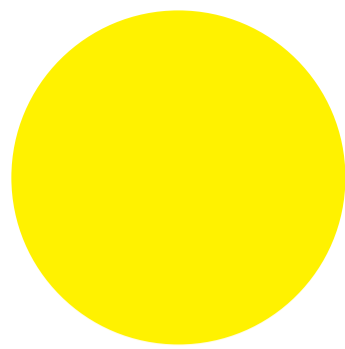


**Putin to Pezeshkian: Russia ready to sign comprehensive deal with Iran**



# Iran Daily

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## French elections and the power balance in Europe



By Jahanbakhsh Izadi  
International affairs expert

### OPINION EXCLUSIVE

In a surprising turn of events, the second round of France's parliamentary elections saw a stunning victory for the left-wing coalition and a defeat for the far rights led by the National Rally. Emmanuel Macron's historic gamble to dissolve parliament paid off, but with a twist. The far right's failure to form a government was a win for Macron, but the rise of the left could also be seen as a setback for his camp, although they don't pose a significant threat compared to the far right.

France has always been a key player in the European Union, balancing the political landscape of the continent. Post-Brexit, its role has extended to security matters as well, solidifying Paris' position within the EU.

The French parliamentary elections, coming hot on the heels of the EU parliamentary elections across member states, carry significance in shaping the political arrangements of Europe, especially given the recent successes of right-wing parties in both contexts.

These right-wing factions have already formed governments in several countries, notably Italy. The implications of a strong right-wing presence reverberate throughout Europe and beyond.

Europeans were concerned about the far-right parties' anti-immigration policies and their close ties to Russia. Therefore, if the far rights were to secure a decisive victory in France and form a government, their success in France would be heralded as a triumph across Europe.

However, with the defeat of the far-right National Rally in France, a power balance has emerged within the EU, curbing the rise of the right to some extent.

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# France in limbo after Macron gamble deepens political deadlock

France was faced with an unsettling political vacuum Monday after snap elections called by President Emmanuel Macron to reshape the political landscape failed to clear a path to a new government.

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Supporters light red flares during the election night of left-wing party La France Insoumise (LFI) following the first results of the second round of France's legislative election in Paris on July 7, 2024.

● SAMEER AL-DOUMY/AFP

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## Iranian film 'Cold Sigh' wins at Italian festival

Iranian shutterbug Masoud Amini Tirani won the Best Cinematography Award at the 22nd Ischia Global Film Festival in Italy for his work on the film 'Cold Sigh.' The jury praised Tirani's "powerful debut," stating that the film's strength lies in its stark cinematography, brilliantly highlighting the protagonist's emotions and complex relationship with his father, ILNA wrote.



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## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Iran exports first freight via sea-rail combined transport



The first cargo using sea-rail combined transport has been exported from Caspian Port to the Caspian Sea littoral countries.

The Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Group made the announcement on Monday, IRNA reported.

Iran is to export 400,000 metric tons of domestically produced cement from this route annually.

Iran's caretaker president Mohammad Mokhber inaugurated the Rasht-Caspian railway line in the presence of other officials on June 20.

Earlier, Iran's Minister of Roads and Urban Development Mehrdad Bazrpash described the railway's opening as a historic development that will significantly boost the country's cargo transit capacities.

## Kharg Island's NGL project makes 75% progress



Kharg Special District Governor of Bushehr County said that the Kharg NGL project, which is being built with the aim of reducing the burning emissions of the island to zero has made 75% progress.

Mohammadreza Dashtizadeh said on Monday that the project is being implemented with a credit of €350 million by the private sector, IRNA reported.

He added that with the launch of the NGL project, Kharg Island will generate €500 million in annual income for the country.

Dashtizadeh further said that 100 percent of the staff and engineers in the project are Iranian as 80 percent of the employees are from Bushehr Province.

The managing director of the Persian Gulf Bidboland Gas Refinery announced on June 30 that Iran will inaugurate seven projects on gathering associated gases, worth \$400 million by September 21.

Mahmoud Amin-Nejad added that by launching the projects, a sum of 16 gas flares will be turned off in the East Karoun region as 250 million cubic feet of gas will be processed to be used as feedstock.



## Mokhber sends bill for strategic economic pact with Syria to Parliament

Iran's Acting President Mohammad Mokhber sent a bill on a long-term strategic economic cooperation agreement between the Islamic Republic and Syria to the Parliament on Monday.

According to Article 77 of Iran's Constitution, any treaty, convention, contract, and international agreement between Iran and other countries or international institutions must be approved by the Parliament, IRNA reported. This bill was approved by the

Cabinet on June 16. It was proposed by the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development, which leads the Iran-Syria Joint Economic Commission.

The cooperation agreement with Syria will last 20 years and can be extended.

Meanwhile, the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) was sent to the Iranian Parliament for approval.

The FTA is aimed at strengthening the relations and multilateral cooperation between Iran and the EAEU member states, creating suitable conditions for the development and facilitation of cooperation and mutual trade-economic relations and increasing business opportunities based on mutual trust.

Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Russia are the five member states of the Minsk-headquartered organization.

## Iran-Pakistan border trade committee opens in Zahedan



The 11th meeting of the Joint Border Trade Committee of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan opened in the southeastern Iranian city of Zahedan on Monday, where the two sides pursue the increase of bilateral trade by \$10 billion per annum.

Pakistan's Ambassador to Iran Muhammad Mudasir Tipu, who attended the meeting online, announced that Iranian and Pakistani delegations are scheduled to discuss the mechanism to increase

mutual trade, IRNA reported.

