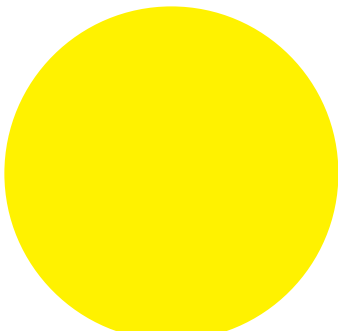


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Protesters demonstrate on Capitol Hill on July 24, 2024 in Washington, DC to protest Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's visit to the United States amid Israel's ongoing war on the Gaza Strip. **MICHAEL A. MCCOY/APF**

Disgraceful role of Congress during Netanyahu's visit to US

By Syed Ali Hassan
Iran Daily's correspondent in Pakistan

OPINION

American politicians' indifference to the innocent lives lost in the besieged Gaza Strip reflects a lack of humanity and decency, contrasting with public sentiment. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's visit to the US aimed to capitalize on the gap between the Republican and Democratic conventions and rekindle ties with former President Donald Trump, known for his pro-Israel stance. The main purpose of Netanyahu's visit to the US was to gain attention during the interval between the national conventions of the Republican and Democratic parties and to re-establish ties with Trump, whom Netanyahu met on Friday. Trump, during his first term, had given Netanyahu the green light to build more Jewish settlements and had pleased Tel Aviv by signing an executive order to cancel the nuclear deal with Iran unilaterally. Following an assassination attempt on him, Trump stated that Israeli forces should be allowed to finish the job. Trump wants to withdraw the US from Gaza and Ukraine. The American public's attitude towards the ruthless killer is different from that of politicians'. The public is not ready to welcome him with hypocritical smiles, as evidenced by the severe criticism of Netanyahu's visit to Washington seen on social media. **Page 2 >**



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Disgraceful role of...

Protesters, demanding that the US stop military aid to Israel, organized demonstrations on Wednesday against Netanyahu's visit, waving Palestinian flags and burning the occupying regime's flags outside Washington's Union Station.

The police used pepper spray to disperse thousands of protesters who had gathered near Capitol Hill to keep them away when Netanyahu addressed Congress. Despite the repression by the American administration, pro-Palestinian groups and university students have been protesting for months against Israeli aggression in Gaza.

During his address to the US Congress, Netanyahu said that Israel would not retreat until its objectives in this war were achieved. This stance makes it clear that Tel Aviv is not sincere about a ceasefire, as it wants the release of Israeli prisoners in exchange for a temporary ceasefire. He termed the growing partnership between Iran, Russia, and China as a threat to Israel's security and appealed to Congress to continue supporting Israel. Netanyahu's speech in Washington also sparked controversy; some Democrats boycotted his address while others criticized Israel's strategy. US President Joe Biden has also censured Netanyahu's war strategy and his actions regarding humanitarian aid in Gaza. During his address, Netanyahu robustly defended the Zionists' genocide in Gaza and mocked the thousands of American protesters demonstrating against the shameful role of the Israeli occupation army in the besieged Palestinian territory. Anti-Zionist protesters stated that their demonstrations are a response to the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, where approximately 2.3 million people are homeless, 40,000 people have been killed, and air bombings have rendered the land barren, breaking the backbone of those cultivating the soil.

A banner on the stage at the protest site near Capitol Hill called Netanyahu a wanted war criminal, demanding his arrest, despite Netanyahu denying accusations of war crimes in Gaza. The Israeli premier urged US lawmakers to expedite military aid, stating that Israeli soldiers and civilians are fighting on the front-line to save American civilization and politics. He added that the occupation army is fighting not against the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas but against Iran, which he claimed also seeks to destroy America. Netanyahu lied about many things before the US lawmakers, but he did reveal one fact: Israel is indeed America's puppet, created by crafting the artificial fear of Jews and installing it in the occupied Jerusalem al-Quds, as America needed petrodollars for its global role at that time. However, now that the need for liquid gold has diminished, Israel is becoming a burden for Washington, which knows well how to protect its taxpayers' money. Netanyahu's speech, boycotted by dozens of Democratic lawmakers, did not directly address Biden's proposed ceasefire but maintained that the war would not end until Hamas was defeated. Throughout his US visit, Netanyahu has lamented the American policy of avoiding an attack on Iran, as he claims Iran poses a real threat to the security of 1948 Israeli-occupied territories.

Iran urges modification of Afghan dam to secure own water rights

Taliban affirm commitment to fulfill Iran's quota as per 1973 treaty

Economic Desk

Iran's Deputy Energy Minister for Water Affairs Mohammad Javanbakht, in a meeting with officials from Afghanistan's ruling government, emphasized the necessity of making changes to the Kamal Khan Dam in the southwest of the neighboring country to secure Iran's full water rights and prevent the drying up of Hamoun wetlands.

Javanbakht said the situation has resulted in intensified dust storms and significant hardships for the populations of both countries.

