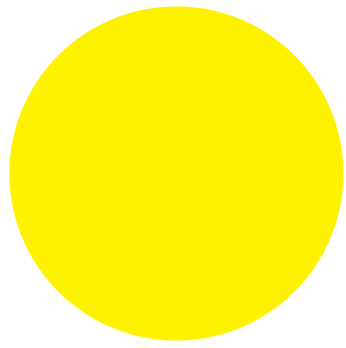




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France in political limbo as Olympics loom



By Ebrahim Beheshti
Staff writer

PERSPECTIVE

As the clock ticks down to the Paris Olympics, France finds itself in the throes of political uncertainty. With just eight days until the grand sporting event kicks off, the country is grappling with the aftermath of President Emmanuel Macron's high-stakes gamble that has left the nation in a state of political limbo.

Last month, Macron took a calculated risk by dissolving the National Assembly in response to the far-right's victory in the European Union parliamentary elections. While this bold move, deemed by many a political gamble, managed to prevent Marine Le Pen's National Rally coalition from seizing power in the snap parliamentary elections, it simultaneously propelled the left-wing New Ecologic and Social People's Union (NUPES) to the forefront, securing 182 seats and emerging as the election's big winner.

The centrists, who support Macron, came in second with 168 seats, while the far-right National Rally, which had performed well in the first round, ended up in third place with 143 seats.

However, with no coalition obtaining the necessary 288 seats to claim a parliamentary majority, France has been left in a precarious position.

In a letter addressed to the French people, Macron called on all political forces that recognize themselves in the institutions of the Republic to form a clear majority in the National Assembly before the appointment of a new prime minister.

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Deadly Strikes Pound Gaza as Netanyahu Scuppers Truce Plan

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A boy sits amidst the rubble of destroyed buildings near the collapsed minaret of a mosque following Israeli bombardment in Nuseirat in the central Gaza Strip on July 17, 2024.
Eyad BABA/AFP



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'The Old Bachelor' wins Best Film at Irish festival

'The Old Bachelor,' an Iranian feature film directed by Oktay Baraheni, won the Best Film Award at the World Cinema Competition Section of the 36th Galway Film Fleadh in Ireland.

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SPECIAL ISSUE

Imports of second-hand cars allowed for all Iranians: Spokesman



Economic Desk

The imports of 2019 model cars and above, compliant with current European standards, have been authorized for all Iranians, as announced by the government spokesman.

On the sidelines of a cabinet meeting on Wednesday, Ali Bahadori Jahromi stated that the move represents a major effort aimed at tackling monopoly in the domestic automotive industry, ISNA reported.

The decree allows real entities both inside and outside the county to import vehicles, he said.

This bill has been approved by Parliament, Jahromi said.

In last July, the Guardian Council, the Iranian government body responsible for signing parliament bills into law, approved a Parliament law that allows unlimited imports of brand-new and second-hand cars into the country amid efforts by the government to contain rampant prices of the domestically-produced cars.

Iran's top legislative body, at the time, endorsed a legislation ratified in June, 2023, which allowed the government to lift restrictions on imports of cars into Iran.

The legislation is based on a bill submitted by the Iranian government to Parliament in last April, which asked for removal of bans on car imports to help contain car prices in the country and to respond to soaring demand for cars.

Iran has relied on increased domestic manufacturing of cars instead of imports to meet a growing demand in the country amid sanctions that have caused a change in import priorities.

According to Iran's Industry Minister Abbas Aliabadi, car output in the country will reach 1.7 million units in the current calendar year which ends on March 20, 2025. Aliabadi said on last Monday that Iranian automotive companies had produced a total of 1.335 million cars in the calendar year to March 2024.

He said the steady rise in domestic car manufacturing has allowed Iran to move up to 16th from 18th in two years in the global ranking of countries based on the number of cars produced annually.



Economic Desk

Iran's oil minister has praised the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between Tehran and Moscow on the supply of Russian gas to Iran as a "masterpiece" in the field of energy diplomacy, which could lead to an economic revolution and energy security in the region.

"The masterpiece of energy diplomacy lies in the signing of the agreement on the transfer of the Russian gas to the Islamic Republic, which could lead to an economic revolution and energy security for neighboring countries in the region through Iran,"

Javad Owji said on the sidelines of the weekly cabinet meeting in Tehran on Wednesday, IRNA reported.

On June 26, a memorandum of understanding on Russian gas transfer to Iran was signed during a ceremony attended by the Iranian oil minister and the special envoy of the Russian Federation and CEO of Russia's energy giant Gazprom, Alexey Miller. Upon turning into a contract and potential implementation, the agreement will reportedly enable Iran to import gas from Russia and supply it to Iraq, Turkey, and Pakistan.

Addressing the cabinet meeting,

the oil minister provided new details of the agreement, which will transform "Iran into a gas supply hub in the region."

"Currently, the total production of Sweet Gas from the country's 23 refineries is around 850 million cubic meters per day. By implementing this plan, 300 million cubic meters of gas will be imported from Russia daily," he said, adding that Russia has also agreed to cover the expenses of constructing this pipeline, as they excel in building pipelines on the seabed.

"Additionally, the transit gas pipeline from north to south via Iran is a significant development that

has not been seen in Iran's history, with annual financial transactions of 10 to 12 billion dollars," Oil Ministry's SHANA news service quoted Owji as saying.

The construction of this pipeline will not only guarantee a steady supply of domestic gas but also will significantly enhance the capacity and reliability of the country's gas exports, he said.

The oil minister stated that the 30-year contract, viewed as the pinnacle of the government's regional diplomacy, positions Iran as a gas supply hub, leading to a substantial increase in commercial transactions, economic and political security of the country.

Russia has been facing an oversupply of natural gas since early 2022 when its exports to Europe came under sanctions due to the war in Ukraine.

Iran sits on the world's second-largest gas reserves after Russia. US sanctions have hindered Iran's access to technology and slowed the development of its gas exports.

Gazprom has seen its gas supplies to Europe, once the source of two-thirds of its gas sales revenue, plummeting to post-Soviet lows over the conflict in Ukraine. Last year, it incurred losses of almost \$7 billion, its first annual loss since 1999.

France in political ...

Macron's plea seems to exclude the far-right and some

parts of the far-left present in the NUPES coalition. In essence, Macron seeks an alliance between the moderate left and his centrist supporters to secure a parliamentary majority. However, so far, the French president has failed to forge a political union among the groups. Now, about 10 days after the elections, the nation is still in a state of uncertainty as the first session of the National Assembly looms.

