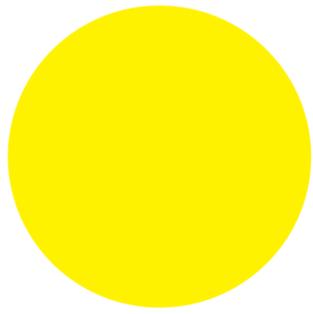


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Will Pezeshkian succeed?

By Ebrahim Beheshti
Staff writer

The focal point of Iran's President-elect

Masoud Pezeshkian during his campaign was bridging domestic divides. In his speeches, he hammered home the idea of a non-partisan, nationally-focused approach to governance. Pezeshkian has called out internal disagreements within the country, stressing that these feuds have been the primary cause of stagnation and difficulties, particularly in the economic sphere.

He has been dead set on carrying out high-level policies like the macro policies declared by the Leader, the 20-year vision document and the seventh development plan as his main program. Of course, he insists that no initiative will see the light of day while disagreements and infighting persist among different parts of the system. Pezeshkian holds the view that even foreign relations and smoothing out controversies between Tehran and other nations hinge on addressing these domestic disputes. The 2015 Iran nuclear deal – with its lack of domestic consensus among the diverse political factions – is a perfect example of this.

A host of Iranian intellectuals and political experts stand behind Pezeshkian's concern, asserting that so long as there's no meeting of the minds on major national issues in Iran, making hard-hitting decisions will continue to be an uphill battle. They believe the president's role should be to bring factions together through dialogue with power players, elites, and experts outside the government. Consequently, many are banking on Pezeshkian to step into the role of the president who fosters consensus, rallying other political factions to play ball with the government.

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An Iranian infant, in her mother's arms, participates in the Husseini Infants Ceremony, held in Tehran on the first Friday of the Islamic month of Muharram, which falls on July 12, 2024. IRNA



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Oil tanker seized by Iran bound for Oman: **Report**

A Chevron-chartered oil tanker seized by Iran more than a year ago was heading toward the Sohar port in Oman, LSEG ship tracking data showed on Friday.

On Thursday, ship tracking data showed the vessel moving to international waters, with the destination showing as Khor Fakkan in the United Arab Emirates, Reuters reported. The Marshall Islands-flagged Advantage Sweet was boarded by Iran's military in the Gulf of Oman in April 2023 after a collision with an Iranian boat.

Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) said in a statement on July 6, 2023 that the Richmond Voyager had ignored basic international maritime laws by escaping the scene of a collision with an Iranian vessel after an incident that happened in international waters in southern Iran a day earlier.

The statement said at the time that five people had been seriously injured in the collision between the Bahamas-flagged tanker and the Iranian ship which was carrying seven crew members when the incident took place. It added that the incident had caused flooding on board the Iranian vessel.

The US State Department welcomed reports that the vessel has been released, an agency spokesperson said. The State Department in March had called for the immediate release of the tanker.

There was no immediate comment from Chevron or Iranian officials on Thursday.

Iraqi FM, US official discuss Iran frozen assets

Iraq has urged the United States to promptly and fairly resolve the issue of Iran's frozen assets, Iraqi Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

During a meeting with the US' Acting Under Secretary for Political Affairs John Bass in Washington, Iraqi Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein emphasized the need for a quick and fair solution to Iran's frozen assets, Mehr news agency quoted the statement as saying. US sanctions have prevented Iran from accessing a huge amount of its assets in foreign banks.

Iran's frozen assets in Iraq amount to billions of dollars. The source made the statement at the time after media reports said Iran and the US had reached a prisoner swap deal that also included the release of Iranian funds held in South Korea.

Iraq has also released \$2.7 billion worth of Iranian funds in gas export money that the Baghdad government owes Tehran, an Iranian official announced last June.

Chairman of the Iran-Iraq Joint Chamber of Commerce Yahya Al-e Es'haq said at the time that a part of Iran's frozen assets in Iraq has been earmarked for the provision of funds needed by Iranian Hajj pilgrims.

Another portion has been used to pay for the provision of basic commodities, the senior Iranian trade official said at the time.

De-dollarization to lift US pressure off economies: **Speaker**

Iran-Russia cooperation to expand further: Putin



Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf stressed that de-dollarization will lift the US pressure off emerging economies.

Addressing the 10th BRICS Parliamentary Forum in the Russian city of St. Petersburg, Qalibaf noted the national currencies swap agreement recently finalized by Tehran and Moscow has become an example of effective cooperation on the path to de-dollarization. "The recent financial agreement between Iran and Russia is a successful example of cooperation in the field of de-dollarization," Tass news agency quotes Qalibaf as saying. Last week, Mohammadreza Farzin, Central Bank of Iran

(CBI) Governor, announced that the swap agreement that enables Iran and Russia to trade in local currencies was finalized.

"The parliaments of the BRICS member states should make every effort to deepen cooperation in creating routes for money transfers and developing trade corridors for the exchange of goods and services between the BRICS countries," Qalibaf said. With de-dollarization being at the top of the agenda, the BRICS Parliamentary Forum kicked off on Thursday. Addressing the two-day event, Qalibaf also reiterated the Islamic Republic's support for a multilateral world system.

"The current world system has failed to take fruitful

measures in the field of solving regional and international disputes, putting an end to wars, conflicts and inequalities," he said.

Qalibaf noted that the Islamic Republic is keen to boost relations with BRICS member countries.

"Iran and its parliament understand that supporting and strengthening relations with BRICS member countries, including this grouping's development, is of paramount importance to them," he stressed.

Qalibaf also hailed the BRICS Parliamentary Forum as an opportunity to enhance cooperation between BRICS members to achieve common goals.

"The BRICS Parliamentary Forum is a very important instrument to develop in-

ternational relations, influence this world, and establish a new world order that would be more open, transparent and would result in more effective cooperation between our countries."

On the sideline of the international forum on Thursday, the Iranian parliament speaker had a meeting with Vladimir Putin, during which the Russian president highlighted his country's willingness for promotion of mutual cooperation with Iran.

Putin called for further expansion of bilateral relations between Moscow and Tehran in various spheres. The Russian president expressed satisfaction over Iran's accession to the BRICS group of emerging

economies, stating that his country had supported the Islamic Republic's membership.

Iran officially became a member of the BRICS at the beginning of this year, five months after it announced its acceptance as full member into the group along with Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, the UAE and Saudi Arabia.

BRICS was formed by and initially consisted of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, which collectively represent around 40% of the global population and a quarter of the world's gross domestic product (GDP).

Iran was among dozens of countries that sought membership in BRICS and had submitted a for-

mal application to join the body.

Putin also hailed growing relations between Moscow and Tehran, stressing that their mutual cooperation will continue to develop under the upcoming Iranian administration led by president-elect Masoud Pezeshkian.

He also said that chairman of Russia's State Duma Vyacheslav Volodin will head a delegation to Iran to take part in Pezeshkian's swearing-in ceremony, which is set to take place on July 30.

Earlier, Qalibaf had a meeting with Volodin and two sides exchanged viewpoints on a host of issues regarding mutual ties as well as regional and international developments.

Sweltering heat forces closure of govt. offices in 15 Iranian provinces



Government offices in 15 provinces out of 31 across Iran were shut on Thursday amid a heatwave that stoked electricity consumption.

The provinces of Alborz, Qazvin, Semnan, Zanjan, Khuzestan, Qom, Bushehr, Markazi, Isfahan, Yazd, Sistan and Baluchestan, Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari, Kerman, South Khorasan and Lorestan were declared shut due to what ISNA described as an "imbalance in electricity production and consumption, as well as rising temperatures and record high usage."