In a meeting with Taliban officials in Tehran, Javanbakht also called for accelerated and serious action by the Afghan side in determining water intake points and establishing joint measurement facilities to duly implement the treaty, as reported by IRNA.

During the meeting, held on the sidelines of the 8th Joint Commission Meeting of the Hirmand Water Commissioners, the deputy minister also requested that necessary technical adjustments be made at the Kamal Khan Dam to fully ensure Iran's water rights and to respect the legal and customary rights of one million people living downstream in the Sistan and Baluchestan region of Iran.

Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan Amir Khan Mutaqi, for his part, acknowledged the Iranian side's concerns and underscored the complete fulfillment of Iran's water rights under the 1973 Hirmand



River Water Treaty. The 1973 agreement stipulates that Afghanistan must annually deliver 820 million cubic meters of water from the Hirmand River to Iran.

Mutaqi also expressed dissatisfaction with the repeated diversion of Hirmand water to the Gowd-i Zerrah drainage basin in southern Afghanistan and Iran, noting that this water could have been utilized to improve the living conditions and livelihoods of

the people in Nimruz in Afghanistan, and Sistan in Iran.

Acting Minister of Water and Energy of Afghanistan Abdul Latif Mansoor also discussed the positive neighborly relations between the two nations and reiterated the full provision of Iran's water rights according to the 1973 treaty.

Mansoor described the diversion of Hirmand water to Gowd-i Zerrah against the interests of the people of both countries and

provided explanations on the Afghan side's plans to address the issue.

While accepting the Iranian side's concerns regarding the Bakhtabad Dam on the Farah River, he assured that necessary follow-ups would be made on this matter.

Spokesman of Planning Department at the Iran Water Resources Management Issa Bozorgzadeh also spoke about the progress of new negotiations

with Taliban officials regarding the Hirmand River, stating that Iran and Afghanistan's discussions on the Hirmand water rights have entered a new phase. "My proposal to the Afghan side is to take advantage of this opportunity and outline joint projects aimed at alleviating the suffering of the people in the region, who are facing the challenges of a weak economy and dust storms," he said.

Iran oil export to China hit almost 1.5 mn bpd in June

The analysts of the London-based Standard Chartered Institute in a report estimated the Iranian oil export to China in June 2024 at about 1.450 million barrels per day (bpd).

The analysts pointed to the increase in Iran's oil exports and have claimed that Malaysian waters have become a route for the transfer of Iranian oil from ship to ship, Mehr

News Agency reported. China's imports of Iranian crude oil through Malaysia hit 1.456 million barrels per day (bpd) in June 2024. The commodity experts believe that Malaysia's crude oil production is estimated at about 0.35 million barrels per day, while the Asian country's export reaches 0.2 million barrels per day on average.

According to the Standard Chartered, the latest China customs import data showed crude oil imports from Malaysia clocked in at 1.456 million barrels per day (bpd), a lot more than the country produces. Previously, it has been reported that Iran's oil exports have increased dramatically during Biden's presidency.

The US and its allies hope



to sign a new nuclear agreement with Tehran. The former US President Donald Trump withdrew from the JCPOA agreement in May 2018 uni-

laterally. Iran's oil production during Trump's presidency had dropped from 3.8 million barrels per day in early 2018 to less than 2 million barrels

per day in late 2020 but Iran's crude oil production volume has increased to 3.2 million barrels per day (bpd) during the presidency of Biden.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Iran's trade with neighbors hits \$20 bn in four months

Iran's trade with 15 neighboring states in the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21 to July 22, 2024) reached \$20 billion, showing a six-percent growth compared to the same period last year.

The volume of the trade exchanges between Iran and 15 neighboring countries in the four months hit 34.196 million tons, registering a five-percent boost compared to last year's corresponding period, Mehr News Agency reported. In that period, Iran ex-

ported \$10.642 billion worth of products to the 15 neighboring states and in return, the country imported \$9.179 billion worth of products from the neighboring countries.

Iran's export of products to the neighboring countries between March 21 to July

22, 2024, registered a 16 and 6 percent growth in value and weight, respectively compared to the last year's corresponding period.

The country's balance of trade with 15 neighboring states with oil included stood at \$1.5 billion plus.



Khalilabad Hill: A hidden gem in West Azarbaijan Province



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IRNA



hamgardi.com

Khalilabad Hill, located in the Showt region of West Azarbaijan Province is a captivating destination that offers a unique blend of natural beauty, historical significance, and cultural richness. Often overlooked in favor of more renowned Iranian landmarks, this hill possesses its own distinct allure and merits exploration. Renowned for its striking landscapes and historical remnants, the hill has become a point of interest for both tourists and historians. Its elevation provides panoramic views of the surrounding area, making it a popular spot for hiking and nature enthusiasts, [amazingiran](#) media wrote.