Adding to the turmoil is the resignation of moderate Prime Minister Gabriel Attal, which Macron has accepted while urging him to remain as a caretaker until a new government can be formed. However, it is unclear when and under what circumstances this new government will emerge.

What further fuels the French people's concern about this unstable political situation is the upcoming global sporting event—the Olympic Games in Paris, which

are set to begin in just eight days.

At present, there is no clear prospect that this limbo will be resolved by the Olympics' opening ceremony or even in the coming weeks. The left-wing coalition, having secured the most seats in parliament, believes it is entitled to have the prime minister chosen from among its ranks.

On the other hand, the far-right, buoyed by its significant achievement of securing 143 seats, remains a force to be reckoned with and will not accept being sidelined from the governing coalition.

Macron has stated that the time to appoint a new prime minister will come when the political forces reach an agreement to form a parliamentary majority—a demand that does not seem easily achievable. An alliance between the right and left appears unlikely.

The expected option is a coalition between the left and Macron's centrists, but even this hinges on political talks and understandings regarding the selection

of the prime minister—whether from the left or Macron's party. Moreover, Macron has a clear disagreement with parts of the NUPES coalition, particularly the far-left La France Insoumise, and has asked them to exclude the radicals. However, Jean-Luc Mélenchon, the leader of this far-left party, has already expressed his readiness to become prime minister.

What keeps France's future shrouded in uncertainty is that even if a coalition is formed to secure a majority in the parliament, it will likely not lead to a strong government. Such a government would constantly be on the brink of collapse due to the fragile coalition dynamics. Macron is going through tough times and may face even harder days ahead. According to The New York Times, Macron appears deeply isolated. After seven years in office, he has failed to establish a robust centrist party. The right-wing and left-wing parties, which seemed outdated when he came to power in 2017, have regained their strength.

Iran's non-oil exports topped 7% in Q1 calendar year

Iran's export of non-oil goods in the first three months of the Iranian year (began on March 20) reached \$13.5 billion, registering a 7.1% growth compared to the same period last year. According to the statistics released by the Central Bank of Iran (CBI), the country's export of oil- and non-oil goods from March 21 to June 22, 2024 hit \$21.5 billion and \$25.5 billion, respectively, showing an 18.6% increase compared to the

last year's corresponding period, Mehr News Agency reported.

Also, the customs (non-oil) exports in the first three months of the previous Iranian calendar year (March 21 to June 22, 2023) hit \$12.6 billion, with the figure reaching \$13.5 billion in the first three months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21 to June 22, 2024), which indicates a 7.1% growth compared to the same period last year, the report added.

Iran imported \$14.3 billion worth of products in the first quarter of the current Iranian calendar year, showing a 1.4% increase compared to the last year's corresponding period.

The balance of trade in the first three months of the previous and current Iranian calendar year reached \$7.4 billion and \$11.2 billion, respectively, indicating a 51.3% growth compared to the last year's corresponding period.



Sistan Anthropology Museum transporting visitors to bygone eras

Iranica Desk

Sistan Anthropology Museum, situated in a historical building in Zabol, the capital of Sistan and Baluchestan Province, showcases a remarkable collection of ancient artifacts that transport visitors to bygone eras. Culture enthusiasts can journey back 5,000 years through the museum's exhibits and gain insight into the vibrant heritage and civilization of the Sistan people, particularly those of the Burned City (Shahr-e Sukhteh). Originally constructed during the Qajar era in 1898 CE as the English Consulate by local architects, the building was entrusted to the Cultural Heritage Department of Zabol in 1989.

Over the span of 17 years, from that year until 2006, extensive restoration work was undertaken, leading to the establishment of the Sistan Anthropology Museum. Located on Ferdowsi Street in Zabol, the museum sits on a 4,000-square-meter plot of land with a building area of 1,125 square meters.

The architectural design and construction of the edifice integrate aspects of administration and military, drawing from traditional and indigenous methods. The museum houses over 32,000 historical pieces from Dahan-e Gholaman, a pivotal Achaemenid hub and archaeological site, and Burned City, one of the earliest known civili-



zations in the world.

The structure comprises a series of interconnected small and large rooms linked by corridors, featuring a variety of domed ceilings across all spaces, with skylights and chimney pipes

discreetly positioned behind the roof. In total, the museum encompasses 20 rooms interconnected by two primary corridors, with mud bricks and clay serving as the predominant building materials.



Archeology section

In this section, a valuable collection of cultural objects such as various types of pottery, wooden objects, clay figurines, fabrics, ropes, and ceramic items from the Burned City, including multicol-

ored, red, gray, and chickpea pottery (consisting of jars, bottles, bowls, cups, vases, and more) are on display.

Graves

Two reconstructed graves are showcased in the museum to il-

lustrate burial practices in the Burned City. Each grave consists of a vertical pit, followed by a chamber or niche next to it, with pottery objects and vessels included as offerings due to beliefs in the afterlife. By examining the differences in objects and items inside the graves, the quality and types of materials used in their construction can help identify the degree of poverty, wealth, social class, and, in some cases, occupation.

Residential room

The layout of this room is roughly quadrilateral, with construction materials including adobe, bricks, wood, and thatch used for flooring and shades, along with mud plaster adorning the walls. The room features a door, doorway, ceiling, hearth, and ceramic vessels for storing grains and food.

Anthropology section

In this section, the architecture of the building has been utilized to create various scenes, along with the display of wax statues and dioramas depicting customs, ways of life, economy, various ceremonies, food, and clothing, showcasing the authentic and traditional culture of Sistan. Some of these scenes include wedding galleries, agriculture, hunting and fishing, and jewelry. Visitors can learn about the way of life of the people of Sistan by observing various musical instruments, weapons, ancient paintings, tools, and antique vessels displayed in the museum.

Biodiversity and cultural riches of Parvar Protected Area in Semnan Province



Parvar Protected Area, located about 35 kilometers north of Mahdishahr (Sangsar) in Semnan Province, is a significant part of the region's conservation efforts. It encompasses the vast Aras and Hirkan forests, showcasing the diverse natural wonders of the area. With a perennial river originating from Mount Nizva beyond its borders, Parvar Protected Area serves as a sanctuary for a wide range of flora and fauna, blending various climatic zones seamlessly.