The Islamic Republic of Iran's consul general in Quetta, Pakistan's consul general in Zahedan, and other senior officials of Sistan and Baluchestan Province took part in the meeting.

Such joint meetings are held to pave the way for reviewing obstacles, removing barriers, and developing trade and economic relations between the two friendly and neighboring countries.

The two sides make the necessary coordination to help improve trade and economic ties, exchange economic delegations, organize joint exhibitions, attract bilateral investment, and establish joint industrial centers and retail markets.

Specialized bilateral panels, including commercial, customs, banking, transportation, fisheries and agriculture affairs, will be held, and then, the two sides will sign a joint memorandum of understanding.

## Pakistan backs joint investments

The head of the Pakistani delegation to the 11th meeting of the Joint Border Trade Committee said that Islamabad strongly supports the development of joint markets and investment, which can increase the level of trust between the two nations. Irfan Javed added that Pakistan also calls for cooperation in the field of transportation because it can affect the livelihood of the people who are living in border regions.

## Oil rallies for four weeks ahead of OPEC, EIA reports



Oil market rallied for four consecutive weeks, pushing energy costs higher across the world amidst geopolitical tensions and US lower inventories. Despite positive demand outlook, there is risk that supply side will be tightened. Production from the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and allied producers amounted to around 27 million bpd in June, with a few members including

Iraq exceeding output quotas, wrote dmarketforces.com.

Analysts expressed view that oil prices have remained relatively well supported amid continued hurricane activity in the US Gulf of Mexico.

A shift in Hurricane Beryl's path puts refinery infrastructure in Texas at risk, according to ING commodities strategists note on Monday. The oil market managed

to eke out its fourth consecutive weekly gain with Brent settling marginally higher on the week, ING said, adding that Hurricane activity in the Gulf of Mexico has provided some support.

Hurricane Beryl has recently shifted course and is moving towards Texas. While this puts some offshore oil and gas production at risk, the concern when the storm makes landfall is the potential impact it could have on refinery infrastructure.

Any meaningful disruptions to Texas refinery operations will likely support refined product cracks, ING said. Any prolonged refinery outages would be bearish for crude oil and bullish for refined products. There is plenty

on the energy calendar today with all three key agencies releasing their latest outlooks. The EIA will release its Short-Term Energy Outlook on Tuesday, which will include its latest forecasts for US oil and gas production as well as its outlook for the global oil market.

Also, Wednesday will see OPEC publish its monthly oil market report. The market will be watching closely to see whether the group makes any downward revisions to its oil demand growth forecasts. In recent months the divergence between OPEC and the IEA on the demand outlook has grown, analysts noted. The IEA will release its latest monthly oil market report on Thursday.

## PIVEX 2024 Exhibition kicks off in Tehran



The Ninth Iran International Exhibition of Pipes Fittings, Sanitary Valves, Kitchen, Bath, Sauna, Related Industries and Services entitled PIVEX 2024 was inaugurated in Tehran on Monday.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by Head of Economic Department of the Leader's Office Ali Aqa-Mohammadi, Deputy Minister of Labor, Cooperatives and Social Welfare Sohbatoollah Rahmani, and Deputy Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade Mehdi Baradaran and industrialists, IRNA reported. A sum of 138 domestic and foreign companies are showcasing their latest products and achievements in the fields of sanitary faucets, kitchen equipment, bathrooms, sauna, Jacuzzi, and related services.

The exhibition aims to provide a platform for presenting the latest products in the industry of pipes and fittings, machines and related equipment, valves, pumps, and filters by creating an environment for interac-

tion between domestic and foreign activists, supporting producers, elites, and activists of these industries. The exhibition will run through July 11, 2024.

IRNA also reported that the 23rd edition of the Exhibition of Poultry & Livestock & Related Industries entitled 'Iran PLEX 2024' will be held in the Iranian capital on July 20.

Domestic and foreign companies from across the world will take part in the exhibition.

It will serve as a platform for activists working in the poultry and livestock industry to get more familiar with the latest achievements and technologies in the field.

A wide range of products and services related to this industry, including livestock and poultry, livestock and poultry feed, equipment and machinery, dairy products, medicine and vaccine, packaging and processing, and financial and banking services will be displayed in this edition of the exhibition.

Iran PLEX 2024 will run through July 23.



# Ancient Iranian traditions at the dawn of summer



karnaval.ir

Ancient Iranian people celebrated the beginning of every season in groups, including summer. During that period, an indicator of the start of summer and the summer solstice was the solar structures (solar calendars), such as *chahar taqi*. The sun could be observed from a specific angle between the columns of these structures during sunrise when the new cycle of the four seasons began. An example of these *chahar taqi* structures can be found in Niasar of Kashan, Isfahan Province.

According to the Gahanbars calendar (meaning "proper season" and being the oldest known calendar in Iran, dividing the year into four seasons and four semi-seasons), the commencement of summer marked the start of the new year and has persisted in the Tabari calendar.

At the onset of summer, the sun rises from its highest position on the northeast horizon and sets at its highest point on the northwest horizon. During that era, people had a particular reverence for cosmic phenomena and integrated

them into their daily lives, rituals, and beliefs, with many ceremonies and celebrations taking place at this time. While the memory of many of these ceremonies has faded over time, the beginning of summer is still celebrated as *Ab Pashoonak* (Splashing Water) in Arak, Farahan, Mahallat, and many other cities in central Iran. This celebration is known as *Avval Toestooni* (the beginning of summer), with many participants engaging in the ceremony by splashing water on each other.

