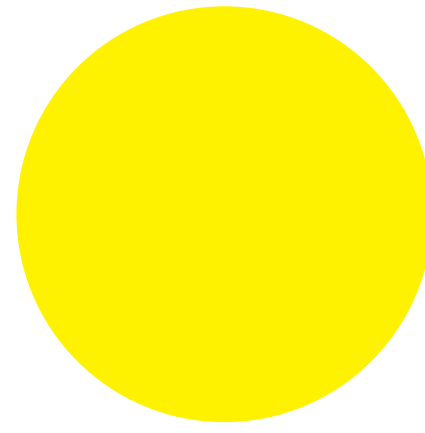




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# Iran Daily



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## Analysts say Biden may use waivers on Iran oil sanctions to limit price impact

Legislation pushing Joe Biden to ratchet up sanctions on Iranian crude oil is on track to become law as early as this week. But don't expect the president to fully use his new powers any time soon.

The measure was passed by the US House of Representatives over the weekend, Bloomberg wrote.

But oil market analysts say Biden will be loathe to make any moves that could increase the price of crude or the gasoline that US motorists buy at the pump. The president is likely to take advantage of the waiver authority built into the sanctions and avoid stringent enforcement, according to policy experts. The administration also permitted Venezuelan oil to continue flowing last week even as it renewed sanctions aimed at President Nicolas Maduro. "Oil traders are nonchalant because they know Biden will certainly sign whatever waivers are necessary to keep Iranian oil flowing into the market just as he is keeping Russian barrels flowing into the market," said Jim Lucier, managing director at Capital Alpha Partners, a Washington-based research group.

The White House National Security Council declined to comment on the sanctions. The administration is still analyzing the legislation, but no impact on oil markets is expected before the fall, a person familiar with the matter said.

The oil market is particularly sensitive right now to the potential for further constraints. Brent crude prices exceeded \$92 a barrel earlier in April, their highest in almost six months, amid strong global demand and ongoing production cuts by OPEC and its allies.

If implemented and enforced, the new sanctions could add as much as \$8.40 to global prices, according to ClearView Energy Partners, a Washington-based consulting firm.

While US gasoline prices are still some way off the levels seen then, they have advanced this year, with peak driving season still to come. There is a "new element of risk" that the measure could be directed at ports, vessels and refineries that engage in the shipping, processing and other transactions involving Iranian crude oil, said Fernando Ferreira, director of Rapidan Energy Group's geopolitical risk services. However, they're also subject to a potential waiver, allowing Biden to make exemptions in cases where national security is deemed a concern.



# Pakistan willing to do its part in Iran gas pipeline: *Owji*



The Iranian oil minister said that Pakistan is keen to fulfill its obligations in completing a part of the Iran-Pakistan Gas Pipeline Project. Speaking on the sidelines of a visit by Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and his accompanying delegation to Islamabad, Javad Owji stated that

the Pakistani side is willing to see the injection of gas into the pipeline and for this reason, Islamabad is drawing up contracts with various companies for the acceleration of this process, Shana reported. It is hoped that, under the international contract inked between

Iran and Pakistan, "We will witness the export of gas from Iran to the neighboring Pakistan during the administration of President Raisi," he added. The Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline, also known as the Peace pipeline, is an under-construction 1,950-kilometre pipeline to deliver

natural gas from Iran to Pakistan. The development of bilateral cooperation in the field of energy and the export of technical and engineering services were among the other topics discussed between the two sides. Pakistani Minister for Power and Petroleum Musadik

Malik said that there are significant opportunities between Iran and Pakistan to deepen bilateral relations, especially in commercial and economic fields.

In comments after his meeting with Owji, Malik told IRNA that there is great potential between the two countries to deepen commercial and economic cooperation. He stressed that his country is very pleased with Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi's visit to Pakistan, adding, "It is a great honor for us to host the Iranian delegation."

In response to a question about the joint Iran-Pakistan gas project, he said the first phase of negotiations has been held and the two sides will continue this process in the next stages.

The Pakistani minister said there have been comprehensive and reassuring negotiations as well as consultations between the two countries at the ministerial level. "Tehran and Islamabad will continue to cooperate for the prosperity of the region and also to ensure the interests of each other's nations," he added.



## Iran-China three-month trade tops \$4b, data shows

China's Customs said the trade exchanges between Iran and China exceeded \$4 billion in the first quarter of the current year (January to March), showing a 1% growth compared to a year earlier. The report put the value of the trade exchanges between the two countries in the first three months of 2024 at \$4.2 billion, reported Tasnim News Agency.

The trade exchanges between Iran and China from January to March 2023 had been reported to be over \$3.99 billion.

According to the report, China imported \$1.260 billion of products from Iran in the first three months of the current year, registering a 10% growth compared to last year's corresponding period.

China had imported over \$1.145 billion of goods from Iran between January and March 2023, IRNA reported.

In this period, China exported \$2.76 billion of products to Iran, showing a three-percent decline compared to the same period last year. China had exported \$2.845 billion of products to Iran between January and March 2023, the report added.

### Opportunities of Tehran-Beijing partnership

Iran and China, two countries that are in structural conflicts with the current world order, have signed a "Comprehensive Strategic Partner-

ship Agreement" which is centered on geo-economic goals, Press TV wrote.

The document heralds opportunities for Iran's economic diplomacy, but the road to its implementation is riddled with challenges.

The economic opportunities include the potential to facilitate communication and information infrastructure, expand trade and investment, financial and banking cooperation, allow Iran to participate in the Belt and Road Initiative and reduce sanctions pressure.

However, the disparity of expectations from the agreement, the inconsistency of the two countries' theoretical and practical policy-making, their distinct commercial structures, sanction-related snags in financial and banking convergence, and the dearth of economic and commercial diplomats in Iran mean the two countries have an uphill task to implement the agreement.

The most important of these challenges is the heavy shadow of sanctions, which severely limits Iran's room for maneuver, but also a reason for the two countries to cooperate.

The changing structural conditions and the fluidity of the international system marked by the decline of

the US hegemony exert limitations for emerging powers such as China and regional powers such as Iran.

Under structural pressures, Iran and China are faced with certain requirements and contingencies that lead them to convergence. This is the basis for the initiation of the comprehensive strategic partnership agreement which is based on mutual requirements and necessities.

One of the most important manifestations of the hegemonic power's confrontationalism is the use of sanctions, which have been widely used in the United States' foreign policy in recent years in such a way that the number of countries targeted by sanctions has increased.