Despite its size, Parvar is rich in natural resources, boasting a diverse landscape of expansive plains surrounded by lush mountainous terrain. The protected area consists of three distinct conservation zones: Sidua, an open plain; Roudbarak, a forested area; and Sartange, known for its striking tall rocks and narrow passages. Its proximity to the Boland Protected Area, Doudange

Wildlife Sanctuary, and Kiasar National Park underscores the importance of Parvar's ecosystem within the country. Parvar benefits from a semi-arid to cool temperate climate, with elevations ranging from 1,190 to 3,300 meters, fostering a remarkable biodiversity within its plains and mountains.

Ecological diversity

Parvar Protected Area features three climatic zones that contribute to its ecological diversity. The forested regions boast lush greenery, providing a home to a variety of plant and animal species. The mountainous terrain offers rugged beauty and unique wildlife encounters, while the semi-desert area showcases a stark yet beautiful landscape where resilient species thrive.

Faunal diversity

Within Parvar Protected Area,

there are 39 mammal species spread across 35 genera, classified into 14 families within five orders. This area plays a crucial role in the conservation of wildlife, as it accommodates six out of the seven mammal orders found in arid regions, representing a significant portion of the country's mammalian species. Notable species include Maral deer, wild goat and ibex, Persian leopard, brown bear, lynx, and various others, contributing to the area's rich biodiversity.

Maral deer

The Maral deer, or Persian red deer, is a captivating species found in Parvar. Spotting one can be challenging, and the locals refer to it as Gavor or Gavkoohi.

Wild goat

The wild goat and ibex, known as "Pazan," add to the allure of the

area, often visible near the roads during the day.

Avian and reptilian life

Parvar also serves as a haven for diverse bird species such as the black partridge, eagles, pheasant, and various reptiles like snakes, Persian toads, and geckos. Notable reptiles include the Jafari Snake, known for its defensive mechanism, and the Persian Horned Viper, the largest venomous snake in southwestern Asia.

Cultural and water resources

Apart from its natural beauty, Parvar is steeped in cultural heritage, with charming villages offering insights into local traditions. The area boasts essential water sources, including rivers, springs, and aquifers like the Sefidroud River, Roudbarak Spring, and Marno Waterfall, adding to its allure.



Inside Project 2025

Blueprint to undermine safeguards against abuses of executive power



By James Goodwin
Policy director at Center
for Progressive Reform

PERSPECTIVE

The week after taking office in 2017, Donald Trump announced his administration's signature policy on the administrative state — the constellation of agencies, institutions, and procedures that Congress has created to help the president implement the laws it passes — when he signed Executive Order 13771. The directive purported to create a “regulatory budget” scheme that prohibited agencies from issuing a new rule unless they first repealed two existing rules and ensured that the resulting cost savings offset any costs the new rule might impose.

The effort failed. While federal agencies reduced their regulatory output during the Trump administration, they made little lasting progress in repealing existing rules. The Administrative Procedure Act, which governs much of how the administrative state operates, makes it hard to do so. Most of the Trump administration's repeal attempts were met with rejection by federal courts for failing to abide by basic procedural requirements.

Still, Executive Order 13771 perfectly encapsulated conservative thinking about regulatory policy at the time. The goal was to bring about the “deconstruction of the administrative state,” as former Trump advisor Steve Bannon famously put it. This view was in keeping with decades of conservative hostility for this arm of government, which the right has long tarred as an economic and constitutional disaster.

But that was then. In the years since, the conservative movement has coalesced around a very different way of thinking about the administrative state — one that sees it as a vehicle for advancing the conservative movement's agenda, particularly on social issues, and thus embraces policy changes that would strengthen many aspects of its governing apparatus.

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But that was then. In the years since, the conservative movement has coalesced around a very different way of thinking about the administrative state — one that sees it as a vehicle for advancing the conservative movement's agenda, particularly on social issues, and thus embraces policy changes that would strengthen many aspects of its governing apparatus.

Contemporary elites have even repurposed the worst ingredients of 1970s “radical chic” to build the totalitarian cult known today as “The Great Awakening.”

partnerships with local organizations, including faith-based organizations (FBOs).
should be dismantled and merged with other agencies, privatized, or placed under the control of states and territories.

And despite its gauzy rhetoric, the federal budget is not even close to the worst example of this corruption. The budget belongs to the “Administrative State.”

Dismantle the administrative state and return self-governance to the American people.

Quotations from Project 2025's Mandate for Leadership are seen in the background of an image of Heritage Foundation President Kevin Roberts.
GAGE SKIDMORE/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

The best example of this shift is Project 2025, the Heritage Foundation-led “presidential transition” attack plan that would guide a second Trump administration should he win this November. The effort was spearheaded by Heritage president Kevin Roberts in

2022; a 920-page document called the Mandate for Leadership, published in April last year, sets out a comprehensive blueprint in technocratic detail. It is the product of a broad coalition of ultraright-wing think tanks and advocacy organizations. It covers nearly every pol-

icy issue you can think of, from defense budgets to bank regulation to highway construction. (For his part, Bannon has expressed general support for the initiative, but it is unclear whether he appreciates — or even cares about — the shift it represents.) Project 2025 is candid about its ulti-

mate goal: to reprogram the US administrative state to support and sustain arch-conservative rule for decades to come. The distinguishing features of this regime would include a far more politicized bureaucracy, immunity against meaningful public or congress-

ional oversight, abusive deployment of agency enforcement capabilities as a tool of political retribution, and aggressive manipulation of federal program implementation in the image of Christian nationalism, white supremacy, and economic inequality.

Unburdened by the competitive hiring process, agencies could hire whomever they wanted for career civil service positions. Project 2025 makes clear that unquestioned loyalty to the president, as opposed to professionalism and expertise, is the only real qualification that matters.

One of the Mandate's prevailing themes is that the administrative state has become a major platform from which the radical left is able to smuggle its “woke” agenda into nearly every nook and cranny of American society. In light of this alleged shift, Project 2025 concludes that deconstruction is no longer the right strategy. Instead, the administrative state must be aggressively harnessed and then redirected. This is not a brand-new idea; conservatives have weaponized the administrative state to fight culture wars in the past, including putting arbitrary regulations on abortion clinics and introducing stringent eligibility requirements for food assistance programs. But these experiments have largely been episodic and disjointed. Project 2025's novelty lies in the fact that it wants to make them, for the first time, into a comprehensive strategy.

Russell Vought, Trump's former director of the Office of Management Budget (OMB), succinctly describes this new strategy in a chapter he wrote for the Mandate for Leadership: “The great challenge confronting a conservative President is

the existential need for aggressive use of the vast powers of the executive branch to return power — including power currently held by the executive branch — to the American people.” Doing so, the Mandate argues, requires giving a second Trump administration nearly unchecked power over the machinery by which the administrative state operates: the institutions, the procedures, the resources, and the personnel.

