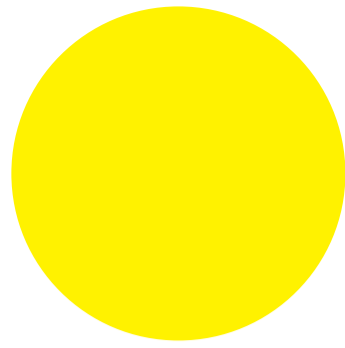


Belgian youth
applaud
Leader's
support for
Palestine



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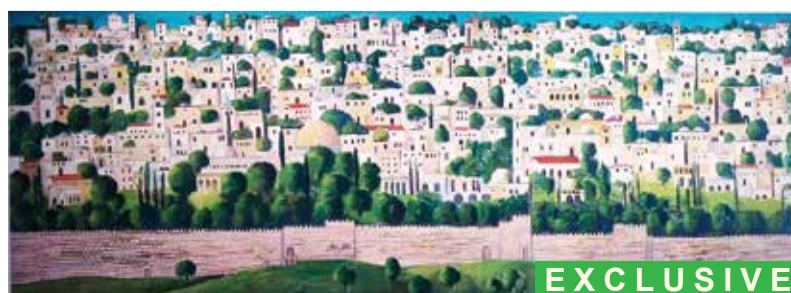


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EXCLUSIVE

Iran breaks monopoly in nuclear products, services: **AEOI chief**

The head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) said the country has managed to break the monopoly in the nuclear industry as its homegrown products and services are nowadays traded in the global market.

Mohammad Eslami made the remarks in an interview with the khamenei.ir website, which was published on Monday.

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Indonesia urges further coop. in mining sector in NW Iran

Indonesian Ambassador to Iran Ronny Prasetyo Yuliantoro called for increased cooperation in the mining sector in Iran's East Azerbaijan Province. During a meeting with the vice president and a delegation from the Tabriz Chamber of Commerce, the Indonesian envoy highlighted the mineral potential of the northwestern province, advocating for enhanced collaboration in this area, as reported by IRNA.

He pointed out that Indonesia is highly active in the production of palm oil and coffee, suggesting that East Azerbaijan could import these products from Indonesia. Yuliantoro also stressed that international exhibitions in Indonesia offer an excellent opportunity for Iranian traders to showcase their products.

He highlighted that businessmen from Iran, particularly in East Azerbaijan Province, can display their commodities at significant international expos in the South Asian nation. The ambassador noted that he visited East Azerbaijan Province in northwestern Iran for the second time, and given the facilities and capacities of both the Iranian province and Indonesia, there is ample ground for cooperation across various fields.

During the meeting, Vice President of the Tabriz Chamber of Commerce Massoud Bonabian stressed the importance of expanding trade relations between businessmen from Indonesia and the province. He pointed out that the current volume of trade exchanges between East Azerbaijan and Indonesia is relatively low, adding that the participation of the province's businessmen in Indonesian exhibitions could significantly enhance economic exchanges.

Gold imports quadruple in four months

Iran imported 12,260 tons of gold bullion bars, valued at \$779m, in the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-June 22, 2024), reflecting a significant increase of up to fourfold compared to the same period last year.

The Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) noted that 3.36 tons of the gold ingot, valued at \$197m, were imported into the country in the first four months of the previous Iranian calendar year (March 21 to June 22, 2023), Mehr reported.

More than 90% of the gold ingots have been imported into the country in this period via the customs office of Imam Khomeini (RA) International airport (IKIA). The customs offices of Bashmaq, Tabriz, Mashhad, Piranshahr and Yazd were the other customs offices which recorded imports of the gold bullion bars into the country from March 21 to June 22, 2024.

Russia, Iran set to sign 'historic' partnership deal

Russia and Iran have put the finishing touches on a comprehensive cooperation treaty, setting the stage for the signing of this historic document, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Andrey Rudenko said.

"During quite productive consultations between experts from legal and regional departments of the foreign ministries of the two countries held in Moscow on June 21, the text was finalized. According to the results, it was agreed to launch internal procedures necessary to prepare the agreement for signing within the framework of top-level bilateral interaction in the near future," he said in an interview with TASS.

Rudenko expressed optimism that "this truly historic event" will occur very soon.

"Editing such a serious document, meant to elevate the status of Russian-Iranian ties to the level of comprehensive strategic partnership, has taken almost two and a half years and today it can be considered complete," the senior diplomat noted.

Earlier, IRNA said that Iranian President-elect Masoud Pezeshkian in a phone conversation with Russian President Vladimir Putin said that Tehran was ready to sign the comprehensive cooperation agreement with Moscow at the BRICS summit in Kazan in October.



Details of this agreement have not been released, however, in March, Kazem Jalali, Iran's ambassador in Moscow, emphasized in an interview with IRNA that "this agreement encompasses broad areas and includes

issues of mutual respect and respect for the territorial integrity of both countries."

He stated that "it should not be assumed that this agreement is secret and private."

According to Jalali, the text of

this agreement will be submitted to the parliaments of both countries in the form of a bill for approval after being ratified by both governments.

In recent years, Iran has established closer ties with Russia

and China through its membership in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa). Iran has also signed a comprehensive 25-year agreement with China.

Cargo transit via Iran up 58.5% in four months: IRICA



Cargo transit via the Iranian territory rose significantly in the four months to July 21 compared to the same period last year, according to head of the country's customs office (IRICA).

Mohammad Reza Rezvanifar said on Monday that the volume of cargo transit through Iran in the four months to late July had reached a total of 7.622 million metric tons (mt), an increase of 58.5% from the same period in 2023, Press TV reported.

Rezvanifar said cargo transit via the Piranshahr border crossing, located on the border between Iran and Iraq's Kurdistan region, had witnessed a 661% year on year increase in the March-July period, the largest among all border crossings in Iran.

Transit activity at Sarakhs crossing, a key trade gateway between Iran and Central Asia on the border with Turkmenistan, rose by 286% over the same period, he said.

The Parvizkhan customs office, located in Iran's province of Kermanshah on the western border with Iraq, was responsible for the largest part

of cargo transit via Iran in the four months to late July, said the IRICA chief, adding that cargo transit via the crossing had reached 2.166 million mt over the period.

Iran's largest container port of Shahid Rajaei, located on the Persian Gulf coast, came second in terms of the volume of foreign cargo processed for transit via the country in March-July, said Rezvanifar.