Although the degree of being impacted by sanctions is a function of the size and strength of economies and hence, it is different from country to country, the imperative to face off the hegemon is common. Under the pressure of several decades of sanctions, which have intensified in recent years due to the nuclear standoff, Iran has pursued

a "look east policy.

Iran's expectations of economic opening after submitting to a nuclear agreement in 2015 were met with former president Donald Trump's unilateral withdrawal from the accord and his imposition of new sanctions under Washington's "maximum pressure" campaign.

Amid the exponential pressure of sanctions, Iran took on the path of Asia to break the tightening web of sanctions and turned its attention to China more than before.

A glance at Iran's trade relations shows China is Iran's first economic partner, with a distant 30% share of the country's foreign trade compared to other countries.

China is the most important source for Iran's technological and industrial needs, the most important buyer of Iranian oil and the only country that has chosen the policy of keeping its economy open to Iran at a time of mounting sanctions pressure.

Moreover, under the guiding principle of "China's peaceful rise", the Chinese government pursues a policy of economic activism in various regions, especially strategic regions such as the Persian Gulf.

Given the enormity of energy intensive industries in China, the imperative to guarantee energy security is one of the key pillars of the country's economic development strategy.

This per se explains Beijing's endeavors to strengthen economic relations with the oil-rich countries of the region such as Iran and Saudi Arabia.

However, it should be noted that the role of Iran is more important and the Chinese are well aware of Iran's capacity and ability to influence the stability and security of the region.

Hence, they are keen to strengthen Iran's stabilizing role in the region in order to guarantee energy security, and the 25-year strategic partnership agreement fulfills this part of China's intentions.



# Hessel Marsh, a seasonal symphony of nature's beauty



● snaptrip.com



● snaptrip.com



● visitmazandaran.ir

## Iranica Desk

*Hessel Marsh is a natural wonder nestled in Chalous, Mazandaran Province, renowned for its vibrant display of algae in hues of green, pink, and red that change with the seasons.*

*The term hessel signifies both stagnant water and a seasonal water reservoir. Situated south of Talaju and Sinava village, this enchanting marsh lies 10 kilometers southwest of Chalous and 15 kilometers northwest of Marzanabad, deep within the renowned Mash'al Forest.*

### A picturesque oasis

Hessel Marsh is a hidden gem, cocooned within a lush forest adorned with majestic trees and veiled in mystery. As you traverse the forest's winding paths, the air takes on a tangy quality, signaling your approach to this captivating destination.

Upon reaching Hessel Marsh, you'll be greeted by a spectacle of trees and plants encircling it like precious pearls, enhancing its allure. Perched at an elevation of 250 meters above sea level, the marsh's size fluctuates, reaching less than a hectare at its fullest. Studies conducted in 1996 estimated its area to be approximately 3,800 square meters, adding to its mystique and charm.

The waters of Hessel Marsh stir from its depths and core, untouched by any flowing rivers or streams. Towards the marsh's lower extremity, an ancient tree shelters a bubbling spring, seamlessly merging with the marsh's essence. This subaqueous spring is an integral part of Hessel Marsh. On its eastern flank, a channel meanders, occasionally carrying excess water towards the Chalous

Valley when overflow occurs. The primary source of water for Hessel Marsh stems from seasonal rains commencing in late autumn and persisting until mid-spring. Some years witness a decline in water levels, resulting in a significant decrease in the marsh's water capacity.

Within the tranquil confines of Hessel Marsh, time drifts by in serenity and calm. The surface remains undisturbed, devoid of waves or ripples, adorned with a lush carpet of algae, reaching a depth of half a centimeter, leaving no gaps untouched. These algae exhibit varying hues, transitioning from green in shaded areas to orange and finally a vibrant red in the sunlight, casting a breathtaking spectacle.

### Vegetation

Hessel Marsh was once a habitat for numerous animals and creatures; however, with the disruption of the marsh ecosystem, these species are no longer seen or are less abundant. Perhaps the reason for this is the opening of the area to tourists by building a road in the heart of the forest.

Turtles, lizards, and leeches were once common inhabitants of Hessel Marsh, yet their presence has diminished over time. While fish do not populate the marsh, it offers an ideal habitat for amphibians. Historically, the region also served as a watering spot for larger animals like lynxes and leopards. Before the area's designation as a national park, the Hessel Marsh surroundings were utilized as grazing lands by the villagers of Sinava and Talaju. The marsh's vegetation cover includes a variety of trees such as oak, walnut, elm, ash, and maple, as well as fruit-bearing trees like wild apple, wild grape, fig, and pomegranate, along with an assortment of medicinal plants like chamomile and fennel.

### Different seasons

**Spring:** As spring unfolds in Hessel Marsh, a tapestry of vibrant green hues blankets the landscape, exuding a sense of rejuvenation and vitality. To witness the marsh adorned in its verdant glory, a visit during the early days of spring is recommended. The weather during this period is

notably pleasant, enhancing the overall experience.

**Summer:** Transitioning into summer, Hessel Marsh undergoes a shift towards drier conditions, diminishing some of the allure found in other seasons. The forested surroundings contribute to warm and humid weather, rendering this season less conducive for exploration and travel.