There are numerous hypotheses and theories regarding this celebration. For instance, it is said that there was a time when Iran experienced a seven-year drought, leading Firooz, the son of Yazdgerd, the Iranian king, to fear famine and death. However, no one perished from hunger, and following the first rainfall, people were so overjoyed that they expressed gratitude to God by splashing water on each other. Another hypothesis suggests that after a victorious battle, an Iranian king re-

turned home joyfully on the first day of summer. Upon reaching the qanat of Zolf Abad (located in Markazi Province), he envisioned a woman splashing water, which brought him great delight, prompting him to splash water on the faces of his companions.

Other forgotten ceremonies at the start of summer include a ritual on the sixth day of Tir (the fourth month of the solar calendar and the first month of summer), referenced by Abu Reyhan Al-Biruni, known as the "Ceremony of Lotus," which was associated with the blooming of lotus flowers at the beginning of summer.

People from Savadkooh and other mountainous regions in Tabarestan celebrated by lighting fires in the mountains. The ritual of *Goje Aroos* (Bride Tomato) or *Gol Aroos* (Bride Flower) was observed in some parts of Khorasan and western Afghanistan, where the beginning of summer was celebrated by offering fruits, flour, and rock candy to newlywed brides.



tikban.com



tacharabook.ir

## Historical Javaheri House in Isfahan, a workshop for renowned jewelers

### Iranica Desk

In a corner of Ibn Sina Street in Isfahan, amidst one of the narrow alleys lined with mud walls, overlooking the bazaar and its turquoise minarets, stands proudly the historic Javaheri House. This distinguished house has served as both a residence and a workplace for renowned Isfahan jewelers. The square-shaped structure and distinctive courtyard architecture are

reminiscent of the Qajar era. The captivating design features halls, alcoves, porches, and intricately decorated courtyards adorned with plaster decorations and paintings, enhancing the allure of this house.

Since 2007, the Javaheri House has been repurposed into a workshop for artisans from Isfahan, showcasing 15 traditional arts and crafts of the region, including wood-engraving, jewelry-making, pottery, enam-

el-working, filigree, gilding, traditional design, leather painting, and locksmithing. Recognized as a key tourist attraction in Isfahan, the house is currently undergoing restoration. Nurollah Abdollahi, the deputy of the Isfahan Province's Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Organization, said in an interview with ISNA that once the restoration is completed, the previous handicraft activities will resume, with a focus on promot-

ing these crafts through this historic establishment.

The Javaheri House includes two inner courtyards with small gardens, residential rooms, and jewelry workshops. The building's walls are adorned with artistic patterns and hand-painted designs, using floral motifs in the ceilings and doors. The Javaheri House features a spacious inner courtyard, meticulously crafted to provide comfort and tran-

quility for its residents. This central courtyard is rectangular in shape, flanked by two additional courtyards. With over 20 rooms boasting diverse designs and patterns, the Javaheri House ensures adaptability and customization to suit the residents' needs. Additionally, the house offers dedicated service spaces for its residents, such as bathrooms, a kitchen, and a bakery room located on the upper floors.



ISNA



tabnakjavan.com



zarifa.ir



# Tehran-Manama détente benefits Mideast

By Ebrahim Beheshti  
Staff writer

**INTERVIEW  
EXCLUSIVE**

The presence of a high-ranking delegation from Bahrain at the funeral ceremony of the late president and foreign minister of Iran was a clear sign of the country's desire to get relations back on track with Tehran. Ties between the two neighbors were cut in 2016, following the severing of diplomatic relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran. Now, two years after Tehran and Riyadh patched things up and normalized their relations, Manama is making a U-turn toward Tehran's embrace. Iran Daily discussed the shift in Manama's approach with Jafar Qannadbashi, an expert on Middle East issues.

**IRAN DAILY:** How do you evaluate the policy of the late Iranian president Ebrahim Raisi in building bridges with its neighboring countries? Has it delivered positive results?

**QANNADBASHI:** The Raisi government's adoption of the "good neighborliness" policy was a fresh development in the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic. Surprisingly, the groundwork for the implementation of this strategy was swiftly laid as well. This policy yielded positive results for Iran in terms of reinvigorating and bolstering ties and collaboration with its neighbors. More importantly, this strategy also factored in economic cooperation. As a result, under the umbrella of this good neighborliness policy, Iran's economic relations and the quality of its trade exchanges with neighboring states improved.

Previously, Iran had to source some of its needs from distant countries, whereas it could have procured them from neighboring nations such as Pakistan, Turkmenistan, and Turkey. The previous government's foreign policy approach made it possible to tap into the capabilities of neighboring countries for mutual benefit. This strategy was well-received, particularly in the Persian Gulf region and the neighboring Arab countries, and served Iran's interests.

**Objectively, one of the most notable outcomes of Iran's good neighborliness policy was the normalization of its relations with Saudi Arabia. Has the revival of ties between Tehran and Riyadh facilitated the improvement of Tehran's relations with other Arab countries in the region?**

Indeed, Saudi Arabia carries significant weight within both the Arab League and the Gulf Cooperation Council. So, Riyadh's policies, particularly in the realm of foreign and regional affairs, carry influence over the politics of other Arab countries. It was only natural that with the normalization of relations between Tehran and Riyadh, the groundwork would be laid for strengthening cooperation between other Arab countries and Iran.

In effect, Iran's regional standing and the authenticity of its intentions in fostering peace and stability in the Middle East were demonstrated to other nations, especially Saudi Arabia, prompting them to turn towards Tehran and reconsider some of their previous misguided stances and policies. This shift in policy did not exclusively affect Iran as the Arab League opened its arms for Syria's return after some years.