Iran has eased restrictions on foreign cargo transit while introducing plans to improve its railways and roads infrastructure in recent years.

That has come as part of efforts to generate more revenues for the country from a growing freight transport activity on the north-south and east-west trade corridors in the region.

Non-oil exports to Oman up 40%

Meanwhile, the country's export of non-oil products to the Sultanate of Oman in the first three months of this year in the Iranian calendar registered a 40% growth, said an official at the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran (TPOI), Mehr News Agency reported.

The director general of the West Asia Department of the TPOI noted that \$392 million worth of non-oil goods were exported from the country to Oman in the first three months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21 to June 22, 2024), showing a 40% increase as compared to the last year's corresponding period.

Oil bitumen, iron ingot, urea, compressed iron ore, ferrous products, sponge iron, greenhouse tomatoes, etc. were of the main products exported from Iran to the Sultanate of Oman in this timespan, Abdolamir Rabi-havi added.

Iran imported \$104 million worth of products from Oman in the first quarter of the current Iranian calendar year, showing a decrease compared to the same period last year.

The TPOI official pointed out that Iran imported \$198 million worth of goods from Oman last year (ended March 19, 2024).

Elsewhere in his remarks, Rabi-havi pointed to the trade exchanges between Iran and Qatar and stated that Iran exported about \$30 million worth of non-oil goods to neighboring Qatar between March 21 to June 22, 2024, showing a 16% increase compared to the same period last year.

Iran imported \$24 million worth of products from Qatar in the first quarter of the current Iranian calendar year (started March 21, 2024), registering an eight percent growth compared to the last year's corresponding period, Rabi-havi added.

Iran raises car imports to contain soaring prices

Iran has ramped up imports of cars this year amid efforts to ease soaring prices in the domestic market.

Figures released by the Iranian customs office (IRICA) on Monday showed that a total of 9,592 imported cars worth just over \$192 million had been cleared in the country's customs in the four months to July 21.

That comes as Iran had imported only 439 cars worth \$12 million in the four months to late July 2023, Press TV reported.

The figures come just days after the Iranian government said it had eased restrictions on imports of second-hand cars as part of efforts to mitigate a shortage that has pushed up the prices in the domestic market. Authorities have said that people will be able to import almost all brands of foreign cars from neighboring countries with paying a duty of around 150%

which is much lower than a normal car import tariff of nearly 600%.

Increased car imports into Iran come nearly four years after the country introduced heavy restrictions on hard currency spending for unnecessary imports.

The policy was aimed at helping domestic manufacturing and coping with the financial impacts of US sanctions that had restricted Iran's oil sales.

Experts say Iran has to import hundreds of thousands of cars each year to respond to a domestic demand which is estimated to be around 2 million units.

Domestic manufacturing of cars reached 1.335 million units in the year to March 2024 and is expected to hit a target of 1.7 million in the current calendar year, according to figures released by the country's industry ministry earlier this month.



Architectural and archaeological wonders of Sanandaj Museum

Iranica Desk

Sanandaj, one of the largest Kurdish cities in Iran and the center of Kurdistan Province, has long been a popular destination for tourists. The city boasts numerous historical buildings, one of which is the Salar Saeed Mansion, currently home to the Sanandaj Museum.

The Salar Saeed Mansion was constructed during the Naser al-Din Shah Qajar's reign and reflects the influence of Qajar architecture. Built from stone, brick, and wood, the mansion features a gabled roof. The most striking aspect of the building is the large arched windows in the hall, which consist of seven doors and are regarded as a work of art.

The mansion comprises the main building and a courtyard. The main structure, located on the southern side, includes a basement and an upper floor. The basement has been designed as a reservoir and features a dome-shaped ceiling adorned with decorations and mirror work. Additionally, a hall and a hexagonal stone pool have been constructed in this section, which remains in use today.

From its inception, the Sanandaj Museum has been divided into two sections: archaeology and anthropology. In the archaeology section, artifacts from various periods, ranging from prehistoric times to the Qajar era, were on display. Some of these items belong to Kurdistan Province, while others come from neighboring provinces and different parts of the country.

Before the victory of the Islamic Revolution, the anthropology section operated as a temporary exhibition space, periodically showcasing artifacts from various Iranian provinces. After the revolution, this section became exclusively dedicated to the anthropological artifacts of Kurdistan. In 2003, with the establishment of the Asef Vaziri Monument, the anthropological items of the museum were transferred to the Asef Vaziri House (Kurdish House), leaving only archaeological and historical objects on display at the museum.

Prehistoric section

This section is located in the entrance corridor and one of the rooms adja-



IRNA

cent to the main hall. It houses a collection of pottery discovered in various regions of Kurdistan, particularly in Baneh. Some of the vessels are also associated with Kangavar. Among the items in this section, the oil lamps unearthed from Baneh are especially noteworthy.

Historical section

This section contains the majority of the museum's artifacts. The main hall, one of the adjacent rooms, and the exit corridor are dedicated to showcasing these items. Artifacts uncovered from the Ziviyeh Mound, the most significant historical site in Kurdistan Province, are regarded as the centerpiece of this section. The Ziviyeh collection includes gold artifacts and stone tools. The collection features beads, women's jewelry, pottery items, and various earthenware containers in shades of gray, red, and beige. It also encompasses bronze objects such as vessels, axes, sewing needles, and rings, as well as items made from bone and ivory that depict hunting scenes, warfare, and mythological motifs.

Among the pottery pieces, there is a small, decorated glazed jug consid-

ered the most beautiful item in the collection, showcasing turquoise, white, and yellow glazes along with floral designs.

In addition to the artifacts from the Ziviyeh Mound, there is a collection of other metal and pottery items that includes various types of spears, daggers, different rings, small statuettes, and pottery vessels with various shapes, some featuring designs carved or painted in red, gray, beige, as well as glass containers, including different types of bowls and perfume bottles. The exact locations where these items were discovered are not known.

Clay Jars: The clay jars represent another segment of the historical period artifacts and are known as funerary jars. Due to their large size, these funerary jars are kept in the open space of the museum, while the smaller funerary jars are housed indoors.

Karafu Cave Collection: The items obtained from the excavations at Karafu Cave, which are sometimes comparable to the Ziviyeh artifacts, make up the final items in this section.