Electricity demand in Iran has surged past 77,000 megawatts, and with temperatures expected to soar further, consumption is likely to continue its upward

trend.

In order to prevent widespread blackouts and planned power cuts in those provinces, Thursday was declared holiday so that "by reducing electricity consumption in offices, the national power grid can be managed and blackouts can be avoided," ISNA wrote.

Electricity shortfall has reached from the warning stage in the media texting messages to citizens.

Tavanir, the state-owned power generation, transmission, and distribution company, has sent out a nationwide warning SMS to subscribers, and on Wednesday, a consumption alert was also issued for Tehran.

In recent days, there have been grievances on social

media about power outages in various Iranian cities, which have disrupted the daily lives of citizens.

Consecutive blackouts in recent days, coupled with Tavanir's warning messages, indicate that a "regular but unannounced" blackout has taken hold in major cities. The power outages come despite assurances last week from Homayoun Haeri, the deputy energy minister for electricity and energy, who stated, "Thanks to the measures and planning that have been carried out, and with the cooperation of electricity industry subscribers, we will not have blackouts this year."

Meanwhile, Iranian media reports indicate that power cuts in some central parts of Tehran have lasted up to four hours. On Wednesday, Tehran's Power Distribution Company issued a notice to domestic consumers and said, "Following an unprecedented rise in temperatures, electricity consumption in the country has skyrocket-

ed, approaching warning levels."

The company further called on subscribers to be "more sensitive" to consumption management issues and contribute to optimizing electricity consumption by implementing simple solutions such as avoiding the simultaneous use of high-consumption appliances such as irons and vacuum cleaners during peak hours (11 a.m. to 5 p.m.) and setting air conditioners to the comfort temperature of 24 degrees Celsius.

In recent years, power outages in Iran have become a major issue, particularly during the hot summer months. In the past, the longest outages typically lasted for about two hours, but this year, they have hit four hours, marking the first time that residents have experienced such prolonged disruptions.

The impact of outages on local industries has been substantial, leading to a growing number of complaints from business and industry owners.

Will Pezeshkian succeed?

That said, this is no cakewalk for him or his government.

Page 1 > Past experiences indicate that concerns over emerging disagreements and pushback against Pezeshkian's domestic and foreign policy initiatives are not unfounded. As such, crossing one's fingers for successful implementation of his programs might be a bit too optimistic.

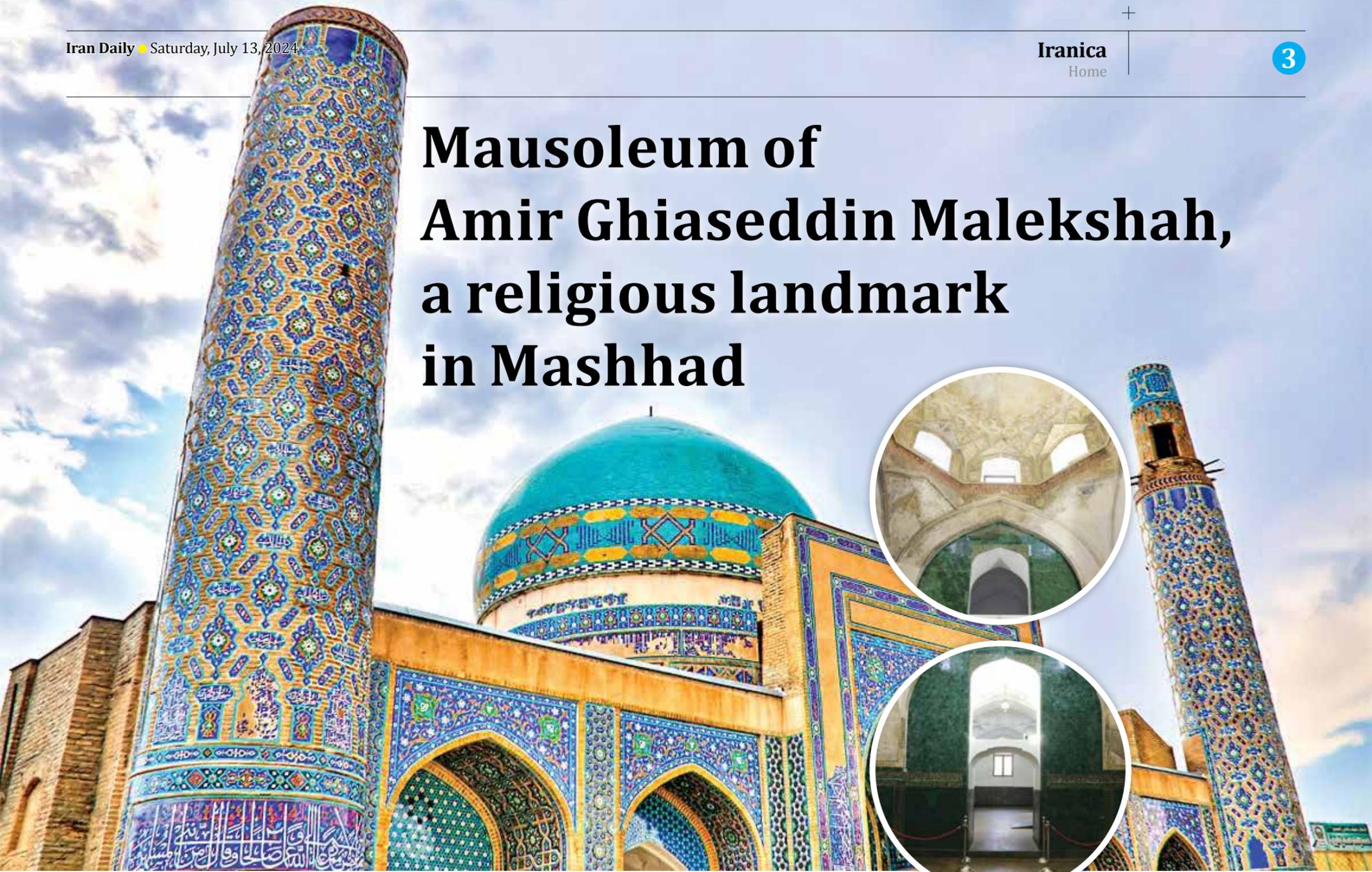
Despite the challenges, several factors make optimism about the president-elect's success more than just wishful thinking. These factors stem from the experiences that various political factions have gone through over the past decades. One of them is the unmet demands of the people, which past governments failed to address, leading to widespread dissatisfaction. Voter turnout below 50% in the 2021 presidential election, parliamentary elections in March, and the first round of the recent presidential election speaks volumes about this discontent.

If not for Pezeshkian's programs and promises of change, it's conceivable that even more voters would have thrown in the

towel this time. Now, the fact that voter turnout has hit 50% has relieved not only Pezeshkian but his defeated rivals, too, all of whom now hope to patch things up between the people and the government and drive up turnout in future elections.

Consequently, the failure of Pezeshkian and his government to deliver on their promises, especially on the economy and increased civil liberties, won't just fall on his shoulders or those of the reformists alone. Instead, the fallout will affect all entities and branches of power, further widening the chasm between the people and their leaders.