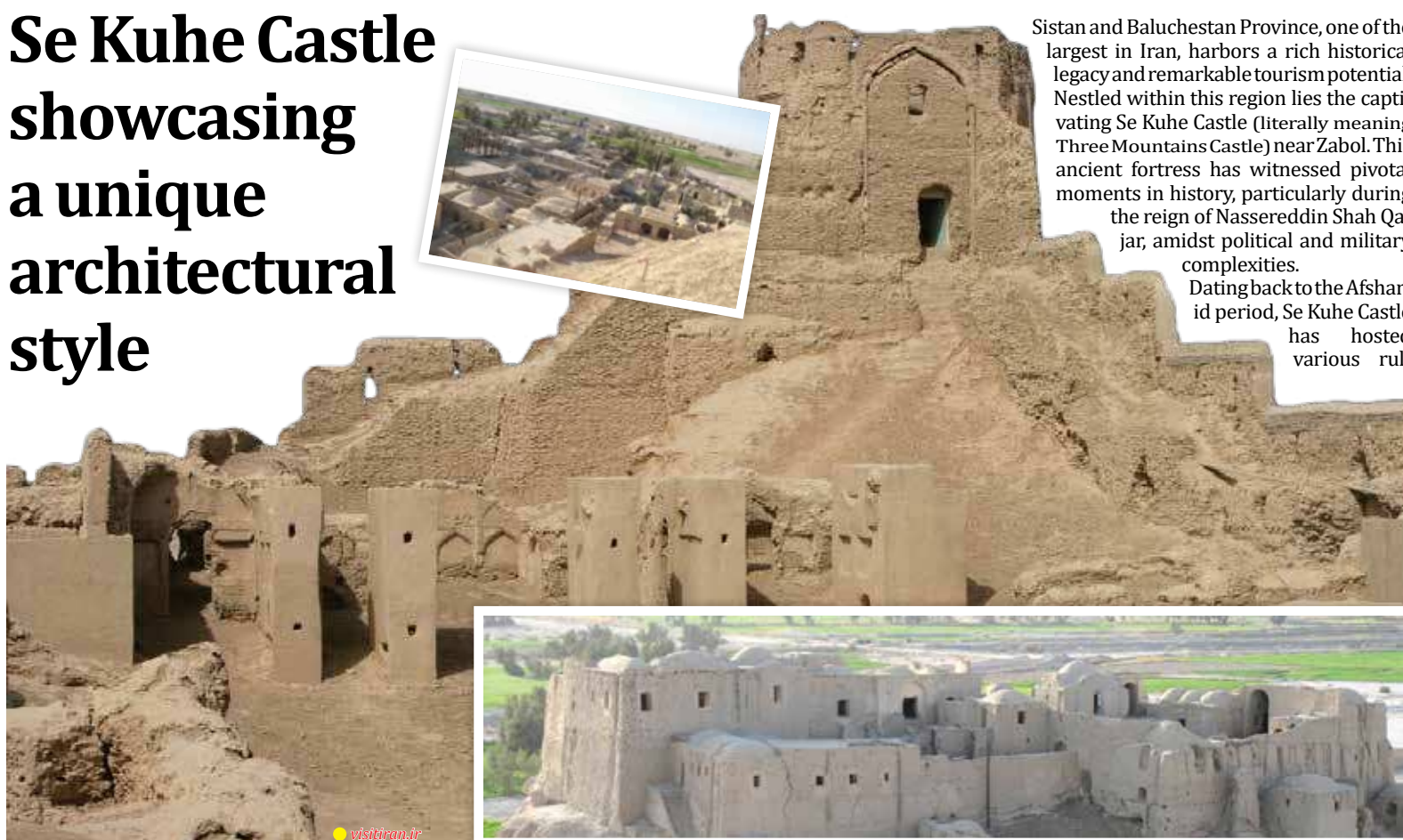
**Autumn:** Embrace the enchanting allure of autumn by visiting Hessel Marsh during this season, a time when nature paints a mesmerizing canvas of red, pink, and orange hues. The marsh transforms into a captivating masterpiece, offering a visual feast for all who visit.

**Winter:** Even in the tranquil embrace of winter, Hessel Marsh retains its unique charm and beauty, showcasing hues of pink and orange amidst the serene landscape. The winter season unveils a picturesque scene where walnut and maple tree branches persist in their verdant glory, while clusters of renowned tree plants maintain their lushness, adding a touch of elegance to the winter.



● visitmazandaran.ir

## Se Kuhe Castle showcasing a unique architectural style



Sistan and Baluchestan Province, one of the largest in Iran, harbors a rich historical legacy and remarkable tourism potential. Nestled within this region lies the captivating Se Kuhe Castle (literally meaning Three Mountains Castle) near Zabol. This ancient fortress has witnessed pivotal moments in history, particularly during the reign of Nassereddin Shah Qajar, amidst political and military complexities.

Dating back to the Afsharid period, Se Kuhe Castle has hosted various rul-

ers and stands as a testament to the enduring heritage of the region. The castle's formation itself is steeped in intrigue, with its origins tied to the emergence of three islands as the waters of the Se Kuhe village receded, eventually revealing the majestic fortress.

Comprising three distinct sections — the southern citadel, the central citadel, and the northern citadel — this architectural marvel showcases the unique Sistani style. Each citadel served a specific purpose, from providing a resting place for the ruler and his companions to housing soldiers and servants. The castle's significance is further underscored by its inclusion in the Iranian National Heritage List, signifying its cultural and historical importance.

Se Kuhe Castle, situated along the Zabol-Zahedan route, not only embodies the enduring spirit of Sistani architecture but also beckons travelers to explore its rich history, making it a jewel in the crown of Sistan and Baluchestan Province's tourism industry.

Se Kuhe Castle is one of the locations in Sistan and Baluchestan Province where the Iranian flag was raised during the struggle between Iran and Britain. This fortress witnessed the peak of military and political conflicts between the two nations for many years. According to historical documents, coins were minted in this castle. Additionally, there was a well on the southern side of the castle where bodies were thrown during the war. This well was exceptionally deep, to the extent that when people dropped a stone into it, no sound was heard. Today, only a hole remains at this location. This fortress is an integral part of the region's history, witnessing numerous political and social events.

● visitiran.ir





A young protester wearing the Armenian flag stands in front of Russian peacekeepers blocking the road outside Stepanakert, the capital of the Nagorno-Karabakh region, on December 24, 2022.  
● DAVIT GHARAMANYAN/AFP

# Armenia has to move to a 'diversification strategy'



By Armen Petrosyan  
Regional affairs expert

## OPINION EXCLUSIVE

*The 44-day war in 2020 and the subsequent post-war realities — which evolved into a qualitatively new dimension following the Ukrainian crisis that began in February 2022 — significantly altered the geopolitical, security, and economic landscape of the region. The somewhat strengthened influence of Russia in the region due to the 44-day war very quickly began to be revised and shaken by the Turkish-Azerbaijani alliance, which ceaselessly continued to develop the success achieved with the military-political tools.*

On the way to achieving their strategic goal, the primary target of the Ankara-Baku alliance was, of course, the scope of Russia's influence and obligations, which geographically included the sovereign territory of Armenia, as well as a part of Nagorno-Karabakh — which, according to the trilateral statement of November 9, 2020, was assigned to the Russian peacekeeping troops for an initial period of 5 years. Shortly after the cease-fire on December 12, 2020, the Azerbaijani armed forces attacked the villages of Hin Tagher and Khatsaberd of the Hadrut region of Nagorno-Karabakh, seizing them and taking 62 people captive. Azerbaijan's aggressive and revisionist tactics in

the political and military spheres within the zone of activity of Russian peacekeepers continued until September–October of 2023, when Baku completely occupied and depopulated the historically Armenian Nagorno-Karabakh. Throughout the various developments in Nagorno-Karabakh after the cease-fire — including military aggression, the humanitarian crisis in the face of the illegal blockade of the Lachin Corridor, and political pressures — Russia did not activate the entire toolkit of the peacekeeping mission, not being able to adequately ensure the right of the people of Nagorno-Karabakh to live safely and prosperously in the historical homeland.