**Why has Bahrain, as one of the member countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council that followed Saudi Arabia in severing diplomatic ties with Tehran, been slow to re-engage with Iran and restore relations?**

The situation with Bahrain differs somewhat from that of other Arab countries. Bahrain is home to a significant Shia population, many of whom have grievances towards the government, and many of whom have been arrested and imprisoned. Additionally, the Bahraini government has established political relations with Israel, contrary to the wishes of its Muslim populace.

As a result, the restoration of relations between Bahrain and Iran presents complexities. In my view, Tehran



Bahraini Foreign Minister Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani (2nd-R) shakes hand with Iran's acting Foreign Minister Ali Bagheri Kani in Tehran on May 23, 2024, during the funeral ceremony of Iran's late President Ebrahim Raisi.  
FOREIGN MINISTRY OF BAHRAIN

should bring up some of the misguided policies and positions of Bahrain in its dialogues with Bahraini authorities and, among other things, call for the fair treatment of Shia in Bahrain.

**The attendance of a delegation from Bahrain at the funeral ceremony of Iran's late president and late foreign minister was a clear indication of Bahrain's desire to**

**reinstatement of diplomatic ties with Tehran. What, in your opinion, are the reasons behind this extension of an olive branch and Bahrain's re-engagement with Iran?**

Even before the burial ceremony of president Raisi, the Bahrainis had conveyed their wish to restore political relations with Iran. Again, one of the reasons for this involves Saudi Arabia. When the older brother normalizes relations with Tehran, the younger brother is likely to follow suit. Another factor is linked to the public sentiment in Bahrain and other Arab countries concerning the issue of Palestine and Israel. The people in these Arab countries stand with and support the Palestinian cause and oppose Israel, naturally pressuring their governments to do more for Palestine. On the other hand, Iran leads the way among Islamic countries in backing Palestine. So, Arab governments, especially those few that have established relations with Israel, develop ties with Iran to justify their positions to their citizens and strike a balance. A further reason could be that Bahrain and other Arab countries are concerned about the diminishing American support for them and the reduction of its presence in the region. As such, they see the benefit of fostering good relations with Iran as a prominent regional power.

**Does the improvement of Bahrain's political relations with Iran carry economic benefits for both sides,**

**or do security and political considerations take precedence in the significance of these relations?**

At any rate, political relations typically encourage the development of economic cooperation. In this case, however, Iran and Bahrain don't present significant economic opportunities for each other. Bahrain can easily meet its needs from other sources. It isn't a sizeable consumer market for Iranian goods, either.

Bahrain's significance lies in its membership in the Gulf Cooperation Council. It is the only member that has yet to normalize relations with Tehran, and this détente is the missing piece in Tehran's relations with the council. In essence, restoring Bahrain's ties with Iran strengthens cooperation between the council and Iran and can pave the way for new collective endeavors that will benefit the region. Overall, it's fair to say that the previous government's good neighborliness policy, coupled with Iran's regaining of its influential position in the region and the late foreign minister Amir-Abdollahian's proactive foreign policy efforts, laid the groundwork for the revival and enhancement of relations between Iran and its neighbors. The fact that Bahrain is taking steps towards Iran, albeit with some delay, should be viewed as a positive sign in this regard. It is hoped that the expanding regional cooperation will advance the interests of the people in the region within an atmosphere of peace and stability.



A Bahraini woman holds a placard that says in Arabic, "No Sunni, No Shia, National Unity," while others around her wave the country's flag. A significant portion of Bahrain's Muslim population consists of Shia Muslims.

DOHA NEWS



# Iran-Bahrain talks on horizon signal more sunset on US hegemony

**By Graham E. Fuller**  
Former senior CIA official

**OPINION**

*In a seemingly minor diplomatic event in the Persian Gulf, the Kingdom of Bahrain has just agreed to begin talks with Iran to reestablish long-broken diplomatic relations between the two countries. While Bahrain is a small island in the Gulf with little latitude in policies largely controlled by its giant neighbor, Saudi Arabia, this event carries greater significance than may readily meet the eye. For starters, Bahrain happens to be the headquarters of the American Fifth Fleet with security responsibilities for the Gulf, the Red Sea, and the Arabian Sea. Any Bahraini rapprochement with Iran will be unsettling for Washington, which might even move to try to block it. Bahrain is also an oppressive regime run by a Sunni minority that has harshly suppressed its majority Shia population. The Shia majority has long been restive under these policies of discrimination, much abetted by a fiercely anti-Iranian Saudi Arabia that dominates Bahrain's foreign policy.*

Indeed, this situation has been part and parcel of a broader pattern of American policies globally that has routinely sought to identify enemies in various regions in order to establish and maintain favorable "security arrangements" in any area in question. In the Persian Gulf, Iran has long been designated the "enemy" of choice and Washington's Gulf policy has been centered around rallying regional military and political opposition against Iran — heavily supported and encouraged by Israel.

Unsurprisingly, Iran has reciprocated in kind by lending support to various groups in the region as counter-balancing instruments against American power. Never mind that a significant case can be made that the US did not have to maintain on auto-pilot its anti-Iranian hostility for 45 years, but such a policy has served Washington's regional strategic and military hegemony well. (Readers of history will know that once the United States has identified and declared another state to be on an "enemy list," it is exceedingly difficult to get off.) Thus, a cornerstone of American Gulf policy for decades was the establishment of a military presence in the region in order to "protect the free flow of oil". Never mind that virtually every anti-American dictator in the region was happy to sell their oil to the world and the "free flow of oil" almost never needed protection.