Geographical significance

Located in the northwestern part of Iran, West Azarbaijan Province, is characterized by diverse landscapes, including mountains, plains, and valleys. Khalilabad Hill is an integral part of this varied topography, offering a glimpse into the natural beauty that defines the region. Its strategic location has historically made it a site of importance, both militarily and culturally.

Ancient settlements

Evidence indicates that Khalilabad Hill has been inhabited since ancient times.

Archaeological findings suggest that the hill was once home to early human settlements, dating back to prehistoric periods. These early inhabitants chose the hill for its defensible position and access to resources.

Throughout the medieval period, Khalilabad Hill continued to be a site of strategic importance, serving as a lookout point and defensive stronghold during various conflicts. In more recent history, the hill has become a symbol of the cultural and historical heritage of the Showt region, attracting interest from both locals and visitors.

Flora and fauna

Khalilabad Hill is home to a diverse range of plant and animal species. The hill's varied climate and topography create a unique ecosystem that supports both common and rare species. Visitors can observe a variety of wildflowers, shrubs, and trees, as well as birds, mammals, and reptiles native to the region.

Geological formations

The geological formations of Khalilabad Hill are of interest to geologists and nature enthusiasts alike. The hill's rocky outcrops and sediment layers provide insights into the region's geological history. These formations create a rugged

and picturesque landscape, ideal for hiking and exploration.

Local traditions and folklore

Khalilabad Hill holds a special place in the local culture and traditions of the Showt region. Folklore and legends associated with the hill are passed down through generations, enriching the cultural tapestry of the area. These stories often highlight the hill's historical importance and its role in local traditions.

Archaeological discoveries

Archaeological excavations on Khalilabad Hill have uncovered artifacts and structures that illuminate the region's past. Discoveries include ancient tools, pottery, and remnants of early settlements. Each finding enhances our understanding of the hill's historical and cultural significance.

Promoting eco-tourism

Khalilabad Hill exemplifies a site that can promote eco-tourism. Its natural beauty and historical significance make it an attractive destination for tourists interested in sustainable travel. Efforts to preserve the hill's environment and promote responsible tourism are essential for its long-term conservation.

The hill offers numerous educational opportunities for schools, universities, and research institutions. Field trips and study tours can provide students and researchers with hands-on learning experiences in history, archaeology, geology, and ecology. Educational programs can help raise awareness about the importance of preserving such sites.

Protecting the natural environment

Conservation efforts at Khalilabad Hill focus on safeguarding its unique ecosystem and preventing environmental degradation. Initiatives include habitat restoration, erosion control, and the promotion of sustainable tourism practices. These efforts are crucial for maintaining the hill's ecological balance and natural beauty.

Conservationists and archaeologists are actively working to preserve the historical artifacts found on Khalilabad Hill. Archaeologists and conservationists collaborate to document and protect these valuable remnants of the past. Proper preservation techniques ensure that these artifacts remain intact for future generations to study and appreciate.

Plans to enhance the visitor experience at Khalilabad Hill include improving access routes, providing better signage, and developing visitor centers. These

enhancements aim to make the hill more accessible and informative for tourists while preserving its natural and historical integrity.

Involving the local community in the conservation and promotion of Khalilabad Hill is essential for its sustainability. Community-led initiatives can help raise awareness, generate local support, and create economic opportunities through tourism. Engaging the community ensures that the benefits of tourism are shared locally and contribute to the region's development.

Research and documentation

Ongoing research and documentation efforts are crucial for deepening our understanding of Khalilabad Hill. Continued archaeological excavations, ecological studies, and historical research can uncover new information and insights about the hill. Documenting these findings ensures that knowledge is preserved and disseminated widely.

In conclusion, Khalilabad Hill is a remarkable site that offers a wealth of natural beauty, historical depth, and cultural richness. By promoting eco-tourism, engaging the local community, and conducting ongoing research, we can ensure that this hidden gem continues to thrive for future generations.

Chopoqi Windcatcher, an architectural marvel in Sirjan

Sirjan, a city in Kerman Province, is situated among the central and eastern mountains of the Zagros Mountain, approximately 175 kilometers southwest of Kerman, the provincial capital, at an elevation of 1,766 meters above sea level.

One notable feature of Sirjan is its pipe-shaped windcatcher, known as the Chopoqi Windcatcher. This architectural remnant is part of the historic residence of Agha Seyed Ali Asghar Razavi, an ancient physician from the region. Dating back to the Pahlavi era, the windcatcher exemplifies a unique blend of architecture and industry, reflecting the cultural and artistic values of Iranian architectural heritage.

Designed by architect Seyed Mohammad Shojaei, this windcatcher draws inspiration from the chimneys of old



rahbal.com

ships and is distinct in its form. The facade exhibits a unique beauty, characterized not only by its design but also by decorative hexagonal brick patterns.