Islamic era

The artifacts in this section are divided

into two categories: ceramics and metalwork. The ceramic section features beautifully crafted items that highlight the pottery art of Islamic period artists, including jars, bowls, cups, plates and figurines. These artifacts are skillfully made and adorned with glazes, patterns, and designs. A small portion of these items originates from Kurdistan Province, while the majority are associated with other regions of Iran, particularly Rey, Kashan, and Neyshabur. The metalwork section includes various bowls, jugs, trays, washbasins, small pots, and types of oil lamps.

Temporary exhibition

This section, located in the basement of the building (known as howzkhaneh), is currently dedicated to showcasing foreign art. This section, located in the basement of the building (known as howzkhaneh), is currently dedicated to showcasing foreign art, offering visitors a rotating display of important items, such as bronze sculptures and glass vessels. The artifacts displayed here are periodically changed according to the museum's programs.



Astara, a sanctuary of nature, culture and hospitality



safarzon.com

Astara, a luminous gem nestled in northern Iran, seamlessly intertwines the ethereal beauty of its lush landscapes with a rich cultural heritage, whispering tales of epochs gone by through its verdant forests and shimmering Caspian shores. This city is a melodic symphony of nature and history, offering a soulful embrace that invites travelers to lose themselves in its enchanting realms and discover serenity in its tranquil vistas.

Located within the vibrant embrace of Gilan Province, Astara beckons with its captivating fusion of natural abundance and cultural richness. Cocooned among the cascading emerald hills of northern Iran and caressed by the gentle waves of the Caspian Sea, this remarkable city stands as a heartwarming testament to the nation's geological and cultural diversity. Astara, where the confluence of natural beauty and human ingenuity breathes life into ev-

ery corner, unfolds a myriad of experiences for those fortunate enough to wander its verdant paths, irantravelingcenter.com wrote.

Eloquently positioned along the Iran-Azerbaijan border, Astara forges a bridge between two nations and cultures. Here, the dramatic meeting of earth and water captivates the senses, with the undulating Alborz Mountains embracing the azure expanses of the Caspian Sea. This geographical positioning has bestowed Astara with a climate that is a harmonious blend of subtropical lushness and mild temperate breezes, creating an environment where flora and fauna thrive in a vibrant display of life's vitality.

Visitors to Astara are greeted by an array of scents, as the briny air of the Caspian mingles gracefully with the earthy fragrances of its sprawling forests. The Heyran Pass, one of the city's natural masterpieces, mean-

ders through the mountains, offering breathtaking vistas and a transcendent tranquility far from the hustle of urban life. In its most unbridled form, nature paints the landscapes with verdant hues, where dense forests, murmuring streams, and blooming meadows converge to create a tapestry both enchanting and rejuvenating.

Astara is not just a sanctuary for nature enthusiasts; it is also a trove of historical and cultural treasures. Its rich history is woven into the fabric of the land, where archaeological sites whisper tales of ancient civilizations and architectural wonders—mosques and historic houses—bear the imprints of bygone eras. The city exudes a vibrant cultural tapestry, where traditions, customs, and the warmth of its inhabitants intertwine to create a welcoming embrace.

A stroll through Astara reveals an exquisite blend of sights, sounds, and flavors. The lo-

cal bazaar teems with life as merchants showcase a kaleidoscopic array of goods, from sumptuous local produce to handcrafted artifacts. The culinary landscape offers a delectable journey through Gilani cuisine, where the bounty of land and sea combine to tantalize the palate and embody the essence of the region in every bite.

The intrinsic beauty of Astara lies not only in its stunning landscapes but also in the rich tapestry of experiences it gently offers to its visitors. It is a destination where the soul is embraced by nature's tranquility, the body is nourished by delightful sustenance, and the spirit is uplifted by the boundless warmth and hospitality of its people.

To explore Astara is to immerse oneself in a symphony of experiences that enchant, rejuvenate, and linger in the heart's memory—making it not just a place to visit, but a destination to be felt, savored, and cherished.



Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei (R) advises attending members of the Parliament, including Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf (2nd L), to cooperate constructively with President-elect Masoud Pezeshkian (3rd L), in Tehran on July 21, 2024. khamenei.ir

Pezeshkian's cooperative approach 'shoring up trust'

Former MP: Leader's support crystal clear



By Ebrahim Beheshti
Staff writer

INTERVIEW

Masoud Pezeshkian, who will be kicking off his tenure as president of the Islamic Republic of Iran in a few days, is zeroing in on an interactive approach and cooperation in both domestic and foreign policy. The question now is what capacities he and his government have to make a go of it. Are other governing bodies and political groups going to pitch in?

To answer this question and others, Iran Daily conducted an exclusive interview with Ali Tajernia, head of Pezeshkian's campaign in Tehran Province and a member of the president-elect's Advisory Council for Choosing Cabinet Members. A dentist by profession, Tajernia is a former member of the Iranian Parliament and one of the influential figures on the reformist front.



IRAN DAILY: Some of President-elect Pezeshkian's statements imply that the main thrust of his plans in the domestic and foreign policy arena is "cooperation". He's been banging the drum that all Iranian institutions and political groups need to pull together to resolve the country's issues. On the home front, based on what components do you reckon he'll be successful in leading a national cooperation initiative?

TAJERNIA: I'm upbeat about Pezeshkian pulling off national cooperation and consensus. Compared to former presidents, he can foster more internal harmony and empathy. Of course, differences of opinion will stand, and typically, radical forces on both sides of the political fence throw a spanner in the works. However, there are several factors that increase the odds of the future government succeeding. The first factor is Pezeshkian's character and his faith in cooperation and interaction. In the past, some others talked about unity and cooperation, but their efforts fell flat because they didn't truly buy into it. They meant unity or cooperation on their terms. However, Pezeshkian genuinely believes in national co-



Iran's President-elect Masoud Pezeshkian (C) is greeted by members of the Iranian Parliament in his first visit to the open session since his election, in Tehran on July 21, 2024. EISA

operation, which is why people from across the spectrum rallied behind his election campaign, especially since his honesty endears others. The second factor is the experiences Iranian political groups have been through over the years. They've realized that shutting out some political groups hasn't boosted government or system efficiency and has, in fact, locked out experienced people from the country's management cycle, which is a setback for

governments and leads to ill-informed, costly decisions. So, based on these lessons, there is reason to anticipate that all Iranian political movements will get serious about consensus and cooperation for more effective government and governance. The third factor is the backing of the Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution and governing bodies for the president-elect. Although Pezeshkian is reformist-leaning in his discourse, we've witnessed

those bodies throwing their weight behind him in recent weeks, pledging to lend a hand to his government. The Leader's remarks on Sunday, at a meeting with members of the Parliament and in the presence of the president-elect, reaffirmed a more resolute emphasis on supporting the incoming government. So, these factors do boost hopes for an atmosphere of national cooperation under the future government.