The first deep hole in that American military and strategic "wall" was made by the Chinese who two years ago orchestrated an astonishing rapprochement long viewed as nearly inconceivable by pseudo-experts because "everybody knows" that Sunnis and Shias are mortal enemies. The Beijing-engineered diplomatic rapprochement between the Saudis and Iran was the first stunning indication of major shifting geopolitical realities in the Gulf.

Now, with the prospect of Bahrain mending ties with Tehran, we can see more clearly the shift that the Chinese (and Russian) presence in the Persian Gulf is affording. Bahrain could never have undertaken such a shift without Saudi concurrence as well — which had itself just preceded Bahrain in de-demonizing Iran.

In one sense, much of this is reminiscent of the revolutionary turnaround in Turkish regional policy over three decades under the inspired leadership of academician and former foreign minister Ahmet Davutoglu, who declared a new "zero enemies" foreign policy for a Turkey that would undertake to mend relations with all surrounding countries (that had long been hostile in the NATO or other contexts.)

Davutoglu was held in much contempt in Washington precisely because such a stance was seen to be undermining NATO policies of "enemy identification" used to justify the military alliance. (Indeed, there is virtually no independent European foreign policy today permitted to exist outside the structures of American-dominated NATO.)

But approaches such as Davutoglu's striving for "zero enemies" have given pause for thought as to whether "intractable" hostilities in the region might not just turn out to be manageable after all, especially if one assumes countries have agency to alter negative or hostile postures.

Indeed, in this regard, one questions the



Iran's acting Foreign Minister Ali Bagheri Kani (R) meets with Bahraini Foreign Minister Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani in Tehran on July 23, 2024, on the sidelines of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) summit. [mfa.gov.ir](http://mfa.gov.ir)

very foundation of so much of American policy that is so heavily based on the "identification of enemies" requiring ever-deeper military engagement and confrontation.

Meanwhile, the latest events serve to strengthen to some degree Iran's legitimacy as a significant regional actor consistent with its new membership, along with Saudi Arabia, in the BRICS bloc — an organization very much part of the emergence of a new Global South.

Of course, there can be no millennium on the horizon with peace breaking out all over. In international relations, it is im-

possible to have everybody in full harmony with everybody else all the time and a total absence of conflict.

Yet, it is certainly a worthy aspiration for states to make the assumption that hostility does not have to be automatic or reflexive, that states indeed do have agency and can make major decisions about whether to foster improvement or exacerbation of their relations with other countries.

But the United States, currently possessing the world's most ideological foreign policy, at least since the fall of the Soviet Union ("global war on terror;" "bringing de-

mocracy to the world via regime change," etc.), might well take a page out of this book in its own relations, with Russia and China for starters.

Diplomacy, a seemingly lost art in Washington today, was designed specifically to lubricate such tensions rather than exacerbate them. Yet, exacerbation seems to be the course Washington often follows to maintain the vision of enemies that require American military solutions and American hegemony.

*The article first appeared on Responsible Statecraft.*



The map shows the Persian Gulf and all its littoral states, including Iran and Bahrain.



# New era for Reds as Spanish coach Garrido enters unknown territory



By Amirhadi Arsalanpour  
Staff writer

At first glance, the Persepolis job seems to be an ideal one for Spanish head coach Juan Carlos Garrido, who was officially unveiled as the Reds' new boss on Sunday. Having spent the best of his managerial career in the Middle East and North Africa region, the Spaniard takes over at a club that lifted a seventh Persian Gulf Pro League trophy in eight years last month – finishing runner-up to Esteghlal on the other occasion – while winning double Iranian cup titles and reaching the final showpiece of AFC Champions League twice in that period. Still, the Reds' supporters are far from finding out if the former Villarreal coach's appointment will be a success story or it will turn out to be the beginning of the end for the club's domestic dominance. When interim coach Osmar Loss Vieira refused to extend his contract in June, Persepolis faithful longed

for a prominent figure on their team's bench for the upcoming season. Several high-profile names in Italian Walter Mazzarri, Ajax coach John van 't Schip, and ex-Iran manager Dragan Skocic were brought up in the media for the role but the club ended up introducing a rather unfamiliar face in Garrido, whose trophy cabinet has been limited to a couple of titles with Egypt's Al Ahly and Moroccan club Raja Casablanca in the CAF Confederation Cup – the second-tier club competition in Africa – and now club hierarchy hope the fans will show patience with the Spaniard in the early stages of his reign. Garrido, meanwhile, will have to be up to the challenges facing him in the new job. The supporters and pundits will be quick to make comparisons between the team's performances under Garrido, who promised an attacking brand of football in his first press conference, and some free-flowing, offensive displays delivered on the Reds' best days under



New Persepolis head coach Juan Carlos Garrido (L) is seen in his first press conference in Tehran, Iran, on July 8, 2024.  
FARSNEWS

his predecessors Brank Ivanovic, Yahya Golmohammadi, and Osmar in recent years. The Spanish coach inherits an aging squad, which had to

ride the winning mentality among the players in coming out on top in the past two closely-contested title races, not to mention several

instrumental players are on their way out of the club. Goalkeeper Alireza Beiranvand and his fellow-Iranian international Mahdi Tora-

bi, the two linchpins of the team's success in recent years, are on the verge of signing for Tractor, with first-choice right-back Da-

nial Esmaeilifar set to join them in northwest Iran. Qatari fullback Abdelkarim Hassan, who made undeniable contribution to the title run since joining Persepolis in January, is also believed to be keen on returning to his home country, and Uzbek winger Oston Urunov will miss the best part of the preseason due to international commitment in the Paris Olympics. Having already set about their summer transfer business, Esteghlal, Sepahan, and Tractor are expected to form another four-horse race for the title alongside Persepolis when the new campaign kicks off in late August, whilst Garrido will have less than two months to get to know the players at his disposal and instill his gameplans. In the meantime, club CEO Reza Darvish and technical director Hossein Badamaki will have to make sure the new signings will arrive in time to fit in the Spanish's tactics and formation ahead of what will be a hectic domestic and continental fixtures list for the club.



