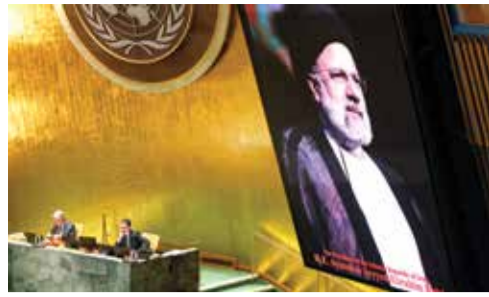
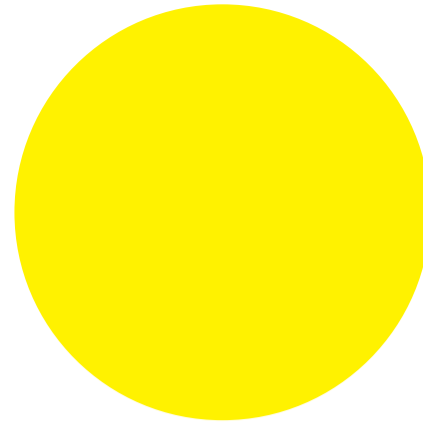




**Leader:** West trying to take Syria out of regional equations 7 >



UNGA pays tribute to Iran's late president 7 >



# Iran Daily



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Vol. 7571 • Saturday, June 1, 2024 • Khordad 12, 1403 • Dhu al-Qadah 23, 1445 • 100,000 rials • 8 pages

**By Ebrahim Beheshti**  
Staff writer

Concurrent with the worldwide criticism of Benjamin Netanyahu's performance, his backers at home have also pulled the rug out from under the Israeli prime minister. While explicit opinions from the regime's former officials and opposition parties about the necessity of his resignation or removal from office have been voiced in the past, these calls for his dismissal have been accompanied by some practical measures and efforts.

The main argument of his critics and those advocating for the prime minister's removal is the fear of the inefficiency of his extremist cabinet and the potential harm to the Israel's interests, even jeopardizing the existence of the regime. On Tuesday, Israeli Reserve Major General Itzhak Brik wrote in an article in the newspaper Haaretz that unless the war ends, Israel will lose its captives and the economy will collapse, and so will its reserve occupation army as it will no longer be able to bear the burden without troops rotation. Moreover, the devastated settlements in the southern and northern areas will not be rehabilitated, and the 100,000 evacuated settlers will plunge into abject poverty. Brik stressed that Israel's "leaders, at the political and military levels, who brought upon us the shame of October 7 with their careless actions, are neither able nor willing, from a psychological standpoint, to end the war and no force in the world will have them budge from their position."

The Israeli major general concluded that "the leaders, at the political and military levels, must be replaced immediately because we will not be able to survive with them."

However, these criticisms also reached the right-wing parties, as Avigdor Lieberman, head of the Yisrael Beiteinu party, railed against Netanyahu on Wednesday, saying that what matters to Netanyahu is personal calculations and remaining in power. Netanyahu threatens the existence of Israel and leads a cabinet consisting of whimsical and peculiar individuals, he added.

But more importantly, Lieberman announced that actions that are underway to remove Netanyahu from power. He added that the way to free Israel from Netanyahu is to overthrow him by members of the Likud party. He proposed forming a coalition where five of them would join the opposition, leading to the dissolution of parliament and early elections. According to Lieberman, there are representatives in his party who agree with this issue, and secret talks for emancipation from Netanyahu are underway. Page 2 >



## Ground Beneath Bibi Being Eroded

### Researchers decode coins of local kings of Persis

Researchers uncovered new information about the local kings of Persis from the 3rd century BC by studying coins at the Persepolis Museum.

The coins reveal the names of several local kings not mentioned in historical texts, ISNA wrote. 8 >

### Trump's guilty verdict lays US election on bumpy road



Leader to pro-Palestinian US students:

### You're standing on right side of history

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei released a message of support for pro-Palestinian students across the US on Thursday, saying that "you are standing on the right side of history".

Since the beginning of Israel's war on Gaza in October, thousands of students, at more than 130 colleges and universities across the US, have demonstrated in opposition to the ongoing war in Gaza with protests and encampments.

They are demanding that their schools, many with massive endowments, financially divest from Israel. Ayatollah Khamenei hailed the students' struggle and considered them to be part of the global resistance movement.

"This is our message of empathy and solidarity with you. You are

standing on the right side of history – whose pages are being turned," the letter read.

"You have now formed part of the resistance movement, and have begun an honorable struggle [despite being] under the cruel pressure of your government – which openly defends the usurping and ruthless Zionist regime," it added.

"The great resistance movement has been waging [a similar] struggle at a distant spot for years [while being affected] with the same understanding and emotions as those of yours today."

The Leader specified the purpose behind this struggle to be cessation of the "blatant oppression" that a "terrorist and cruel network titled 'Zionists'" has been imposing on Palestinians for decades. Page 7 >



● AP

## Ground beneath bibi ...

At the same time, opposition leader Yair Lapid on Wednesday met with two heads of right-wing parties in an attempt to coordinate a bloc that will work together to bring down the Netanyahu's cabinet.

Lapid, Yisrael Beytenu chairman Avigdor Liberman and New Hope leader Gideon Sa'ar agreed on a plan of action to replace the cabinet for the sake of the future of the regime, a statement on behalf of the trio said. They once again called on National Unity party chief Benny Gantz to quit the coalition and join them, as Gantz has threatened to do by June 8 if the premier fails to meet a series of demands. On Thursday, Israeli war cabinet minister Benny Gantz's centrist party proposed a bill to dissolve parliament, showing the growing strains in Netanyahu's cabinet even if the prime minister has enough lawmakers to keep him in office. According to Haaretz, but it was unclear whether he has enough support to bring about snap elections.

On Thursday, residents in Tel Aviv protested, demanding the dissolution of Netanyahu's cabinet and early elections. The protesters chanted slogans against Netanyahu, highlighting the urgent need to exchange captives with the Palestinian resistance in Gaza. Zionist captive families participating in the protests also expressed that without ending the war, no exchanges would occur, with many of them advocating for a cease-fire in exchange for the return of captives. Netanyahu's coalition cabinet is comprised of right-wing parties that hold 64 seats in the Knesset. Considering that the parliament has 120 seats, the Netanyahu's shaky cabinet will only collapse if a few representatives leave the ruling coalition, leading to early elections.