Do you reckon Pezeshkian's cooperative approach will be reflected in how he crafts his cabinet? Will the cabinet be a crystallization of this cooperative vision?

Undoubtedly, the thoughts of Pezeshkian and this same cooperation ethos should cut across various areas of government. One key area is the cabinet. In the Advisory Councils that former foreign minister Mohammad Javad Zarif set up and chaired to select ministers, we see individuals from different branches with independent, moderate, and even conservative tendencies. So, all public servants should note the president's primary approach is this cooperative one, and they should strive to foster empathy and cooperation in the country and

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I have a suggestion for President-elect Pezeshkian: task each minister, as they start their tenure, with implementing three impactful measures in their respective portfolios within the first six months, to ramp up the government's effectiveness from the get-go.

fall in line with the president's request. Pezeshkian's moves post-election, up to now, indicate he's keen to get more participation from unions, groups, and prominent political figures in selecting ministers. This approach can shore up trust between the government and other governing institutions, political groups, and unions.

What, in your view, should the future government be prioritizing as it gets down to business? Are these priorities economic, political, social, or international?

It appears the country's pressing problem at the moment is the economic situation. However, economic woes like increased liquidity, soaring infla-

tion, and lackluster economic growth do not have quick fixes; they call for medium or long-term planning to deliver tangible results for the people.

So, it'd be prudent for the government to focus on less costly measures in the short term to address some issues. For instance, one such decision could be lifting restrictions on internet access, which would have positive knock-on effects in the social and cultural spheres and facilitate the online business environment. Or, the issue of women's clothing, which has become a contentious topic in the country, could be addressed with a government initiative that respects Sharia Law and customary affairs as well, thus softening the cultural and political atmo-

sphere. Interacting with Parliament and making inroads on issues of foreign exchange and the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) could also be among the priorities. Of course, long-term planning aimed at tackling economic problems should kick off sooner rather than later.

I also have a suggestion for Pezeshkian: task each minister, as they start their tenure, with implementing three impactful measures in their respective portfolios within the first six months, to ramp up the government's effectiveness from the get-go.

In the realm of foreign policy, are you optimistic about the government's approach to cooperating with other na-

tions as well?

Yes, but there are some facts to consider. In the domain of foreign policy, not all decisions and powers rest with the government. What's encouraging, though, is that Pezeshkian has built solid trust with other institutions in this short period, which can underpin success in foreign cooperation. Also, apparently, his orientations in foreign policy are trusted by the system and thus lay the groundwork for engagement with the world.

Of course, the Iranian government is one side of the coin; the other side is foreign countries. They, too, should demonstrate more flexibility toward Iran, acknowledge the new developments — namely, Iran's election

results — and recognize the rights of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Prior to this, the nuclear deal talks during the first term of the former president Hassan Rouhani were a positive experience, but then we witnessed Donald Trump derailing them. So, foreign countries need to adopt a more realistic stance toward Iran. As a developing country with a range of capabilities, Iran can present attractive opportunities for foreign nations if they're earnest about engaging with Iran.

Pezeshkian hailed the recent words of the Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution and his emphasis on the necessity of the Parliament cooperating with the new government as a

boon for his government. Do you think these statements will have a positive bearing on the future government's success?

Yes, they most certainly will. The Leader's statements about Pezeshkian have been evaluated very positively. They reinforce the message that all branches must pull together to tackle the country's problems. His support was crystal clear: I trust that various governing bodies and political groups, who view the Leader as the system's main pillar, will put these directives into practice. Of course, both supporters and critics of Pezeshkian should strive to make use of the Leader's backing of the incoming government.

Building upon past successes imperative: *ICCCI chief*

Plans B-Z needed to neutralize sanctions



By Sadeq Dehqan
Staff writer

INTERVIEW

With the presidential elections now out of the way and Masoud Pezeshkian voted in as Iran's ninth president and head of the 14th government, there's been a lot more talk around the direction he'll take with his cabinet selections and foreign policy and economic approaches.

In the meantime, a key ask of the people, which was a central campaign pledge for all candidates vying for votes, has been to tackle the country's economic troubles and improve living standards. Given this, Pezeshkian has stated that to boost the economy, the focus should be on lifting international sanctions, and he'll work on reviving the nuclear deal, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), and clearing other hurdles like joining the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

To get a deeper insight into these matters, Iran Daily conducted an exclusive interview with Majid Reza Hariri, head of the Iran-China Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ICCCI) and an economic expert.



Iranian President-elect Masoud Pezeshkian (front-C) attends the first meeting of a council that reviews ministerial candidates for his government, in Tehran on July 20, 2024.
● IRNA



Director of Consular Affairs at the Saudi Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ali Youssef (C) and Iranian consular officials attend the official ceremony of the reopening of the Iranian Embassy in Riyadh, on June 6, 2023.
● FATF, IRNA, IRNA, APF

IRAN DAILY: As an economic official active in the realm of foreign relations, how do you assess President-elect Pezeshkian's approach to matters of economy and foreign policy?

HARIRI: From the televised election debates and slogans, we have gathered that Pezeshkian believes in engaging with other countries and fostering our existing global relationships. Of course, to clearly understand the newly elected government's approaches, we need to wait and see how the cabinet ministers are chosen and with which orientation. Many issues remain unpredictable at this stage, especially in foreign policy, which is a multi-dimensional and highly complex field. As we're aware, Presidents do not have the final say in the country's foreign policy. It's an area on which the entire system has to reach an agreement. One government might lean more anti-West, while another could be more Western-oriented. While such government tendencies and approaches can influence the

system's policies, foreign policy is a collaborative effort. However, based on our understanding of Pezeshkian, he strikes a moderate path in foreign policy. He doesn't go overboard in favoring either the West or the East; instead, he maintains a balanced approach to international relations. That's what we can expect from his government in this arena.

The late president Raisi's government prioritized developing relations with neighboring countries, which yielded positive economic outcomes. Do you anticipate this approach continuing under Pezeshkian's government?

