

Leader, world officials review region amid president's loss



A prominent figure in Iran's political spectrum



By Ebrahim Beheshti
Staff writer

PERSPECTIVE

In the recent tragic air crash, Iran mourns the loss of one of its most distinguished diplomats alongside the president. Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, aged 60, lost his life at the pinnacle of his career as Iran's Minister of Foreign Affairs, leaving behind a remarkable legacy of diplomacy and public service. His relentless commitment to his work and extensive academic background cemented his status as a diplomatic force to be reckoned with.

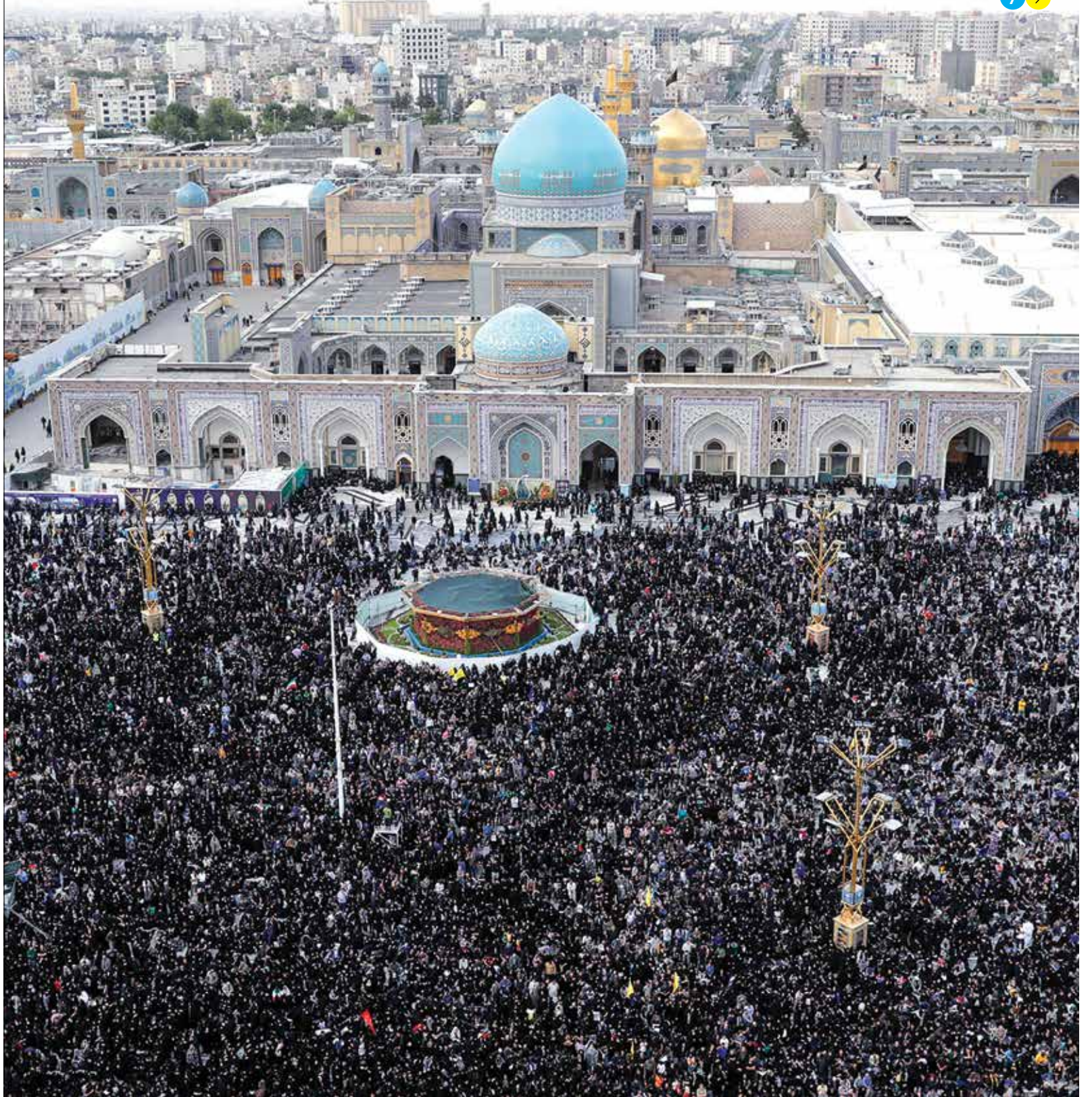
Prior to assuming the role of Foreign Affairs Minister in 2021, Amir-Abdollahian accrued decades of invaluable experience in the realm of diplomacy. His career highlights include serving as an expert and deputy at the Iranian Embassy in Baghdad, the Persian Gulf Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and as a special assistant to the Foreign Ministry for Iraqi Affairs. Furthermore, he contributed significantly to high-profile negotiations, such as the nuclear talks with the European Troika and the Iran-Iraq-US negotiation committee in 2007. Amir-Abdollahian's impressive résumé also boasts ambassadorship to Bahrain, holding the position of Arab and African deputy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and serving as assistant speaker of parliament and director-general of international affairs. In addition to his illustrious career, he pursued and completed all the three programs of university education in international relations, demonstrating an unwavering dedication to mastering his work.

In addition to his extensive experience and education in foreign policy, Amir-Abdollahian made significant contributions to the field of international relations through his writings, which included books and articles. His exceptional background and expertise earned him widespread respect, as evidenced by the overwhelming vote of confidence he received when nominated for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs position by the Iranian president in August 2021. With more than 270 votes in favor and only 6 against, he assumed the helm of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, marking a new chapter in Iran's diplomatic history.

Although Amir-Abdollahian's tenure as foreign minister lasted less than three years, this relatively brief period was replete with significant and perhaps unprecedented regional and international developments. From the Ukraine war to the Gaza war, Iran found itself entangled in global conflicts, whether willingly or not. Under Amir-Abdollahian's guidance, Iran's diplomatic strategy sought to distance Tehran from the consequences of these wars. Many European and American countries attempted to portray Iran as a party to the conflict, particularly in the case of the Ukraine war, leveraging Tehran's support for Moscow to justify extending the negative consequences beyond political statements and additional sanctions. However, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' logical and reasonable defense of Iran's position, coupled with its constant opposition to the war and its expression of preparedness to help end the hostilities, effectively thwarted the plots of the nation's adversaries.

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Millions Bid Farewell to Raisi



How Europe is responding to death of Iran's president



World Para Athletics Ch'ships: Iranians excel with 12 medals



Exhibition 'Read the Headlines Again' shows global double standard on Gaza war



Norway, Ireland, Spain to recognize Palestinian state

Norway, Ireland, and Spain announced on Wednesday that they will recognize a Palestinian state, while the European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell also stated that Israel needs to accept criticism from those who do not believe it is performing well.