It's reasonable to expect, then, that all power players committed to bolstering the Islamic Establishment and improving living conditions will draw from past confrontational policies and rally behind the new government, setting aside differences for the common good. Naturally, such national cooperation demands the new government reciprocate by engaging constructively with its rivals and striking a moderate, inclusive tone. Pezeshkian's political track record shows he is, at heart, a moderate reformist.



destinationiran.com

Mausoleum of Amir Ghiaseddin Malekshah, a religious landmark in Mashhad

Mashhad, the capital city of Khorasan Razavi Province and home to the holy shrine of Imam Reza (PBUH), the eighth Imam of Shia Muslims, is a prominent city in Iran boasting a plethora of religious and historical attractions. During the Afsharid rule, Mashhad served as the capital of Persia, further solidifying its historical significance. One of the notable religious tourist attractions from that period is the mausoleum of Amir Ghiaseddin Malekshah.

Located near the entrance of Mashhad's Grand Bazaar in the

Sarshoor Bazaar area, this historical mausoleum stands close to the revered shrine of Imam Reza (PBUH), offering easy accessibility for visitors. Designated as a national heritage site, the Tomb of Amir Ghiaseddin Malekshah holds rich historical importance, destinationiran.com wrote.

Brief history

Amir Ghiaseddin Malekshah, a prominent figure of the Timurid era, breathed his last in 1452 CE. In the five years succeeding his passing, a tomb was erected to

honor his legacy, now famed as the mausoleum of Amir Ghiaseddin Malekshah. It was built near the culmination of Shahrukh Mirza's rule, the Timurid monarch. With the passage of time, the tomb underwent a transformation into a mosque, presently acknowledged as the 72 Tan Mosque or Shah Mosque.

Architectural features

Spanning approximately 33×20 meters, the mausoleum showcases two minarets, an ivan (portico), a double shell dome, and a four-arched hall. Adorned

with intricate mosaic tiles, most of which have weathered with time, the remaining tiles retain their original color and sheen, dating back to the Timurid and Safavid periods. An engraving of 1742 CE on the entrance door suggests a later addition to the monument.

The mosque showcases intricate decorations, with a particular emphasis on the ivan section. The ivan is adorned with stunning tilework and inscriptions that radiate elegance and charm. The inscriptions, set against a captivating azure backdrop with

delicate white linework in the Thuluth script, enhance the architectural magnificence of the mosque.

Decorative features

The structure includes two minarets in the northern and southern regions, each embellished with intricate stone plinths that have weathered over time. Restoration efforts have been undertaken to preserve and restore the minarets, ensuring their original grandeur is retained. The dome, adorned with turquoise-colored tilework and

Kufic script inscriptions, adds a touch of uniqueness to the mosque's aesthetic appeal.

The mausoleum of Amir Ghiaseddin Malekshah stands as a religious landmark in Mashhad, attracting numerous travelers annually. The impressive architecture and historical significance of the site make it a must-visit for tourists exploring the rich heritage of Mashhad. Whether as part of an Iran tour package or personal exploration, a visit to this remarkable monument promises a glimpse into Iran's rich cultural tapestry.

Talesh Sleigh offering a magical ride through nature

Iranica Desk

Talesh Sleigh is among the most enchanting attractions in Iran, situated in Siah-daran Park within Talesh, Gilan Province. As one of the largest cities in the province, Talesh is renowned for its stunning natural and historical landmarks, making it a standout tourism destination in northern Iran. With its lush forest cover and distinctive flora, Talesh is not only considered one of the most beautiful cities in the region but also captures the attention of global admirers. A sleigh is a type of recreational vehicle used for rides and recreation in a natural setting. Situated in the heart of Siah-daran Mountain within a park of the same name, Talesh Sleigh stands amidst a lush green tree canopy. The region is situated southwest of Talesh city, adjacent to Siah-daran village, approx-



imately four kilometers away from the city. A car journey along this route takes just twelve minutes. The forest park runs alongside the Rasht-Astara Road, and if you begin your journey from Talesh, you will be guided by numerous signboards along the way. The forest and region are named Siah-daran due to the abundance of black trees, specifically the Jujube species. The region's popularity surged in 2012 following the establishment of Talesh Sleigh. This sleigh spans

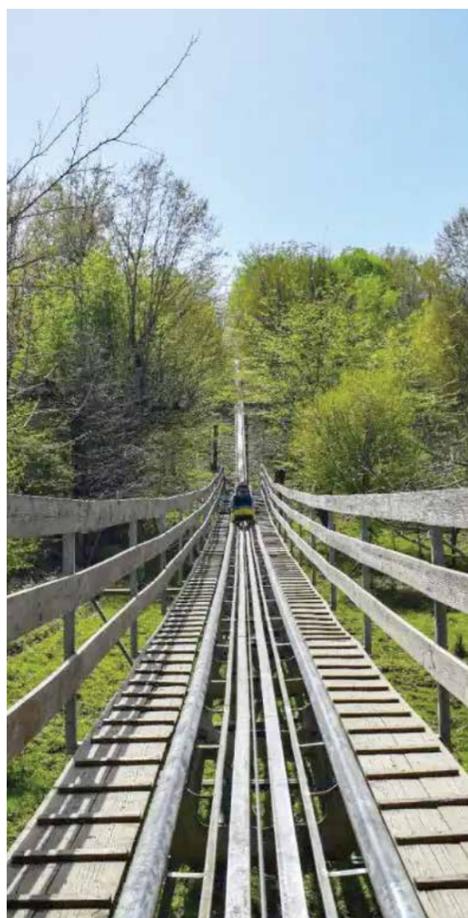
about a kilometer and fifty meters, featuring two direct and winding routes. Sleighs are available in single and double types, and it is advisable to purchase tickets in advance. Constructed according to modern standards, the sleigh boasts high-security measures, enabling easy use even on rainy or snowy days. The complex welcomes public visitors from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. during spring and summer, and from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. in colder seasons. Apart from sleigh riding, vis-



alibaba.ir

itors can explore the region's protected animal species, such as the Caspian red deer, gazelles, and geese. The unique flora of the area is also captivating for plant enthusiasts, featuring species like oak, European hornbeam, beech, and more. Positioned at an elevation, the park is often referred to as the Roof of Talesh (Baam-e Talesh), offering panoramic views of the dense forest and green plains from the mountain's peak. Key facilities within the park include parking,

a restaurant, and a gazebo. Spring and autumn are ideal times to visit, although the park's pristine and stunning landscapes make it appealing even in winter. Numerous ecotourism houses and guest accommodations in cities and villages around Talesh facilitate travel to the area. Nearby attractions include the countryside area of Kuh-e Do Khaleh, Subatan Cave, Saragah Lake, Kargan Rud River, Gisoom Forest Park, Varzan Waterfall, and Hyrcanian National Park.



India exports rockets, explosives to Israel, documents reveal



By Federica Marsi
Journalist

PERSPECTIVE

In the early morning hours of May 15, the cargo vessel *Borkum* stopped off the Spanish coast, lingering in the waters a short distance from Cartagena. At the port, protesters waved Palestinian flags and called on authorities to inspect the ship based on suspicions that it carried weapons bound for Israel.

Leftist members of the European Parliament sent a letter to Spanish President Pedro Sánchez requesting that the ship be prevented from docking. "Allowing a ship loaded with weapons destined for Israel is to allow the transit of arms to a country currently under investigation for genocide against the Palestinian people," the group of nine MEPs warned.

Before the Spanish government could take a stand, the *Borkum* cancelled its planned stop-over and continued to the Slovenian port of Koper. "We were right," Inigo Errejon, the spokesperson for the hard-left Sumar party wrote on X, arguing that the *Borkum's* decision to skip Cartagena confirmed the suspicions.

But missed in the debate over whether the ship ought to be allowed to dock in Spain were the unlikely origins of the *Borkum's* cargo.