Israel's Maariv newspaper published the results of a survey on May 10, indicating a decline in the popularity and position of the Likud party and the far-right coalition. Based on the survey, if early elections are held in the occupied territories, the right-religious coalition under Netanyahu will only secure 47 seats and will be deprived of achieving a majority. In contrast, the coalition of Netanyahu's opponents will gain 68 seats, paving the way for their victory in the elections and potentially forming a coalition cabinet. Simultaneously with such movements in Israel against Netanyahu, it appears that his star is also on the decline in the international arena. A group of Western countries underscore the idea of a "Two-State" solution, namely the formation of independent Palestinian and Israeli states, as the pathway to a sustainable peace. Recently, Spain, Norway, and Ireland have also recognized an independent Palestinian state. Another European country, Slovenia, has signed and sent a proposal to recognize the Palestinian state for approval by the parliament.

However, the ruling extremist cabinet in Israel opposes the formation of an independent Palestinian state, and, in reality, achieving peace in this region from the perspective of Western nations is tied to the removal of Netanyahu's cabinet. The support of some European countries, including Joseph Borrell, the EU's foreign policy chief, for the international criminal court's ruling on the arrest of Israel's prime minister and defense minister on charges of war crimes must also be evaluated in this context as Europeans also seek liberation from the Netanyahu cabinet's influence.

# Trump's guilty verdict lays US election on bumpy road

The 2024 US presidential election is facing a bumpy road after former President Donald Trump was found guilty of the whole 34 felonies in his hush money trial in New York on Thursday, with the verdict making the businessman-turned-politician the first American head of state in US history to be convicted of a crime.

The ruling was issued after nine and a half hours of deliberations in the Manhattan courtroom where Trump had been on trial for the past six weeks over falsifying business records to hide a \$130,000 payment meant to silence adult movie actress Stormy Daniels and prevent her from publicizing their sexual encounters.

The septuagenarian also faces three more serious criminal indictments over his attempts to overturn his 2020 election loss to Joe Biden and keeping top-secret documents at his home in Florida.

Judge Juan Merchan thanked the jurors for their service in the weeks-long trial, saying, "You gave this matter the attention it deserved, and I want to thank you for that."

Merchan set sentencing for July 11, four days before the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee in the midwestern state of Wisconsin, where the 77-year-old is due to receive the party's formal nomination for the November 5 vote.

Speaking to reporters in the hallway outside the Manhattan courtroom, Trump reacted angrily to the jury's unanimous verdict and railed against the judge.

"This was a disgrace. This was a



US protesters outside the Manhattan Criminal Court House on May 30, 2024 hold up a banner noting that former President Donald Trump has been found guilty of 34 felonies. [amny.com](https://www.amny.com)

rigged trial by a conflicted judge who was corrupt," he said, reiterating the criticism he has leveled at the court since the trial began.

Stressing that the case is "far from over," the presumptive Republican nominee said, "The real verdict is going to be Nov. 5 by the people, and they know

what happened here and everybody knows what happened here. We'll fight to the end."

However, Biden's campaign praised the verdict in a statement and underlined that Trump needs to be defeated in November.

"In New York today, we saw that no one is above the law," said the campaign's communications director, Michael Tyler, but the "verdict does not change the fact that the American people face a simple reality. There is still only one way to keep Donald Trump out of the Oval Office: at the ballot box."

Charles Schumer, the Democratic leader of the US Senate, said the verdict "speaks for itself," stressing, "No one is above the law."

Adam Schiff, a California congressman and one of the impeachment prosecutors of Trump, said that while justice prevailed, the verdict "will only increase Donald Trump's attempts to discredit the justice system and tear down our democracy ... it is up to us to make sure it continues to prevail."

Michael Cohen, one of the witnesses for the prosecution, said Thursday's verdict "is an

important day for accountability and the rule of law," adding, "While it has been a difficult journey for me and my family, the truth always matters."

The presumptive GOP nominee could be sentenced to four years behind bars for each count but is more likely to receive probation.

As per the US Constitution, the conviction does not bar Trump from continuing his campaign or becoming president, and he can still vote for himself in his home state of Florida as long as he stays out of prison in New York state.

## Yemen attacks US aircraft carrier after deadly strikes

### International Desk

Yemen's Houthis said they have launched a missile attack on a United States aircraft carrier in the Red Sea in response to deadly US and British strikes on Yemen. Yemen's military spokesman Yahya Saree announced the attack on the Eisenhower carrier on Friday, Reuters reported.

Six US and British strikes have killed 16 people and wounded 42, including civilians, Saree said in a televised statement. A US defense official told Reuters they were not aware of any attack on the Eisenhower. "The American-British aggression will not prevent us from continuing our military operations in support of Palestine," Houthi official Mohammed

al-Bukhaiti said on X, warning that the country would "meet escalation with escalation". The US Central Command said on X that attacks against 13 Houthi targets had "successfully destroyed" eight uncrewed aerial vehicles, or drones, in Houthi-controlled areas of Yemen and over the Red Sea. The British Ministry of Defence said Royal Air Force

Typhoon FGR4s conducted attacks on Hodeidah and further south in Ghulayfiqah. It described targets as "buildings identified as housing drone ground control facilities and providing storage for very long-range drones, as well as surface-to-air weapons".

The Houthi movement has emerged as a strong supporter of Palestinians in Israel's ongoing war on Gaza, which has killed more than 36,000 people.

The group has launched repeated drone and missile attacks on Israeli-related

ships in the Red Sea, the Bab al-Mandeb strait, and the Gulf of Aden since November, demanding that Israel end the war.

Iran condemned the US-UK strikes as "violations of Yemen's sovereignty and territorial integrity..., international laws and human rights", Iranian state media reported.

"The aggressor US and British governments are responsible for the consequences of these crimes against the Yemeni people," Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Nasser Kanaani said.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist



## Israel troops push into central Rafah

The Israeli army said Friday its troops pushed into central Rafah, escalating its nearly eight-month war with Hamas despite international objections over any offensive in the southern Gaza city. Israel first sent tanks and troops into Rafah from the city's east in early May, ignoring concerns over the safety of displaced Palestinian civilians sheltering in the city on the Egyptian border.

Soldiers were operating "in central Rafah" where they uncovered rocket-launchers and tunnel shafts and dismantled a Hamas weapons storage facility, the army

said in its latest statement. Witnesses reported seeing Israeli air strikes on the Rafah area as well as troop movements in central Rafah. In central Gaza, the army said it was "intensifying operations" and had carried out air strikes that "eliminated several terrorists" operating near Israeli troops. It did not elaborate. On Wednesday, Israel declared its forces had taken control of the 14-km Philadelphia corridor along the Gaza-Egypt border, where it alleges weapons were being smuggled.

Egypt, a longtime mediator in the conflict, has yet

to officially comment on the Israeli takeover, which officials have previously said could violate the two countries' 1979 peace deal. Amid stalled diplomatic efforts towards a cease-fire, Hamas said it had informed mediators it would only agree a "comprehensive" truce agreement including a hostage-prisoner swap if Israel halts its "aggression". Ismail Haniyeh, the head of Hamas's Qatar-based political office, reiterated Friday that the group's core demands – including a permanent cease-fire and full Israeli withdrawal – "are non-negotiable".