NEWS IN BRIEF

**Iran-Turkey
Economic
Commission to
be held soon**

The director general of the Mediterranean and Eastern Europe Department of Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the Iran-Turkey Joint Economic Cooperation Commission will be held in the coming days to bolster bilateral ties in the fields of trade and economy.

The 4th session of the Coordinating Headquarters of Foreign Economic Relations was held with the participation of Director General of the Mediterranean and Eastern Europe Department of Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mohammad Reza Nazeri, some of the senior managers of the ministry, deputies and representatives of the executive organization on "Reviewing Latest Situation of Foreign Economic Relations with Turkey and Cuba", IRNA reported.

Mahmoud Heidari submitted a comprehensive report on the situation of relations between Iran and Turkey and stated that the two countries have high potential to enhance their ties in trade and economic fields. He pointed to the amicable relations between Iran and Turkey and called the organizing the 4th Iran-Turkey Joint Economic Cooperation as an opportunity for promoting the level of cooperation in all fields.

**Agro sector to
apply metaverse
to increase
productivity**

The head of Iran Agricultural Information Sciences and Technology (IAIST) said the agricultural sector of the country will enter the world of metaverse to improve productivity.

Hossein Farazmand made the comments on the sidelines of the Iran Efficiency Exhibition, adding that the use of communications and information technology is one of the issues raised to increase efficiency and productivity in the agricultural sector.

In this regard, giant steps have been taken in the country to make the agricultural sector smarter, he said, adding that projects like smart irrigation and the use of the Internet of Things (IoT) are underway. Farazmand pointed out that the first 'metaverse' platform in Iran's agricultural sector was launched in cooperation with a technology-based firm so that the agricultural and horticultural products of Iran's Ministry of Agriculture can be presented on this virtual space.

**Iran's foreign
trade keeps
upward
trend during
Raisi's term:
IRICA**

Iran's foreign trade registered a considerable jump during the late President Ebrahim Raisi's administration (32 months in service) and reached more than \$301 billion, according to a report by the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA). About 347 million tons of goods, valued at over \$137.8 billion, were exported from the country

between August 2021 and April 22, 2024, showing a 17.19 and 1.5 percent hike in terms of value and weight respectively compared to the same period in the previous administration, it said, wrote Tasnim News Agency. The report added that \$48 billion of products were exported from the country in 2021, showing a 40 percent hike compared to a year

earlier. More than \$53 billion of products were imported into the country in 2021, showing a 36 percent hike compared to a year before, it noted.

IRICA put the export of non-oil goods in 2022 at \$53 billion, showing about 10 percent increase compared to a year earlier. The country imported \$59 billion of products in 2022, registering

a 13 percent hike compared to a year before.

Iran exported about \$87 billion worth of products including oil, electricity, technical and engineering services last year (ended March 19, 2024), showing a 58% hike compared to a year earlier, the report said.

A helicopter carrying President Raisi and his entourage crashed

in northwestern mountainous forests on May 19.

The crash killed President Raisi, Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, Friday prayers leader of Tabriz Ayatollah Mohammad Ali Al-e-Hashem, Governor of East Azarbaijan Malek Rahmati, the commander of the president's security team, two pilots and a flight crew.

**Pakistan opens
borders with Iran
24/7 to boost trade:****Envoy**

Pakistani Ambassador to Iran Muhammad Mudassar Tipu Friday said Pakistan has decided to open two border crossing points with Iran 24 hours a day and seven days a week in a bid to push bilateral trade.

The envoy hoped that this will improve the flow of goods between the two countries and provide more economic opportunities, SAMAA reported.

"A big step forward to promote business between Pakistan and Iran. Pakistan has decided to open Taftan & Gabd borders 24/7. Flow of goods between two countries will hopefully witness sharp rise & widen economic opportunities," he tweeted. Pakistan and Iran on April 24 reiterated the importance of energy cooperation and electricity trade, despite the warning of potential sanctions hinted at by the United States following the then Iranian president Ebrahim Raisi's visit to Pakistan.

Border of prosperity

Agreeing to turn the common border between the two states from

a 'border of peace' to a 'border of prosperity', both countries had reiterated the importance of cooperation in the energy domain, including trade in electricity, power transmission lines and Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline project.

During Raisi's visit to Pakistan, both sides had underscored the imperative of a long-term durable economic partnership and collaborative regional economic and connectivity model, particularly for socio-economic development in Iran's Sistan and Baluchestan and Pakistan's Balochistan provinces.

This was stated by the Foreign Office in a 28-point joint statement, hours after the Iranian head of state had departed for Tehran from Karachi.

The two sides had reviewed the entire spectrum of Pakistan-Iran bilateral relations, exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual concern, and signed multiple accords. The two countries, as per the statement, had agreed to expeditiously finalise the free trade agreement (FTA) and boost their bilateral trade to \$10 billion over the next

five years through joint economic projects, setting up of joint border markets, economic free zones, and new border openings.

Barter trade

There was consensus to fully operationalise barter trade mechanisms between the two sides to facilitate economic and commercial activity, particularly under ongoing collaborative endeavours, such as border sustenance markets.

Regarding connectivity, the two sides had expressed satisfaction over the regular shipment of goods under the TIR Convention and agreed to fully operationalise the Convention for further efficient, speedy and barrier-free trade.

As members of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO), the two countries had expressed firm resolve to enhance cooperation in connectivity, infrastructure development and energy sectors and agreed to expand linkages between Gwadar and Chahbahar ports.

A prominent figure ...

Amidst the Gaza war, Tehran's unwavering support for Hamas and the Palestinian people was evident. Nevertheless, under Amir-Abdollahian's adept leadership, Iran's diplomatic apparatus tirelessly worked towards ending the conflict. Simultaneously, the Foreign Ministry remained vigilant against the schemes of Israeli and American extremists aiming to drag Iran into a direct war. Tehran's strategic decision not to engage in direct confrontation was implemented with utmost prudence.

With a keen understanding of the power of diplomacy and the importance of coordinating military

and diplomatic efforts, Amir-Abdollahian skillfully navigated the complex geopolitical landscape. This approach culminated in the most severe direct confrontation between Iran and Israel on April 14, which occurred with the full backing of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In alignment with the government's overarching policy of fostering relations with neighboring countries, Amir-Abdollahian achieved considerable success in the realm of foreign policy. The substantial attendance of high-ranking delegations from neighboring and regional countries at the funeral ceremony to pay their respects to the late

president and foreign minister in Tehran serves as compelling evidence of these accomplishments. Notable among these achievements was the restoration of diplomatic ties between Iran and Saudi Arabia following a prolonged period of estrangement. This landmark development exemplified Tehran's policy of de-escalation and regional cooperation during Amir-Abdollahian's tenure as foreign minister. Approximately seven years after diplomatic relations between the two key players in the region and the Islamic world were severed, Amir-Abdollahian held a meeting with Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman in Jeddah in August 2022. This historic rapprochement brought numerous benefits

not only to Tehran and Riyadh but to other regional countries as well. The resumption of political relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia, the cessation of hostilities between Yemen and Saudi Arabia, the normalization of Arab countries' relations with Syria, and Damascus' return to the Arab League after a multi-year absence are all testaments to the far-reaching impact of this diplomatic breakthrough. Amir-Abdollahian's tenure as foreign minister was characterized by significant progress towards restoring diplomatic relations between Iran and Egypt. Although he didn't live to see the fruits of his efforts, the presence of Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shukri at the funeral ceremony for the late president and foreign

minister hints at promising developments in Tehran-Cairo relations in the near future.