Besides Nagorno-Karabakh, Azerbaijan, with Turkey's support, created serious problems for the security of Armenia from May 2021 to April 2023, occupying around 140 square kilometers of the territory of the Republic of Armenia through various scale military provocations and aggression. One of the derivative consequences of the implementation of Azerbaijan's aggressive policy against Armenia was the failure of Russia and its security structure (the CSTO) to fulfill their obligations to Armenia. Instead of recording the occupation carried out against Armenia and carrying out targeted actions aimed at its elimination, which is the key logic of the obligations of any alliance format, Russia and other CSTO allies only came up with proposals for mediation and the implementation of an observation mission. They justified such a response format by the fact that the Armenia-Azerbaijan bor-

der is not demarcated. The above-mentioned realities, as well as Moscow's strategic choice in favor of Russia-Azerbaijan-Turkey relations due to the Ukrainian crisis — which was also proceeding with a periodic increase of geopolitical confrontation in the region — and the ever-deepening crisis in Russia-Armenia relations, made Yerevan undergo a comprehensive review of its security and therefore its foreign policy. The point is that for decades since independence, Yerevan had built a single-center security system based on multi-layered cooperation with Moscow and various structures formed by it (CIS, EAEU, CSTO). This is while the current system is not working sufficiently for many objective reasons, as a result of which Armenia and the Armenian people suffered and may continue to suffer strategic losses. Therefore, in such conditions, the main principle of the substantive change of Armenia's foreign and security policy was not the formation of mechanisms that are maximally harmonized with one center, as before, but the "diversification strategy" based on a multi-factor logic. This logic was formed as a result of the combination of the interests of different actors in different directions. It should be emphasized that many actors from various regions responded to the declaration of such a policy by Yerevan, including India, Iran, the EU, France, Greece, the US, many Arab countries, and even Russia itself, which is trying to save the format of allied relations with Armenia at any cost. Accordingly, among the different

important but essential separate components of the emerging system of new relations are, for example:

1. Continued multi-vector cooperation with Russia but in a more realistic, clearly measurable, and feasible dimension of bilateral interests, rights, and responsibilities.
2. New opportunities for deepening relations with the EU in the political and economic spheres, as well as the launch of the EU civil observation mission at the security level, which are quite important directions.
3. The prospect of deepening the multi-vector policy, which includes military and security policy with France and Greece and was based especially in historical, cultural, political, and economic "privileged" relations with these nations.
4. Several factors in the context of the regionalization policy, the most important of which are as follows:
  - A. New formats and programs for interaction with Iran in the political, economic, infrastructural, and security spheres.
  - B. The full realization of a new "strategic partnership" level of relations with Georgia.
  - C. The resolution of problems with other neighboring countries, which implies the signing of the bilateral agreement, called "On the establishment of peace and interstate relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan," being negotiated with Azerbaijan, as well as the regulation of relations with Turkey.
5. Deepening of cooperation with India in the political and military-industrial sphere.



Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan (L) and Russian President Vladimir Putin (R) during the welcoming ceremony of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) summit on November 23, 2022, in Yerevan, Armenia.  
● GETTY IMAGES

6. New opportunities for the development of political and economic cooperation with the US and many Arab countries. Generally, the political guidelines for the moment listed above — which against the background of the propaganda confrontation typical of today's world, are very often deliberately presented by Armenia's non-friends as Yerevan's policy to change the geopolitical vector — are naturally a provocation, a lie, and nothing more. The "diversification strategy" is only a roadmap aimed at ensuring Yerevan's own sovereignty, territorial integrity, inviolability of borders, and necessary alternatives in the food, energy, and other vital sectors in the face of new and predicted security, political, and economic challenges; nothing more. It is within the primary functions of every independent, sovereign state. As for Yerevan's new coopera-

tions, which have caused misperceptions among some friends, especially in the security, military, and military-industrial fields, they are only aimed at restoring the disturbed military balance in the region, which is an extremely important prerequisite for creating an environment of peace, stability, and universal development in the region. Those cooperations cannot be directed against any neighboring country in any way because Armenia officially recognizes the territorial integrity and strategic interests of all its neighbors without any dispute. As mentioned above, the key idea of Armenia's security policy is the resolution of all problematic relations and the formation of a cooperative environment in the region. The "Crossroads of Peace" project proposed by Armenia is one of the important infrastructure projects aimed at the realization of this idea.



# AGMI to delve deeper into Armenian Genocide, other genocides



By Elya Harutyunyan  
Turkologist

## INTERVIEW EXCLUSIVE

Every year, on April 24, Armenians all around the world commemorate the martyrs of the "Armenian Genocide" (in Armenian: Medz Yeghern, Armenocid), which took place in the Ottoman Empire at the beginning of the 20th century. The memorial to the victims of the Armenian Genocide has been raised on the Tsitsernakaberd hill in Yerevan on 1965. The Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute (AGMI) was established next to the memorial complex in 1995, the aim of which was to collect, process, publish, preserve, and exhibit documents, photos, and literature related to the Genocide. The focus of the AGMI is also the study of other genocides that have taken place throughout the history of mankind and are still taking place today, which is no less important from the point of view of preventing such new crimes. We conducted an exclusive interview with Edita Gzoyan, Director of the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute, to understand the activities of the center, the directions in which studies are currently carried out, etc.

**HARUTYUNYAN: At what stage are the implementation of the AGMI goals, which were set at the time of its foundation?**

**GZOYAN:** In 1995, on the 80th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, the AGMI began to function as a union of two sub-structures with equal status: museum and institute. Today, almost 30 years later, the AGMI has a fairly extensive collection, formed through collecting works, donations from individuals, and purchases. We present some of the materials through exhibitions to the visitors of the Armenian Genocide Museum. To this day, this process continues. The descendants of many survivors still have very valuable materials related to the Armenian Genocide.

Today, the AGMI, first of all, continues the full study of the Armenian Genocide, delving into the research of individual micro-stories and narrow topics. The anti-Armenian aggression, violence, and genocidal acts, however, unfortunately, continue until today. Hence, the AGMI has set a task to collect, process, research, publish, preserve, and exhibit facts, documents, photos, and testimonies related to the violence that took place in Nagorno-Karabakh, Nakhichevan, as well as in the Armenian-inhabited areas of Azerbaijan. In this context, the documentation and study of violence, ethnic cleansing, and genocidal acts in Nagorno-Karabakh is particularly important. One of our main goals is to spread the truth through foreign language publications. One full issue of the AGMI International Journal of Armenian Genocide Studies in English (Vol. 7, No. 2, 2022) is dedicated to the Nagorno-Karabakh, and we have articles on Nagorno-Karabakh in the last issue of the journal, too.