# Historical significance of caravanserais in North Khorasan Province

## Iranica Desk

North Khorasan is a province that boasts a high number of caravanserais along the Silk Road from Jorjan to Nishapur. Out of the 11 caravanserais located on this route, eight are situated within North Khorasan Province. These buildings along the Silk Road hold special historical and cultural significance. Throughout history, this road has served not only as a trade route for

transporting goods, but also as a conduit for the exchange of culture, technology, ideas, and knowledge. As a result, cities along the Silk Road have witnessed distinctive economic and cultural growth over the centuries. The route from Jorjan to Nishapur is significant not just for the infrastructure it offers, such as caravanserais, warehouses, towers, and guide buildings for travelers and road maintenance, but also for nurturing distinguished figures in science, literature, and culture in the cities along its path. This underscores the profound cultural impact of this route. Consequently, preserving the heritage of these caravanserais holds great importance as a major cultural hallmark in the province, with operations like restoration playing a crucial role in their conservation efforts.

Ali Mostoufian, the director general of North Khorasan Province's Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Organi-

zation, highlighted that 1200 historical sites were identified in the province, with 517 of them being officially registered as historically significant. He highlighted that there are eight caravanserais along the Silk Road in North Khorasan Province. He added that four of these caravanserais have vanished over time, leaving only their floors and plans behind, with their primary significance now being for archaeological research activities. Mostoufian continued by explaining that restoring these caravanserais to their original form is not feasible through standard restoration procedures. He emphasized that the key action needed to preserve the remains of the caravanserais is to safeguard them against natural disasters such as floods. However, there is currently insufficient funding allocated for the complete restoration of all the caravanserais along the Silk Road. Mostoufian emphasized that the province's Cultural Heritage Organization does not generate revenue and

relies on government budgets for its expenses, which do not adequately cover the required funds for the restoration of all these caravanserais. He noted that the restoration of the Robat-e Qarah Bil Caravanserai has been ongoing for several years, yet the operation remains unfinished. Mohammad Reza Qahramanian, deputy head of the province's Cultural Heritage, Handicraft and Tourism Organization, said that the funding allocated for the restoration of caravanserais in the province both this year and last year has been very limited. "Extensive efforts were made to secure funding for the Qareh Bil Caravanserai and the Mausoleum of Khajeh Mehziar so that they can be operational within the next two years, but unfortunately, this funding allocation has not materialized." He went on to say, "Following the completion of the restoration of these two caravanserais, a feasibility

study will be conducted, followed by the necessary legal procedures for their transfer to the private sector." Qahramanian emphasized, "The amount of debris present in these caravanserais is so substantial that it will not be feasible to make them operational within five years with the current budgets. The majority of the Silk Road caravanserais in the province were constructed during the Timurid period."



Robat-e Qarah Bil Caravanserai  
● IRNA

## Kart-bafi, weaving excellence in Alamut



● chn.ir



● chn.ir

*Kart-bafi*, also known as *pan-bafi* or *navar-bafi*, stands out as a prominent handicraft in Alamut, located in the Qazvin Province. This craft is categorized under traditional textiles. *Kart-bafi*, the art of weaving the kart, involves creating narrow strips typically one to two centimeters wide. These products, predominantly crafted by women, exhibit exceptional durability and tightness, serving multiple purposes. Primarily utilized in the clothing and fashion industry, these woven strips embellish collars, skirt hems, sleeves, belts, shoelaces, ties, baby swaddling garments, and various accessories. When crafted from thick yarns, *pan-bafi* serves versatile functions such as setting up tents or securing horse and camel muzzles. Despite its significance, the history of this

handicraft remains somewhat elusive. The origins of its introduction to Iran and the specific timeline of its inception remain unanswered queries. Notably, the oldest existing *pan-bafi* artifact hails from Egypt. The fundamental materials used in *pan-bafi* include natural fibers, occasionally supplemented with synthetic yarns. However, they are typically woven using a type of silk yarn known as *kaj* yarn. The tools essential for *pan-bafi* include: **Karchoob:** This wooden device for *pan-bafi* functions as a compact and portable loom. Yarns are threaded onto both sides of the loom once they are prepared. **Chapar:** A square, rectangular, triangular, or other polygonal plate crafted from thin wood, talc, or cardboard. These plates feature

multiple holes through which the yarns are threaded. **Pudchin:** A wooden tool used to twist the weft yarns during weaving. In *pan-bafi*, the yarns are either vertically stretched or laid on the ground, following predetermined patterns. The patterns and designs of *pan-bafi* are typically derived from the weavers' memory. Noteworthy characteristics of Alamut strips include their fineness, high quality, unique techniques, exceptional craftsmanship, and durability. Furthermore, traditional dyeing methods are integral to these crafts. Natural materials like mulberry leaves (for golden hues), onion skins (orange tints), walnut shells (brown shades), and *nirask* (a type of wild barberry) are commonly employed to dye the yarns.

# Raisi takes Iran-Uzbekistan relations up to **new heights**



By Sadeq  
Dehqan  
Staff writer

## INTERVIEW EXCLUSIVE

At the invitation of the late Iranian president Ebrahim Raisi, his Uzbek counterpart, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, visited Iran almost a year ago for the first time. This marked the second time a President of Uzbekistan had made the trip since 1992.

Leading a high-ranking political and economic delegation, Mirziyoyev sealed the deal on 10 cooperation agreements across a range of sectors. These included a preferential trade agreement; transportation and transit protocols; plans for cooperation on pharmaceuticals, standards, and insurance; a look into setting up shared free zones; and a program for partnerships on technological innovation and the agricultural sector.

On the other hand, the president of Iran made not one but two trips to Uzbekistan, the first official one taking place on September 14, 2022. During this three-day sojourn, the Iranian leader and his high-level delegation attended the 22nd summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization's member states. This marked the finalization of Iran's permanent membership in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. Additionally, the trip saw the signing of 17 memorandums of understanding and cooperation agreements, along with a joint statement, between the top brass of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The cooperation agreements between the two nations spanned a wide range of areas again. These included ramping up collaboration in agriculture, energy, and customs; boosting sports, science, technology, and innovation partnerships; increasing cultural exchanges; joining forces in the health sector; making international transport through the Chabahar port a reality; developing environmental initiatives; growing the tourism industry; and streamlining visa processes for business leaders, academics, and tourist groups.

In an interview with Iran Daily, the head of the Iran-Uzbekistan Joint Chamber of Commerce chimed in on the countries' relationship, stating that things really kicked off between Iran and Uzbekistan during Raisi's presidency. "The level of relations between the two countries reached an unprecedented level during Raisi's tenure," Mousa Aghaei said.

In what follows, we discuss the economic and commercial ties, trade exchanges, and economic cooperation between the two nations with Aghaei.