The attendance of the Bahraini delegation, led by their foreign minister, at the ceremony should also not be overlooked. Bahrain followed Saudi Arabia in severing political ties with Tehran in 2016. Under Amir-Abdollahian's diplomatic leadership, Iran also secured membership in key international agreements, such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and BRICS.

Hossein Amir-Abdollahian's 30-year career in foreign policy solidifies his place among Iran's distinguished luminaries in the field of diplomacy. His commitment to fostering regional cooperation and strategic alliances leaves a lasting legacy for Iran's foreign policy.

Chubin village, a harmony of heritage and sustainability

Nestled in the heart of Neyshabur, a city in Khorasan Razavi Province steeped in rich history and cultural heritage, lies a quaint village that captivates the souls of travelers and locals alike. Chubin village, a lesser-known destination, beckons visitors to immerse themselves in the authenticity of rural Iranian life, where time seems to slow down, and the simplicities of life take center stage. Chubin village is a testament to the enduring traditions that have withstood the test of time. As you wander through its narrow, winding alleys, you'll be greeted by a tapestry of mud-brick houses adorned with intricate patterns and vibrant colors. These humble dwellings are a living embodiment of the village's architectural heritage, standing as sentinels against the relentless march of modernity.

Architectural marvels

One of the village's most striking features is the ingenious construction of its buildings. Crafted from a unique blend of clay, straw, and natural materials, these structures boast remarkable thermal insulation properties, keeping the interiors cool during the scorching summer months and warm during the chilly winters. The intricate designs etched onto the exteriors are more than just decorative elements; they serve as a testament to the artistry and craftsmanship of the local inhabitants, amazingiran.media wrote.

Living tradition

Chubin village is not merely a relic of the past; it's a vibrant community where age-old traditions are honored and passed down from generation to generation. As you stroll through the village, you'll witness the locals engaged in their daily routines, from weaving intricate carpets to tending to their livestock and tilling the land. These time-honored practices are interwoven into the fabric of Chubin, offering visitors a rare glimpse into a way of life that has endured for centuries.

Embracing rural hospitality

The warmth and hospitality of the Chubin villagers are as captivating as the village itself. Despite the modest means of its residents, visitors are greeted with open arms and treated as honored guests. Invitations to

share a traditional meal or partake in local festivities are extended with genuine kindness, allowing you to experience the true essence of Iranian culture.

Culinary delights

No visit to Chubin village would be complete without savoring the local cuisine. The villagers take great pride in their traditional dishes, which are prepared with fresh, locally sourced ingredients and infused with generations of culinary wisdom. From the aromatic saffron rice to the tantalizing kebabs and stews, each bite is a celebration of flavors that will linger on your palate long after your departure.

Handicrafts and souvenirs

As you wander through the village's narrow streets, you'll encounter a myriad of local artisans showcasing their wares. From intricately woven carpets and kilims to pottery and metalwork, the handicrafts of Chubin village are a testament to the skilled hands and creative spirits of its residents. These unique pieces not only make for beautiful souvenirs but also serve as a tangible connection to the village's rich cultural heritage.

Embracing sustainability

Chubin village is a shining example of sustainable living, where the harmonious coexistence between humankind and nature is a way of life. The villagers have mastered the art of utilizing natural resources with minimal impact, ensuring that their way of life can be sustained for generations to come.

Eco-friendly practices

From the construction of their mud-brick homes to the cultivation of their crops, the residents of Chubin village have embraced eco-friendly practices that seamlessly integrate with their surroundings. Water conservation techniques, such as the use of qanats (underground water channels), have been employed for centuries, ensuring a reliable supply of water while minimizing waste.

Renewable energy

In recent years, Chubin village has taken strides towards embracing renewable energy sources. Solar panels have been installed on several buildings, harnessing the abundant sunlight to provide clean, sustainable power to the community. This integration of modern technology with traditional prac-

tices exemplifies the village's commitment to preserving its heritage while adapting to the changing times.

A sanctuary for peace and tranquility

Beyond its cultural and historical significance, Chubin village offers a sanctuary for those seeking respite from the hustle and bustle of modern life. The tranquil surroundings, the gentle rhythms of rural living, and the serene landscapes provide the perfect backdrop for rejuvenation and introspection.

Outdoor adventures

For adventurous souls, Chubin village presents a wealth of opportunities to explore the great outdoors. Hiking trails wind through the surrounding hills and valleys, offering breathtaking vistas and the chance to immerse yourself in nature's embrace. Alternatively, you can embark on a guided tour through the nearby desert landscapes, marveling at the stark beauty of the arid terrain and the resilience of the flora and fauna that call it home.

Stargazing nights

As the Sun dips below the horizon, Chubin village takes on a whole new allure. The clear, unpolluted skies provide the perfect canvas for stargazing, allowing you to bask in the majesty of the celestial tapestry above. Whether you choose to join a guided astronomy tour or simply find a quiet spot to gaze up at

the twinkling stars, the experience is sure to leave you in awe of the universe's vast expanse.

A glimpse into the future

While Chubin village proudly embraces its rich heritage, it also looks towards the future with optimism and determination. Local initiatives are underway to promote sustainable tourism and preserve the village's unique character for generations to come.

Sustainable tourism initiatives

In recent years, Chubin village has garnered increasing attention from travelers seeking authentic cultural experiences. To ensure that this influx of visitors does not compromise the village's integrity, sustainable tourism initiatives have been implemented. Local guides are trained to educate visitors on responsible tourism practices, while eco-friendly accommodations and dining options are being developed to cater to the needs of conscious travelers.

Preserving cultural heritage

The residents of Chubin village are keenly aware of the im-

portance of preserving their cultural heritage for future generations. Educational programs and workshops are being organized to pass down traditional skills and knowledge to the youth, ensuring that the village's rich tapestry of customs and practices endures. Additionally, efforts are underway to document and archive the village's history, providing a valuable resource for researchers

and cultural enthusiasts alike. Chubin village is a true gem, a place where time seems to stand still, and the essence of Iranian culture is celebrated in its purest form. Whether you're seeking a respite from the modern world, an authentic cultural immersion, or a chance to reconnect with nature, this hidden treasure promises an unforgettable experience that will leave an indelible mark on your soul.