According to documents seen by Al Jazeera, the ship contained explosives loaded in India and was en route to Israel's port of Ashdod, some 30km (18 miles) from the Gaza Strip. Marine tracking sites show it departed Chennai in southeast India on April 2 and circumnavigated Africa to avoid transiting through the Red Sea, where Yemen's Houthis have been attacking vessels in reprisal for Israel's war.



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi (front-R) and his Israeli counterpart, Benjamin Netanyahu, pose for photographers after Netanyahu arrived at the Air Force Station in New Delhi, India, on January 14, 2018.
● PRAKASH SINGH/AFP

The identification codes specified in the documentation, obtained unofficially by the Solidarity Network Against the Palestinian Occupation (RESCOP), suggest the *Borkum* contained 20 tonnes of rocket engines, 12.5 tonnes of rockets with explosive charges, 1,500kg (3,300 pounds) of explosive substances, and 740kg (1,630 pounds) of charges and propellants for cannons.

A paragraph on confidentiality specified that all employees, consultants, or other relevant parties were mandated that "under no circumstances" were they to name IMI Systems or Israel. IMI Systems, a defence firm, was bought by Elbit Systems, Israel's largest weapons manufacturer, in 2018.

The commercial manager of the ship, the German company MLB Manfred Lauterjung Befrachtung, told Al Jazeera in a statement that "the vessel did not load any weapons or any other cargo for the destination Israel."

A second cargo ship that had departed India was denied entry on May 21 to the port of Cartagena. Spanish newspaper El País reported that the Marianne Danica left from India's port of Chennai and was en route to Israel's port of Haifa with a cargo of 27 tonnes of explosives. Minister of Foreign Affairs Jose Manuel Albares confirmed in a news conference that the vessel was denied entry on the grounds that it was shipping military cargo to Israel.

These incidents add to mounting evidence that weapon parts from India, a country that has long advocated dialogue over military action in resolving conflicts, are quietly making their way to Israel, including during the ongoing months-long war in Gaza. A lack of transparency on India's transfers helps them slip under the radar, say analysts. Zain Hussain, a researcher at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), told Al Jazeera that "the lack of verifiable information makes it hard to determine whether transfers have taken place."

But "collaboration between India and Israel has been happening for quite a few years now," Hussain said, therefore "it's not unfeasible that we may see

some made-in-India components being used by Israel [in its war on Gaza]."

'Made in India'

On June 6, in the aftermath of Israel's bombing of a United Nations shelter at the Nuseirat refugee camp in Gaza, the Quds News Network released a video of the remains of a missile dropped by Israeli warplanes.

Amid the tangled parts, a label clearly read: "Made in India."

Hussain, who researches the transfer of conventional arms at the Stockholm-based think tank, said the video required further investigation but observed that a large share of the collaboration between India and Israel is known to revolve around missile production, in particular the Barak surface-to-air missile.

According to SIPRI, the Indian company Premier Explosives Limited makes solid propellants — a significant part of the rocket motors, but not the whole motor — for MRSAM and LRSAM missiles. These are the Indian designations for Barak medium and long-range surface-to-air missiles of Israeli design. The company's Executive Director T Chowdary admitted to exporting to Israel amid the current war in Gaza, during a conference call on March 31. "We have received the pending revenue from the Israel export order, and this has shown an exponential jump in the revenue of the quarter," he told investors, according to the minutes of the meeting. "We are happy to announce that we have highest ever quarterly revenue."

On that occasion, Chowdary presented Premier Explosives Limited as "the only Indian company which specialises in the export of fully assembled rocket motor". In addition, he said the company had begun manufacturing mines and ammunitions and started exporting RDX and HMX explosives, commonly used in military weapons systems.

In its January 2024 overview, the company listed exports to Israel in the "defence & space" sector, which SIPRI deemed likely to include propellants for Barak missiles.

Premier Explosives did not respond to Al Jazeera's requests for comment. According to SIPRI, the Indian components can be used for Barak missiles that are then also re-exported by Israel.

Indian-made UAVs

Yet, India's collaboration with Israel goes far beyond rocket propellers.

In December 2018, Adani Defence & Aerospace — the defence arm of Indian multinational holding company Adani Enterprises Ltd — and Israel's Elbit Systems inaugurated the Adani Elbit Unmanned Aerial Vehicles Complex (UAV) in Hyderabad.

The facility was presented in a joint statement as "the first outside Israel to manufacture the Hermes 900 Medium-Altitude Long-Endurance UAV," which can fly for up to 36 hours at an altitude of 30,000 feet (9,000 metres).

"The factory shall start operations with the manufacturing of complete carbon composite aero-structures for Hermes 900, followed by Hermes 450," the statement added. Both drones can be fitted with anti-tank guided missiles, according to the drone inventory of the United Kingdom's leading defence think tank the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI).

"The production of Hermes drones is as important for India as it is for Israel," SIPRI's Hussain said. "For Israel, it means they have a factory outside of the country. For India, it's about technology transfer, so that it can also produce drones based on the Israeli model."

Earlier this year, India announced its first indigenous medium-altitude long-endurance drone, the Driшти 10 Starliner, built on the Hermes model. The factory is currently producing the UAVs, including for shipment to Israel, according to SIPRI, but India has not disclosed any information about their transfer.

Israel is known to be systematically using drones as it wages its war on Gaza, which has killed more than 37,000 people, most of them women and children. In November, in the aftermath of Hamas's attack on October 7, Elbit deputy CEO Joseph Gaspar said the

company had been working "round the clock" to meet demand by Israel's military.

The use of Hermes drones has been documented by Human Rights Watch (HRW) and other organisations in previous conflicts in Gaza as well. Earlier last month, Lebanon's Hezbollah fighters said they shot down an armed Hermes 900 drone in its airspace. Since October, Israeli strikes on Lebanon have killed more than 400 people, including more than 70 civilians.

"If we see Hermes drones being used in Gaza, they're not necessarily coming from India," as Israel also produces them in-house, SIPRI's Hussein said. But the possibility that India has begun exporting the drones as per the terms of the agreement and that they are currently being used against the Palestinian population in the besieged Strip cannot be ruled out, he added.

Elbit Systems did not respond to Al Jazeera's request for comment. The Adani Group, which includes Adani Defence & Aerospace, told Al Jazeera in a statement that the company exported a small consignment of UAVs for non-combat operations.

"We reiterate that these drones are built for surveillance and reconnaissance and cannot be used for attack roles," it said. "We categorically deny having exported any UAVs to Israel since October 7, 2023."

India's balancing act

India has been pursuing a longstanding balancing act in its relationship with Israel. New Delhi has attempted to cast itself as a conciliatory actor and a possible mediator in the conflict in Gaza, calling for peace and supporting calls for a cease-fire while also demanding that Hamas return captives still held in Gaza.