We shouldn't simply disregard the achievements and positive experiences of past governments. President Raisi's tenure witnessed notable progress in foreign policy, particularly in economic diplomacy, bringing about beneficial outcomes for the country. Certain trends, such as the approval of Iran's membership bid in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization,

were already underway before the late president took office, but his government followed through and saw these initiatives to completion. Similarly, during Raisi's term, we secured membership in the BRICS bloc of emerging economies, which is also considered a positive step for our economy and foreign relations.

Raisi's government prioritized engagement with neighboring countries, especially those along the southern border of the Persian Gulf, where tensions had previously existed. With the assistance of countries like our Chinese friends, past issues were resolved, and our bilateral relations improved. We also enhanced our relationships with India and China, leading to economic gains. Additionally, issues with Turkmenistan were addressed, paving the way for economic ties. In the last three years, steps were also taken to strengthen relations with Latin American and African nations, resulting in beneficial economic outcomes. Thus, as we consider engagement and potential friendship

with Western nations, it's imperative that we also build upon past successes and continue to explore new opportunities while maintaining the progress made in other areas.

It appears that Pezeshkian's government has a particular strategy in mind regarding negotiations to revive the JCPOA and address the nuclear issue, with the ultimate goal of lifting sanctions. How optimistic should we be about a positive resolution?

Given the amount of time that has elapsed since the JCPOA was halted, it seems the agreement has historically run its course. If the new government wishes to revisit this issue, it should consider a fresh approach to relations with the West concerning the nuclear agreement. As is widely known, the US holds the primary decision-making power in this regard for Western nations. Historical experience indicates that the European Union and other countries influenced by Western policies, including South Korea, Japan, and

Australia, ultimately fall in line with American directives. Thus, when we speak of nuclear cooperation with the world, we are essentially referring to the US. Negotiation remains the optimal method for engaging with any country. We haven't shut the door on talks with the US, and negotiations with Americans are ongoing in Oman and elsewhere. Of course, negotiating with the US doesn't imply capitulating to their demands. Nonetheless, by maintaining our boundaries in these negotiations, we hold some control over the outcome — about 50%. While we should interact confidently, flexibly, and shrewdly with the other side, we should also be aware that these negotiations may not yield our desired results. Therefore, to prevent our economy and other areas from reaching a stalemate, we must have a Plan B and explore alternative options. Alongside negotiations, we should aim to minimize the impact of sanctions on our economy through domestic policies and by fostering relations with other nations to create new markets for our products.



Presidents do not have the final say in the country's foreign policy. It's an area on which the entire system has to reach an agreement. However, based on our understanding of Pezeshkian, he strikes a moderate path in foreign policy. He doesn't go overboard in favoring either the West or the East.

Iran's goalball team to play France in Paris 2024 opener



● TASNIM

The International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA) released the official schedule for goalball at the Paris 2024 Paralympics.

Iran will lock horns with France in its opening match on August 30 in Pool A, reported Tasnim News Agency.

Team Melli will also play against Brazil and the US on August 31 and September 1.

Egypt, Ukraine, Japan and China are in Pool B.

The Paris 2024 Paralympic Games will take place from August 28 to September 8 and will see more than 4,000 athletes from around the world competing in 549 medal events.

Iran sitting volleyball to play Kazakhstan

The Iranian men's sitting volleyball national team will play a friendly match with Kazakhstan in Mashhad. The match is scheduled for next week, Tasnim News Agency wrote.

Team Melli is preparing for the 2024 Paralympic Games in Paris, where the team is drawn in Pool B along with Brazil, Germany and Ukraine.

Kazakhstan is in Pool A along with host France, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Egypt.

The Iranian team has won seven gold medals in the Paralympic Games so far.

Ayoub El Amloud finalizes deal with Persepolis



● TASNIM

Moroccan right back Ayoub El Amloud, who joined Iran's Persepolis football club last week, has arrived in Tehran to finalize his deal.

El Amloud, 30, has most recently played for the Moroccan club Wydad AC, Tasnim News Agency reported on Tuesday.

Persepolis has signed El Amloud as a replacement for Danial Esmailifard.

The Iran league title holder will be led by Spanish coach Juan Carlos Garrido in the new season.

Persepolis will participate in the 2024-25 AFC Champions League Elite.

Iran freestylers bag three golds at Asian Wrestling

The superb performance of Iranian representatives on the first day of the Freestyle Wrestling of Asian Youth Championships led to the winning of five medals in Sriracha, Thailand.

The bagging of three gold medals, one silver and a bronze with 110 points on Tuesday paved the ground for the Iranian team to be crowned on Wednesday after the completion of the second day of competitions, IRNA reported.

In the 65kg contests, Ali Khorramdel stood on top

against Mongolian wrestler Shattyk Alaidar 8-4 in the final game, while Ali Karampour finished his campaign with the gold medal of the 70kg class following a 9-0 victory over Kazakhstan's Aikyn Bolatuly.

Abolfazl Babaloo won a third gold medal for Iran when he bested Indian Sahil Jaglan in the 97kg final.

Iranian Majid Kheirabad had to settle for the silver medal in the final of 79kg, where he lost 10-0 to Alp Arsalan Bejenjov from Turkmenistan. The bronze of 57kg went to

Iranian wrestler Ali Momeni for his triumph in ranking matches over Mongolia's Myanganbanzragch Tumentogtokh as Indian wrestler Ankush Ankush received the gold medal with a 4-2 win against Uzbekistan's Asadbek Saidturaev.

Iranian wrestlers Shahdad Khosravi (61kg), Ali Rezaei (74kg), Abolfazl Rahmani (86kg), Amirreza Daliri (92kg) and Amirreza Mansouri (125kg) will face their rivals on the second day of the Freestyle Wrestling of Asian Youth Championships.



Asian Men's U20 Volleyball Championship:

Iran crush China in opening match



Iran kicked off the 2024 Asian Men's U20 Volleyball Championship with a bang as they smashed China on Tuesday to secure a decisive 3-0 victory.

The 22nd edition of the tournament started on Tuesday in Surabaya, Indonesia, with 16 teams vying for the title. Iranian volleyballers, drawn in Group B

alongside China, Chinese Taipei, and Qatar, swept aside China in three straight sets (29-27, 25-21, 25-18) in their opening preliminary round matches, IRNA reported.