How Europe is responding to death of Iran's president



EU high representative for foreign policy Josep Borrell (L) shakes the hand of Iran's late foreign minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian in Tehran, Iran, in June 2022.
● ABEDIN TAHERKENAREH/EPA



By Eldar Mamedov
Middle East affairs
expert

OPINION

The crash of the helicopter and the resulting death of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and the country's foreign minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian came at a tense time in EU-Iran relations. Tehran's support for the Russian war in Ukraine, support for Hamas, and being classified as a terrorist organization in the EU have caused many EU leaders to perceive Iran as one of the bloc's top geo-

political adversaries.

Despite that background, European leaders have expressed condolences and offered assistance in dealing with the aftermath of the accident. Reacting to the news of the crash, Charles Michel, the former prime minister of Belgium and currently the president of the European Council wrote on X that he and EU member states

were "monitoring the situation closely". When the deaths of Raisi and Amir-Abdollahian, as well as others on board, were confirmed, Michel expressed, in the name of the EU, "sincere condolences" and offered "thoughts to the families" of the deceased. EU high representative for foreign policy Josep Borrell expressed similar sentiments.

Even before the deaths were confirmed, the EU, through its commissioner for crisis management, civil protection, and humanitarian aid Janez Lenarcic announced that the bloc was activating, at the request of Iran, its emergency satellite mapping services in order to locate the crash site. The offer and hashtag that accompanied it — #EUSolidarity — were reposted by Borrell but met with immediate backlash from other circles. Notably, some members of the European Parliament took issue with what one — from a liberal bloc — construed as the Commission's support for the regime in Tehran. Lenarcic's team countered that "facilitating a search and rescue operation is not an act of political support to any regime or establishment. It is simply an expression of the most basic hu-

manity." The critics might have found it ironic that Iran would ask the EU for assistance, given the abysmal state of bilateral relations, but the Commission acted fully in compliance with the EU's own guidelines on humanitarian aid. There was no love lost for Ebrahim Raisi in Brussels, but, at a time when the EU's credibility is flagging due to its divisions and confusions on Gaza, such a clear case of consistency with its own declared values is something to build on — apart from a simple act of decency. And the EU would indeed need to rebuild its political capital in relations with Iran. It has important interests to pursue. For one, Germany and France, alongside the non-EU Britain, are signatories of the flailing nuclear agreement known as JCPOA. As Iran's nuclear program advances following

President Trump's withdrawal from the JCPOA in 2018 and President Biden's subsequent failure to revive it, concerns increase in Europe, as they do elsewhere, that Iran may be approaching the nuclear threshold status, and only a political decision away from an actual weaponization of its nuclear program. Tensions in the Middle East, where the EU launched earlier this year its maritime mission to protect the shipping routes in the Red Sea from the Iran-backed Houthis, are another major concern for the EU. And there are still EU citizens kept in detention by Iran, such as the Swedish national and official from the Borrell-led European External Action Service Johan Floderus, on allegedly spurious charges of spying for Israel. Those who lambast EU officials like

Michel, Borrell, and Lenarcic for supposedly failing to take a "tough line" against Tehran neglect to explain how these vital interests will be served in the absence of any diplomatic engagement with Iran. Following maximalist demands would be even more absurd at a time when the United States, Europe's primary security guarantor, is itself engaged in talks with Tehran, through intermediaries, on de-escalation of tensions in the Middle East and on the nuclear file. The EU, in fact, has an advantage over the US in that it doesn't need to go through third parties to engage with Iran, since it already has direct channels of communications. The EU will have to tread carefully in the coming months leading up to the elections of the new president in Iran. Its core interests, as outlined

above, remain unchanged whoever is in charge in Tehran. The EU is likely to concentrate on them, even if that would fall far short of the aspirations to see a democratic change in Iran. The possible elevation of the current deputy foreign minister and chief nuclear negotiator Ali Baqeri Kani to the position of foreign minister may cause some advances in reviving at least some form of a nuclear agreement. As to the presidential elections, the most likely course of action for the EU will be to wait and see and then deal with whoever emerges on the top, mindful of the fact that in the Islamic Republic president has limited room in setting foreign policy, with the final decisions to be taken by the Leader.

The full article first appeared on *Responsible Statecraft*.

Recognizing Raisi's stellar contribution to China-Iran friendship

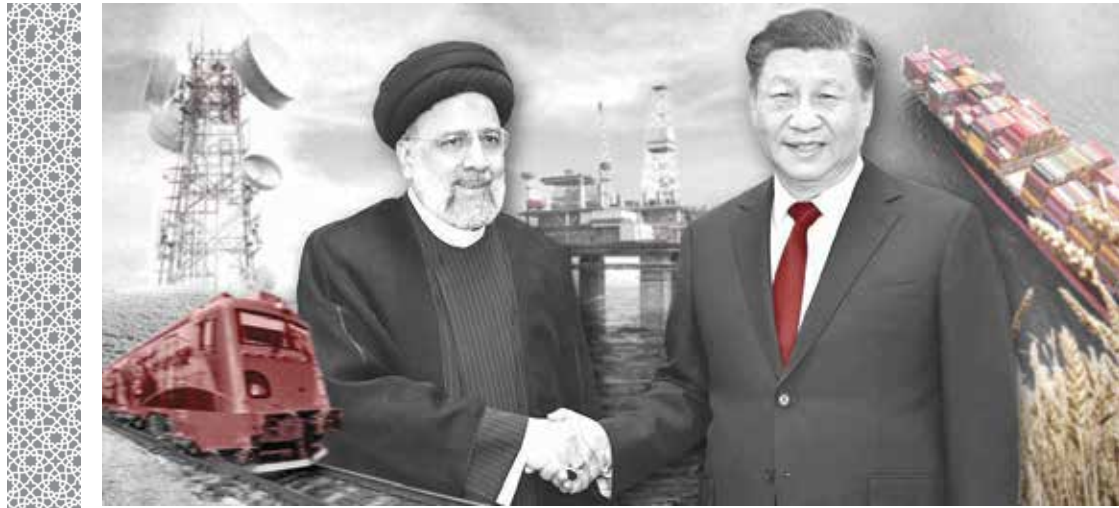


By Hannan Hussain
Scholar

OPINION

On May 20, Iranian officials confirmed President Ebrahim Raisi's tragic death in a helicopter crash in the northwestern East Azerbaijan province. It marks the departure of a polished statesman. Raisi helped guard Tehran against external interference while deepening its pragmatic relations within and beyond the Middle East. In China, he will be remembered as a dependable friend who brought two strategic partners even closer. His contribution to time-tested China-Iran ties merits profound recognition for several reasons.