Researching and exhibiting other genocides throughout human history is also a constant focus of AGMI. The activities of the AGMI are generally aimed at raising awareness of the topic of



genocide in scientific and public circles, as well as preventing further genocides.

**Is the AGMI recognized outside Armenia within the region and the world?**

The AGMI is still the world's only museum-institute dedicated to the Armenian Genocide. It also cooperates with various Armenian studies and Genocide studies centers, as well as other institutions in the field.

The AGMI regularly organizes international conferences, gathering under its roof leading specialists in the field of genocide studies from four corners of the world. Our researchers participate in important conferences in the field as well. All of this is important for presenting the views of the Armenian school of genocide studies in the international arena.

Tens of thousands of visitors come to the museum every year, mostly from official foreign delegations, and their number is increasing year by year.

**The Armenian Genocide is the second most studied genocide in the world. Could you please explain the directions through which the AGMI conducts its current studies and, in your opinion, what are the most valuable works of the AGMI in recent years?**

Various interdisciplinary research works related to the Armenian Genocide are carried out in the AGMI, which are published in local and international journals and

books. The AGMI publishes two journals: one in Armenian and the other in English. For AGMI researchers, the Armenian journal remains the main platform for publicizing their research. We are taking the International Journal of Armenian Genocide Studies in English on the path of globalization.

Importantly, the study of large and small archives of different countries has been initiated, which will contribute to the implementation of new, more in-depth research.

Back in 2019, the project of publishing the memoirs kept in the AGMI were initiated. As a result, more than ten memoirs have already been published in Armenian, English, Russian, and French.

Among the books published in recent years, I would like to point out the monographs of our senior researcher, Robert Tatoyan, titled "The Armenian Population of the Pitis Province of Western Armenia on the Eve of the Medz Yeghern" and "The Number of Cilician Armenians on the Eve of the Armenian Genocide", as well as the collective monograph "Turkification of Armenian Children during the Armenian Genocide" published under my co-authorship with my colleagues Regina Galustyan, Shushan Khachatryan, and Elna Mirzoyan, with an introduction by Narine Margaryan.

I should note, that besides the works of our researchers, we also publish the works of other genocide scholars.

**This year is the 109th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. What events does the AGMI plan to organize?**

This year, we have already managed to organize two temporary exhibitions dedicated to the two months of Francophonie. The exhibitions titled "Pro Armenia, For You, Armenia" and "The Armenian Genocide in the Works of French-Armenian Artists" present the humanitarian efforts of France and the French to save the Armenian population of the Ottoman Empire from the Hamidian po-



In this photo, Armenian refugees are seen on the deck of a French cruiser that rescued them in 1915 during the massacre of the Armenian populations in the Ottoman Empire. To this day, the Turkish state denies that a systematic annihilation ever occurred.  
● GETTY IMAGES



The Armenian Genocide Museum  
● armradio.am

groms to the Armenian Genocide, as well as the works of five famous French-Armenian artists: Levon Tyutyunjian, Zareh Mutafyan, Zhansem (Hovhannes Semerdjian), Asilva (Silva Aragelyan), and Jean-Pierre Seferian. All mentioned artists are Armenian Genocide survivors or descendants of survivors, whose works reflect shades of the national pain. The opening of our main temporary exhibition is expected ahead of April 24, which, this year, is dedicated to the Armenian woman and is entitled "Armenian Woman as a Genocide Victim and Hero". In September, we are planning an exhibition on the theme of Nagorno-Karabakh.

In October, an international conference on "The International Recognition of the Armenian Genocide: Memorial, Political, and Geopolitical stakes of a Decades-Long Unfinished Struggle" will be organized in cooperation with the MIMMOC (Mémoires, Identités, Marginalités dans le Monde Occidental Contemporain) [in English: Memories, Identities, Marginalities in the Contemporary Western World] laboratory at the University of Poitiers (France). Besides this, AGMI will also implement educational programs.



The Armenian Genocide Monument in Yerevan  
● PATRICK ALLARD/REA



## AFC Futsal Asian Cup:

Iran eases past Kuwait,  
lands Kyrgyzstan in last eight

## Sports Desk

Iran defeated Kuwait 4-0 to make a clean sweep of three victories in Group D of the AFC Futsal Asian Cup in Bangkok, Thailand.

The top-spot finish in the group means the 12-time champion will square off against Kyrgyzstan, which stood second to Tajikistan in Group C on goal difference, in today's quarterfinal in Bangkok Arena. Stepping into Monday's game on the back of two unconvincing wins against Afghanistan (3-1) and Bahrain (5-3), Vahid Shamsaei's men saved their best for the last round of group fixtures.

Dominating the early stages, Iran broke the deadlock eight minutes into the contest, when Ali Akrami dribbled past his marker down the right flank before his strike from a tight angle ricocheted off Kuwaiti captain Abdulrahman Altawail's knee to find the back of the net.

Iran had another Kuwaiti player to thank for its second goal in the 17th minute, as the reigning Asian Player of the Year Moslem Oladqobad's effort took a deflection off Ahmad Alfarsi to go past goalkeeper Fahad Alkhawari.

Needing a single point to progress, Kuwait opted for power play to reduce the deficit late in the first half but the decision cost the Middle Eastern debutants a third goal, with Saeid Ahmad-Abbasi intercepting a Naser Alalban's pass before his cool strike from halfway line sealed a fifth goal for the Iranian in Bangkok.

Shamsaei's men took their foot off the pedal after the break but still managed to extend their lead with less than eight minutes left on the clock, courtesy of an Ahmad-Abbasi's spot kick after Salar Aqapour was brought down by Sulaiman Alomran.

The result also saw Afghanistan make history by reaching the knockout phase in maiden appearance in the Asian flagship international event, pipping Kuwait to the runner-up spot on goal difference following a 3-2 win against Bahrain.

Standing between Iran and a last-four place – and a berth in September's Futsal World Cup in Uzbekistan – is an impressive Kyrgyzstan side, which stole the headlines by beating defending champion Japan 3-2 in their group opener.

"I've played against Kyrgyzstan as a player and a coach before, but the mentality that the new coach has given the players has made them a much different team. I'm sure we're going to have a tough but exiting match against them," Shamsaei said of today's opponent.