Unlike common cube-shaped windcatchers, this structure comprises a complex arrangement of pipe-shaped tubes with knee bends, constructed using brick and mortar. The entrances to these windward pipes are strategically located on four sides, situated in the northeast section of the house, which features geometric

anahitours.ir

and regular networks under the windcatchers. The surrounding air is directed indoors as it passes through these canals from various sides of the windcatcher, creating a cooling effect in the house as the air interacts with water.

Iran is a country characterized by a remarkably diverse climate, which has led to the development of various architectural structures. In arid regions, for instance, our ancestors created qanats and tunnels to address water shortages. Similarly, the intense desert heat and dry climate inspired them to devise solutions for escaping the heat, allowing them to find comfort and shade in cooler environments. The windcatcher, a hallmark of desert architecture, not only provided relief from the summer heat but also enhanced the beauty and grandeur of these cities, giving them a distinct and memorable identity.

Windcatchers come in various designs, tailored to local prevailing winds — whether unidirectional, bidirectional, or multidirectional — as well as factors such as altitude, daily temperature fluctuations, humidity, and the need to remove dust. Despite their name, windcatchers can also operate effectively even in the absence of wind.

Some of Trump's most brazen lies at RNC



By Fred Kaplan
Journalist, author

ANALYSIS

Around 12 a.m. on Friday, soon after Donald Trump's Republican National Convention stem-winder ended, James Fallows, the former White House speechwriter who has been an astute analyst of his successors' work ever since, tweeted: "Of the maybe 10,000 political speeches I've heard over the years, this was overall the worst."

Not having immersed myself in the enterprise as deeply as Fallows, I can't assess whether Trump's was the worst, but it could be a standout for weirdest and most jam-packed with egregious, megalomaniacal lies.

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"The war caused by the attack on Israel ... would never have happened if I was president. Iran was broke. Iran had no money. Now, Iran has \$250 billion." Iran supported Hamas over the years, but so did many other countries in the region — and, in any case, it didn't take a lot of money for Hamas to launch its October 7 attack.



Former US president Donald Trump arrives to speak during the final night of the Republican National Convention, at Fiserv Forum in Milwaukee, on July 18, 2024.

● FRANCIS CHUNG/POLITICO



Former US president Donald Trump stands onstage during the last day of the 2024 Republican National Convention at the Fiserv Forum in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on July 18, 2024.

● BRENDAN SMIALOWSKI/AFP

As many have commented, the first 15 minutes or so presented a Trump we have never seen, a new man in the wake of the assassination attempt on his life: subdued, almost modest, questing for unity. Then, his eyes shifted away from the teleprompter, and for the next hour or so, it was the same old grievance-laden Trump — the stolen election, the weaponized prosecutors, the media's failure to give him credit, the dozens of people (ranging from kings and prime ministers to mechanics and waitresses) who, in the conversations he recounts, refer to him as "sir". His words about foreign policy and world politics were particularly brazen in their mendacity. Let's go over his more notable eyebrow-raisers:

"Our opponents [meaning Joe Biden when he took office in 2021] inherited a world at peace and turned it into a planet of war." It's true Trump didn't start any conflicts, but the world was rife with wars — and 65 US service members were killed in battle, 45 of them in Afghanistan, during his term. (By contrast, 16 have been killed since Biden became president.)

"Under President Bush, Russia invaded Georgia. Under President Obama, Russia took Crimea. Under the current administration, Russia is after all of Ukraine. Under President Trump, Russia took nothing." Not quite. Russia's war to take the Donbas region of eastern Ukraine, which began in 2014, continued all through Trump's term. (From 2014–22, before Vladimir Putin's all-out assault on Ukraine, about 14,000 soldiers on both sides were killed.) Trump assisted Russia by refusing to deliver Javelin anti-tank missiles to Ukraine unless President Volodymyr Zelensky agreed to dig up dirt on Biden's son Hunter, who worked for a

Ukrainian energy company. (This blackmail was the subject of Trump's "beautiful phone call" with Zelensky — and of Trump's first impeachment trial.)

Trump's contempt for Zelensky makes this next comment particularly risible: "The horrible war with Russia and Ukraine ... would have never happened if I was president." In fact, given the blackmail and Trump's consistently friendly attitude toward Putin, the Russian president would have assumed — and, if Trump returns to the White House, will continue to assume — that he can get away with anything in this war. In fact, Trump has told Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán (a Putin ally whom he praised in his convention speech) that his plan to immediately end the war is simply to cut off all aid to Ukraine.

"The war caused by the attack on Israel ... would never have happened if I was president. Iran was broke. Iran had no money. Now, Iran has \$250 billion." Iran supported Hamas over the years, but so did many other countries in the region — and, in any case, it didn't take a lot of money for Hamas to launch its October 7 attack.

Trump also claimed that Biden and his team "took off all the sanctions, and they did everything possible for Iran, and now Iran is very close to having a nuclear weapon, which would never have happened." This is nonsense on so many levels. Iran is allegedly close to building an A-bomb because, in 2018, Trump scuttled the Iran nuclear treaty, which Barack Obama and six others had signed three years earlier and which Iran was obeying. However, Biden never lifted the sanctions; maybe he should have, to get talks back on track, but he didn't.