Look at Raisi's landmark visit to China early last year. He worked with China to expand multisector engagement through a dozen cooperation documents. In the same year, bilateral trade clocked an impressive \$14.6 billion. Expanding cooperation in agriculture, trade, tourism, healthcare, and energy underscored a deeper commitment to upgrading Iran's comprehensive strategic partnership with China. Raisi concretized and communicated that understanding in his exchange with Chinese President Xi Jinping last year, sending a powerful message on long-term priorities. "Iran's commitment to deepening and upgrading the



In this illustration, Iran's late president Ebrahim Raisi (L) is seen alongside his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping.

Iran-China comprehensive strategic partnership is unswerving and will not be affected by any changes in the international and regional situation," he affirmed. Going forward, that sense of resilience carries profound meaning for Chinese-Iranian ties. Despite threats of rising unilateralism, unwarranted sanctions, and recurring conflicts in the Middle East, China-Iran relations under Raisi set a powerful example for common development and world peace. Tehran amply reciprocated Beijing's willingness to implement their 25-year comprehensive cooperation plan and embraced important strides across the energy, trade, and infrastructure sec-

tors. On the multilateral front, China and Iran's support for regional diplomacy and economic development remains another hallmark, given Tehran's full-member entry into the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and BRICS. In Raisi's own words, multilateralism is a principal "guarantee for realizing justice". As such, the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) scored tangible dividends for the people of Iran during his tenure, reflecting high-level engagements to support Iran in developing ports, railroads, and other long-term infrastructure. China is also seen as a pivotal contributor to Iran's future development endeavors, including the production of

15,000 megawatts of renewable power, high-speed transit projects, and other big-ticket connectivity pursuits. All this speaks to the deepening spirit of win-win cooperation under Raisi with the second-largest economy. Iran continues to enjoy a unique geographical position and status under the BRI framework, and the late president's legacy of strategic engagement leaves ample groundwork for his successor to build on. Looking ahead, Iran's political structure will endure in the face of difficulties. Iran's interim President Mohammad Mokhber is in charge until an election is held within 50 days, and Tehran's foreign policy priorities — including

towards China — will reflect continuity for several reasons. First, it is the nature of Raisi's rule itself: His leadership achievements were popular among Iranian conservatives and the religious elite, and bolstered his prospects of re-election. Among those achievements was the historic China-brokered Saudi-Iranian agreement. It helped shore up common ground between two major Middle Eastern powers and proved that diplomacy could trump deep-seated historical divisions. Future progress on reconciliation is likely to propel China and Iran's pursuit for enhanced "regional and international peace and security" in a region facing recurring conflicts. Second, the China-assisted Saudi-Iranian detente served as a powerful endorsement of Raisi's foreign policy of building trust in neighbors. That vision stands to strengthen as Iran eyes further opening up and constructive engagement in the Middle East. Moreover, Iran's Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has also declared Tehran's ingress into key multilateral groupings as a "very good achievement". Thus, Beijing's support for Tehran's regional integration will continue to benefit the broader vision behind Raisi's foreign policy vision. In conclusion, Raisi's statesmanship had a remarkable impact at the domestic, regional, and international levels. It successfully reinforced China-Iran ties as catalysts for peace, common development, and win-win diplomacy.

The article first appeared on CGTN.

US responsible for Raisi's death



By Hakki Öcal
Award-winning journalist

OPINION

As Aristotle said, we must explain the phenomena using the simplest possible hypothesis. When people have been sanctioned since 1979, almost 200 times against government entities, their treasury, financiers, banking institutions, technical facilities, and their facilitators and transportation companies, by the United States — in cooperation with several members of the European Union, the United Kingdom, and Canada — mostly for lame excuses, then you need no explanations beyond this to cast light on Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi's helicopter disaster. It was reported that the Bell 412 helicopter that crashed near Varzaqan, Iran, while traveling from the Khoda Afarin Dam to Tabriz, killing Raisi, Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, other officials, and three crew members, had not been serviced for the last 30 years. It was a four-blade utility helicopter manufactured by Bell Helicopter in 1994; it was flying in bad weather conditions and heavy fog.

The Iranian president was part of the authority that decided not to escalate the Israeli provocation to spread its war on Gaza to the region. On April 1, conducting an airstrike on the Iranian Embassy



A screengrab provided by Iranian state television shows the late president Ebrahim Raisi (L) with Mohammed-Ali Ale-Hashem, the late Friday Imam of Tabriz, on board a helicopter in Iran's East Azerbaijan province.

complex in Damascus, Syria, destroying the building housing its consular section, Israel killed 16 people, including eight officers of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and two Syrian civilians. Iran had the right to retaliate against this barbarous attack that spilled into open war between the two countries, long fought through backed groups and Israeli assassinations and strikes. Iranian Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei publicly stated that Israel must be punished. Raisi's response clearly sent Israeli leadership a clear cease-and-desist message, keeping the reciprocity as harmless to the civilians as possible. Iran sent a long-range ballistic missile, for the

first time in history, from Iran to Israel. **Debunking speculation on incident** We have to dismiss all the speculation asserted without evidence. Neither the US nor Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, "the Butcher of Gaza," needed to teach Iran yet another lesson by killing its president. It would not be a lesson but an open invitation to a war that would engulf the entire region, including those nations that had already elected to normalize their relations with Israel. Despite US President Joe Biden and Netanyahu's recent theatrical squabble about the arsenal, the war cabinet in Israel would not dare to set

ablaze the Middle East just six months before the US presidential elections. Since the renewal of the sanctions in 1995, then-US president Bill Clinton "found the actions and policies of Iran constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security of the US". By prohibiting transactions with respect to the Iranian oil resources, the US denied the Iranian people the option to buy and sell merchandise, produce or retrieve spare parts, and contract services for not only the president's but health and human services' helicopters, too. Raisi's crash is the sixth fatal helicopter accident this month. Most of those recent sanctions were declared on flimsy arguments and excuses



The helicopter thought to be carrying Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi takes off at the Iranian border with Azerbaijan after the inauguration of the dam of Qiz Qalasi, constructed on the Aras River, on May 19, 2024.

that are weak and difficult to believe; they actually serve to punish the innocent Iranian people. The US should wake up and understand that it is the biggest loser in the Middle East. The blood of Raisi, Amir-Abdollahian, other officials, and the three crew members is on the hands of the US presidents and secretaries of state and treasury who signed those sanction documents. That seems to be the simplest and the most reasonable explanation for the distressing helicopter accident and Iran's aviation crisis.

The full article first appeared on Daily Sabah.



World Para Athletics Ch'ships: Iranians excel with 12 medals

Iran's Hajar Safarzadeh celebrates after winning the 400m T12 gold in the World Para Athletics Championships in Kobe, Japan, on May 21, 2024.