iranbbfir

## Iranian bodybuilders dominate Asian Championships

### Sports Desk

The Iranian bodybuilding team cruised to the men's title at the IFBB Asian Championships in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, thanks to a remarkable 25 medals – including 15 golds – across different age and height categories. Abolfazl Behzadi, Mobin Karimi, Seyyed Vahid Hosseini, Yasser Bekhrad, Amin Roshanaei, and Reza Beiranvand walked away with the ultimate prize of their respective weight classes in the bodybuilding contests, while Farshad

Ebadi and Mohsen Kohanjameh grabbed a couple of golds in the classic bodybuilding events. Abolfazl Hajibaqer and Hossein Farhang (physique), Hamid Gomeyzi (classic physique), Abolfazl Sedqi (master bodybuilding 40-44 years), Akbar Biklari (muscular physique open), Omid Zakeri (fitness open), and Mostafa Ezzati (fitness challenge) were also among the Iranian gold winners in the four-day event. There were further glories for veteran bodybuilder Kohanjameh and Ezzati, as

the former settled for two silver medals in the classic bodybuilding 40-49 years open and classic physique over 175cm contests, with the latter adding a fitness challenge silver to his personal tally. Mehran Raisi (men's bodybuilding +90kg) and Ali Safari (classic bodybuilding up to 171cm) also finished their campaigns with a silver medal. Sedqi, meanwhile, was handed a second medal when he finished third to Beiranvand and Raisi in the bodybuilding +90kg class – joining Seyyed Moham-

ad-Hassan Bohlouli (classic physique up to 175cm), Salar Honarmand (physique up to 176cm), and Ali Shafiei (fitness model open) in leaving the Mongolian capital with a bronze. The Iranian 22-man squad tallied 291 points for the top spot in the men's team table, followed by China and Japan, which finished on 258 and 221 points respectively. Iran also finished atop the male seniors' table with 263 points, with China (196pts) and Japan (135pts) completing the top three.

## France team shrug off critics as they look ahead to semis

REUTERS – France's players are having none of the criticism of their team at the European Championship after reaching the semi-final, insisting they have done sufficiently well to get them this far in the tournament. The French are through to the final four despite having only three goals – two own goals and a penalty – to their name and with much concern about the form of captain Kylian Mbappe and the vastly experienced Antoine Griezmann. "Personally, I don't care at all. In the end, we are semi-finalists," said midfielder Youssouf Fofana at a press conference on Sunday. He was one of the successful penalty takers in Hamburg on Friday as France edged Portugal on post-match kicks to advance to Tuesday's semi-final against Spain in Munich.

"As to the level of Antoine and Kylian, we must realise that it has been enough to get us to be semi-finalists. I don't see why we should look for the negative. "We need to pull in the same direction in order to lift the trophy, not worry that so-and-so is not in form or that the way we have been playing has not been good, because in the end, it's been enough to get us to the semis," Fofana added. Randal Kolo Muani, who was started against Portugal in the attack, backed Mbappe to still come good. "I wouldn't say he's had a poor tournament. He had a huge season, he scored more than 45 goals. Seeing him not score here, it's up to us to help him, to push him. The competition is not over. Apart from his broken nose, he's OK physically." Mbappe did net a penalty,

in the group game against Poland, but has not looked comfortable in a mask since breaking his nose at the start of France's campaign. Both players also rejected suggestions the level at Euro 2024 had proven disappointing. "Disappointing? I wouldn't say that. It's difficult to score, but I don't find it disappointing," said Kolo Muani. "Today's football is much more closed, much more tactical, played more without the ball," added Fofana. "It really is a game of chess." As for the semi-final against Spain, Kolo Muani said the French would be up to the task. "The matches are going to get harder and harder. They are one of the best teams in the tournament, playing very good football. We like big matches. We'll be ready by Tuesday."



France players celebrate after the quarter-final victory over Portugal in Euro 2024 in Hamburg, Germany, on July 5, 2024.  
GETTY IMAGES





# Putin to Pezeshkian: Russia ready to sign comprehensive deal with Iran



Vladimir Putin

## International Desk

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday congratulated Masoud

Pezeshkian on his election as the president of Iran, expressing hope that relations between the two countries, which

are at their highest level, would continue during his presidency. Putin made the remarks during a phone conversation with Iran's new chief executive.

Referring to increasing cooperation between Iran and Russia, especially in the fields of energy and transportation, the Russian president expressed his country's readiness to sign a new comprehensive cooperation agreement on the sidelines of the next meeting of the BRICS group of emerging economies in Russia. Putin invited Pezeshkian to participate in the meeting which is set to be held in the southwestern Russian city of Kazan. Pezeshkian, for his part, said Iran's attaches great

importance to the relations with the friendly and neighboring country of Russia and will undoubtedly strengthen these relations.

The president-elect emphasized his government's determination on implementation of the agreements signed between the two countries under the late Iranian president Ebrahim Raisi, who died in a helicopter crash in May.