The late Iranian president Ebrahim Raisi (C) and his Uzbek counterpart, Shavkat Mirziyoyev (R), visit Tehran's specialized exhibition of innovations and technologies on June 18, 2023. [president.uz](https://www.president.uz)

**IRAN DAILY:** As the head of the Joint Chamber of Commerce of Iran and Uzbekistan, how would you assess the current state of play when it comes to economic and trade exchanges between these two nations?

**AGHAEI:** With the two countries hitting it off in recent years, their economic cooperation and trade exchanges have been on a roll. The upward trajectory in their trade relationship has kept up the momentum over the last two to three years. As an example, our exports stood at \$290 million at the close of the Iranian calendar year 1401 (ended March 20, 2023) and climbed to \$350 million by the end of 1402. Meanwhile, Iran also imported \$150 million worth of goods from Uzbekistan in 1402. With this exponential growth in trade, we're optimistic that the total bilateral exchanges will hit the \$1 billion mark by the year's end.

**Is it realistic to expect that we'll hit the \$1 billion mark in annual trade within a year?**

Absolutely. Hitting that \$1 billion figure is well within reach, given the strong ties between our nations. There's no doubt that the economic and commercial potential of our countries far surpasses the current numbers, and we have what it takes to surpass the \$1 billion milestone.

However, American and Western sanctions against Iran have thrown a spanner in the works when it comes

to monetary and banking transfers. On top of that, some of our domestic laws regarding exports have been a bit of a hindrance. One such law relates to the repatriation of foreign currency by exporters. Typically, exporters don't hold on to that currency overseas; they bring it back home. However, if we put them under pressure over this, it becomes problematic. This particular law might work for government-owned industries like steel or petrochemicals, but it's not a one-size-fits-all solution for the private sector. We ought to give the private sector more leeway to engage in foreign trade and ramp up their contribution to our export numbers.

**How much of a role is the private sector playing in the trade between Iran and Uzbekistan?**

The warming relations between government officials have paved the way for a more prominent role for the private sector in business dealings. We've seen a steady stream of back-and-forth visits at the ministerial level, with Uzbek ministers of energy and tourism holding meetings with their Iranian counterparts. This has sparked a growing interest among Iranian businessmen to explore trade opportunities with Uzbekistan, whether through the joint chamber of commerce or their own initiatives. It's clear that the ties between our countries have strengthened significantly, and we're witnessing

a lot more interaction and trade exchanges, alongside our burgeoning tourism industry. Tourism, after all, plays a pivotal role in fortifying bilateral relations, as tourists become ambassadors of culture, commerce, and shared experiences.

**What are the primary goods traded between our countries?**

In the past, yarn and cotton were Uzbekistan's two main exports to Iran. However, Tashkent is shifting its economic focus toward higher-value-added products, moving away from exporting raw materials. As a result, you'll likely see a dip in their cotton exports, with a pivot toward boosting cloth and clothing production for export instead.

Iran's exports to Uzbeki-

stan cover a diverse range of goods, including steel, construction materials, agricultural produce, flowers, and plants, and we're also in the game when it comes to exporting technical and engineering services.

**What other avenues for collaboration have been left untapped between our countries?**

Over the last two years, commercial and economic relations have really taken off, and that was evident at the Iran Expo 2024 exhibition, held in Tehran back in late April. Uzbekistan showed up in force, sending the fifth-largest delegation of businessmen and economic movers and shakers. After witnessing the breadth of Iran's industrial and export prowess on display,

Uzbek officials and business leaders remarked, "We didn't realize Iran had such impressive production capabilities." There's a ton of untapped potential for economic cooperation, but one area that's been left on the back burner is tourism. If we crank up our collaboration in this sector, both countries stand to rake in a fortune. There's a clear appetite for cross-border travel, and our governments ought to lay the groundwork to make it easier.



Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev (L) leaves a flower bouquet at Iran's Embassy in Tashkent in tribute to the late Iranian president Ebrahim Raisi and his entourage who died in a helicopter crash the same day on May 22, 2024.

● IRNA



# Raisi leads the charge for Russia-Iran-China's 'new world order'

**OPINION** Amidst all the sadness and grief over the loss of Iranian president Ebrahim Raisi, let's take a moment to showcase the critical path he helped forge toward a new global order. In the nearly three years since Raisi ascended to the Iranian presidency, Eurasian integration and the drive toward multipolarity have become fundamentally conducted by three major actors: Russia, China, and Iran, which, by no accident, are the three top "existential threats" to the hegemonic power.

## Increased Eurasian integration

On May 19 in Moscow, Russian President Vladimir Putin invited Iran's ambassador to Moscow Kazem Jalali to be at the table in an impromptu meeting with the cream of the crop of Russia's Defense Team.

The key message portrayed was that Moscow has Tehran's back, and Russia completely supports the stability and continuity of government in Iran, which is already fully guaranteed by Iran's constitution and its detailed contingencies for a peaceful transition of power under even unusual circumstances.

As we are now deep into total hybrid war mode — bordering on Hot — across most of the planet, the three civilization states shaping a new system of international relations could not be more obvious. Russia-Iran-China (RIC) are already interlinked via bilateral, comprehensive strategic partnerships; they are members of both BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), and their modus operandi was fully unveiled for the whole global majority to examine at Putin's crucial summit with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing last week.

In short, none of the three Asian powers will allow the other partners to be destabilized by the usual suspects.

## A stellar record

Late President Raisi and his top diplomat, foreign minister Hossein Amir-Ab-

dollahian, left a stellar legacy. Under their leadership, Iran became a member of BRICS, a full member of the SCO, and a major stakeholder in the Eurasia Economic Union (EAEU). These are the three key multilateral organizations shaping the road to multipolarity. Iran-Russia relations reached the next level in trade and military-political cooperation. Two years ago, Putin and Raisi agreed on a comprehensive bilateral treaty. The draft of the core document is now ready and will be signed by Iran's next president, expanding the partnership even further.

## A hypersonic joint statement

The overarching charter of what a new system entails was revealed at the recent landmark Putin-Xi summit via a stunning 10-chapter joint statement, over 12,000 words long, with "cooperation" appearing no less than 130 times. This document can correctly be interpreted as a joint hypersonic manifesto comprehensively blowing up Washington's artificial "rules-based international order".

Iran, sanctioned to death for over four decades, is now learning directly from China and Russia about their efforts to destroy "decoupling" narratives as well as the effect of a tsunami of Western sanctions on Russia.