"We stopped the missile launches from North Korea. Now, North Korea is acting up again." Except for a brief period when Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un held two summits (both of which went nowhere because each overestimated what the other was willing to give up), North Korea never stopped missile launches. In 2019, it tested 13 short-range missiles (Trump brushed them away, but the South Korean and Japanese governments were concerned) and started testing a new rocket engine for an intercontinental ballistic missile. Just before Trump left office in January 2021, Kim said his country could "miniaturize, lighten, and standardize nuclear weapons" to load them onto short- and long-range missiles. "I got along very well [with] North Korea, Kim Jong-un. ... He'd like to see me back too. I think he misses me, if you want to know the truth." Trump's delusional bromance continues. During their summitry, Trump praised Kim's "love letters" and said the two "fell in love". Kim knew how to push all his buttons.

Trump is more susceptible to sycophancy than any leader outside a Marx Brothers movie. In another dizzying moment during the RNC speech, Trump boasted that the head of the Taliban had called him "Your Excellency". Trump added, "I wonder if he calls the other guy [meaning Biden] 'Your Excellency'. I doubt it." His remarks on Afghanistan were also distortions of the truth. He said that he and the Taliban leader had negotiated a "great plan" for US withdrawal, but "the other guy" — meaning Biden — "gave him everything," including Bagram Air Base. Trump said he would have kept Bagram because of its proximity to China.

All this is rubbish. Trump's emissary negotiated a deal, behind the backs of the Kabul government, amounting to total, unconditional US withdrawal from Afghanistan. He didn't even demand a Taliban cease-fire as a precondition, as State Department specialists had urged. Biden's execution of the pullout was disastrous, but Trump's deal set the stage: The Kabul government was doomed by the time Biden entered the White House. There was no provision to hang on to Bagram.

Perhaps most jaw-droppingly, there was this remark about Israel's Iron Dome system, which has successfully shot down many rockets and artillery shells fired by Hamas, Hezbollah, and other Iran-backed groups: "Ronald Reagan wanted this many years ago, but we really didn't have the technol-

ogy. ... Now, we have unbelievable technology. And why should other countries have this and we don't? No, no, we're going to build an Iron Dome over our country, and we're going to be sure that nothing can come and harm our people."

The multiple levels of sheer ignorance here are staggering. First, the Iron Dome was a co-production of the US and Israel. We could have it if we want, but it fits Israel's defense needs, not ours. It flies at roughly twice the speed of sound and is designed to shoot down short-range missiles and shells across a range of 2 to 43 miles. The US military has air-defense systems — the Patriot and the ship-based SM-3 — that are much better designed for our needs.

In any case, none of these systems is well suited to defend against intercontinental ballistic missiles fired against the United States. (They have a range of more than 6,000 miles and fly at a speed of 20 times the speed of sound.) Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative, known as "Star Wars," envisioned a layered defense — weapons in space, at sea, and on the ground — tracking and shooting at Soviet ICBMs at various phases of their flight. The US has been spending about \$10 billion a year trying to perfect this vision, with mixed success at best.

Trump seems to think the Iron Dome is like a dome. In any case, he has no idea what it is, what it's for, how it works — or how difficult it is, despite 30 years of expensive R&D and testing — to protect the United States from missiles fired from thousands of miles away.

I could go on and on. Trump's view of the world is a fantasy, and his ideas of how to fix its problems are magic. "I could stop wars with a phone call," he said in Milwaukee. "I will end every single international crisis that the current administration has created. ... I will end the devastating inflation crisis immediately. ... We'll start paying off debt and start lowering taxes even further. ... Under my plan, incomes will skyrocket, inflation will vanish completely, jobs will come roaring back, and the middle class will prosper like never, ever before, and we're going to do it very rapidly."

What is his plan? To return to the White House. Everything else, he seemed to suggest, will follow, almost automatically, from that providential arrival. "Only I can fix it," Trump boasted at the Republican convention in 2016. He didn't then, and there's no sign he can do it now.

The full article first appeared on Slate.





Donald J. Trump delivers his acceptance speech during the final night of the Republican National Convention at Fiserv Forum in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on July 18, 2024.
● MARK HERTZBERG/RACINE COUNTY EYE

Pro-Palestinian protesters march near the Fiserv Forum during the first day of the 2024 Republican National Convention on July 15, 2024.
● MARK HERTZBERG/RACINE COUNTY EYE



By Jeremi Suri
Scholar
OPINION

Ambitious American politicians have long coveted the vice presidency only to regret their selection. Mike Pence is the most recent example. His absence from this year's Republican National Convention recalls the words of Woodrow Wilson's long-forgotten vice president, Thomas Marshall: "Once there were two brothers. One ran away to sea; the other was elected vice president. And nothing was ever heard of either of them again." Fifteen vice presidents eventually became president, most often because their commander-in-chief died in office. Before those tragic transitions, many vice presidents were miserable: powerless, isolated, and largely ignored. They had little influence on policy — and foreign policy perhaps least of all. And there is little reason to think that the experience of Ohio Sen. J.D. Vance, former president Donald Trump's selection for vice president in a second term, in office would be any different.