Japan bounced back from the first-day upset to beat South Korea by five goals but Monday's 1-1 draw against Tajikistan eventually sent the Blue Samurais packing.

"I was really saddened by Japan's exit as they also missed out on the World Cup spot. The performances by other teams show that there are no easy opponents in this tournament. Just watch some of the games in the group stage to see how futsal has improved across Asia," added Shamsaei, who won the tournament as a player on eight occasions.

Elsewhere in the quarterfinals, host country Thailand will take on Iraq, while Tajikistan will face Afghanistan.

Uzbekistan and Vietnam will also go head-to-head with the winner facing Iran or Kyrgyzstan in Friday's semifinals.

Iranian players celebrate a goal during a 4-0 victory over Kuwait in the AFC Futsal Asian Cup in Bangkok, Thailand, on April 22, 2024.

FFIRI

Veteran Iranian middle blocker Mousavi  
to withdraw from international duty: Report

## Sports Desk

Veteran Iranian middle blocker Seyyed Mohammad Mousavi has no intention of representing the country at the upcoming Volleyball Nations League, according to Varzesh3.

The Iranian website mentioned "a long-time injury" as the main reason behind Mousavi's decision. Mousavi, 36, was part of the provisional 39-man squad for the annual international event, which also serves as the last chance for Iran to book a place in the Paris Olympics in July and August.

A newly-crowned Iranian Pro League champion with Foolad Sirjan, Mousavi has informed new Brazilian head coach Mauricio Motta Paes, who was appointed to the job in February, of his decision though the Iranian federation is yet to confirm his withdrawal.

Mousavi was an essential member of Iran's so-called 'golden generation' in the previous decade, winning four titles at the Asian Championships as well as double gold medals at the Asian Games.

Having been left out of the Iranian squad by former coach

Behrouz Ataei for the 2022 Nations League, Mousavi made a return to the national duty last year, inspiring the team to a third Asian Games triumph in October, though the Asian powerhouse still endured a relatively below-par run over the course of the 12 months.

Iran finished third from bottom in the 16-team table of the Nations League, failing to reach the quarterfinals, before suffering a straight-set defeat against Japan in the Asian Championships final on home soil in August.

The latest episode in a dreadful international season came in Oc-

tober, where Iran conceded six defeats in seven outings in the Olympic Qualification Tournament in Rio de Janeiro.

Iran will be facing a mammoth task to progress to the Games in the French capital when the Nations League gets underway on May 21 as the remaining four slots will be decided through the FIVB Ranking by the end of the VNL preliminary round on June 23.

As it stands in the ranking, third-placed Italy, Argentina (sixth), Slovenia (seventh), and Serbia (ninth) are the favorites to punch their Paris tickets, with Iran lagging behind in the 15th place.

Inter's Martinez delighted  
with Scudetto win in Milan derby

REUTERS – Inter Milan striker Lautaro Martinez said he was close to tears after they became the first side to clinch the Serie A title in the Milan derby following their 2-1 win over AC Milan on Monday.

Francesco Acerbi and Marcus Thuram scored in each half to secure Inter's 20th Serie A title and a sixth consecutive win against Milan, who scored a late goal through Fikayo Tomori.

Martinez, the top scorer in Serie A with 23 goals, celebrated his first Scudetto victory as Inter captain having also won the title in 2021.

"Now, I feel like crying because we worked so hard, suffered so much, we deserved this joy. I dedicate it to my family in Argentina, my children, my team mates and all

the fans," the 26-year-old told DAZN.

"I told the lads, we were in a situation that had never happened before, we had to make the most of this opportunity to win in a Rossoneri stadium."

The Argentina international said he is keen to remain at Inter though they have yet to conclude an extension to his current deal, which expires in June 2026.

"I hope so (to renew), we need to reach an agreement with the club," Martinez said.

Inter CEO Giuseppe Marotta told Sky Italia they were in talks over a new five-year contract with the forward.

"(There will be no problems with renewal), absolute loyalty after winning his seventh trophy with Inter," he added.

Inter Milan's Lautaro Martinez celebrates winning Serie A with fans after the victory over AC Milan in San Siro, Milan, Italy, on April 22, 2024.

ALESSANDRO GAROFALO/REUTERS





# Iran calls EU sanctions for Israel attack 'regrettable'



Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian  
● AFP

Iran described as "regrettable" Tuesday a decision by the European Union to expand the bloc's sanctions against Iran in response to the Islamic Republic's recent unprecedented strikes on Israel. "It is regrettable to see the EU deciding quickly to apply more unlawful restrictions against Iran

just because Iran exercised its right to self-defense in the face of Israel's reckless aggression," Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said in a post on X. "The EU should not follow Washington's advice to satisfy the criminal Israeli regime." On Monday, EU foreign policy chief

Josep Borrell said the bloc had agreed in principle to expand its existing sanctions against Iran's drone program to cover missiles and their potential transfer to resistance movements in region or to Russia. Borrell's remarks came nearly 10 days after Iran launched its

first-ever direct drone and missile attack against Israel. The barrage was in response to a deadly April 1 air strike, widely blamed on Israel, that levelled Iran's consulate in Damascus and killed seven members of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, two of them generals.

## UN calls for int'l probe into Gaza mass graves



● AFP

The UN called on Tuesday for an international investigation into reports of mass graves at two Gaza hospitals destroyed in Israeli sieges, saying war crimes may have been committed. The United Nations rights office said it was "horrified" by the destruction of Gaza's biggest hospital, Al-Shifa in Gaza City, and its second largest, the Nasser Medical Complex in Khan Yunis, AFP reported.

On Monday, the Palestinian territory's Civil Defense agency said health workers had uncovered more than 280 bodies of people killed and buried at Nasser hospital, which was besieged by Israeli troops last month.

In early April the World Health Organization said Al-Shifa had been destroyed by an Israeli siege, leaving an "empty shell" containing many bodies.

The UN rights office on Tuesday demanded "independent, effective and transparent investigations into the deaths".

"Given the prevailing climate of impunity, this should include international investigators," UN rights chief Volker Turk said in a statement.

Hospitals, which are protected under international law, have repeatedly come under Israeli bombardment over more than six months of war in Gaza. Israel has accused Palestinian resistance group Hamas of using Gazan medical facilities as command centers. Hamas has denied those claims. "Hospitals are entitled to very special protection under international humanitarian law," Turk pointed out.

"And the intentional killing of civilians, detainees and others who are hors de combat is a war crime."