Project 2025 is clearly designed to avoid the pitfalls that doomed Executive Order 13771. In many ways, the Mandate for Leadership can be read as an instruction manual for undermining the safeguards meant to prevent governing officials from engaging in the abuses of power Project 2025 wants to encourage. Replete with methodical detail and technocratic jargon, it offers future political leadership across all the federal administrative agencies a full taxonomy of tactics they can deploy to either exploit the weak points in these safeguards or bypass them altogether.

One of the Mandate's central tactics concerns rules around staffing. Cur-

rently, agencies hire professional career staff with specialized training and expertise. All must swear an oath to follow the Constitution in carrying out their duties — even and especially if that means disobeying the orders of someone higher up in the bureaucratic hierarchy. As such, these career staff provide perhaps the most important line of defense against an autocratic presidential regime. But through a policy called Schedule F, the Mandate seeks to sideline or even purge them. Derived from another of Trump's executive orders, the proposal would reclassify the thousands of career government employees who play some role in policy formation outside of the competitive service — the federal personnel category that includes rigorous, merit-based requirements for hiring, firing, and promotion decisions. Stripped of these basic protections, which have been in place for over 140 years, many employees would become “at will,” fireable for any reason — or no reason at all. The intent is obvious: to encourage public servants to obey their political bosses, even when that means going against the

law and their own expertise. Were it to take effect, workers who refuse to toe the line could be summarily terminated.

And to buttress the effect of Schedule F, the Mandate for Leadership includes several more targeted methods for isolating recalcitrant public servants. Its chapter on the intelligence community, for instance, describes policy changes that would make it easier to suspend or revoke security clearances for career staff at national security-related agencies. Without their security clearances, these individuals would no longer be able to perform their jobs — and that, of course, is the point. Other sections contemplate taking similarly hostile actions against members of the Senior Executive Service, a special band within the civil service created to serve as a bridge between political appointees and lower-line career staff by providing management support and expertise. Members who step out of line might find themselves being relocated to far-flung geographic locations or reassigned to positions unrelated to their area of expertise.

The flip side of silencing or firing career public servants is to empower extremists and amplify outlier viewpoints — a move the Mandate for Leadership has plenty of ideas about how to accomplish. One of these is simply to point Schedule F and security clearance abuses in the opposite direction. Unburdened by the competitive hiring process, agencies could hire whomever they wanted for career civil service positions. Project 2025 makes clear that unquestioned loyalty to the president, as opposed to professionalism and expertise, is the only real qualification that matters. Similarly, political appointees would have a freer hand in assigning security clearances, ensuring loyal voices are heard loud and clear when it comes to conducting intelligence assessments to inform national security decisions.

The Mandate for Leadership at times even directly requires consideration of outlier views. One of its recommendations to “improve” the President’s Daily Briefing (PDB) on national security issues is to create a mechanism that ensures the inclusion of “properly channeled dissent”. The mandate fails to specify what constitutes a proper channel, but the broader context of the recommendation indicates a hostility toward the indepen-

dent viewpoints of career intelligence officers as well as a desire to transform these documents from objective analyses into advocacy documents. Another group of proposed tactics builds on the longstanding conservative tradition of outsourcing critical government functions to the private sector. Even here, though, the goal isn’t simply to shrink government but to advance Project 2025’s broader ideological agenda as well. The chapter on the Department of Energy, for instance, urges consideration of outsourcing the functions of the Energy Information Administration (EIA), a small statistical agency charged with gathering and analyzing data regarding US energy systems. The information products that the EIA generates are crucial for informing energy-related policy-making and investments by the electricity and oil and gas sectors; it is perhaps best known for the different “outlooks” it publishes that forecast future energy trends. While conceding that the EIA’s products are generally “neutral” — if anything, the agency’s outlooks have been criticized for being too pessimistic about renewable energy — Mandate still suggests that the reform could be beneficial overall by reducing the costs of government. Previous experience with pri-

vatzation casts doubt on this prediction. More troubling still, businesses interested in securing future lucrative contracts might deliberately produce analyses that align with the president’s preferred policy positions on energy. A future president opposed to urgent climate action, for instance, might be able to use biased analyses to oppose policies aimed at promoting renewable energy development. The Mandate for Leadership elsewhere calls for dismantling the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s (NOAA) lifesaving weather forecasting capabilities and outsourcing them to private companies. Such a move could exacerbate economic and racial inequity if the private company were to put those forecasts — which are now freely available to everyone — behind a payroll that might be unaffordable for many families. More ominously still, a company responding to profit incentives might create what amounts to a two-tier forecasting system, with more accurate forecasts available only for wealthier parts of the country. Low-quality forecasts in poorer areas would leave residents unable to plan for the kind of extreme weather conditions that are becoming more prevalent with climate change, putting their lives and property at risk of unnecessary harm.

Alongside its calls for expanded privatization, the Mandate for Leadership advocates for politicizing existing relationships with contractors. Its chapter on the US Agency for International Development (USAID), for instance, recommends that the agency end its reliance on “global [non-governmental organizations]” such as Oxfam International for distributing humanitarian assistance, and instead turn the work over to “faith-based organizations,” including both local churches as well as larger US-based organizations such as Catholic Relief Services and Knights of Columbus — the perfect vehicles for indoctrinating aid recipients in the conservative Christian ideology that is at Project 2025’s core.

Previously, the Trump administration used these humanitarian assistance programs as leverage to induce recipient countries to join the infamous Geneva Consensus Declaration on Women’s Health and Protection of the Family (GCD). The international agreement, developed outside of any recognized international governance structures such as the United Nations, binds signatory countries in adopting domestic and foreign policies that oppose abortion. Consistent with these neocolonial aspirations, the Mandate for Leadership

strongly embraces the GCD, envisioning the use of humanitarian aid programs implemented by faith-based organization contractors to expand its reach to new countries.

More generally, the Mandate for Leadership calls for weaponizing contractor policy against companies with “woke” policies. Come 2025, a company that has adopted certain kinds of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice (DEIJ) programs might find itself ineligible for many federal grant opportunities.

The Mandate for Leadership also contains several recommendations for how agencies could weaponize federal grant-making to advance conservative policy objectives. For instance, the chapter on the Department of Health and Human Services recommends that the Teen Pregnancy Prevention and Personal Responsibility Education programs prioritize grants for abstinence-only programs. The chapter on the Environmental Protection Agency calls for radically overhauling that agency’s grants program, which distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in discretionary grants every year. The mandate would end the practice of career staff making these grant determinations and instead assign this task to a “political appointee”.