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Despite Vance's repeated calls for aggressive military force, including bombing campaigns targeting Iran and drug cartels in Mexico, it should be noted that vice presidents can have plenty of responsibilities — but shaping strategy usually isn't one of them.

Irrelevance of J.D. Vance to US foreign policy



Republican vice-presidential nominee J.D. Vance speaks during a fundraising event at Discovery World on July 17, 2024, on the third day of the Republican National Convention in downtown Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
● JABIN BOTSFORD/THE WASHINGTON POST

John Adams, the nation's first vice president, expressed the frustration voiced by many of his successors: "My country has in its wisdom contrived for me, the most insignificant office that ever the invention of man contrived or his imagination conceived." Harry Truman, who barely saw president Franklin D. Roosevelt in his short period as vice president, commented that the office was "about as useful as a cow's fifth teat". One of his predecessors, John Nance Garner, who served as Roosevelt's long-suffering vice president for two terms, famously complained that the office was "not worth a bucket of warm spit". Garner later recounted that moving from speaker of the House of Representatives to the vice presidency was "the worst thing that ever happened to me". Vice presidents break ties in Senate votes, and they preside over the certification of a presidential election, but they have few other constitutional duties beyond staying alive. Since the ratification of the 12th Amendment to the Constitution in 1804, which allowed for a joint presidential-vice presidential ticket, they have almost always been chosen for symbolic political reasons — to appeal to a particular part of the electorate. But they generally have little influence over the president's priorities and policy choices. Historically, the cabinet secretaries and policy advisors chosen by the commander-in-chief have had far greater power than vice presidents. This is especially true in foreign policy. Secretaries of state, war, navy, and, since 1947, defense have historically managed day-to-day diplomatic and military affairs for the United States. Presidents have always leaned heavily on close con-

fidants — Colonel House for Woodrow Wilson and Harry Hopkins for Franklin Roosevelt, for example. Since the early Cold War, they have also made use of a powerful special assistant for national security affairs in the White House, including McGeorge Bundy in the Kennedy administration and Henry Kissinger in the Nixon and Ford administrations. This special assistant has the advantage of daily contact with the president, and he or she becomes the executor of presidential preferences. The accumulation of authority for cabinet secretaries and advisors creates a crowded White House, where the vice president's voice in foreign policy is likely to get little consistent attention. Vice president Richard Nixon struggled with this during Dwight D. Eisenhower's presidency, as did vice presidents Lyndon B. Johnson, Hubert Humphrey, Walter Mondale, and George H.W. Bush in subsequent administrations. In each case, vice presidents had little input on policy, and they were frequently dispatched to serve as symbolic diplomats at funerals and other foreign events. They showed an American presence overseas, but serious negotiations were generally conducted by diplomats, advisors, and the president himself. The exception to this historical analysis was, of course, Vice president Dick Cheney, who served with president George W. Bush from 2001 to 2009. Cheney placed himself at the center of information flows and all major policy decisions in the White House. He was able to do this because Bush uniquely empowered him to play this role. In foreign policy and military matters, Cheney was often the last and most influential person to discuss a prospective decision with the president. He pushed particular proposals, including the invasion of Iraq, and he sidelined information and perspectives, especially doubts about weapons of mass destruction. At key moments, Cheney made consequential unilateral decisions. On Sep-

tember 11, 2001, after terrorists turned civilian aircraft into destructive missiles, the vice president ordered military aircraft to shoot down any threatening commercial planes. Bush was still commander-in-chief, so the vice president did not have this constitutional authority. Bush soon thereafter confirmed Cheney's orders, and, fortunately, they were never carried out. Joe Biden, the vice president after Cheney, was a vocal contributor to Situation Room debates, particularly on the war in Afghanistan, and he notoriously clashed with secretary of defense Robert Gates and American military leaders. Biden, however, did not have significant influence over president Barack Obama's foreign-policy decisions. Biden often traveled on behalf of the president to Ukraine, Israel, and other regions, but his role was more diplomatic than strategic. The same can be said for Trump's vice president. Pence attended most national security meetings. He talked frequently with Trump about matters ranging from policy toward NATO, Russia, and China to issues surrounding trade, terrorism, and, of course, COVID-19. There is little evidence, however, that Pence shifted the policy directions of the administration. National security advisors H.R. McMaster and John Bolton, and secretaries of defense Jim Mattis and Mark Esper, appear to be the figures who did the most to discipline (or try to discipline) the president's policies. Before the certification of Biden's election on January 6, 2021, Pence was not shaping the Trump administration policies. We can expect that Vance, if elected, will play a similar role in another Trump White House, and he will be even more deferential than Pence to presidential demands. Vance will surely insist on attending cabinet, National Security Council, and Situation Room meetings. He will cultivate a close personal relationship