More broadly, Indian officials — from Prime Minister Narendra Modi to his Minister of Foreign Affairs S Jaishankar and the country's diplomats at the UN — have consistently argued that the country believes in dialogue and negotiations, not war, as the only means to resolve conflicts. That has been India's



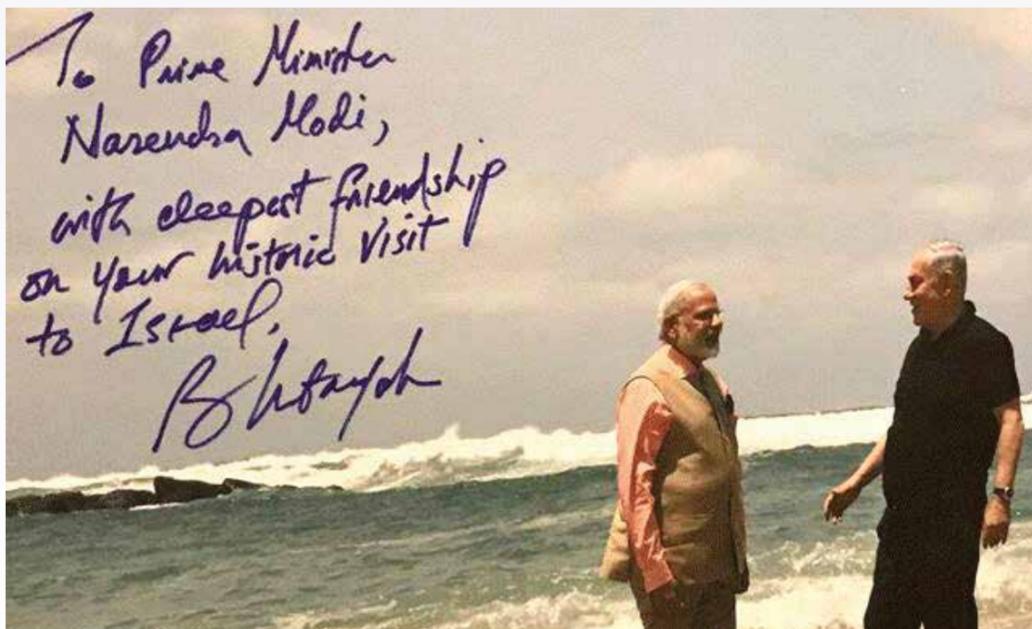
Israel Aerospace Industries' Barak-ER (Extended Range) performs a successful ballistic missile intercept. An Indian company has been known to make solid propellants — a significant part of the rocket motors — for these missiles.
● ISRAEL AEROSPACE INDUSTRIES

formal position when it comes to the Ukraine War and Israel's war on Gaza. "But reports that it is supplying Israel with weapons could disrupt that narrative," Nicolas Blarel, the author of *The Evolution of India's Israel Policy*, told Al Jazeera. Al Jazeera sought comments from India's Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Defence on June 17 and then again on June 21, but has not received a response. India recognised the state of Israel in 1950, only two years after its formation, but established formal diplomatic relations in 1992 after decades of non-aligned and pro-Arab policy. In 1974, it became the first non-Arab country to accept the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and recognised the State of Palestine in 1988. PLO leader Yasser Arafat used to famously describe former Indian prime minister Indira Gandhi as his "sister". In the 1990s, as the Cold War ended and Arafat engaged with then-Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin in a series of talks that culminated in the Oslo Accords, India also opened up to collaboration with Israel. "That accelerated in 1999, with the war between India and Pakistan," Blarel, who lectures in International Relations at Leiden University in the Netherlands, said. "Most countries refused to sell weapons to both countries, except most notably Israel." Since then, Israel has been willing to engage India on technology trans-

fer to an extent that no other partner has, providing know-how on drones, electric sensors for border control, and other surveillance systems that are crucial to India along its tense borders with Pakistan and China, Blarel added. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, of the Hindu majoritarian Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), veered further from the country's historic pro-Palestinian stance after he was elected in 2014. Modi adopted a more public embrace of Israel, becoming the first prime minister to travel to the country in 2017. The strategic partnership that resulted from the visit, which included areas such as space and technology, softened India's stance on Israel to a "case-by-case approach," where India's position was no longer guaranteed to support that of Palestinians," Blarel said. Modi has since repeatedly referred to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as his "friend". The same approach continues to this day. On October 26, weeks after the Hamas attack and the beginning of Israel's reprisal in Gaza, India abstained from a UN General Assembly (UNGA) vote on a resolution calling for an "immediate, durable, and sustained humanitarian truce". External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said Indians were "big victims of terrorism" and were therefore sympathetic to Israel. The resolution, Jaishankar argued echoing Israel's position, lacked an "explicit condemnation" of the Hamas attack that killed 1,139 Israelis. India later voted in favour of a UNGA

resolution for an immediate cease-fire in Gaza but in April abstained from voting for a resolution adopted by the UN Human Rights Council that called for an arms embargo on Israel in addition to an immediate cease-fire in Gaza. Earlier last month, India joined other members of the BRICS grouping — Brazil, Russia, China, South Africa, Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia, and the United Arab Emirates — in issuing a statement expressing "grave concern" at the escalation of violence in the Gaza Strip and calling for an immediate cease-fire. "India sometimes sees the UN resolutions as being too strict because it has a good relationship with Israel but sometimes sides with Palestinians" as it seeks to cast itself as a champion of developing nations amid stiff competition with China for that role, Blarel said. While "Modi would support a more public embrace of Israel," the analyst said, he has also invested in cultivating strategic relations with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), India's largest regional-bloc trading partner. Modi's governing BJP lost its majority in the lower house of India's parliament earlier this month, leaving it dependent on coalition allies to stay in power for the first time since coming to power a decade ago. Now, more than ever, Blarel said, the BJP will have "to consider having good diplomatic relationships with all actors in the Middle East as one of its priorities".

The article first appeared on Al Jazeera.



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (R) gifted his Indian counterpart this signed picture of them strolling barefoot together at Olga beach in Northern Israel on July 6, 2017. It reads, "Prime Minister Narendra Modi, with deepest friendship on your historic visit to Israel."
● @narendramodi/X

Arab firms still trading kosher-certified food products to Israel

By Heba Nasser and Simon Hooper
Journalists

INVESTIGATION

Hundreds of food products made by companies in Arab states have been certified as kosher and many are still being sold in Israel, according to the findings of an investigation published jointly by Middle East Eye (MEE) and Arabic Post. The investigation highlights enduring trade links between Israel and a number of regional countries, including the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Jordan, and Morocco since the start of the war in Gaza, even as Israel has faced international condemnation and calls for a trade boycott over accusations of genocide and the killing of more than 37,000 Palestinians.

tended for Palestinian markets, although kosher certification is not required for products marketed only to Palestinians in Israel or the occupied territories. Under Israeli food import laws, the responsibility for obtaining kosher certifications lies with the importer. While the certifications are not necessarily indicative of recent trade, the volume of certificates approved for Arab products is indicative that the infrastructure for trade between Israel and regional countries remains in place. The latest data published by Israel's Central Bureau of Statistics also provides insight into the extent of continuing trade between Israel and a number of Arab countries. Imports from Egypt to Israel in May 2024 were valued at \$25m — double the figure for the same month in 2023, though total imports for the first five months of the year were down slightly at \$85.6m compared with \$90.7m for the equivalent period a year previously. Imports from the UAE for the first five months of the year were valued at nearly \$1.2b,



Kosher-certified dates produced in the UAE are seen on sale in a supermarket in the northern Israeli city of Acre.
● MIDDLE EAST EYE

According to a database of kosher-certified products published by the Chief Rabbinate of Israel, new certificates have been approved for dozens of products manufactured in these countries since October last year. MEE also found examples of kosher-certified products imported from Arab countries on sale on shelves in Israeli supermarkets and online. The Chief Rabbinate of Israel is a religious institution that issues kosher certificates, indicating compliance with Jewish law, which are necessary for food products intended for sale in most Israeli shops and supermarkets. Some companies contacted by MEE and Arabic Post denied exporting goods to Israel but said their products may have found their way into Israeli markets via companies and distributors in third countries. Others said their products were in-

down from \$988m, while imports from Jordan were valued at \$129.1m, down from \$184m. The value of both countries' imports in May was higher than in May 2023. Imports from Morocco for the first five months of the year were valued at \$7.4m, down from \$8.6m. Mahmoud Nawaja, national committee general coordinator for the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement, told MEE: "The trade growth between these Arab countries and Israel can only be considered as their involvement and complicity in Israeli crimes against Palestinians, and the genocide in Gaza, specifically. It does not reflect the position of the Arab people, who have been calling for a complete boycott. These states are sustaining the Israeli colonial regime under the direction of the US."