Arian Mahmoudinejad, Armin Qelich-Niazi, Matin Hosseini, Pouya Ariakhah, Taha Behbodnia, Emran Koukjili, and Mortaza

Tabatabaei formed the starting lineup for Iran, who took full control throughout the match to notch up a conclusive win, bagging all the three points on offer. Iran's youths will continue their quest for glory on Tuesday and Thursday, facing Chinese Taipei and Qatar, respectively, in their remaining preliminary round fixtures.

Earlier in the day, Japan, Chinese Taipei, and Saudi Arabia chalked up 3-0 victories against Kuwait, Qatar, and Australia, respectively, while Bangladesh, coached by Iranian Ali Pourorouji, went down fighting against India, losing 3-2.

The Iranian team is being guided by Gholamreza Moemeni-Moqaddam (head coach), Mohammad-Hossein Nejati, Mohammad Mansouri, and Amin aliakbari (assistant coaches), Hossein Kordfirouzjaei (physiotherapist), Saeed Jadidoleslam (data analyst), Mehdi Hassanzadeh (fitness coach), and Mahmoud Mohammadi Yazdi (masseur).

Palestine urges Int'l Olympic Committee to remove Israel from summer games

Palestine has called on the head of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to exclude the Israeli regime from the summer games in Paris.

The Palestine Olympic Committee sent a letter to the IOC President Thomas Bach and asked him to disallow the participation of Israel in the 2024 Olympic games, Arab News reported.

The letter says the bombardment of the Gaza Strip and the presence of the one who bombards the besieged area is a violation of the Olympic truce. The letter also emphasized that the Palestinian athletes, espe-

cially those in the Gaza Strip, have suffered severely due to the constant Israeli attacks.

According to the Palestine Olympic Committee, about 400 Palestinian athletes have been killed and the destruction of the sports places has complicated the hazardous situation of the athletes who are under severe bans.

Meanwhile, France's interior minister already declared that Israeli athletes are receiving 24-hour protection during the Paris games.

The Olympic Games Paris 2024 will be held from July 26 to August 11 in France.



Andy Murray confirms he will retire from tennis after Olympics in Paris

Andy Murray has confirmed that he will retire from professional tennis after competing at the Olympic Games in Paris.

On Tuesday morning, Murray posted on X: "Arrived in Paris for my last ever tennis tournament. Competing for Great Britain have been by far the most memorable weeks of my career and I'm extremely proud to get to do it one final time!"

The Olympics have been one of the most successful tournaments of Murray's career, with the Briton winning two consecutive singles gold medals in London 2012 and Rio 2016 as well as a mixed doubles silver medal in 2012 alongside Laura Robson. Paris will mark his fifth Olympic games after playing his first Olympics in Beijing 2008, wrote The Guardian. Murray is scheduled to compete in singles and doubles alongside Dan Evans at the Olympics,

which takes place on clay courts at Roland Garros. It is still unclear, though, if the 37-year-old will compete in singles after undergoing back surgery four weeks ago. Over the past five years, despite fears that he would retire in 2019, Murray has continued to compete at the highest level following hip resurfacing surgery in 2019. Last summer, the former No 1 reached No 36 in the ATP rankings, his highest ranking since undergoing the surgery and competing with a metal hip.

Since the second half of last year, though, Murray has struggled badly with his results and his body. Just when his form finally seemed to be improving in March, he tore ligaments in his ankle in the third set of his third-round match at the Miami Open and was sidelined for seven weeks.

A day after winning his first ATP match following the injury, Mur-

ray was then forced to retire from his second-round match at Queen's due to severe back pain and he subsequently underwent back surgery to remove a spinal cyst.

Murray remarkably returned to competition 12 days after the surgery in order to compete at



● REUTERS

Wimbledon for the last time alongside his brother, Jamie, in the men's doubles, with the pair losing a tight first round match to Australian pair Rinky Hijikata and John Peers. Murray then received an emotional ceremony after the match. He had also been scheduled to compete with Emma Raducanu in mixed doubles, but she withdrew before the first round as a precaution ahead of her last-16 singles match.

Throughout this summer, Murray has said that he intended to retire at the Olympics but he wanted to be certain that he would also compete in the doubles draw, where he has a better chance of making a deep run. His back surgery then led to further uncertainty about his retirement plans as he was not sure if he would recover in time for Wimbledon, let alone the Olympics. Murray said he had no intention of competing

at the US Open and his family has a holiday booked after the Olympics. "If I'm able to play at Wimbledon and if I'm able to play at the Olympics, that's most likely going to be it," Murray said on the eve of Wimbledon.

After arriving in Paris Great Britain's Olympic tennis team from London via Eurostar on Monday, Murray trained with Evans on Court Philippe-Chatrier before moving to an outside court for an intense doubles training session alongside Evans against Joe Salisbury and Neal Skupski, Britain's top-ranked doubles team. With an additional two weeks of rehab and recovery, Murray looked considerably more mobile and comfortable on-court than at Wimbledon. He will learn of his opponents in his final tournament following the tennis draw ceremony on Thursday morning.

Pezeshkian: Boost in ties with Asian states a 'priority'

Tokyo ready to help JCPOA revival: *Japan's PM*

International Desk

Iran's president-elect said further development of ties with Asian countries, especially Japan, is one of the priorities of his government's foreign policy, expressing hope for expansion of relations between Iran and Japan. Masoud Pezeshkian made the remarks in a phone conversation with Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida on Monday. Referring to the 95-year-old "diplomatic and friendly relations" between the two nations, Pezeshkian expressed hope that Tehran and Tokyo would strengthen their relations by expansion of economic and trade ties. Both sides also talked about the 2015 Iran nuclear agreement from which the

United States unilaterally withdrew and illegally reimposed sanctions against Iran. The Japanese prime minister expressed hope for the revival of the deal, saying that the international community and Japan expect more from Pezeshkian's administration for effective interaction with the world in this regard. Referring to his country's good relations with both Tehran and Washington, Kishida announced Tokyo's readiness to play a constructive role to revive the agreement, also known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). Pezeshkian told the Japanese prime minister that it was the US that withdrew from the landmark agreement. However, he said, Iran has always been ready



Fumio Kishida



Masoud Pezeshkian

for any dialogue to secure the rights of the Iranian nation. Pezeshkian and Kishida

also exchanged their views on the situation in the region, especially in Gaza, with Kishida expressing his

high hopes for Iran to play a more effective role toward regional peace and stability. Kishida described the on-

going crisis in Gaza as the most import challenge facing the international community, saying that Japan will continue its diplomatic efforts to establish a ceasefire and provide assistance to the Palestinians in Gaza, as well as prevent the spread of conflict to the region. Iran's president-elect called for Japan, as a rotating member of the UN Security Council and the G-7, to make more efforts to exert pressure on the Israeli regime and its supporters to stop the war on Gaza. Israel's strikes have killed more than 39,000 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip since October 7 when the Hamas resistance group launched an operation on the occupied territories, which claimed the lived of more than 1,100 people.