Iranian Acting Foreign Minister Ali Bagheri Kani had previously remarked that thanks to Iran's "exceptional geo-



The illustration shows the former Iranian president Ebrahim Raisi (R), the current Chinese President Xi Jinping (C), and the current Russian President Vladimir Putin, each in front of one of the landmarks of their respective countries.  
● THECRADLE

political location" reaching West Asia, the Persian Gulf, the Caspian Sea region, and wider Eurasia, Iran can contribute to the "economic growth and economic potential" of all regional players. Putin's visit to China in May included a visit to the northeastern powerhouse Harbin — which has strong geographical/historical links to Russia. A giant China-Russia Expo attracted over 5,000 commercial firms. It's not far-fetched to imagine an equally successful Russia-Iran Expo at a Caspian port.

## Promethean project

What links Russia, China, and Iran is, first and foremost, an emerging framework designed by sovereign civilizational states. The fateful passing of president Raisi won't alter the big picture in the least.

We're in the middle of a long process against an environment conditioned for decades by pain and fear. The process has gained immense traction these past few years, starting with the official launch of the New Silk Roads in 2013.

The New Silk Roads, now known as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), is a Promethean project that is as much geopolitical as geoeconomic. In parallel came the gradual expansion of the SCO's role as an economic cooperation mechanism.

The Iranian bombing of ultra-protected Israeli territory with perfect precision — as a response to a terror attack on its diplomatic consulate in a third country — sent a crystal-clear, game-changer message, completely understood by the global majority: the hegemon's power in West Asia is coming to an end.

Losing the Rimland is anathema to perfectly American geopolitics. It must be back in its control as it knows how important it is.

## New direction

The angel of history, though, is pointing in a new direction — to China, Russia, and Iran as the natural sovereigns shaping the re-emergence of the Heartland. Concisely, these three sovereigns have the epistemological level, will, creativity, organization skills, vision, and tools of power to realize a true Promethean project.

It may sound like a miracle, but the present leadership in all three states shares this common understanding and endeavor.

The full article first appeared on The Cradle.

## Iran-Pakistan relations after Ebrahim Raisi

By Taimur Shamil  
Scholar

### OPINION

Former Iranian president Ebrahim Raisi and foreign minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian's deaths in a helicopter crash are being mourned in Pakistan as well as Iran, two neighboring countries with close relations. This was shocking for many in Pakistan because of the close relations and also because this news came at a point where Raisi paid a visit to Islamabad last month in May to improve relations that were thought to be under strain after recent border skirmishes.

Raisi's recent visit to Pakistan came at a crucial point in the backdrop of regional dynamics. Iran is facing various political pressures domestically as well as internationally. The recent terror wave, missile strikes with Israel, domestic and international pressures, conflicts with the neighbors, and sanctioned economy have taken a toll on Iran's strategic outlook. Iran's neighbor, Pakistan, too faces multiple challenges; increasing terrorist attacks, strained relations with Afghanistan over terrorism, aggressive posturing from the Modi government in India, and a fragile economy with an aggravating inflation rate and energy crisis. These common issues have brought Iran and Pakistan closer to seeking avenues for cooperation that can potentially address mutual security, economic, and geopolitical concerns.

Raisi's visit was important and timely. Political observers saw it as an attempt to improve and mend ties with Pakistan after recent skirmishes that saw missile strikes from both sides citing

terror outfits operating in respective countries. Another perspective behind Raisi's visit was the pressure that Iran is facing internationally, especially after its recent rift with Israel.

Regionally, Iran is attempting to attract alliances and keep any political stalemates at bay. Its détente with Saudi Arabia is an example of how Iran is trying to avoid political deadlocks and continue with its strategic goals. It is important to observe that Iran's relations with China have strengthened over the years, with China's promising investment of \$400 billion over the span of 25 years, a cooperation agreement signed in 2021. This has given Iran a new strategic outlook. Raisi's visit to Pakistan came in this backdrop; to explore new avenues for cooperation and to address the irritants in the relationship. Pakistan, while observing the regional changes, believes that Iran is a neighbor that needs to be engaged positively. Pakistan and Iran share approximately 562 miles of border which tends to provide trade potential but is also marred by security issues. The border tensions aren't new and have their roots in history as well as recent past. However, there is much in common that needs to be explored. Both sides have deep cultural roots, as Pakistan is believed to host the largest Shia population outside of Iran. This provides Iran with significant cultural and religious affiliation and roots in Pakistani society and culture. This gives Pakistan an exceptional strategic space in larger Iranian, as well as regional, geopolitics.

Pakistan and Iran relations are generally peaceful with no major setbacks or fractures. However, terrorism is an irritant in the relationship that undermines the security of both states and



Iran's late president Ebrahim Raisi (front) and Pakistani Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif (L) jointly inaugurate the Mand-Pishin border market by planting a tree sapling in southeast Iran on May 18, 2023.  
● IRNA

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Late Raisi's attempt to improve relations with Pakistan would be remembered as a positive step in the right direction for bilateral relations and regional peace.

regional security at large.

Iran continues to grapple with the Jaish-al-Adl terrorist outfit that it believes operates from Pakistan. Pakistan also believes that Baloch terrorist groups like Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) and others are part of a terrorist network based in Iran. Nonetheless, the discourse of terror networks continues to be highlighted. A common threat for both Iran and Pakistan is the Islamic State of Khorasan (ISKAP); a terror group that operates in the region with scattered presence in Iran, Pakistan, and Afghanistan.

Beyond security, there are several other issue areas between Pakistan and Iran. Economic integration remains at the top. Much has been speculated about the bilateral trade. However, there are multiple areas where Pakistan and Iran lack integration and need special emphasis. For instance, Pakistani Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif and Iranian president Raisi inaugurated the first border market at the Mand-Pishin border crossing at the Pakistan-Iran border in 2023. This certainly was a step forward in realizing that Pakistan and Iran have great potential for trade. Estimated bilateral trade volume, which is currently \$2 billion, can reach somewhere around \$10 billion. Still, this is the first trade point that will be followed by five more border markets. Nevertheless, the market still lacks state-of-the-art infrastructure, business-linked amenities, market-focused trade, and business facilities that can support the potential for trade originally envisaged.

Moreover, smuggling still remains one of the key areas that hampers formal trade and potential for business. One of the many reasons for this issue is

that the government-facilitated trade markets at the border crossings are a recent phenomenon as compared to the informal trade that has been going on between Pakistan and Iran. This has much to do with the local border-oriented trade culture that has been in practice for decades or rather, centuries. More or less similar is the case with the areas that border Pakistan and Afghanistan. The question there is not entirely the same but comparable to the Pakistan-Iran border. Therefore, a comprehensive mechanism that can link the Iranian and Pakistan markets, in fact, lacks proper groundwork and comprehensive economic strategy from both sides.

Another area that lacks proper economic strategy is that there is a perception that policies made at the official level have limited input from the business community itself. The commercial routes, economic zones, and border markets must be chalked around a rigorous and well-thought-over trade strategy seeking substantial input from the trade community. Any initiative that sidesteps the business community would shake the desired economic goals.