The full article first appeared on Middle East Eye.

Young gun Beiranvand confident of Olympic success



Iranian trap shooter Mohammad Beiranvand is seen in a training session in Tehran, Iran, on July 8, 2024.

● ALIREZA SOTANBARJESNA

Sports Desk

Iran's shooting prodigy Mohammad Beiranvand says the Olympic medal will be within his reach, should he "live up to my potentials" at the upcoming Games in Paris. Beiranvand, 16, will be the youngest participant in the shooting competitions of sporting extravaganza, representing the country in the men's trap contests – starting July 29 in the Chateauroux Shooting Center. The young Iranian stole the show in January's Asian Shotgun Championships in Kuwait, where he grabbed the individual gold and then paired with Marzieh Parvarehnia for the mixed team silver. His gold secured him a place in Paris and now the teenage sensation will be eager to build on the success to notch up a second shooting medal for the country in the history of the Olympics – following Javad Foroughi, who walked away with the gold in the Men's 10m air pistol event in Tokyo three years ago.

"Thank God I could seal a first trap quota for the country and I'll hope to deliver my best in Paris and win the most colorful medal," Beiranvand said on Thursday. "The Olympics are the biggest sporting event and all participants will have their sights set on one target, though only one will eventually walk away with the ultimate prize. Asked about his chances of an Olympic medal, Beiranvand said: "I have no doubt about that. I'm confident about my skills and I'll just have to live up to my potentials to leave Paris with a medal. I know I'm even capable of winning the gold if everything plays into my favor on the day of the competition." Beiranvand will be the sole Iranian male shooter in Paris while Haniyeh Rostamian, Shermineh Chehel-Amirani, and Fatemeh Aminipajouh will be part of the women's draw. A total of 340 shooters, representing 81 countries, will be joined by two athletes from the IOC refugee team in chasing the Olympic glory across rifle, pistol and shotgun disciplines from July 27 – August 5.

Iran's Maqsoodlou finishes third in Kasimdzhanov Cup

Sports Desk

Iranian chess grandmaster Parham Maqsoodlou settled for a third-place finish in the 2nd International Rustam Kasim-

dzhanov Cup in Tashkent – named after the Uzbek chess great and former FIDE world champion. Heading into the final round of matches without a defeat, Maqsoodlou

needed a win to finish atop the 10-man table but a loss to Russian Alexander Grischuk saw the Iran stand third with 5.5 points. The host's 19-year-old prodigy Nodirbek Abdu-

sattorov tallied six points for the top spot, with fellow-Uzbek teenager Javokhir Sindarov finishing runner-up with six points. Kasimdzhanov and Azerbaijani Shakhriyar Mamed-

yarov shared the third spot with Maqsoodlou. Nine rounds of rapid chess were played over two tournament days, with a time limit of 15 minutes plus 10 seconds per move.



● chessbase.com



Spain brought the thrills as England's late goals paper over cracks

AFP – England and Spain face off in Sunday's Euro 2024 final after taking very different routes to Berlin in a tournament that has at times lacked for thrills.

Spain have been a class apart despite a devilishly difficult draw that has seen them beat 2022 World Cup semi-finalists Croatia, holders Italy, hosts Germany and the pre-tournament favourites in France.

By contrast, England have stumbled their way into a first ever final on foreign soil thanks to a series of late goals to paper over the cracks despite the wealth of talent available to manager Gareth Southgate.

They were among the continent's powerhouses who were accused of turning European football's showpiece into a tough watch.

England topped Group C despite scoring just two goals in three games, from which drew such opprobrium from their own fans that Southgate was pelted with beer cups after a 0-0 draw against Slovenia.

Should Southgate's men go on to lift the trophy, Jude Bellingham's 95th-minute overhead kick to avoid a last-16 exit to Slovakia will go down as one of the most significant goals in English history.



⬆ Dani Olmo celebrates Spain's second goal during a last-four victory over France in Euro 2024 in Munich, Germany, on July 9, 2024.

● ANNEGRET HILSE/REUTERS



⬆ England striker Ollie Watkins (19) celebrates with Harry Kane after the last-four win against the Netherlands in Euro 2024 in Dortmund, Germany, on July 10, 2024.

● KAI PFAFFENBACH/REUTERS

But it was also their first shot on target of the match.

Similarly, Bukayo Saka's stunning strike to equalise against Switzerland on 80 minutes in the quarter-final was the first time England hit the target.

"Our intention is always to play well with the ball – in football you have an opponent that's trying to stop you," said Southgate when quizzed on the lack of entertainment in England games. "None of this is easy."

Yet Southgate was far from the only coach who stood accused

of failing to maximise bountiful resources by deploying overly-cautious tactics.

France advanced to the semi-finals without one of their players scoring a single goal from open play.

Despite that, coach Didier Deschamps was defiant when questioned by a Swedish journalist over the lack of entertainment offered by his side.

"If you are bored you can watch something else. It's ok. You are not obliged," the French boss hit back when criticised over his side's lack

of goals.

"We have the ability to share emotions, to make lots of French people happy with the results we have had, especially in what is a difficult time in our country...if Swedish people are bored that is not too important for me."

Portugal were another of the favourites who failed to fire. Blessed with one of the deepest squads in the tournament, coach Roberto Martinez's refusal to drop Cristiano Ronaldo backfired as his side crashed out on penalties to

France in the quarter-finals having failed to score in any of their last three games in Germany.

The 114 goals at the tournament so far, at an average of 2.28 per match, is down on the 2.78 at the previous Euros three years ago and the 2.69 at the 2022 World Cup.

Bucking the trend has been Spain's new generation, looking to follow in the steps of the all-conquering side that won three consecutive major tournaments between 2008 and 2012.

Drawn into the toughest group, Luis de la Fuente's men shone from the start, scoring three times in the opening half in a 3-0 win over Croatia.

A 1-0 victory over Italy did little justice for the scale of Spanish domination in Gelsenkirchen, before they rounded off the group stage with a 1-0 win over Albania despite making 10 changes.

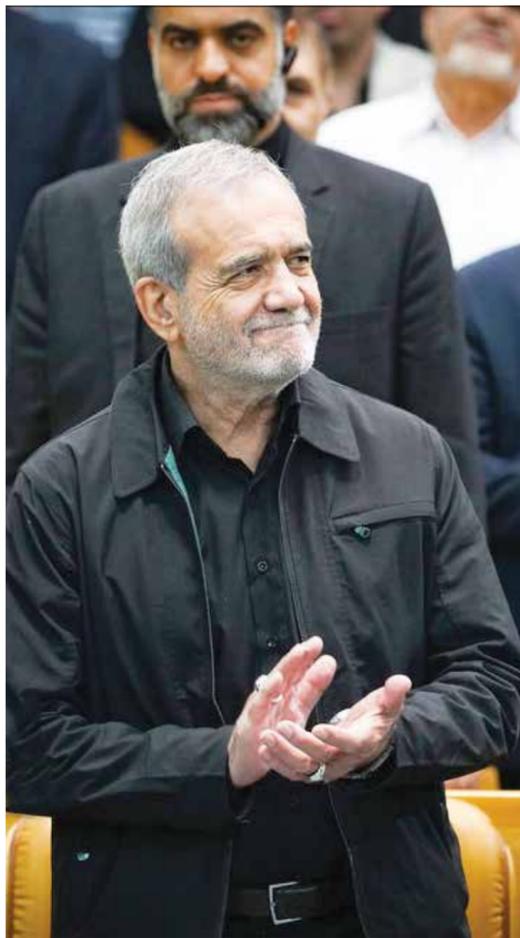
Even an early own goal to give Georgia a shock lead in the last 16 did not derail the Spanish charge as they stormed back to dish out a 4-1 thrashing.