## Mass arrests as US campus protests over Gaza spread



Police arrest protesters outside of New York University on April 22, 2024.  
● ADAM GRAY/THE NEW YORK TIMES

US police have arrested scores of pro-Palestinian protesters at a handful of elite US universities. Police moved to break up an encampment at New York University (NYU) on Monday night, making a number of arrests, BBC reported. Dozens of students were arrested at Yale earlier in the day, while Columbia University cancelled in-person classes.

Demonstrations and heated debates about the Israel's war on Gaza and free speech have rocked US campuses since the beginning of Israel's war on Gaza on 7 October. The protest movement was thrust into the spotlight last week after New York City police were called out to Columbia's campus and arrested more than 100 demonstrators. Rallies have spread since then.

In addition to NYU and Yale, encampments have been set up at the University of California at Berkeley, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), the University of Michigan, Emerson College and Tufts. Like their peers, the NYU protesters are calling on their institution to discontinue and divest its "finances and endowments from weapons manufacturers and companies with an interest in the Israeli occupation". One student, Alejandro Tanon told the AFP news agency that the US was at a "critical moment", likening the protests to historic demonstrations over the Vietnam War and apartheid in South Africa.

## Erdogan compares Netanyahu to Hitler

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan compared Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to Adolf Hitler, likening Israel's onslaught on Gaza to Nazi Germany's killing of Jews. In remarks at an awards ceremony in capital Ankara on Wednesday, Erdogan asked what difference there was between Netanyahu and Hitler, Al Jazeera reported. Netanyahu later responded by pointing to Turkey's own history of alleged rights abuses. "They used to speak ill of Hitler. What difference do you have from Hitler? They are going to make us miss Hitler. Is what this Netanyahu is doing any less than what Hitler did? It is not," Erdogan said.

"He is richer than Hitler, he gets the support from the West. All sorts of support comes from the United States. And what did they do with all this support? he said. Erdogan added that they have killed more than 34,000 Gazans. Erdogan's remarks came as Turkey ratchets up criticism of Israel, reversing a trend of growing ties with Israel before the regime's assault on Gaza took a devastating humanitarian toll that has sparked outrage across the region. The Turkish leader has previously levelled harsh criticism at Netanyahu and Israel, calling Israel a "terror state" with "unlimited" Western support in November. Under Hitler's rule, Nazi Germa-

ny embarked on an effort to systematically eliminate European Jews, killing six million through death and labor camps, mass shootings, and a variety of other methods. The Israeli prime minister later hit back at Erdogan, criticizing Turkey for its own record of alleged rights abuses at home and in its conflict with Kurdish armed groups. "Erdogan, who commits genocide against the Kurds, who holds a world record for imprisoning journalists who oppose his rule, is the last person who can preach morality to us," Netanyahu said in a statement. Israel's war on Gaza has killed more than 34,000 Palestinians since October 7.

## Bandar Abbas Municipality and development of diplomatic Relationships

The head of communications and international affairs Department of Bandar Abbas Municipality has announced the municipality's firm resolves to enhance international interactions to create investment opportunities in urban projects and to apply the experiences of urban management of foreign cities.

According to the report of the Communications and International Affairs Department of Bandar Abbas Municipality, Maryam Pasalar, the head of this department, provided a comprehensive report on the activities of this management in the field of international relations in the year 2023. At the beginning of her speech, Pasalar emphasized on the importance of establishing international relationships with cities in common characteristics, and said: "Today, in the light of the communications revolution and the development of modern communication technologies, and due to the increase of issues and problems of countries at the global scale, and also the increase in international interactions of countries, the role and importance of international cultural communications in establishing global peace and security, and in a sense, globalization, enhancing individual and ethnic identity, and ultimately preserving and sustaining the environment, are evident to everyone. Therefore, every society and country must have a strong presence in this communicative flow, in order to benefit from contemporary knowledge, scientific growth and progress, and to effectively face the various dimensions of these communications also play an active role in powerful international relations."

She continued: "Last year, fortunately, significant steps were taken in the field of international relations by the Bandar Abbas Municipality compared to previous years. Notably, the mayor of Bandar Abbas joined the Assembly of Asian Mayors for the first time and attended the Asian Mayors' Forum in July 2023 in Ahmedabad, India. A comprehensive report of this trip has been presented to the Organization of Municipalities and Rural Administrations. Pasalar added: Since 2019, the membership of Bandar Abbas in the



UNESCO Creative Cities Network has enhanced the international image of Bandar Abbas. In this case, members were invited to participate in the Congress on Culture and Art Education in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, which the mayor and the head of the municipality's Creativity Center attended in February 2024. Additionally, Bandar Abbas Municipality was virtually attended at the annual meeting of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network in October 2023." The head of International Relations continued by mentioning the numerous meetings of the mayor and officials of Bandar Abbas Municipality with their foreign counterparts, both online and in person, aimed at expanding the cultural relations of cities. She said: "The Nowruz invitation to the Consul General of China, the Consul of India, and the Consul of Kazakhstan, with the presence of a representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Bandar Abbas, marked the beginning of last year's communications. She stated: "Participation in the celebration of the 74th anniversary of the establishment of the People's Republic of China and the introduction of the new Chinese Consul General, attendance at the celebration of the 77th Independence Day of India, a meeting with the presence of new Chinese Consul General in the last September at the mayor's office, and honoring Negar Gheybi, a student from Bandar Abbas who won third place in the Ningbo Asian Children's Painting

Competition in China, were among other meetings that took place. Pasalar declared: "Last year, several meetings were held with the Chinese Consul General to create investment opportunities and the cooperation of Chinese companies in urban projects in the fields of tourism and waste management. A video conference with the mayor of Ningbo was also held on this matter, and negotiations continue until a result is achieved." The head of International Relations, while thanking the esteemed members of the Islamic City Council, mentioned the council's approval and authorization for five sister city requests includes Mumbai, India; Ningbo, China; Aktau, Kazakhstan; Karachi, Pakistan; and Astrakhan, Russia, as a leap and enhancement in the international interactions of Bandar Abbas Municipality with foreign cities. He stated: "The requests and draft agreements for sister city relationships with these cities, after review and legal amendments and obtaining the approval of the Islamic City Council, have been sent to The Ministry of Interior of the Islamic Republic of Iran through the governorate to the Organization of Municipalities and Rural Administrations. Pasalar said: "Based on the custom of sister city relationships with foreign cities, we are pursuing the reciprocal naming of city parks to further acquaint the citizens of the two sister cities, and efforts in this regard are ongoing. Maryam Pasalar, the head of International Relations of Bandar Abbas Municipality, at the end of her speech again emphasized on the importance of establishing effective communication within the legal framework of the Islamic Republic of Iran with other foreign cities to benefit from their experiences and scientific and managerial achievements in urban affairs. She said: "Last year, with the compassionate support of the members of the Islamic City Council of Bandar Abbas, we were able to take effective steps in developing the municipality's international relations. We hope that in the coming year, with these effective connections, we can take useful steps towards the development, progress, and prosperity of the city and citizens."