Perhaps the most disquieting category of tactics in the Mandate for Leadership involves the aggressive, politicized use of agency enforcement powers.

The chapter on the Department of Justice (DOJ) proposes overhauling the agency to eliminate its longstanding tradition of political insulation from the White House. In theory, this insulation follows from the idea that the job of the DOJ’s head, the attorney general, is to represent the US government and not the president. Institutional mechanisms have been used to ensure the agency’s independence and to guard against both the perception and reality of conflicts of interest, including, most notably, the use of a special counsel to investigate and prosecute the president or certain administration officials. As was demonstrated during the first Trump term, though, the actual independence of a special counsel can be limited. The mandate would seek to further degrade the DOJ’s independence by injecting greater presidential control into questions of litigation strategy, even raising the disturbing specter of the president targeting political enemies with enforcement actions.

Likewise, in its chapter on the Department of Homeland Security, the document outlines various proposals aimed at consolidating and strengthening enforcement policies at US Immigration and Customs Enforcement. These include giving individual agents greater leeway to arrest immigrants with suspected criminal records and

expanding the geographic scope of Expedited Removal procedures — the summary removal of noncitizens without a hearing. The mandate would permit these procedures to be applied to individuals more than 100 miles from the US-Mexico border, which was the traditional limit, with no apparent bright-line geographic restrictions.

Project 2025 also envisions expanded use of the Insurrection Act of 1807, which authorizes the president to use the military for domestic law enforcement purposes under rare, extreme circumstances. In 2020 Trump threatened to use this authority to quell the Black Lives Matter protests that took place in the wake of George Floyd’s murder before being discouraged from doing so by his advisors. The Mandate for Leadership, while not citing the law by name, does appear to endorse its use as part of its broader border control strategy, recommending calling in “active-duty military personnel and National Guardsmen to assist in arrest operations along the border — something that has not yet been done.” Citing internal documents and an anonymous source, the Washington Post has reported that key personnel involved in Project 2025 have plans to use the Insurrection Act even beyond what the Mandate for Leadership plays out for it.

The Mandate for Leadership’s final set of tactics for hijacking the administrative state has to do with limiting or evading congressional oversight. Several chapters, for instance, describe

how the administration can manipulate the Federal Vacancies Reform Act by installing political appointees in key agency leadership positions — a gambit whose practical effect is to enable politically loyal personnel to carry out official agency business without being subjected to the lengthy, and potentially embarrassing, Senate confirmation process.

Other chapters recommend giving the president greater control over communications between agencies and committees of jurisdictions with Congress, with the apparent aim of controlling the flow of information that members of Congress and their staff receive. Instituting these changes would clearly undermine Congress’s ability to conduct meaningful oversight of these agencies. The chapter on the DHS, for example, calls for the president to demand that only one committee in each chamber serve as an authorizing committee for the agency (currently there are at least six authorizing committees in the House and four more in the Senate). If congressional leadership refuses to accept this arrangement, then it recommends that the agency’s Office of Legislative Affairs select one and restrict its communications to only that committee. Similarly, the chapter on the Department of State recommends that agencies defer to the White House on relevant communications with Congress — meaning that in practice, discussions on certain issues of agency business would have to first go through the president.



An enlarged silhouette of the Republican presidential candidate former president Donald Trump appears on the American flag at a campaign event in Waukesha, Wisconsin, in May 2024.
● BRIAN SNYDER/REUTERS

Congress and the federal judiciary have long been ripe for capture by elite minority factions to serve and sustain their rule. But the administrative state, which is of a much more recent vintage, was supposed to be different.

In the years following the Civil War, and then later during the Progressive Era, reformers and advocates sought to build a governing institution that would be more inclusive and democratically responsive. The Interstate Commerce Commission and other early experiments in federal regulatory governance demonstrated that the administrative state could stand up to powerful economic interests and ensure a fairer marketplace for consumers and small businesses while protecting democracy against ever-evolving oligarchic threats. Meanwhile, rapid industrialization and urbanization laid bare the limitations of using civil lawsuits to address harms from dangerous business practices. Agencies like the Food and Drug Administration, first created in 1906, offered the promise of using standards developed and implemented by scientists and other experts to prevent such harms from occurring in the first place. These and other regulatory frameworks created by Congress established a new model in which agencies would be empowered to continually respond to new and emerging threats.

The genius of the administrative state’s

design was that it would provide a permanent forum in which public input and professional expertise could be leveraged to solve the people’s problems in ways that elected officials would, or could, not. Scholars of US democracy have long recognized its potential to serve as a platform for building and sustaining true, durable public power. At its best, they argue, it can provide ordinary citizens with a locus of countervailing power in the political marketplace. It’s clear, then, why the modern conservative movement has come to see it as such a threat.

And that is the real import of Project 2025: it seeks to corrupt the administrative state by transforming it from a dynamic base of democratic power into a fierce weapon of social and economic conservatism. What will happen if it succeeds? Once the damage has been done, the task of sustaining minority rule for decades to come would be much easier for the conservative movement. Degrading the institutions of Congress and the federal judiciary were important first steps toward rebuilding the United States in line with its vision of Christian nationalist principles, white supremacy, and economic inequality. Seizing control of the administrative state would be the real prize.

The full article first appeared on Boston Review.



An information booth for Project 2025 is seen at CPAC in National Harbor, Maryland, on February 23, 2024.
● MICHAEL BROCHSTEIN/SIPA USA

Wrestling U15 Asian Championships:

Iran pips Uzbekistan to Greco-Roman crown

Sports Desk

A total of seven medals, including triple golds, saw the Iranian 10-man squad edge out Uzbekistan for the Greco-Roman trophy at the U15 Asian Championships in Sriracha, Thailand.

Iranians also collected double silver and bronze medals apiece to stand atop the team table with 170 points, followed by Uzbekistan, which tallied 169 points – courtesy of three golds, one silver, and a couple of bronzes – with Kazakhstan in third on 154 points.

Amir Kazemi defeated Indian Dhanraj Jamnik 8-7 in a thrilling final showpiece to walk away with the ultimate prize of the 48kg contests, while Mahdi Gholamian came out victorious 5-2 against Uzbekistan's Aziz Khasanov for the 62kg gold.

A third gold medal for the Iranians came in the 68kg event, where Esmail Nabavi outmuscled Alinur

Toleugali of Kazakhstan 9-4 in the final.