● PAUL MILLER/GETTY IMAGES

Sports Desk

Iranian girl Elham Salehi bagged a javelin throw bronze at the World Para Athletics Championships on Friday to take the country's medal count in the Japanese city of Kobe to 12 medals.

A shot put gold medalist in last year's Asian Para Games, Salehi registered 16.61m in her fourth throw in the F54 final to finish behind Uzbekistan's Nurkhon Kurbanova, who set a new world record of 20.73m for the ultimate prize, and Nigerian silver medalist Flora Ugwunwa (19.33m).

This was a third medal for Iranian women in Kobe, after Hajar Safarzadeh had walked away with a historic sprint gold while Hashemiyeh Mottaqian took the silver in the javelin throw F56 contest.

Safarzadeh made history in the 400m T12 final as she clocked an Asian record of 57.56 seconds to become the first Iranian girl to win a gold at the World Championships.

Meanwhile, Mottaqian enjoyed a season's best performance with 22.74m but still had to settle for the runner-up finish behind Brazilian Raissa Rocha Machado – a third world silver for the 38-year-old Iranian, who will be chasing a second successive Paralympic gold in Paris in the summer.

In the men's competitions, high-profile Iranian and reigning Paralympic champion Saeid Afrooz flexed muscles ahead of his title defense in the French capital by grabbing a javelin throw gold. Stepping into the event as the defend-

ing champion, Afrooz was in a league of his own in the F34 final as all his attempts – topped by the fifth of 40.14m – were enough to secure the gold, with Colombian duo Mauricio Valencia (37.07m) and Diego Fernando Meneses Medina (36.54m) standing next to the Iranian on the podium.

Amirhossein Alipour had won a first men's gold for Iran, thanks to a dominant performance in the shot put F11 final, which saw him shatter the two-decade standing championships record.

His third attempt travelled 14.61 meters, 99 centimeters further than neutral athlete Igor Baskakov's throw, while Alipour's fellow-Iranian Mahdi Olad – also a reigning Paralympic gold medalist – took the bronze with 13.28m.

Olad won his second medal in Kobe when tallied 42.36m for the discus throw silver – 40 centimeters adrift of Italian gold medalist Oney Tapia.

There were more javelin throw medals for the Iranian men in Thursday's F13 final, where Ali Pirouj (63.15m) and Sajjad Nikparast (62.30m) claimed the silver and bronze medals, with Team GB's Daniel Pembroke winning the gold with 66.96m.

Elsewhere on Thursday, Ali-Asghar Javanmardi won the men's shot put F35 silver, courtesy of a 16.06m throw in the final.

Saman Pakbaz had won a first medal for Iran in Kobe, finishing third in the men's shot put F12 event, and Alireza Mokhtari made it two for the country with a bronze in the F53 final.

Nadal handed tough draw against Zverev in French Open



● GETTY IMAGES

BBC – Rafael Nadal will start his French Open return – and expected farewell to the tournament he has dominated – with a first-round match against German fourth seed Alexander Zverev.

Spain's Nadal, who has won the men's title on a record 14 occasions, plans to retire later this year.

Zverev, 27, is one of the favorites for the title and tuned up by winning the Italian Open last week.

Britain's Andy Murray has also indicated he will call it a day in the coming months and starts against fellow veteran Stan Wawrinka.

Defending men's champion Novak Djokovic starts against French wildcard Pierre-Hugues Herbert, while Iga Swiatek begins her bid for a third women's title in a row against a qualifier or lucky loser.

The French Open, which is the second Grand Slam tournament of the season, starts on Sunday.

While world number one Swiatek is the overwhelming favourite for the women's singles, Aryna Sabalenka is expected to be the player who could end her clay-court dominance and faces 101st-ranked Erika Andreeva in her opening match. Swiatek and Sabalenka are separated in the two halves of the draw, meaning they could not play until the final on 8 June.

In the second round, Poland's Swiatek could face four-time major champion Naomi Osaka, who is back at Roland Garros for the first time since returning from maternity leave and starts against Italy's Lucia Bronzetti.

American third seed Coco Gauff has been drawn in the same half as Swiatek, meaning they could face in the semi-finals.

In the men's draw, Italian second seed Jannik Sinner plays American Chris Eubanks, while Spanish third seed Carlos Alcaraz takes on a qualifier or lucky loser.

Teenage Iranian Daneshvar wins Sharjah Masters

Sports Desk

Iran's teenage grand master Bardia Daneshvar came out on top in a neck-and-neck race to win the Sharjah Masters chess event in the United Arab Emirates, taking home the \$12,000 prize money.

Four players finished atop the standings with 6½ points but it was the 17-year-old Iranian who was declared the winner on tiebreak criteria.

Russian Volodar Murzin – participating as a neutral – and American Sam Shankland completed the podium, while Shamsiddin Vokhidov of Uzbekistan finished fourth after scoring a full point in Thursday's ninth round.

A 48-move draw against top seed Indian Arjun Erigaisi paved the way for Daneshvar to win the tournament on the final day with the highest tiebreak score in the leading pack.

The turning point for the Iranian was his round-seven triumph over former sole leader Chithambaram Aravindh In



● CHESSBASE

a double-edged game. this was the biggest career success for Daneshvar, who had won the 2022 Iranian Championship and had knocked out elite GM Alexander Grischuk in the second round of the

2023 FIDE World Cup. Eight players finished the tournament a half point behind the leading four, including second seed Iranian Parham Maqsoudlou, who settled for the ninth spot.



Vacancy Notice

The Office of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in I.R.Iran, Intends to National Programme Associate, Sexual and Reproductive Health (FTA) at GS6 level for its office in Tehran, Iran.

Details of the Advertised vacancy can be found on UNFPA website on the following link: <https://iran.unfpa.org>

Please apply online by 11 June 2024, 12 PM Tehran Time. This vacancy is open only for Iranian Nationals.

Important Note:

- There is no application, processing or other fees at any stage of the application process.
- UNFPA does not solicit or screen for information in respect of HIV/AIDS or disabilities and does not discriminate on the basis of HIV/AIDS status or disabilities.
- Women and people with disabilities are highly encouraged to apply.