## Tehran, Islamabad share potential for innovation: Raisi

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi highlighted the potential for collaborative scientific advancements between Iran, Pakistan, and other Eastern nations during a meeting with scientific and cultural elites of Punjab state at GC University Lahore on Tuesday. President Raisi, in his second-day trip in Pakistan, expressed satisfaction at being in Lahore, a city rich in history and culture. He emphasized the deep-rooted ties between Iran and Pakistan, describing them as religious, cultural, and civilizational, president. ir reported. Speaking on the importance of knowledge and scientific production, president Raisi underscored their role in empowering nations and fostering pride, and the need for a synergy between faith and science for individual and societal success and happiness. Raisi praised Iqbal Lahori as a model scholar, embodying qualities such as knowledge, faith, independence, justice, and humanity. Touching upon global scientific trends, Raisi criticized the Western monopoly in the field and highlighted the potential for Eastern nations, particularly Pakistan and Iran, to pioneer new innovations. The president questioned West-

ern claims of freedom of thought, citing instances of student expulsion for supporting oppressed causes such as Palestine. "What we see in practice is that a large number of students are expelled from the university (in the US) just for supporting the oppressed people of Gaza. Is this called freedom of thought!?" he said. He denounced Western hypocrisy in defending human rights while supporting actions that violate them, particularly in the case of Palestine. He expressed confidence in the eventual liberation of Palestine and Al-Quds, condemning Zionist aggression and emphasizing the solidarity of Iran and Pakistan in defending the oppressed. "We have no doubt that the resistance of the heroic nation of Palestine will liberate Gaza, Palestine and the Al-Quds. We have no doubt that the hatred that has been created in the Islamic world and the world of humanity towards the Zionists and Americans will become the revenge of the nations and the end of the Zionist regime and the end of this child-killing regime," the president noted. Pointing to Iran's recent retaliatory operation against the Israeli military targets, the president



Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and his delegation visit GC University Lahore, Pakistan on April 23, 2024. ● [president.ir](http://president.ir)

said, "If the Zionist regime once again makes a mistake and invades the holy land of Iran, the situation will be different and it is not clear that there will be anything left of this regime." He emphasized the importance of mutual understanding between Iran and Pakistan, despite attempts by external forces to undermine their relationship. During his visit to Lahore, president Raisi paid homage to the late Iqbal Lahori, a revered figure in Pakistan, highlighting Lahore's significance as a cultural symbol

of the country. Raisi expressed his commitment to strengthening cultural ties between the two nations. Furthermore, on the second day of his trip to Pakistan, president Raisi held a meeting with Maryam Nawaz Sharif, Chief Minister of Punjab State, where they discussed the growing relations between Iran and Pakistan since the Islamic Revolution. "The Punjab province and the city of Lahore are not just a cultural region, but are rapidly progressing, and I hope... we will witness

further acceleration in its cultural, social, and economic development," Raisi added. Visiting the tomb of Allama Muhammad Iqbal in Lahore, Punjab, central eastern Pakistani province, president Raisi praised the late Iqbal Lahori's cultural influence, citing him as a beloved figure among Iranians, known as the "Star of the Eastern Sky" by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution. Maryam Nawaz Sharif expressed gratitude for president Raisi's visit to Punjab and his homage to

Iqbal Lahori. She pledged to exert efforts to further enhance Iran-Pakistan relations. Both sides agreed to expand Persian language education in Pakistan, given the shared cultural background and interest in Persian language in the country. Raisi affirmed Iran's readiness to cooperate in this regard, assigning the Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance to collaborate with Pakistani authorities to facilitate this initiative.

The writers group PEN America canceled its 2024 annual awards, just a week before the ceremony, after facing widespread and mounting criticism over its response to Israel's war on Gaza. Sixty-one authors and translators were nominated for awards, but 28 of them withdrew their books from consideration, according to a statement released on Monday. Nine of 10 authors nominated for the PEN/Jean Stein book award, including Maya Binyam and Camonghne Felix, withdrew from consideration, the Guardian reported. "This is a beloved event and an


## PEN America cancels 2024 awards after authors drop out over Gaza



enormous amount of work goes into it, so we all regret this outcome but ultimately concluded it was not possible to carry out a celebration in the way we had hoped and planned," Suzanne Nossel, the chief executive of the literary and free expression organization, said in a statement on Monday. Clarisse Rosaz Shariyf, literary programming chief officer, added that it had been a difficult decision to

cancel. "We greatly respect that writers have followed their consciences, whether they chose to remain as nominees in their respective categories or not," said Rosaz Shariyf. The decision followed intense and escalating protests demanding that the organization take a more forceful stance on the Palestinian plight and demand a ceasefire in Gaza following Israel's military offen-

sive in the territory, in response to the Hamas-led attack on southern Israel last October. The estate requested that PEN America donate the \$75,000 award to the Palestine Children's Relief Fund. "In the context of Israel's ongoing war on Gaza, we believe that PEN America has betrayed the organization's professed commitment to peace and equality for all, and to freedom and security for writers everywhere," the letter read. The award ceremony would have taken place on 29 April at the Town Hall in New York City.

 **Mohammad Ali Rajabi**  
 Cartoonist



## Two Iranian writers to participate in 39th IBBY Int'l Congress

Two Iranian experts from the Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults have been selected to present their papers at the 39th IBBY International Congress in 2024.

Farzaneh Rahmani will discuss "Cultural Justice and Promoting Reading through Letter Writing," while Hossein Toolaei will present on "Specialized Libraries of Literary Associations as Tools for Adolescent Audi-

ence Development." Both are literary professionals from the institute and have been invited to share their insights at the congress, scheduled to take place in Trieste, Italy, from August 30 to September 1, 2024, IRNA reported. The congress theme is "Join the Revolution! Giving Every Child Good Books." The program will feature conferences, workshops, and diverse exhibitions, with a focus on sharing experiences and methods for selecting, producing, and promoting quality books,



as well as fostering reading education. The organizers of the congress have extended invitations to these two literary experts from the institute to participate and present their papers orally.