Also on Monday, Pezeshkian held a separate phone call with his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

During the talks, both sides discussed bilateral relations between the two neighboring countries as well as regional and international issues. Pezeshkian was elect-



Masoud Pezeshkian

ed as the country's new president in the runoff election on Friday. Pezeshkian garnered more than 16 million

votes out of over 30 million ballots cast in the presidential runoff election, which was held on July 5.

## Israel's deterrence eroded to zero due to resistance attacks:

### Ex-minister



Munich Security Conference (MSC)

## International Desk

Avigdor Liberman, Israel's former minister of military affairs, said the regime's "deterrence has been eroded to zero" due to attacks by resistance movements. Liberman made the remarks during a recent interview with Israeli newspaper Arutz Sheva.

"We have won many tactical gains, but we accumulated a greater strategic loss. We have eroded our deterrence down to zero," Liberman said. He added that Iranians are telling Israel that there will be no peace in the north until there is a ceasefire in the south.

Referring to attacks by resistance movements in Yemen, Iraq and Syria on Israel, he said, "They are firing at us from every direction. That means that our deterrence has been eroded to zero."

Since the beginning of Israel's brutal war on the Gaza Strip in October last year, resistance groups across the region have launched various operations against the regime and its Western backers to support Palestinians in Gaza.

The resistance groups say they will continue their retaliatory attacks until the regime ends its bloodshed in the Palestinian territory. Attacks by the Islamic Resistance in Iraq have targeted Israeli positions and major American military bases in Syria and Iraq over the US support for Israel's onslaught on Gaza.

Meanwhile, Hezbollah resistance movement in Lebanon has been exchanging fire with the Israeli occupation army on a daily basis since the start of the regime's war on Gaza. Yemen's Ansarallah resistance movement has also been launching attacks on Israeli-bound ships in the Red Sea to support Palestinians. Israel started its genocidal war on Gaza on October 7, 2023 after the territory's resistance fighters carried out Operation al-Aqsa Storm against the regime in retaliation for its intensified atrocities against the Palestinian people.

The regime has also imposed a complete siege on the territory, cutting off fuel, medicine, electricity, food, and water to the more than two million Palestinians living there. More than 38,000 Palestinians – mostly women and children – have been killed in Israel's attacks so far.

## Iran to respond positively to positive steps in int'l relations: FM spox

## National Desk

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani said that Tehran would give a positive response to any positive step, stressing that some European countries' unconstructive behavior has hindered progress of relations with these countries.

Kanaani made the remarks in response to a question about the EU and the US announcement of their readiness for expansion of relations with the Islamic Republic following Iran's presidential election. He said that Iran is ready to expand relations with different countries, including the European ones,

based on constructive interaction.

Kanaani also said diplomatic channels between Iran and the US are open and negotiations between the two countries are underway.

"We use all diplomatic capacities to realize the rights of the nation," he told reporters at his

weekly press conference on Monday.

He said Iran is pursuing a rational foreign policy based on interaction with different countries while observing the dignity of the country and the nation, focusing on its good neighborliness policy, and using multilateral capacities.

Regarding relations with China, Kanaani said that Iran will continue its relations with the Asian country as one of the important countries in the world. The foreign ministry's spokesman underlined that Iran's relations with different countries and friendly governments follow the general policies

of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Iranians elected Masoud Pezeshkian as the country's new president in the runoff election on Friday. Pezeshkian will supplant late president Ebrahim Raisi, who lost his life in a tragic chopper crash in northwestern Iran on May 19.

## France in limbo after Macron gamble deepens political deadlock

France was faced with an unsettling political vacuum Monday after snap elections called by President Emmanuel Macron to reshape the political landscape failed to clear a path to a new government. The left-wing New Popular Front (NPF) won most seats in Sunday's second-round parliamentary vote, beating both Macron's centrists and Marine Le Pen's far-right National Rally (RN). But no group wields an outright majority and

no obvious candidate for prime minister has emerged.

Many in France were overjoyed by the outcome, and cheering crowds gathered in eastern Paris to celebrate Le Pen's defeat, but potentially divisive talks on forming a new government were just beginning, three weeks before Paris hosts the Olympics.

Prime Minister Gabriel Attal visited the Elysee Palace to submit his resignation to Macron, but was

asked to remain in power in a caretaker capacity to see out the Games – and reassure the international community and the markets that France still has a government.

International reaction was muted and mixed.

France's EU partners are relieved that Le Pen's eurosceptic outfit will not come to power, where they could endanger future European integration and western support for Ukraine.



AFP

German chancellor Olaf Scholz's administration was "somewhat relieved over what didn't happen", spokesman Steffen He-

bestreit told reporters in Berlin.

Moscow, meanwhile, tried to mask its disappointment.

## French elections and ...

Outside the EU, the gains of the Labour Party in the UK's parliamentary vote contribute to this balance, despite Britain no longer being an EU member. As a prominent NATO member with strong traditional ties to European countries, the UK still influences the equation.

It remains to be seen whom Macron will tap as prime minister from the coalition ranks, although the left-wing coalition seems to have the upper hand. The composition

and weight of the political forces in the recent French elections indicate that no single party can hold a majority in parliament. Therefore, if Macron fails to create a political balance within France, the country could be headed for social and political upheaval.

The French government sees itself as the guardian of the legacy of the French Revolution, committed to values such as pluralism, justice, equality, freedom, and human rights. Meanwhile, French society has become a diverse tapestry

of cultural, economic, and identity-based demands, making governance a challenging task, as evidenced by the various protest movements in recent years.