Millions bid farewell to Raisi



National Desk

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian and other martyrs were laid to rest, concluding days of funeral attended by several million of mourners after they were died in a helicopter crash on Sunday. At least three million mourners marched in Raisi's home town Mashhad Thursday to bid farewell to the president, the mega city's mayor said, following processions in the cities of Tabriz, Qom, Tehran and Birjand. Later at dusk, the president's body was lowered into a tomb at the Imam Reza (PBUH) Shrine, where Shia's eighth

Imam is buried. The 63-year-old president lost his life on Sunday alongside his foreign minister and six others after their helicopter went down in the country's mountainous northwest while heading to inaugurate an upgraded oil refinery unit in Tabriz. The governor of East Azarbaijan Province Malek Rahmati and Friday Prayers leader of Tabriz city Mohammad Ali Al-e Hashem, as well as crew members and a bodyguard also lost their lives in the crash. Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, expressing his deep sorrow over the "martyrdom-like passing", announced five days of national

mourning on Monday. The cortege carrying the coffins of the "martyrs" attracted huge numbers of mourners who thronged main thoroughfares and adjoining streets for several kilometers, wherever it went. In Tehran, Ayatollah Khamenei and representatives of the regional resistance groups prayed over the coffins Wednesday, before millions of people followed a procession down Tehran's main boulevard. The Leader also met the president's family in his residence, viewing the former president "as a symbol of the Islamic Revolution slogans". He described the people's admiration for Raisi as a message to

the world in support of the Islamic Republic. The Iranian foreign minister was buried south of Tehran. Tens of thousands of mourners gathered in the town of Shahr-Rey in Tehran Province on Thursday for a funeral ceremony, which ended in the shrine of Shah Abdolazim. Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh attended the prayers and recounted President Raisi telling him that the Oct. 7 operation by Palestinian fighters against Israel was an "earthquake in the heart of the Zionist entity". Statesmen from West Asia and beyond from some 60 countries attended a later memorial service, includ-

ing Iraq's Prime Minister Mohammed Shia' al-Sudani, Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani and Tunisian President Kais Saied. Tajikistan's President Imomali Rahmon, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Fahan and Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed, and the UAE's minister of foreign affairs, were other foreign representatives who traveled to Tehran, meeting Iranian leaders to express their condolences. Also, the resistance officials including Deputy Secretary-General of the Lebanese resistance movement Hezbollah Sheikh Naim Qassem, Deputy Secretary-General of the Islamic Jihad resistance movement, Mohammad al-Hindi, and the senior representative of Yemen's National Salvation Government, Mohammed Abdul-Salam were in Tehran to pay tribute to the late president and his entourage. Earlier tens of thousands of people lined the streets of Birjand, capital of the eastern province of South Khorasan, to bid farewell to the late president as his coffin move through the main street. President of the UN General Assembly Dennis Francis paid tribute to Raisi and Amir-Abdollahian by visiting the Islamic Republic's mission in New York on Thursday to sign a memorial book in honor of the deceased Iranian officials. Representatives of 50 countries in the United Nations have also signed the book opened in memory of them.

Norway, Ireland, Spain to recognize Palestinian state

Borrel: Stop 'meddling' ICC judge

International Desk

Norway, Ireland, and Spain announced on Wednesday that they will recognize a Palestinian state, while the European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell also stated that Israel needs to accept criticism from those who do not believe it is performing well. Meanwhile, International Criminal Court chief prosecutor Karim Khan announced on Monday that he had filed for arrest warrants against Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, as well as three Hamas leaders. In this regard, Borrell said some European countries were trying to intimidate ICC judges over the case against Israeli leaders, and must stop "meddling" and respect the court. "The prosecutor has done nothing more than make an accusation and the court will decide," Borrell told Spanish broadcaster TVE. "In the meantime, I ask everyone, starting with the Israel and some European governments, not to intimidate the judges." "Don't threaten them, don't try to influence their decision, sometimes with threats and very harsh disqualifications," he added. Israel denies committing war crimes in Gaza, says the ICC has no jurisdiction there and has called on countries to repudiate what it considers a politically motivated rogue court. Hamas has also rejected the accusations against its leaders. Israel also announced it was recalling its envoys to Ireland and Norway for "urgent consultations" immediately after they announced they will recognize the Palestinian state. Ireland's leader said on Wednesday his nation would recognize Palestine as a state but did not specify timing, while leaders of Norway and Spain said their nations would do so as of May 28. Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store made the announcement in Oslo, Spain Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez in Madrid and Irish Prime Minister Simon Harris in Dublin. Norway – which has played a key role in Middle East diplomacy over the years, hosting Israeli-Palestinian peace talks at the beginning of the 1990s which led to the Oslo Accords – said recognition was needed to support moderate voices amid the Gaza war. Spain's Sanchez said in parliament in Madrid: "Next Tuesday, May 28, Spain's cabinet will approve the recognition of the Palestinian state," he said, adding that his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu was putting the two-state solution in "danger" with his policy of "pain and destruction" in the Gaza Strip. And Ireland's Harris hailed a "historic and important day for Ireland and for Palestine."

Call for 'common position'
The EU foreign policy chief has also urged the 27-member bloc to seek a "common EU position" on recognizing the Palestinian state. "Within the framework of the Common Foreign and Security Policy, I will relentlessly work with all Member States to promote a common EU position based on a 2-state solution," Borrell said in a post on X on Wednesday. For decades, the formal recognition of a Palestinian state has been seen as the endgame of a peace process between Palestinians and their Israeli neighbors. The US and most Western European nations have said they are willing to one day recognize Palestinian statehood, but not before agreement is reached on thorny issues like final borders and the status of Al-Quds (Jerusalem). But after Hamas' October 7 attacks and Israel's war in Gaza, diplomats are reconsidering once-contentious ideas. In 2014, Sweden, which has a large Palestinian community, became the first EU member in western Europe to recognize Palestinian statehood. It had earlier been recognized by six other European countries: Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Romania. Hamas' October 7 attack resulted in the deaths of more than 1,170 people, according to an AFP tally based on Israeli official figures. Hamas also took 252 captives, 124 of whom remain in Gaza including 37 the army says are dead. Israel's offensive has killed at least 35,647 people in Gaza, mostly civilians, according to the Health Ministry in Gaza.

Leader, world officials review region amid president's loss

On the sidelines of a millions-strong funeral procession of Martyr President Ebrahim Raisi and his associates in the capital Tehran following the recent tragic chopper incident, a number of high-ranking officials and distinguished politicians were received by Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, among whom were the neighboring countries' authorities and high-profile figures of the Axis of Resistance. Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia' al-Sudani offered his country's condolences to the Iranian leadership, government and nation over the tragic loss. "What we saw in Mr. Raisi, the martyred president of Iran, was nothing

but honesty, sincerity, purity, work and ... serving the people," Sudani said. In the meeting, Ayatollah Khamenei appreciated Sudani for his visit to Tehran and his expression of sympathy, saying, "We have lost an outstanding figure. President Raisi was a great brother and an efficient, competent, sincere and serious official." The Leader of the Islamic Revolution also received Ismail Haniyeh, the political bureau chief of the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas and Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan. Haniyeh offered his condolences over the martyrdom of President Raisi and his companions on behalf of the Palestinian nation and resistance.