Much is being speculated about Iran's foreign policy after Raisi. It can be assumed that not much is likely to change in Iran's foreign policy approach or its general foreign policy conduct. Iran's foreign policy regarding neighbors is likely to continue the same way; amicable and positive. Late Raisi's attempt to improve relations with Pakistan would be remembered as a positive step in the right direction for bilateral relations and regional peace.

The full article first appeared on The Nation.

## Persian Gulf Pro League: Nerve-racking finale at both ends of the table



Tehran archrivals Persepolis and Esteghlal will conclude a toe-to-toe race for the Iranian top-flight crown, while Paykan, Foolad Khuzestan, and Esteghlal Khuzestan – separated by two points – will hope to avoid joining San'at Naft Abadan in the second division next season.



Persepolis players are seen ahead of the kickoff in the Persian Gulf Pro League victory over Shams Azar in Qazvin, Iran, on May 28, 2024.

● HOSSEIN GHOLIKHANI/IRNA

### Sports Desk

A long, exhausting season of the Persian Gulf Pro League will come to an end tonight with five teams having all to play for at both ends of the table.

Tehran archrivals Persepolis and Esteghlal will conclude a toe-to-toe race for the Iranian top-flight crown, while Paykan, Foolad Khuzestan, and Esteghlal Khuzestan – separated by two points – will hope to avoid joining San'at Naft Abadan in the second division next season.

A home win will be between Persepolis – leading Esteghlal by a single point – and a remarkable seventh league title in eight seasons when the Capital Reds welcome Moharram Navidkia's Mes Rafsanjan to the Azadi Stadium.

Persepolis, which only moved atop the table for the first time eight days ago – after overcoming a halftime three-goal deficit to win a seven-goal thriller against Esteghlal Khuzestan at home – will have an impressive run in the second part of the campaign to thank for a likely title.

Named as the interim coach following Yahya Golmohammadi's departure in January, Osmar Vieira – a number two

to his predecessor – got off to a losing start in his new role – a 1-0 defeat at Irasco – but went on to lead the Reds to 11 wins in 13 unbeaten matches, including a massive 3-1 win at Shams Azar last time out, and another three points today will all but guarantee an extended spell on the bench for the Brazilian.

Meanwhile, for all the criticism he has received for his defensive-minded approach, Esteghlal head coach Javad Nekounam, who took charge for the start of season, deserves credit for keeping an average squad on top of the table for the best part of campaign, though he will be left regretting his gameplan in the goalless stalemate at Nassaji Mazandaran, which saw the Blues relinquish the table summit, if his team fails to win a second title in three years.

While Nekounam will be longing for a favor from his former international teammate Navidkia, who lost his job as the Sepahan manager after coming short against Persepolis in the title race three years ago, Esteghlal boss will have to come up against his opposite number on Paykan bench Reza Enayati – a league champion with the Blues as a prolific striker. Stepping into the game on

the back of four defeats in an eight-game winless run, Paykan is two points clear of the relegation zone but another setback at home today could see the club drop to the second tier for the first time in eight years.

Esteghlal Khuzestan, the last team other than the capital rivals to win the league, is in the bottom two ahead of the home fixture against Havadar but head coach Siros Pourmousavi will hope his men can build on the recent brave performances, including last Wednesday's comeback 3-2 win at Mes Rafsanjan.

Foolad, meanwhile, will play away to Nassaji, which is on a high after a 5-0 thrashing of Havadar in the previous outing secured a top-tier place for the northern Iranian club. A two-time champion since the Iranian Pro League was introduced two decades ago, Foolad would have been within touching distance of survival on Wednesday, had it not been for conceding a 97th-minute equalizer in the 2-2 home draw against Paykan and now any outcome other than maximum points at Nassaji could see the 2022/23 AFC Champions League quarterfinalist relegated for the second time in the Pro League era.

## Azmoun 'set for new chapter' after Sevilla shows interest: *Fabrizio Romano*

### Sports Desk

Iranian international striker Sardar Azmoun is tipped for a start in a third major European league in as many years next season, according to high-profile Italian journalist Fabrizio Romano.

Having joined AS Roma from Bayer Leverkusen last June, Azmoun, 29, saw his season-long spell with the Gial-

lorossi come to an end with a 2-1 defeat at Empoli, during which he came on as a second-half substitute, in the final round of Serie A fixtures last Sunday.

Former Zenit St. Petersburg forward is "set for new chapter after AS Roma loan due to expire this week," Romano, who is best known for his transfer news, wrote on X on Thursday, adding: "Understand [La Liga

side] Sevilla are still showing interest after Azmoun talks in January, it's a possibility being discussed."

"There are also more clubs keen [on signing Azmoun], with possibility to stay in Serie A," wrote the Italian.

Azmoun bagged three goals – all in the Italian top flight – in 29 games across all competitions for AS Roma – the best part of which came as cameo appear-

ances – in a season that was interrupted by a couple of injury spells as well as the international duty in the AFC Asian Cup in January.

Azmoun was hoping to extend his stay in the Italian capital but AS Roma, which failed to secure Champions League action for next season, has refused to meet Leverkusen's reported €12.5-million asking price for the Iranian.



● FABIO ROSSI/GETTY IMAGES

## Mavericks beat Timberwolves to reach NBA Finals

**BBC** – The Dallas Mavericks will face the Boston Celtics in the NBA Finals after beating the Minnesota Timberwolves 4-1 in the Western Conference finals.

Luka Doncic and Kyrie Irving each hit 36 points to lead the Mavericks to a resounding 124-103 victory in game five in Minnesota.

Slovenian star Doncic, 25, set the tone with 20 points in the first quarter before Dallas moved into a dominant 69-40 lead at half-time and the Timberwolves could not fight back. It is the first time the Mavericks have reached the Finals since winning their sole NBA title in 2011 and only the third time overall.

They beat the Los Angeles Clippers in round one before reaching the conference finals with victory over top seed the Oklahoma City Thunder.

The best-of-seven NBA Finals begin in Boston on Thursday. The Celtics are chasing a record 18th NBA title in their 23rd Finals appearance.

Anthony Edwards and Karl-An-

thony Towns each scored 28 points for the Timberwolves, who beat the Phoenix Suns 4-0 in round one before stunning defending champions the Denver Nuggets in the conference semi-finals.

But their usually superb defence could not stifle the sublime Doncic throughout the series.

"It was Luka magic mode," said Mavericks head coach Jason Kidd.

"He set the tone and then he made it easier for everyone else. Everybody else stepped up."

Irving took over the scoring in the second quarter and will now appear in his first NBA Finals since 2017.

"I was enjoying it, you're just watching a special performance take place," said Irving.