with the president and make himself a ubiquitous presence in the Oval Office. His ties in Congress are weak due to his very short tenure in the Senate, and his connections within federal agencies, particularly the Pentagon and State Department, are also limited. Vance will rely on power and relevance coming from the president, not his title as vice president. That will reinforce his tendency to echo Trump, rather than lead on policy issues. Vance is unlikely to spend time becoming a real expert on controversies surrounding Ukraine or Iran or China, where the president already has strong commitments and the work of modifying policy would be difficult and politically risky. As vice president, Vance's personal views will matter very little, and he is likely to reinforce Trump's prejudices, not set any unique direction for US foreign policy. With the exception of Cheney, vice presidents never have been major policymakers. They are political symbols and mirrors of the president. Vance's selection, like those of his predecessors, tells us more about the politics of our moment than about any influence he might have in this role. Voters understand this, which explains why they rarely place great weight on the opinions of the vice president. He or she matters for what the selection tells us about the person at the top of the ticket. Vice-presidential views of policy are only important in the occasional circumstances when that figure ascends to the highest office. If elected, Vance will be what Mondale called "standby equipment". Adams anticipated the limited but necessary role of this curious office: "I am vice president. In this, I am nothing, but I may be everything." Ambitious politicians, like Vance, will always covet the role as a potential stepping stone, not a policymaking position.

The article first appeared on Foreign Policy.

Republican presidential nominee and former US president Donald Trump (L) and Republican vice-presidential nominee J.D. Vance embrace on Day 2 of the Republican National Convention (RNC), at the Fiserv Forum in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on July 16, 2024.
● REUTERS



Iran 5th at 2024 Asian Men's Junior Handball Championship



● TASNIM

Iran defeated Kuwait 29-28 to stand at fifth place in the 18th edition of Asian Men Junior Handball Championship. The 18th Asian Men's Junior (U21) Handball Championship took place from 14 to 25 July 2024, at the Princess Sumaya Hall in Amman, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, according to asianhandball.org. The championship served as a qualifying event for the 25th IHF Men's Junior (U21) Handball World Championship in Poland, slated for June/July 2025. The top four teams from this competition namely Japan, Republic of Korea, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia secured qualification spots for the World Championship. Japan entered as the defending champion, having won their maiden title in 2022. Notably, Japan and the Republic of Korea were the only teams to have participated in all seventeen previous editions of the championship. Additionally, Qatar had participated in sixteen editions, missing only one. Kuwait and Qatar were the record title holders, each having won the championship on five occasions. The Republic of Korea had won the most medals in the championship, totalling twelve, including three gold, six silver, and three bronze medals.

French sports minister blasts rail sabotage against 'Athletes' Olympic Games'

"Sabotage" that has hobbled France's high-speed TGV train network hours ahead of the Paris Olympics opening ceremony was an attack on "the athletes' Games", Sports Minister Amelie Oudea-Castera said Friday. "These Games are for the athletes who have been dreaming of them for years and fighting for the holy grail of standing on the podium -- and someone's sabotaging that for them," Oudea-Castera told broadcaster BFMTV, adding the Olympics "have been prepared for so carefully by hundreds of thousands of our fellow citizens for almost 10 years".

Iran too strong for Qatar in Asian U-20 volleyball tournament

Iran defeated Qatar 3-0 (25-11, 25-10, 25-11) in the 2024 Asian Men's U-20 Volleyball Championship on Thursday.

Iran, the seven-time champion, had previously defeated China and Chinese Taipei in Pool B, reported Tasnim News Agency.

After a dazzling number of hard-fought matches in the pool round-robin preliminaries, reigning champions Iran, hosts Indonesia, Japan, India, Korea, Kazakhstan, China and Saudi Arabia have secured Top 8 slots in the 22nd Asian Men's U20 Volleyball Championship at Jawa Pos Arena and Gelora Pancasila on Thursday.

The first six teams have earlier booked their berths in round of last 8 following their back-to-back wins in their pools on Wednesday, while China and Saudi Arabia filled the remaining two vacancies after winning their decisive encounters against Chinese Taipei and Hong Kong, China respectively on Thursday.

On Thursday, the last day of the pool play, defending and seven-time champions Iran continued their onslaughts in Pool B to demolish Qatar in a completely lopsided battle 25-11, 25-10, 25-11 in 60 minutes at Jawa Pos Arena.

Opposite Abolfazl Mahdian delivered 11 points from 7 kills, one block and 3 aces for Iran, while middle blocker Shayan Mehrabi and outside hitter Matin Soghli kept good company to add 10 points apiece. No Qatari player reached double digits in scoring, with middle blocker Mugtaba Salih claiming only 6 points including 4 kills from 10 attempts.