Iran breaks monopoly in nuclear products, services: *AEOI chief*



The head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) said the country has managed to break the monopoly in the nuclear industry as its homegrown products and services are nowadays traded in the global market. Mohammad Eslami made the remarks in an interview with the Khamenei.ir website, which was published on Monday, Press TV reported.

"The capabilities of the Islamic Republic of Iran in nuclear technology have broken the monopoly in this sector, so that our services and products are present in the world's markets, with some of them being exported to several countries," he said. Eslami also noted that Iran has the capacity to export radiopharmaceuticals to different countries, adding that the country is also exporting heavy water and its derivatives. Iranian researchers have succeeded in producing stable isotopes that are strategic, expensive, and of high quality. He further said that Iran received requests for cooperation after holding the 1st International Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology with the participation of 22 countries back in May. Over the past years, Iran has recorded many achievements in its peaceful nuclear energy program in defiance of US sanctions as well as hurdles created by the West. As one of the first signatories to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), Iran has also been closely cooperating with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Palestinian factions agree to form unity government



Palestinian factions including Hamas and Fatah agreed to end their divisions and form an interim national unity government during negotiations in China that ended on Tuesday, China's Foreign Ministry said. The Beijing Declaration was signed at the closing ceremony of a reconciliation dialogue among 14 Palestinian factions held in China's capital from July 21-23, according to the readout, Reuters reported. The meeting was held amid attempts by international mediators to reach a cease-fire deal for Gaza,

with one of the sticking points being the "day-after" plan - how the Hamas-run Gaza will be governed once the war that began on Oct. 7 ends. Senior Hamas official Husam Badran said the most important point of the Beijing Declaration was to form a Palestinian national unity government to manage the affairs of Palestinians. "This creates a formidable barrier against all regional and international interventions that seek to impose realities against our people's interests in managing Palestinian affairs

post-war," Badran said. Badran said the national unity government would manage the affairs of Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank, oversee reconstruction, and prepare conditions for elections. Currently Hamas runs Gaza and Fatah forms the backbone of the Palestinian Authority, which has limited control in the Israeli-occupied West Bank. Details of the agreement did not set out a time-frame for forming a new government. In March, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, who heads Fatah, appointed a new government led by one of his close aides, Mohammad Mustafa. The agreement further demonstrates Beijing's growing influence in the Middle East, after it brokered a breakthrough peace deal between Saudi Arabia and Iran last year.

"The core achievement is to make it clear that the Palestine Liberation Organization is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people," Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi said during the closing ceremony, according to the readout. "China sincerely hopes that the Palestinian factions will achieve Palestinian independence at an early date on the basis of internal reconciliation, and is willing to strengthen communication and coordination with relevant parties to jointly work to implement the Beijing Declaration reached today." The most "prominent highlight" was the agreement on forming an interim national reconciliation government around the post-war governance of Gaza, Wang said, adding that the international community should support efforts to form an interim Palestinian government to control Gaza and the West Bank.

Belgian youth applaud Leader's support for Palestine

International Desk

A group of Belgian youth responded to a recent letter from the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, praising his resolute rebuttal of the Israeli regime's atrocities and his courageous support for Palestinians. "We are profoundly moved by your impassioned plea for justice, for the relentless pursuit of truth, as well as your unwavering commitment to the Palestinian cause and the oppressed across the globe. Your recent resolute rebuttal of the criminal aggression by Israel and the ongoing genocide unfolding in Gaza stands as an admirable example of courage and determination," the letter read. The youth expressed their deep gratitude to Ayatollah Khamenei for his letter. "Your words resonated deep within us, the youth of Europe and North America, and we applaud your valiance in addressing these pivotal matters with candor and conviction." The youth said they observe daily pro-Palestinian protests across the world. In these days, the movement of European and American students to support Palestine is gaining momentum, and several campuses are involved in the United States and Europe. The Belgian youth said the move testifies to the new awareness of Western youth in the face of such injustices in the world. In a letter to western students supporting the Palestinian people, Ayatollah Khamenei said, "You are now standing on the right side of history." The Leader called the students part of the resistance front that have ushered in a dignified struggle.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Iran slams Israel participation in Paris Olympics

Iran condemned on Tuesday the "reception and protection" of Israeli athletes at the Olympic games in Paris, demanding their exclusion over Israel's months-long genocidal war against Palestinians in the besieged Gaza Strip. Israel's delegation, which headed to France on Monday ahead of Friday's opening ceremony, is being tightly protected in the French capital amid growing international outrage over the high civilian casualty toll and unfolding humanitarian crisis in Gaza. "Announcing the recep-

tion and protection of the apartheid terrorist Zionist regime's delegation means giving legitimacy to the child killers," Iran's Foreign Ministry said in a post on X. "They do not deserve to be present at the Paris Olympics because of the war against the innocent people of Gaza," it added, calling on organizers to ban Israel. Israel's offensive on Gaza has killed at least 39,090 people in Gaza, mostly civilians, according to figures from the territory's health ministry. Iran does not recognize Israel and prohibits all con-

tact between Iranian and Israeli athletes. In February, Iran's football federation asked the

sport's governing body, FIFA, to suspend its Israeli counterpart over the war in Gaza.



Int'l artists unite for Palestine in 'A Carving in Stone'

Zionists confiscate Palestinian culture, traditions



IRAN DAILY: Please give us an overview of the 'A Carving in Stone' exhibition.

VAHIDZADEH: This exhibition showcases works by Iranian, Palestinian, Arab, and non-Arab artists on the theme of Palestine. The artworks were created using various techniques and styles, some of which are new, while others date back to the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s and are usually part of a valuable collection at the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art. Plus, valuable pieces from the collections of Saba Cultural and Artistic Institute, Ravayat-e Fath Cultural Foundation, Art Bureau, and private collections are also on display.