"When Luka starts off a game like that, we're a tough team to beat"



Mavericks' Luka Doncic (77) shoots in a victory over Timberwolves in the NBA Western Conference finals in Minneapolis, MN, US, on May 30, 2024.

● AP

# Leader: West trying to take Syria out of regional equations



Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said Western countries are trying to remove Syria from the regional equations through new methods.

The Westerners and their acolytes in the region tried to overthrow Syria's political system and remove it from the regional equations through the war they waged against the country,

but they did not succeed, Ayatollah Khamenei told visiting Syrian President Bashar al-Assad on Thursday. "Now they want to use other methods, including

promises that they never fulfill, in order to take Syria out of the regional equations," he added. Assad traveled to Tehran to offer condolences over the loss of late president Ebra-

Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei (R) and Iran's acting President Mohammad Mokhber (L) meeting with Syria's President Bashar al-Assad in Tehran on May 30, 2024. [leader.ir](http://leader.ir)

him Raisi and his companions in a helicopter crash on May 19. Ayatollah Khamenei hailed Syria's "distinguished identity" in the region, saying it is owed to the Syrian nation's resistance. The distinguished identity of Syria, the Leader said, was formed during the late Hafez Assad's era with the founding of the resistance front and standing against the West. "This identity has always contributed to the national unity of Syria," he added. Ayatollah Khamenei also lauded President Assad for his firm stand, saying "everyone should see the special privilege of the Syrian government, that is, resistance, in front of their eyes".

The Leader stressed the need for Syria and Iran to strengthen relations given that the two countries are "the pillars of the axis of resistance".

## 'Cost of resistance lower than compromise'

President Assad touched on the evolution of resistance in the region, saying after more than 50 years, it has become a religious and political approach. Assad said his position has always been that any retreat against the West would lead to its advances. "I announced a few years ago that the cost of resistance is lower than the cost of compromise, and this issue is now very clear to the Syrian people, Syrian president said. "Your remarks had important points, but one point was more important to me, when you emphasized that 'the more we retreat, the more the other side will come forward,'" Ayatollah Khamenei responded.

## Hopefuls register for president



### National Desk

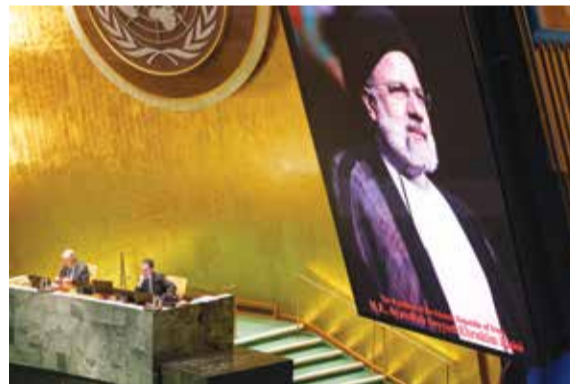
Iran on Thursday began the formal registration of presidential candidates ahead of a snap vote next month to replace the late president Ebrahim Raisi who died in a helicopter crash. The 14th presidential elections were originally slated for 2025 but were brought forward following Raisi's unexpected death on May 19. Presidential hopefuls have until Monday to apply for the vote now scheduled for June 28. Former parliament speaker Ali Larijani, who was barred from standing in the 2021 presidential race, submitted his candidacy on the second of the registration. He told journalists that one of his "priorities" if elected would be to "resolve the issue of (US) sanctions" and improve the country's economy. Among other high-profile hopefuls who registered for the contest were former governor of the central bank Abdolnasser Hemmati, who also ran in the 2021 presidential election, and former nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili who registered on Thursday. Former lawmaker Mostafa Kavakebian and incumbent parliamentarian Mohammadreza Sabaghian also submitted their applications at the Interior Ministry on Thursday. Candidates must be between the ages of 40 and 75 and have at least a master's degree, according to Iran's electoral law. A final list of candidates will be announced on June 11 by the Guardian Council.

# UNGA pays tribute to Iran's late president

### International Desk

The United Nations General Assembly held a plenary meeting on Thursday to pay tribute to the late president of Iran Ebrahim Raisi and his entourage, who died in a helicopter crash on May 19. Following the observing of a minute of silence, Dennis Francis, president of the General Assembly, offered his deepest condolences to the government and people of Iran. He said president Raisi "led his country's contribution to shape the tenets of our multilateral system and international cooperation", according to the UN official

website. Francis also honored the memory of late foreign minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian — "a consummate diplomat who faithfully stood alongside president Raisi in representing Iran on the global stage". Secretary-General of the United Nations António Guterres also extended his condolences to the families, the government and people of Iran. President Raisi led



Iran at a challenging time for the country, the region and globally, he said. "In these difficult times, international and regional cooperation are needed more than ever" in order

to build confidence, prevent conflict and resolve disputes, Guterres said. To this end, he assured the Iranian people that the United Nations stands in solidarity with them and in the quest

for peace, development and fundamental freedoms. Additionally, Burundi's UN Ambassador Zéphyrin Maniratanga, who spoke on behalf of African nations, praised the Iranian president as a "distinguished leader who devoted his life to serving his nation and fostering international cooperation particularly with African countries." Meanwhile, Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the UN Munir Akram spoke on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. "We take solace in the historical contributions of the former Iranian President to the vision and mission of the

Organization of Islamic Cooperation, notably its central cause of the restoration of the inalienable rights of the Palestinians and the protection of the sanctity of holy mosque of Al-Quds Sharif," he said. Speaking for the Non-Aligned Movement, the representative of Uganda emphasized that Raisi and Amir-Abdollahian were "instrumental" in strengthening cooperation among members of the bloc. Raisi, Amir-Abdollahian and six others were killed on May 19, when their helicopter crashed in foggy weather in the mountains in northwest Iran.

## You're standing on ...

The oppression has seen Zionists seizing Palestinians' country and then subjecting them to "the harshest of pressures and tortures," Ayatollah Khamenei noted. "The genocide [that is being exercised] by the apartheid Zionist regime today serves as the continuation of [the same] severely oppressive behavior," the Leader stated, referring to the Israeli regime's genocidal war against Gaza that has claimed the lives of more than 36,000 Palestinians since its onset in October last year. Describing the process of usurpation of the Palestinian land, Ayatollah Khamenei noted how Zionist capitalists, who were being aided by the British government, gradually

transferred "thousands of terrorists" to Palestine following the World War. Those, the Leader added, killed and displaced tens of thousands of Palestinians before forming the Israeli regime there. Ayatollah Khamenei, however, described the United States as "the greatest supporter of the usurping regime" following the initial patronage that was provided for the regime by the British. The American administration, the Leader said, had been providing the regime with continual political, economic, and arms support, and had even "recklessly" paved the way for its production of nuclear weapons. "The American administration and its partners have not even as much as frowned upon this state

terrorism and incessant oppression," the letter read. "The 'resistance front,' it added, "rose amid this dark and bleak atmosphere, and the formation of 'the Islamic Republic' in Iran contributed to its expansion and strength." Nevertheless, American and European media agencies, which were being influenced by Zionist money and bribery, have been introducing this "human and courageous resistance as terrorism," the Leader noted. Ayatollah Khamenei then asked whether a nation, which was fending for itself against Zionist occupiers inside its own land, was to be considered as "terrorist." This situation, though, was changing and a different fate awaited the sensitive West Asia region, the Leader asserted.