Meanwhile, Abolfazl Zahiri had to settle for the runner-up spot in the 57kg contests after a 7-4 defeat against Tajikistan's Amirjon Obidov, while Amirhossein Bakhtiarnejad finished behind Kazakh gold medalist Ali Bekengazy in the 85kg event, which was participated by five wrestlers in a round-robin format.

Elsewhere, Benyamin Rastgar and Amirhossein Alvani bagged consolation bronzes of the 44kg and 75kg classes respectively.

Mohammad Pour-Ebrahimi (38kg), Mohammad-Amin Azarpira (41kg) and Amir-Ali Majazi (52kg) were the three Iranians to leave Thailand empty-handed.

The Asian Championships continue with the freestyle under-15 competitions today before Iran puts double team titles on the line at the under-20 contests, starting Saturday.



IAWF

Tractor continues spending spree with Beiranvand signing



FFIRI

Sports Desk

The latest episode of Tractor's massive summer spending saw the Persian Gulf Pro League club sign Iranian international goalkeeper Alireza Beiranvand.

Meanwhile, Iraqi striker Mohanad Ali also joined the Tabriz-based side on Saturday to become Tractor's fifth marquee signing of the transfer window as the club is eager to mount a serious title charge under new manager Dragan Skocic in the upcoming Iranian top-flight season.

The 24-year-old forward, who has 19 strikes in 43 caps for the national team, bagged 16 goals in 30 games for Al Shorta last season, helping the club lift the Iraq Stars League trophy.

Beiranvand brawl

Widely regarded as the finest keeper of his generation, Beiranvand, 31, who registered 112 clean sheets in 199 appearances for Persepolis – conceding 124 goals – won six league trophies and two domestic cup titles during six seasons with the Tehran Reds, while playing a pivotal part in his team reaching a first AFC Champions League final in 2018.

His move comes following weeks of speculation about his future, after he unilaterally terminated his Persepolis contract in June over a financial dispute with the

Reds – a decision deemed as “unlawful and unjustified” by the club, which lodged a complaint to the Players Status Committee of the Iranian Football Federation.

Beiranvand's new deal could also lead to a row between Tractor and Persepolis in the coming days after the Capital Reds said in a statement late on Friday that they will take legal action against the keeper's new employers, describing their negotiators with the player as “effectively enticing him to terminate his Persepolis contract.”

Beiranvand is the third player to leave the Tehran Reds for Tabriz in the ongoing transfer window, following instrumental winger Mahdi Torabi and fullback Danial Esmailifard, who joined Tractor as free agents last week.

There were, however, relieving news for Persepolis fans on Friday after the club announced the signing of Moroccan right-back Ayoub El Amloud from Wydad AC. Capped once for the national team, Amloud reunites with his former Spanish manager in Wydad, Juan Carlos Garrido, who was unveiled as the new head coach of the Iranian champion in late June.

Former Persepolis striker Ali Alipour, who is the Reds' all-time top scorer in the Iranian Pro League, is also believed to be on his way back in the Reds shirt after four years with Marítimo and Gil Vicente in the Portuguese Primeira Liga.

Asian Handball Men's Junior Championship: Iran beats Kuwait, heads into last-eight group

Sports Desk

Iran progressed into the last-eight group phase of the Asian Handball Men's Junior (U21) Championship after a massive 25-23 victory over Kuwait in Jordan on Friday.

Saber Heidari and Amirmohammad Pour-Qassem contributed with five and four goals respectively, while goalkeeper Amir-Abbas Zarei delivered a Man-of-the-Match performance as Iran came out victorious against the five-time champion to finish atop Group B with two wins. Sharif Mo'men Hejazi's boys had beaten China 30-26 in their opening game in the 18th edition of the competition at the Princess Sumaya Sport Hall.

In the first round of the quarterfinal fixtures, Iran will take on Oman today, before facing Saudi Arabia on Friday and then playing Japan on Sunday.



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Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, and South Korea complete the lineup in the other last-eight group.

The top two of each group will punch their tickets for next year's World Junior Championship in Poland.

Chelsea start disciplinary action against Fernández over chants



AFP

THE GUARDIAN – Chelsea have “instigated an internal disciplinary procedure” against Enzo Fernández over his involvement in chants that included racist and homophobic slurs about members of the France team. Fernández posted a video on Instagram that showed him and Argentina teammates as they celebrated their

victory over Colombia in the final of the Copa América.

The midfielder later apologised, saying the video did not “reflect my beliefs or my character”. Fernández's Chelsea teammate Wesley Fofana criticised the “uninhibited racism” and the French Football Federation said it would file a legal

complaint. It has challenged the Fifa president, Gianni Infantino, and the Argentina Football Association president, Claudio Fabián Tapia, to respond. Chelsea said: “Chelsea Football Club finds all forms of discriminatory behaviour completely unacceptable. We are proud to be a diverse, inclusive club where people from all cultures, communities and identities feel welcome. We acknowledge and appreciate our player's public apology and will use this as an opportunity to educate. The club has instigated an internal disciplinary procedure.”

Fernández used Instagram to “apologise sincerely” for the video. “The song includes highly offensive language and there is absolutely no excuse for these words,” he wrote.

“I stand against discrimination in all forms and apologise for getting caught up in the euphoria of our Copa América celebrations. That video, that moment, those words, do not reflect my character or beliefs. I am truly sorry.”

Multilateralism sole way to establish safe, just world: *Iran at UNSC*

Iran's Acting Foreign Minister Ali Bagheri Kani said multilateralism is the only way to establish a safe and just environment where all nations can enjoy sustainable peace and thrive. Addressing a high-level ministerial meeting of the UN Security Council on "multilateral cooperation in the interest of a more just, democratic and sustainable world order", in New York on Tuesday, Bagheri Kani added that Tehran welcomes initiatives to further promote respect for international law. "Multilateralism is key in this regard," he underlined.

"As Secretary General has underlined, global challenges could be solved only through respect for international law, adherence to global commitments and the adoption of appropriate frameworks of multilateral gover-

nance," Bagheri Kani said. The Iranian official said that effective multilateralism is essential for ensuring international peace and security, noting that as a founding member of the United Nations, Iran reaffirms its commitment to effective multilateralism, grounded in international law and the principles of the United Nations Charter.

Bagheri Kani said that Iran has consistently demonstrated its commitment to multilateralism, citing its constructive contribution to the conclusion of the 2015 nuclear agreement with world's powers.