Spain ended German dreams in Stuttgart with their own piece of late drama as Mikel Merino's header edged the highest quality game of the tournament 2-1.

Lamine Yamal's stunning strike to become the youngest ever Euros goalscorer lit up the 2-1 semi-final win over France.

"They've been the best team," added Southgate, on the challenge of facing Spain. "We'll have to get the ball off them first."

England will need their best display to stop the Spanish juggernaut but the tournament could also do with a classic final if it is to be remembered fondly by neutrals in years to come.



● HAMED JAFARNEJAD/ISNA

Pezeshkian: No limit to expand Iran-Serbia ties

Iran ready for 'constructive dialogue' with Arab world

International Desk

Iran's President-elect Masoud Pezeshkian said Tehran has no limit to expand relations with Serbia. He made the remarks in a phone conversation with his Serbian counterpart Aleksandar Vučić. Referring to the fact that he had chaired Iran-Serbia parliamentary friendship group, Pezeshkian said he has a good knowledge of Serbia and expressed hope that the two countries would use their capacities for further cooperation. The Serbian president, for his part, congratulated Pezeshkian on his election as the head of Iran's 14th government. He said relations between the two countries developed very well during the presidency of the late president Ebrahim Raisi, expressing hope that the trend would continue during Pezeshkian's time in office. In another devel-

opment, Pezeshkian assured Hamas' Political Bureau Chief Ismail Haniyeh of Palestinians' eventual victory in the face of the Israeli regime's genocidal war against the Gaza Strip. Pezeshkian made the remarks in a message that he addressed to Haniyeh on Wednesday as means of responding to the Palestinian resistance movement leader's earlier congratulation of his victory in Iran's runoff presidential vote. In recent days, many world leaders have sent messages of congratulation or called Pezeshkian to felicitate his election victory. During the phone calls, the new Iranian chief executive expressed his government's willingness to further expand Iran's relations with other countries. In an opinion piece, titled "Together, for a Strong and Prosperous Region," which was published in the London-based Al-Araby Al-Jadeed newspaper on

Wednesday, Pezeshkian invited the regional Arab countries to engage in "constructive dialogue" and joint endeavor with Iran towards the enhancement of unity, security, and prosperity across the region. "I am willing to address my brothers and sisters and neighbors in the region so we can take steps together down the path of constructive dialogue and enhancement of cooperation and solidarity among the regional nations and governments," he wrote. Pezeshkian called on all regional countries to work towards "laying the foundation of the structure of a strong region" by relying on "the power of logic instead of the logic of power" among other things. "I extend the hand of friendship and brotherhood to all the regional neighbors and countries towards realization of this goal," the president-elect wrote.

Iran dismisses NATO allegation it supplies ballistic missiles to Russia



Iran categorically rejected allegations it is providing ballistic missiles and related technology to Russia, raised by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), to be used in the military campaign against Ukraine.

In a statement on Thursday, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani said NATO has made "totally baseless and politically-motivated" claims, Press TV reported. In their declaration issued on Wednesday, the NATO leaders claimed that North Korea and Iran were fueling Russia's military operation against Ukraine by providing direct military support to Moscow, such as munitions and uncrewed aerial vehicles (UAVs), which they said impacted Euro-Atlantic security and undermined the global non-proliferation regime.

They said any transfer of ballistic missiles and related technology by Iran to Russia would represent a substantial escalation. The Iranian spokesman, in reaction, said the ongoing developments in Ukraine are the result of NATO's "provocative" policies and measures led by the United States.

Kanaani added that any attempt to link the war in Ukraine to the cooperation between Iran and Russia is "politically-motivated" with the aim of legitimizing the West's interference and their military aid to Ukraine.

He once again reiterated Iran's unwavering strategy to play a constructive role in promoting enduring security in the region and across the world. Iran has never provided Russia with any type of drones during the military conflict in Ukraine and still emphasizes the importance of settling the crisis and establishing lasting peace through political channels, the diplomat pointed out.

Iran has repeatedly rejected accusations that it has supplied weapons to Russia for direct use in the war in Ukraine. It has also discarded allegations of supplying weapons to anti-Israeli and anti-US groups in the region. Meanwhile, Russia has repeatedly warned that a flow of Western weapons to Ukraine will only prolong the conflict.

Since the start of the war in Ukraine, the US, alone, has provided approximately \$51.4 billion in military assistance to Kiev, the US State Department said in early July.

US must pay \$6.8b in damages to EB patients: Iran court

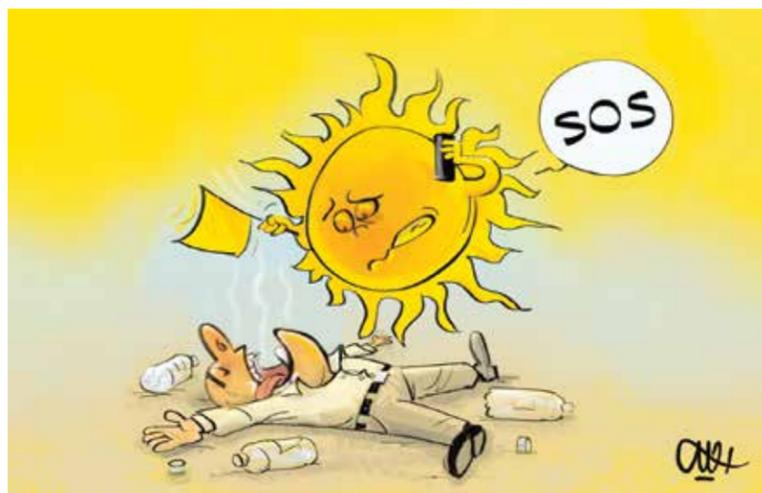


The Tehran Legal Court of International Relations said that after the withdrawal of the US administration from the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), some companies affiliated to the US and Europe cut off business trade with the Islamic Republic, among them the Swedish company Mölnlycke. The world-leading Med-Tech company is a major producer of medical bandages and healing dressings for EB patients across the world. It stopped transactions with Iran as soon as new sanctions were imposed by the then-US President Donald Trump. The court said that over a span of about eight months after the reinstatement of sanctions, the Iranian EB patients ran out of medicine and ointment to heal their deep skin wounds, as a result of which about 20 lost their lives and many others who survived endured irreparable physical injuries.