First Announcement

## Appendix Number 1

### Announcement of the public invitation proposal number 1102115 for investors Pre-qualification assessment.

**National Iranian Copper Industry Co. (NICICO)** intends to "purchase the electrical energy required by the Sarcheshmeh copper complex in the amount of approximately 600 GWH/year in Kerman province through the construction of a large-scale solar power plant with a capacity of 320 MW by investor in the form of a 21-year long-term guaranteed purchase contract (three periods of 7 years) based on the B.O.O. method" through public invitation as pre-qualification of investors.

In order to get more information, it is necessary to refer to the official website of this company as described below:

https://en.nicico.com/



## Researchers decode coins of local kings of Persis

**Arts & Culture Desk**

Researchers uncovered new information about the local kings of Persis from the 3rd century BC by studying coins at the Persepolis Museum. The coins reveal the names of several local kings not mentioned in historical texts, ISNA wrote. The coins, including Parthian, Sassanian, and local Persis rulers, were examined last year as part of a project whose results were discussed in a specialized session at the Research Institute of Linguistics, Inscriptions, and Texts. These studies, especially those on the "Frataraka" period and local Persis kings, have long been crucial for historians. Azadeh Heydarpour, a faculty member of the research institute, led the project initiated by the Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Department of Fars Province. She explained that initial photographs of the coins did not meet standard criteria. However, with the cooperation of the Persepolis site manager and museum staff, standard photos were taken and made available. The coins were then categorized by historical period and the sequence of kings who minted them. The coins were divided into three categories: Local Persis kings, Parthian, and Sassanian. The focus on local Persis kings is significant because these coins are often the only evidence of their existence. These coins, discovered in 19th and early 20th-century excavations at sites like Persepolis, Naqsh-e Rostam, and Hajjiabad, reflect the relative independence of these rulers. Heydarpour noted that local Persis kings fall into three groups: Frataraka (3rd century BC): These governors, including Baydad, Artaxerxes, and Vahbarz, ruled under Seleucid authority and were inspired by Achaemenid and Seleucid art. The 2nd century BC rulers: These kings, like Darius I of Persis and Wadfradad II, declared independence from the Seleucids, as indicated by the title "king" on their coins. The 1st century BC rulers: These kings, such as Darius II and Artaxerxes II, were under Parthian control and their coins show Parthian artistic influences, including similar crowns and hairstyles.

## Iran's 'Cold Sigh' wins top award at Cheboksary Int'l Film Festival



The Iranian feature film 'Cold Sigh,' written and directed by Nahid Azizi Sedigh and produced by Reza Mohaghegh, won the Grand Prix for Best Film at the XVII Cheboksary International Film Festival. The festival was held from May 23 to 29 in the Chuvash Republic, Russian Federation. 'Cold Sigh' received the award in its third international appearance. This marks the film's second award from Russian festivals. The closing ceremony of the 17th Cheboksary International Film Festival, held in the port city along the Volga River, took place on Wednesday, May 29, ISNA wrote. Nine films from Italy, the UK, France, Germany, Greece, and

Austria, Kazakhstan, Bangladesh, and Russia competed at the festival. The drama is about Baha, a young man from a border town, who learns that his father, Bahram, has been released from prison after 20 years. Bahram killed his wife - Baha's mother - having accused her of cheating on him. Baha, who has never coped with this and is still full of anger and resentment decides to revenge to end his suffering. The film has already taken the Best Director Award, the Audience Choice Award for the Best Film, and the NETPAC (Network for the Promotion of Asia Pacific Cinema) Special Mention, at the 46th Moscow International Film Festival (MIFF).

## Iranian painter to attend Russian event

Iranian painter Ayda Razaghzadeh has been invited to the BRICS Women's Entrepreneurship Forum in Russia, from June 2 to 4. Her collection includes five oil paintings that convey a shared concept of cooperation and energy transfer, ILNA wrote. The BRICS event aims to provide a friendly environment for representatives from national sectors, business circles, social

and government entities, and artists from BRICS member countries. The event will discuss new opportunities and challenges in advancing women's entrepreneurship. It offers an excellent opportunity to learn more about BRICS and women entrepreneurs in member countries, and to establish valuable business and friendly connections. Before this event, Razaghzadeh was award-

ed at the 25th Middle East Women Leaders Excellence Awards in Dubai for her seven visual works, presented by Maye Musk. In 2024, she will represent Iran to support female artists by organizing a group exhibition of women painters at the event. Razaghzadeh's works have been showcased in exhibitions such as the Barcelona Art Fair, Idea Gallery, Laleh Gallery, and Ebtakar Gallery.



## World Health Assembly

## Iranian Health Minister discusses bilateral cooperation with Cuba, Armenia, Zimbabwe

**Social Desk**

Iranian Health Minister Bahram Einollahi, attending the 77th World Health Assembly in Geneva, engaged in discussions with health ministers from Cuba, Armenia, and Zimbabwe to enhance bilateral relations in the fields of health, medicine, and medical equipment. Einollahi met with Cuban Health Minister José Angel Portal Miranda, IRNA wrote. Both ministers emphasized the importance of expanding bilateral health cooperation.

Einollahi highlighted the successful collaboration during the COVID-19 pandemic, which resulted in the production of the Soberana vaccine. He Miranda expressed interest in collaborating, particularly in pharmaceuticals and medical equipment, and mentioned the upcoming Joint Economic Commission of Iran and Cuba in Havana as an opportunity to understand Cuba's healthcare potential. In another meeting, Einollahi discussed cooperation with Zimbabwean Health Minister

Douglas Mombeshora, who expressed a keen interest in importing Iranian medical equipment to Zimbabwe and other African markets. Einollahi reiterated Iran's strengths in various health sectors and proposed forming a working group for bilateral collaboration, appointing Mohammad Hossein Niknam to lead the Iranian side. In a meeting between Einollahi and his Armenian counterpart Anahit Avanesyan, both ministers expressed mutual interest in expanding cooperation.

Avanesyan expressed condolences for the martyrdom of former Iranian president Ayatollah Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi and his delegation, stressing Armenia's solidarity with Iran. She praised the high quality of Iranian health products and invited Iranian companies to participate in the medical exhibition in Yerevan this August. Einollahi appreciated the Armenian support and expressed hope for quick implementation of previous agreements through a joint working group.