We have also exhibited works by Palestinian artists who have been martyred following the events of October 7 and over the past eight months. It is noteworthy that most of the works of these martyred artists have been destroyed in Zionist attacks, and we could only retrieve some of their artworks from the internet. There are also works by contemporary avant-garde and modern artists like Banksy, Samia Halaby, Ai Weiwei, Mike Parr, and Maisara Baroud, who have created pieces in solidarity with the Palestinian people and in reaction to Zionist crimes. Their stance has had repercussions for them as well.

Could you elaborate on the themes of the works on display and the artistic styles employed?

The artworks on display in 'A Carving in Stone' are either related to the Palestinian cause or are by artists whose artistic role is considered a form of struggle. A wide range of styles and techniques are represented. You will even find abstract works among the exhibits, although artists who focus on militant themes in their work tend to steer clear of abstraction. For instance, Samia Halaby is an abstract artist, and her abstract pieces are included in this exhibition.

The exhibition also features works in symbolic, expressionist, realist, and caricature styles, employing techniques such as oil painting, lithography, collage, and even graphic design. One hall is dedicated to posters created by Palestinian artists over the years for various purposes, such as promoting a conference, supporting the Intifada, or honoring a national hero.

Can you explain the reason behind choosing the title 'A Carving in Stone' for this exhibition?

The title 'A Carving in Stone' refers to the artistic and pictorial works presented in this exhibition. On another level, stone is a significant and meaningful symbol in Palestinian culture,

representing the spirit of struggle and resistance. Stone is a tool of choice for Palestinians in their fight, readily available from the land, and thus a tangible extension of their homeland. In addition, the phrase 'A Carving in Stone' contrasts with the idea of 'a drawing on water,' which implies transience and futility. With this title, we want to emphasize that the Palestinian cause will not be erased; it is a lasting and enduring ideal, preserved like a carving in stone.

Explain the process of selecting and collecting the foreign artworks.

To ensure the exhibition's quality, we gathered a large number of artworks from various sources and meticulously curated the selection, adding and removing pieces as needed. Ultimately, we assembled over 100 artworks from diverse artists. The majority of the pieces are by Palestinian and Iranian artists, but we also have works from other parts of the world, including Egypt, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, and beyond. We even have two pieces from France. The exhibition features a report on the works of Banksy, the English artist. There are also pieces by Mike Parr, the Australian artist, and Ai Weiwei, the Chinese artist. Samia Halaby, a Palestinian-American artist who has been living and teaching at universities in the US for many years, is also represented in this collection.

As I mentioned, a significant portion of the exhibited works is by Palestinian and Arab artists. We have pieces by renowned artists such as Sliman Mansour, Nabil Anani, Mona Saudi, and Mustafa al-Hallaj, to name a few. We were fortunate to have access to their original artworks, and it was an honor to showcase them. After the exhibition, Mr. Sliman Mansour sent us a video message from the West Bank, expressing his gratitude to the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art for organizing this meaningful event.

Can you explain the repercussions faced by international artists who have spoken out on the issue of Palestine?

Mike Parr's reaction to the Gaza situation led to his collaboration with the Anna Schwartz Gallery in Melbourne being cut short after 36 years; they essentially sidelined him. Ai Weiwei's exhibition in London was canceled due to a tweet he posted in support of the people of Gaza, which he later protested in interviews. Samia Halaby, a Palestinian-American artist, faced a similar fate when her exhibition was canceled due to her online criticism of Zionist crimes. This occurred despite her three years of efforts to organize the show at Indiana University, and just as

it was about to open. In response, she criticized the restrictions on freedom of expression in the West during her post-cancellation media interviews.

Please elaborate on the works of Palestinian artists included in the exhibition, and how their unique circumstances under occupation influence their art?

Life in Gaza and Palestine, in general, is far from ordinary, and every action becomes a form of resistance. You won't find anywhere else in the world where displaying a watermelon is forbidden, but in the occupied territories, not only is carrying the Palestinian flag considered a crime, but even colors resembling their flag are prohibited, including the depiction of a watermelon. The people of Palestine are fighting with every aspect of their lives. For instance, cooking a traditional Palestinian dish like Maqluba is banned because it represents their culture, and anything related to their history and traditions is either erased or appropriated by the Zionists. Even typically feminine activities like cooking Palestinian cuisine become a form of resistance against Israelis, who oppose any signs of Palestinian life and existence. They even appropriate Palestinian produce, like the Jaffa orange, which is originally a Palestinian bitter orange fruit but is now marketed as an 'Israeli orange' and exported worldwide. There are countless other examples, and essentially, Zionists counter any indication of Palestinian life in the occupied territories, where every reaction becomes a form of struggle.

Having children and starting a family in Gaza carries a different weight compared to other parts of the world. I want to emphasize that, currently, any artistic endeavor undertaken by Palestinians, any creative work done in the name of their nation, is a form of full-fledged cultural resistance. Thus, many of the artworks created in the occupied territories and some of which are displayed in the 'A Carving in Stone' exhibition might not convey explicit messages about Palestinian issues. This is because Palestinians live under harsh occupation, and every sign and symbol carries a special meaning. They are using everything at their disposal to preserve their culture, identity, and history. This is one of the reasons why some images might seem ambiguous to those unfamiliar with the context of occupied Palestine. In addition, ongoing resistance within any culture tends to lead to the use of symbols, as people want to convey shared concerns and aspirations, and this requires a common language, which is then expressed through these symbolic representations.

By Sadeq Dehqan & Hamideh Hosseini
 Staff writers

These days, a visual arts exhibition titled 'A Carving in Stone' is being held at the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art, featuring works by international artists on the topic of Palestine. The exhibition, which opened on July 9 and will run until September 8, has gathered over 100 art pieces from prominent Iranian, Palestinian, and international artists. The works are on loan from the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art's collection, as well as the Saba Cultural and Artistic Institute, Art Bureau, Ravayat-e Fath Cultural Foundation, and private collections. In the 'A Carving in Stone' exhibition, symbols and signs take center stage; from objects and shapes like clenched fists, keffiyehs (a traditional Arab headdress), and olive branches that have become important symbols of resistance over the years of the Palestinian people's resistance, to symbols like watermelons, keys, and oranges that may seem strange and largely incomprehensible to an average viewer unaware of the culture of resistance and daily events in occupied Palestine. Iran Daily conductor conducted an exclusive interview with Mohammad Reza Vahidzadeh, the curator of the 'A Carving in Stone' exhibition and an art critic and researcher, to learn more about the exhibition.