"This successful multilateral initiative addressed an unwarranted crisis and unfounded concern from the West regarding Iran's peaceful nuclear program, aiming to lift the illegal and unjust sanctions imposed on the

Iranian nation. However, this multilateral process encountered a significant challenge due to the unilateral actions of the United States and its allies. The US unilateral and unlawful withdrawal from the agreement exemplified unilateralism in the international arena, causing harm to all parties involved," Iran's acting foreign minister said.

Bagheri Kani said Iran's good neighborliness policy also highlights the importance of multilateralism in resolving common concerns and challenges. "In this context, Iran pursues regional dialogue and cooperation to create an environment where resources can be devoted to the progress and development of the region for the benefit of all," he said.

The top Iranian diplomat emphasized the approach and foreign policy of Iran's



Iran's Acting Foreign Minister Ali Bagheri Kani (C) addresses a meeting of the UN Security Council on "multilateral cooperation in the interest of a more just, democratic and sustainable world order", in New York, the US, on July 16, 2024.

elected president, which focuses on strengthening multilateralism in accordance with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and international

law. Bagheri Kani said that President-elect Masoud Pezeshkian has recently outlined his primary foreign policy strategy, which

seek to open new horizons and foster friendly relations with other nations based on dialogue, cooperation, equality, and mutual respect.

Iran rejects claims about killing Trump, says pursues Soleimani case legally

International Desk

Iran on Wednesday rejected "malicious" accusations by US media implicating it in a plot to kill former US president Donald Trump. CNN reported Tuesday that US authorities received intelligence from a "human source" weeks ago on an alleged Iranian plot against the former president, prompting his protection to be boosted. Other US outlets also reported the alleged plot.

CNN said the alleged plot was not linked to Saturday's shooting at a Trump campaign rally in Pennsylvania, in which the former president was wounded and a supporter killed.

The US National Security Council said it had been "tracking Iranian threats against former Trump administration officials for years" after Tehran had threatened revenge for the 2020 assassination of commander of the Quds Force of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Qassem Soleimani in a US drone strike in neighboring Iraq.

Iran's mission to the United Nations called the accusations "unsubstantiated and malicious".

The mission, nevertheless, asserted that "from the Islamic Republic's standpoint, Trump is a criminal, who should be tried and punished in court for [issuing] General Soleimani's assassination order."

"Iran has chosen the legal pathway to hold him accountable," it stated. Foreign ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani said Iran "strongly rejects any involvement in the recent armed attack against Trump".

The Islamic Republic considers such claims to be a product of malicious political goals and intents, he added. He added however that Iran remains "determined to prosecute Trump over his direct role in the assassination of General Qassem Soleimani".

Trump ordered his assassination in a drone strike just outside Baghdad airport in January 2020.

Deadly strikes pound Gaza as Netanyahu scuppers truce plan



Nearly 70 percent of UN-run schools across Gaza have been hit during more than nine months of fighting, the UN agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA) said on Tuesday.

"Why do they target us when we are innocent people?" asked Umm Mohammed al-Hasanat, sheltering with her family at a UN-run school in Nuseirat, which was among those hit.

"We do not carry weapons but are just sitting and trying to find safety for ourselves and our children."

Washington has been pushing for a truce deal between Israel and Hamas since President Joe Biden released details of what he said was an Israeli cease-fire roadmap on May 31.

But despite the efforts of Egyptian and Qatari mediators, indirect negotiations between the foes have made no headway.

In a telephone call with Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan late Tuesday, the Hamas leader blamed Israel for the deadlock.

day that despite mounting pressure, there would be no let-up in Israel's attacks. "This is exactly the time to increase the pressure even more, to bring home all the hostages -- the living and the dead -- and to achieve all the war objectives," he said. The health ministry in Gaza said on Wednesday that 81 people, most of them women and children, had been killed in Israeli strikes in 24 hours. At least 90 percent of Gazans have been forced from their homes, many of them seeking refuge in UN-run schools. Seven of them have been hit by Israeli strikes since July 6.

International Desk

Israel kept up its air strikes on Gaza Strip on Wednesday, killing at least 81 Palestinians in just 24-hour. Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed to ramp up the pressure on Hamas as hopes fade for a US-announced cease-fire plan. Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh accused Israel of deliberately undermining negotiations for a truce and captive release deal because it did not want to end the war.

The Israeli military said it had carried out 25 strikes in 24 hours on Gaza. Netanyahu insisted Tues-

Saudi crown prince felicitates Pezeshkian on election win



International Desk

Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman held a phone call with Iran's President-elect Masoud Pezeshkian, congratulating him on his recent election victory, the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported on Wednesday.

The crown prince and Pezeshkian "praised the development of relations between the two countries at various levels, stressing the importance of continuing to enhance cooperation in various fields," SPA said. The Iranian president ex-

pressed his gratitude and appreciation to Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman for his kind wishes.

The Saudi king had also sent a congratulatory message to Pezeshkian following his election in early July.

King Salman bin Abdulaziz had expressed hope for the "continued development of relations which link our two countries and our two brotherly peoples," SPA said at the time.

Earlier this month, Pezeshkian won a presidential election held after the

sudden death of president Ebrahim Raisi in a tragic helicopter crash in May.

Riyadh and Tehran agreed in a China-brokered deal in March last year to restore diplomatic ties and reopen their respective embassies after seven years of no formal ties.

Saudi Arabia severed ties with Iran in 2016 following an attack by demonstrators on its embassy in Tehran and consulate in Mashhad, who were protesting the execution of a prominent Shia cleric by Riyadh.

Nasrallah warns Israel of 'extensive damage' in case of war

The secretary general of Lebanon's Hezbollah resistance movement warned the Israeli regime about an extensively destructive response if it launched a ground invasion of the country.

Sayed Hassan Nasrallah made the remarks on Wednesday, addressing a rally held in the Lebanese capital Beirut on the occasion of Ashura, which commemorates the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussein (PBUH), the third Shia Imam, Press TV reported. "If your tanks come to Leba-

non and south Lebanon, you will not have a shortage of tanks, as you will no longer have any tanks left," he said. Hezbollah and the Israeli regime have been exchanging deadly fire since early October last year.

The firefight began after the regime launched a genocidal war against the Gaza Strip that came following Operation al-Aqsa Storm, a surprise foray by the Gaza-based resistance groups. Hezbollah has vowed to keep up its retaliatory attacks as long as the Israeli regime

continued its war on Gaza, which has so far killed over 38,700 Palestinians, mostly women and children.