An Iranian court has ruled that the United States must pay some seven billion dollars in damages over its illegal sanctions affecting the country's patients suffering from Epidermolysis Bullosa (EB), a rare hereditary disease that causes the skin to become fragile and easily injured. The Tehran Legal Court of International Relations issued the verdict on Thursday and said the US government and officials have been sentenced to pay 6,785,000,000 dollars as part of material, moral and punitive damages to the plaintiffs in the case of Iran's EB patients, Press TV reported. The ruling was made after

295 Iranian EB patients and family members of patients lodged lawsuits in protest at the US-imposed sanctions that had hampered the import of much-needed pharmaceuticals and wound dressings for those suffering from the rare skin disease. In the ruling, the court addressed cases such as the illegal and illegitimate nature of unilateral US sanctions against Iran, the illegitimate blocking of humanitarian items, including medicine, the illegitimate sanctions against children and other vulnerable groups, the adverse effects of sanctions on the life, health and well-being of EB patients and their families.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Biden: There's a lot I wish I'd been able to convince Israelis to do



US President Joe Biden holds news conference at the 2024 NATO Summit on July 11, 2024 in Washington, DC. ● KEVIN DIETSCH/GETTY IMAGES/AFP

US President Joe Biden said Thursday that there's a lot of things in retrospect I wish I had been able to convince the Israelis to do as he acknowledges that he has been frustrated with the Israeli cabinet at times over its handling of the war in Gaza. Biden, in a high-stakes, nearly hour-long news conference aimed at repudiating doubters of his reelection bid, acknowledged concerns about Israeli actions despite his overall support for the US ally. "There's a lot of things in retrospect I wish I had been able to convince the Israelis to do, but the bottom line is we have a chance now. It's time to end this war," he said after a NATO summit in Washington. Biden acknowledged there remained "difficult, complex issues" between Israel and Hamas. "There are still gaps to close. We're making progress," Biden said. "The trend is positive, and I'm determined to get this deal done and bring an end to this war, which should end now," he said.

Biden more than a month ago laid out a plan in which Israel would temporarily halt its offensive in Gaza and Palestinian fighters would release captives, setting the stage for talks for a permanent end to the devastating nine-month war. Hamas came back with counterproposals and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has faced pushback from some of his hard-right cabinet allies. Biden threw his support behind Israel after the October 7 attack by Hamas which resulted in the deaths of 1,195 people. Israel responded with a military offensive that has killed at least 38,345 people in Gaza, also mostly civilians, according to figures from Gaza health ministry. Biden, 81, recalled his meeting a half-century ago

as a young senator with Israeli prime minister Golda Meir -- and acknowledged that times have changed. "We pushed it really hard, and Israel occasionally was less than cooperative," Biden said of Netanyahu's cabinet. "This war cabinet is one of the most conservative war cabinets in the history of Israel, and there's no ultimate answer other than a two-state solution here," he said. Biden also stood firm on his decision to hold up delivery of massive 2,000-pound bombs, even as his administration moves forward on other munitions. "I'm not providing the 2,000-pound bombs. They cannot be used in Gaza or any populated area without causing great human tragedy and damage," Biden said. He again pressed Israel for a "day-after" plan for the war's end and spoke of his diplomacy to persuade Arab states to help with security. "At the end of the day, there has to be no occupation by Israel in the Gaza Strip," Biden said.

Husseini Infants Ceremonies held in 46 countries

Arts & Culture Desk

Forty-six countries, including Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, Bahrain, India, and Turkey, hosted the Husseini Infants Ceremony, a global event commemorating the martyrdom of Ali Asghar (PBUH), the six-month-old son of Imam Hussein (PBUH), the third Imam of Shia Muslims. The event, held on the first Friday of the Islamic month of Muharram, brought together mothers from diverse backgrounds to mourn the tragic loss of the youngest martyr of the Battle of Karbala, Mehr News Agency reported. In Iran alone, the ceremony took place in over 8,500 congregations, with an additional 400 sessions in Pakistan. Davoud Manafipour, the secretary of the World Assembly of Ali Asghar (PBUH), emphasized the significance of the event, stating that it provides an opportunity to answer the questions of the current generation about the tradition of mourning. He highlighted that the ceremony

transcends geographical boundaries and is not limited to Shia Muslims, as even Christian mothers participate. Manafipour emphasized that Imam Hussein (PBUH) belongs not just to the Shia community but to all, as his message of reform and justice is universal. The Husseini Infants Ceremony, first held in Tehran in 2003, has grown exponentially, with this year's event expected to reach over 15,000 sessions in the next 25 years. The largest gathering in Iran took place in the province of Fars, with 800 sessions, while Tehran hosted over 300 congregations. The Battle of Karbala, which took place in present-day Iraq in the year 680 AD, holds great significance for Muslims worldwide. It was during this battle that Imam Hussein (PBUH), the grandson of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), and his small band of followers were martyred by the army of the Umayyad caliph Yazid, an event that has come to symbolize the triumph of justice and the power of sacrifice.



An Iranian infant, in her mother's arms, participates in the Husseini Infants Ceremony, held in Tehran on the first Friday of the Islamic month of Muharram, which falls on July 12, 2024. ● IRNA

Iran seeking more cultural cooperation with Russia



Iran's Foreign Ministry Spokesman Nasser Kanaani (3rd R) discuss cultural cooperation with Russian officials during a meeting held at Iranian Language and Cultural Centre at Moscow State Linguistic University. ● IRNA

Iran's Foreign Ministry Spokesman Nasser Kanaani expressed Tehran's desire for enhanced cultural cooperation with Russia during a visit to Moscow. Kanaani, who is in the Russian capital for a meeting of BRICS foreign ministry spokespersons, made the remarks at the Iranian Language and Cultural Centre at Moscow State Linguistic University. Referring to the growing relations between the two countries, Kanaani emphasized the importance of developing scientific, academic, and cultural

ties alongside political and economic relations. He stated, "We believe that scientific, academic, and cultural cooperation between the two countries should develop simultaneously with political, economic, and trade relations." Kanaani highlighted the historical experience of the bond between the people of Iran and Russia, noting that strengthening these ties can help sustain the relationship between the two nations even during fluctuations in political relations, IRNA wrote.

The spokesman also mentioned the increase in tourism exchange between Iran and Russia following the implementation of a visa waiver agreement for group tours. He expressed hope for further expansion of bilateral relations through joint efforts by Tehran and Moscow. During his visit to the Iranian Language and Cultural Centre, Kanaani expressed satisfaction with the teaching of the Persian language at the university, noting its positive outcomes.

He announced the Iranian Foreign Ministry's readiness to strengthen Persian language chairs in various universities worldwide, including in Russia. Kanaani also reaffirmed the ministry's commitment to facilitating the exchange of professors and students, as well as enhancing academic cooperation with friendly countries like Russia. He assured that the ministry would actively pursue providing the necessary Persian language textbooks and educational resources to support these initiatives.

Iran's 'VAR' in the limelight in Tehran

Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian director Hamed Rahimi Nasr has brought his latest work, 'VAR,' to the historic Nofel Loshato Theater in Tehran. The play is on stage from July 2 to August 2. The play, written and directed by Rahimi Nasr, is an absurdist and grotesque piece that continues the director's exploration of psychological and social themes, following the success of his previous plays, 'Schizophrenia,' 'Alzheimer,' and 'Overdose.' 'VAR' stars Amin Zare, Hossein Partovi, Ramtin Soleimani, Amir-Pouria Masoudnia, and Aram Nikbin. The play's title, 'VAR,' refers to the video



assistant referee system used in football, and the story revolves around the theme that a tree is just an image, and one cannot climb it.

'In the End of the Throat' on stage at Tehran City Theater

Arts & Culture Desk

An adaptation of 'In the End of the Throat,' a play written by American-Arab playwright Elyas El-Gendi and directed by Seyyed Mohammad-Javad Seyyedizadeh, is on stage at Tehran City Theater. The play will run from July 4 to 21 in the theater's Qashqai Hall, Mehr News Agency reported. According to the director, the play centers around the idea of guilt and innocence, with a focus on the fine line between the two. The story challenges



the notion of guilt and innocence and explores the complexities of human

nature. The cast of the play includes Mersedeh Afshar,

Ali Peyman, Omid Rahbar, Alireza Shoaee, and Amirbahador Gharhani.