So, while France is ripe for destabilizing changes, the recent election results and the left's victory do not signal a deepening of social divides. A far-right victory would have pushed France closer to instability, but the left does not pose a dangerous prospect for either Macron or French society at large.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist





# Iranian film 'Cold Sigh' wins at Italian festival

## Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian shutterbug Masoud Amini Tirani won the Best Cinematography Award at the 22nd Ischia Global Film Festival in Italy for his work on the film 'Cold Sigh.' The jury praised Tirani's "powerful debut," stating that the film's strength lies in its stark cinematography, brilliantly highlighting the protagonist's emotions and complex relationship with his father, ILNA wrote. Founded in 1992, the Ischia festival showcases independent films

and is known for its focus on promoting emerging talents in the industry. This year's jury included renowned film professionals such as Tiina Lokk, founder and director of the Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival, Italian director and actor Maurizio Nichetti, and Jugoslav Pantelić, artistic director of the Belgrade International Film Festival. 'Cold Sigh,' directed by Nahid Sedigh, stars Iman Sedigh and Ali Bagheri in lead roles. The film is internationally distributed by Madakto Pictures, ensuring its reach to a global

audience. Baha, a young man from a border town, learns that Bahram has been released from prison after 20 years. Bahram killed his wife having accused her of cheating on him. Baha decides to take to the road to bring him back from prison himself, reads the synopsis of the film. Masoud Amini Tirani's win at the Ischia festival showcases the exceptional talent of Iranian filmmakers and their ability to fascinate audiences worldwide through powerful visual storytelling.



# Iran tops Islamic countries in Leiden university rankings: *ISC*



Iran topped the list of Islamic countries in the latest global university rankings, according to a report by the Islamic World Science Citation Center (ISC). The Leiden Ranking for 2024 includes 46 Iranian universities, placing the country at the forefront of higher education in the Islamic world, IRNA wrote. Ahmad Fazel-Zadeh, head of the ISC, announced that a total of 1,506 universities worldwide were included in the latest Leiden Ranking, with Iranian institutions maintaining their numbers from the previous year. The top 10 Iranian universities in this global ranking are:

University of Tehran, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tarbiat Modares University, Iran University of Science and Technology, Amirkabir University of Technology, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Sharif University of Technology, University of Tabriz, Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, and Shiraz University. Iranian universities have outperformed those in Turkey, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt, which received the next highest rankings in the Islamic world. The Leiden Ranking is a significant and complex evaluation system that assesses universities based on various sciento-

metric indicators. It considers a wide range of factors, including scientific impact, scientific diplomacy, open access publications, and gender diversity. The ranking uses scientific publications from the WoS database and takes into account articles and review papers published between 2019 and 2022, with citations counted until the end of 2023. Unlike other global ranking systems, Leiden does not assign a single overall rank to universities. Instead, it provides separate scores and ranks for each of its indicators, offering a comprehensive evaluation of institutions across multiple dimensions.

# Iran to host int'l exhibition on educational opportunities

Iran is preparing to host an international exhibition showcasing the country's educational attractions and capabilities. The event, scheduled for late September or October, aims to promote Iranian universities to foreign students. According to exhibition organizer Mohammad-Javad Salmanpour, the event will feature 12 cultural and ed-

ucational programs. Iranian universities will present their programs on teaching the Persian language to non-Iranians, and international students currently studying in Iran will showcase the country's scientific, economic, and cultural achievements, IRNA wrote. "The exhibition will be an opportunity for all stakeholders in the field of international-

ization to interact and engage with each other," added Salmanpour. The exhibition will include a variety of events such as the festival of cultures, a food festival, an art festival, and a gathering of Persian language professors, providing a platform for international students to share their own cultures, traditions, and national

identities, as well as the scientific, economic, and cultural advancements of their home countries. Salmanpour believes that the exhibition will be appealing to a diverse range of audiences, particularly those interested in the expansion of the Persian language and the internationalization of Iranian higher education.



# Iran joins FAO's Global Soil Doctors Programme

Iran has taken a significant step towards promoting sustainable farming practices by joining the Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) Global Soil Doctors Programme. Safdar Niazi, a senior official from the country's Ministry of Agricultural Jihad, announced on Monday that Iran is now a part of this global initiative, IRNA wrote. According to Niazi, Iran's participation in the programme aligns with its plans to cooperate with the Global Soil Partnership. He explained that the Global Soil Doctors Programme is an awareness-raising ini-

tiative that falls under the umbrella of the Global Soil Partnership, which Iran has been actively engaging with since 2020. "The Global Soil Doctors Programme is a farmer-to-farmer training initiative that aims to build the capacity of farmers on sustainable soil management," Niazi emphasized. He added that the programme currently has the participation of 21 countries worldwide. The programme is designed



to organize and disseminate technical knowledge and skills that farmers need through a scientific platform and the use of standard educational tools and methods. By engaging a network of soil specialists, national and regional facilitators, and a community of leading farmers, the initiative aims to promote the principles of sustainable soil management in a simple and accessible manner to farmers in the participating regions. Iran's initial participation in

the programme will be through collaboration between the Deputy of Water and Soil, the Soil and Water Research Institute, and the GSP in select provinces. The country has already been an active contributor to other specialized sub-sections of the GSP, including the World Soil Day (WSD), the Global Soil Laboratory Network (GLOSOLAN), and the International Network for Salt-affected Soils (INSAS). Iran also plans to pursue membership in other technical sub-sections, such as soil biodiversity, fertility and fertilizer analysis, organic matter, and soil pollution, among others.