Nasrallah noted how Hezbollah's operations had exacted a heavy toll on the regime.

"The toll includes 9,254 individuals, among them officers and soldiers, with 3,000 amputees, 650 paralyzed, 185 completely blind, and several thousand others suffering severe psychological trauma," he said.

"Our front in Lebanon will remain active as long as the aggression against Gaza, its

people, and its resistance continues in all its forms," Nasrallah asserted.

In the same context, he cautioned that potential continuation of the regime's aggression against Gaza would prompt the Lebanese resistance to start targeting "new Israeli settlements that were previously untouched."

Hezbollah's leader noted how resistance groups hailing from Yemen and Iraq had joined to launch similar retaliatory operations against the regime.

He commented on the Yeme-

ni operations that have been targeting Israeli ships and the vessels heading towards the ports of the occupied Palestinian territories in support of war-hit Palestinians in Gaza.

"Yemen has successfully imposed a blockade on the port of Eilat (in the southern part of the occupied territories), leading to its declaration of bankruptcy and causing shipping prices to soar highly. This has had serious repercussions for the entity," Nasrallah said.

"For the first time..., the Is-

raeli entity is experiencing its worst days. For the first time, Israel appears unable to achieve its goals and is attempting to cover up its failures by committing massacres and killing civilians," he remarked.

'A hell with no return'

Iran's interim foreign minister also warned that Lebanon will "definitely be a hell with no return for the Zionists," if the Israeli regime dares expand its brutal war on the Gaza Strip to the Arab country and other fronts in

the region.

Ali Bagheri Kani made the statement while speaking to reporters after a meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov at the United Nations headquarters in New York on Tuesday.

"The Zionists cannot make up for their losses in Gaza by expanding their war mongering in other areas in the region, rather they will be plunging themselves deeper into the swamp of much more serious risks," the top Iranian diplomat said.



'The Old Bachelor' wins Best Film at Irish festival

Arts & Culture Desk

'The Old Bachelor,' an Iranian feature film directed by Oktay Baraheni, won the Best Film Award at the World Cinema Competition Section of the 36th Galway Film Fleadh in Ireland. The winners of the 36th Galway Film Fleadh, one of Ireland's leading film festivals, were announced on the evening of July 16. 'The Old Bachelor' shared the award for Best World Cinema with a film by a Palestinian director titled

'To a Land Unknown,' IRNA wrote. 'The Old Bachelor' is directed by Oktay Baraheni and produced by Babak Hamidian and Hanif Sarvari, with financing from Arsalon Baraheni and Amir Hossein Abdolahi. The film stars Hamed Behdad, Leila Hatami, Mohammad Valizadegan, and veteran actor Hasan Pourshirazi. Pourshirazi won the award for Best Actor at the 23rd Transilvania International Film Festival in Romania for his performance in 'The

Old Bachelor.' The film also won the Grand Prix at the 53rd International Film Festival Rotterdam and was praised for its performances at the Romanian festival. The Galway Film Fleadh is an Academy Awards-qualifying event, and 'The Old Bachelor' is being distributed internationally by Haft Cheshmeh Distribution Company, managed by Milad Khosravi.



Iranian-Russian art event to celebrate cultural ties



Arts & Culture Desk

An international art festival, 'Patterns of Friendship,' will bring together Iranian and Russian painters in a celebration of cultural exchange and artistic talent. The festival, organized by the Cultural Center of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Russian Federation and the Academy of Watercolor and Fine Arts named

after Sergey Andriaka, aims to foster stronger ties between the two countries through the universal language of art, ILNA wrote. The festival will feature two main sections: A search for young talents and an exhibition of works by professional artists. Artists from both countries will submit their interpretations of specified themes, with 100 pieces from each nation being chosen by a jury for display in exhi-

bitions in both Iran and Russia. This unique cultural event provides a platform for Iranian and Russian artists to share their perspectives on each other's rich and ancient cultures, promoting mutual understanding and appreciation. The festival is being executed by the Sareh Art Gallery in Russia and the Artibition Art Gallery in Iran, ensuring a seamless experience for participating artists.

Iran's air pollution monitoring of industrial units up 26% in Q1

Social Desk

There has been a notable 26% increase in air pollution monitoring of industrial, mining, production, and service units in Iran in the first three months of this year in the Iranian calendar (March 20 to June 20), compared to the same period last year. This was announced by Ahmad Taheri, the director of the comprehensive monitoring office of Iran's Depart-

ment of Environment, ILNA wrote. Taheri stated that one of the monitored parameters is emissions from fixed sources (stacks). In this regard, approximately 4,216 stack emissions were monitored during the spring of last year, and this number has increased to 5,301 in the same period this year, indicating a 26% growth in stack emissions monitoring. Furthermore, according to data extracted

from the country's comprehensive environmental database, 5,517 parameters of wastewater from industrial, service, and hospital units were monitored by environmental experts and through self-declaration by accredited laboratories during the previous spring. This number has increased to 5,858 parameters this spring, showing a 2.6% growth. In addition, there has been a 6.5% increase

in noise pollution monitoring, with 2,359 cases recorded this spring compared to the previous year. Taheri also mentioned that the provinces of Tehran, Razavi Khorasan, and Alborz have the highest number of registered centers in the system, while Qom, Kermanshah, and Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad have shown the most growth despite challenges with equipment, resources, and allocated credits.



Iranian painter Farhad Moshiri dies at 61

Arts & Culture Desk

Farhad Moshiri, an Iranian painter known for his playful works, passed away at the age of 61. Moshiri, who was born in Shiraz, Iran, in 1963, suffered a heart attack on July 17, according to reports from friends and art world colleagues, ISNA

wrote. Moshiri was renowned for his unique style that blended traditional Persian elements with contemporary techniques and a pop art sensibility. He rose to prominence in the late 1990s with his 'Jar Paintings,' a series inspired by ancient Persian pottery that featured bold,

colorful numbers and letters. These works not only referenced Iran's rich artistic history but also explored themes of duality and the relationship between tradition and modernity. His works quickly gained international recognition, and in 2008, he became the first Middle Eastern

artist to have a work sold for over \$1 million at auction. Moshiri's pieces continued to break records, with his 'Black Numbers on White' fetching \$358,000 at Tehran Auction's 20th edition in July 2023. Moshiri's art has been exhibited globally, including

at the British Museum and the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, and he has been ranked among the top 500 artists worldwide. His distinctive style and contribution to the contemporary art scene have left a lasting legacy, and his death is a significant loss to the art world.