The Leader extolled demonstrations across dozens of university campuses in the US and Europe in support of Palestinians in their months-long resistance against Israel's barbaric aggression on the besieged Gaza Strip as a divine victory for Palestine, describing them as a precursor to the eradication of the Zionist regime. Ayatollah Khamenei underscored that Iran's foreign policy towards Palestine would remain consistent. The Leader also told the Armenian prime minister that the issues related to the borders of Armenia were important for the late Iranian chief executive. "We were shocked to hear the news of the death of the President and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iran and his entourage in an air crash," Pashinyan said. "We are sure that under your leadership, there will be no interruption in Iran's affairs."

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution also received Lebanon's Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri, Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Tunisian President Kais Saied. Ayatollah Khamenei termed the Islamic Republic's relationship with the Lebanese people as "brotherly," and praised the struggle that has been put up by the Lebanese resistance against the Israeli regime amid the dire situation in Gaza. Addressing the regional situation, Berri, for his part, said Lebanon could not stay silent vis-à-vis the slaughter of Palestinians in the besieged enclave. In a meeting with the visiting Tunisian president, the Leader underlined that the presence of a virtuous and academic figure like Saied at the helm of Tunisia presents an opportunity for the country to enhance its international standing after years of despotic rule and isolation from the Islamic world. Saied pointed to the ongoing crisis in Gaza, saying the Islamic world must abandon its current passive stance and actively seek to vindicate the rights of the Palestinian people across all Palestinian territories and push for the establishment of an independent state with Jerusalem al-Quds as its capital.

Ayatollah Khamenei expressed his sincere gratitude for the sympathy of the government and brotherly people of Pakistan and said Tehran attaches top priority to its relations with Islamabad and believes in the possibility of uplifting bilateral ties under the new Pakistani government. Sharif, for his part, hailed Raisi's recent trip to Pakistan as beneficial and a foundation for further expansion of relations and a roadmap to the future.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



● HOSSEIN NAGHIZADEH/IRAN DAILY



Exhibition 'Read the Headlines Again' shows global double standard on Gaza war



By Sadeq Dehqan

Staff writer

INTERVIEW

The Iranian Artists Forum in Tehran recently hosted a graphic photo exhibition focusing on Gaza, presenting a unique perspective on the Gaza war and the atrocities committed by Zionists. The exhibition, titled 'Read the Headlines Again,' ran from May 17 to May 24, showcasing graphic photo collections by Afsaneh Ghorbani and Zeinab Zandpoor.

This exhibition examined significant documentary photos from the Gaza war, replacing the covers of popular global magazines without changing their original headlines. The alignment between selected magazine headlines and the Gaza war photos, contrasting with the original magazine images, enhanced the impact of the works.

Iran Daily reporter conducted an exclusive interview with curators of the event Ghorbani and Zandpoor to discuss the showcased graphic works and the exhibition's goals and details.

The following is the full text of the interview:

IRAN DAILY: Please explain how the exhibition was conceived?

ZEINAB ZANDPOOR: After the events of October 7 (the first day of Operation Al-Aqsa Storm) and the military actions by Hamas against Zionists in response to the regime's crimes against Palestinians and the desecration of Al-Aqsa Mosque, a design and brainstorming event titled 'Palestine and My Role' was held in Tehran in November. Many art graduates gathered to brainstorm ideas on this subject. Over a few days, we worked around the clock at a single location, and everyone contributed ideas in various forms. The initial idea for this exhibition took shape during those early days. It took about six months to produce the works, and at the beginning of the Persian New Year, we started designing and setting up the exhibition. The production team was a trio, including a graphic designer named Alireza Nakhaei who handled the graphic work.

What were each of your roles in producing the exhibition works?

AFSANEH GHORBANI: Zandpoor and I reviewed and examined important photos from the Gaza war and simul-

taneously reviewed key international magazines. We matched photos with magazine covers and headlines that resonated most. We then handed this to the graphic designer to execute.

Could you elaborate on the work process and details, for instance which magazines and content were selected and how many pieces were produced?

GHORBANI: We selected various important and popular magazines, such as Life, Time, National Geographic, and even magazines on cars, sports, architecture, fashion, and entertainment. These magazines covered 14 different themes. We chose photos from the Gaza war that matched the form, content, and visual style of the original magazine covers and headlines. In total, we selected photos and headlines from 59 magazine issues, resulting in 67 designed magazine covers. In fact, we didn't change the magazine layouts and headlines, only the photos.

ZANDPOOR: Some photos are not related to Gaza. For example, some works involved food or literature magazines. We displayed the original and designed versions side by side. For instance, an orig-

inal magazine might feature an American novelist and poet with a headline about "fighting through writing." Next to it, we placed three designed covers with three Palestinian poets and novelists who died in the conflict.

Did you want to highlight contrasts with these works?

ZANDPOOR: Yes, that's correct. The headline and picture on the cover of the original magazine show a lavish table with hot food, while on the other side, there's a photo from Gaza showing a broken, empty table. Another magazine has a headline and picture about the importance of global water health, but in contrast, Gaza has no clean water. We wanted to show these dualities and double standards in the world and highlight these contradictions. It's true that one part of the world talks about human rights, but in another part, people are living in war.

Why did you choose 'Read the Headlines Again' as the title of the exhibition?

BAGHERI: Because we believe the most important elements in the works are the headlines. Thus, we've kept the original magazine layouts but changed the pic-

tures only.

ZANDPOOR: The most crucial parts of both the original and designed magazines are the headlines. The headlines are the common link between the original and redesigned magazines, and they create the contradictions. The headlines connect the images and convey the message. In some magazines, there were so many headlines that they distracted from the main one. So, we removed the unrelated and peripheral headlines and replaced them with 'Read the Headlines Again.'

How did the audience react to these works, and what feedback did you receive?

BAGHERI: The public response exceeded our expectations, and the exhibition was extended by a few days. The impact of the works was greater than we thought; sometimes, the audience made comparisons and understood aspects we hadn't noticed. The double standards in the world were particularly interesting to the audience, especially since the works covered various topics, appealing to a wide range of viewers.

Given the international headlines, have you received global feedback,

and do you plan to take the exhibition abroad?

ZANDPOOR: Yes, since the content and headlines are mostly in English, we've been in talks to hold the exhibition in other countries. Preparations are underway for exhibitions in Turkey, Iraq, Syria, and even Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia and Herzegovina. We hope to organize the exhibition abroad soon.

How effective can art events be in supporting the people of Gaza?

BAGHERI: If artistic expressions convey the right message, they can be very impactful. If our works help highlight the events and crimes happening in Gaza by the Zionists, then we've achieved our goal. Many visitors told us they had seen these photos in the news before, but the exhibition made them see the deeper dimensions. It seems that the combination of photos and headlines enhanced the impact.

ZANDPOOR: Many of these images depict harsh realities, and the artworks deepen their impact. Similar photos and events happen in Gaza and other parts of the world. Artists can draw attention to these issues and fulfill their artistic duty regarding global issues.