Contesting Pool A at the same arena, hosts Indonesia captured three wins in succession including a fantastic 3-1 (23-25, 25-21, 25-23, 25-20) victory against Australia on Thursday.



● asianvolleyball.net

Saudi Arabia also made their mark to brush off Hong Kong, China in thrilling straight sets 25-19, 25-22, 25-21.

At Gelora Pancasila, Bangladesh swept Kuwait in comfortable straight sets in Pool C 25-15, 25-15, 25-11 in 56 minutes.

Former three-time winners Japan struggled to beat India, silver medalists at the previous edition in Riffa, Bahrain two years ago, with tie-break win 25-14, 25-15, 25-27,

17-25, 15-13.

In Pool D, Vietnam played a seesaw battle against Thailand to stun the fourth place in Riffa 3-2 (25-12, 23-25, 25-22, 22-25, 15-11 in exhausting 118 minutes.

Former six-time champions Korea proved a class above Kazakhstan to beat the opponents 3-1 (25-18, 19-25, 25-20, 25-13).

At the end of the pool play on Thursday, Indonesia topped Pool A with 9 points from three straight wins, while Saudi Arabia finished second with 6 points from two wins against one loss.

Hong Kong, China came in third place with 3 points from one win

against two losses and Australia lost three matches in a row to finish fourth place with no point earned.

Mighty Iran dominated Pool B with 9 points from three wins in succession and became the only team in the one-week championship not to drop a single set to their respective opponents in the pool play.

China had 6 points from two wins against one loss to come in second place. Chinese Taipei finished third with 3 points from one win against two losses, while winless Qatar came in fourth place overall with no point earned.

In Pool C, Japan captured the top

spot with 8 points from three wins on the trot, while India had 6 points from two wins against one loss to come in second place. Bangladesh finished third position with 4 points from one win against two losses and lacklustre Kuwait ended in fourth place without scoring a point.

Korea topped Pool D with 9 points from three wins in a row, while Kazakhstan had 5 points from two wins against one loss. Vietnam finished third place with 2 points from one win against two losses, while Thailand came in fourth place with 2 points from three straight losses.

With top two teams from each pool advancing to the Top 8 round, teams finishing third and fourth places from each pool were relegated to classification round for 9th-16th places.

As a result, Indonesia and Saudi Arabia from Pool A, Iran and China from Pool B, Japan and India from Pool C and Korea and Kazakhstan from Pool D entered the Top 8 round, with Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Japan and India fighting it out in Pool E and Iran, China, Korea and Kazakhstan pitted against each other in Pool F.

The remaining lower-ranked teams will next contest the classification round for 9th-16th places, with Hong Kong China, Australia, Bangladesh and Kuwait competing in Pool G and Chinese Taipei, Qatar, Vietnam and Thailand battling it out in Pool H.

Friday, July 26 was the rest day for recovery. The competition resumes on Saturday and Sunday with 1st-8th playoff matches and classification round for 9th-16th places.

Paris 2024 wrestling preview:

Yazdani hopeful for freestyle gold

After the Tokyo Olympics high, a possible David Taylor (USA) vs Hassan Yazdani (Iran) bout was the most anticipated one for the Paris Olympics. But Aaron Brooks (USA) had other plans. He defeated Taylor in the Olympic trials in the United States to book his spot at 86kg for the U.S. Now, Yazdani is the favorite to win the gold. He can also become the first Iran wrestler to win two Olympic golds.

The 86kg weight class on August 8 isn't the only one in which history can be created. Both the other two weight classes also have a chance to see some historic medals to be won.

The 57kg in Freestyle will have world champion Stevan Micic (SRB) trying to win the first medal for Serbia in Freestyle at the Olympics. Zelimkhan Abakarov (ALB), also a world champion, has the same task for Albania.

Ever since his move to 86kg after winning the gold medal at 74kg in Rio, Yazdani has lost to only one wrestler - Taylor. With the American not in Paris, Yazdani has his tail up.

Throughout the 2023 season, Yazdani wrestled with a shoulder injury and it became a headache for Iran when he underwent surgery. Iran contemplated having a wrestle-off between Yazdani and 92kg world champion Kamran Ghasempour (Iran). But then Brooks beat Taylor. "I thank God that I was able to get on the mat in international competitions after seven months

and 13 days," Yazdani had said in Budapest. "I had a little preparation and it was around 60 percent. I hadn't wrestled for a long time. I have some weaknesses that I hope I can fix before the Olympics so that I can wrestle better than these competitions and get the gold medal. I hope that until the Olympics, I can eliminate my weaknesses so I can win the best medal for my country and our good people."

walked off the mat, hitting anything that came his way. But two months after that loss, he defeated Taylor at the Oslo World Championships, his only win over the American. Taylor would rebound to beat him at the 2022 and 2023 World Championships. Brooks, a four-time NCAA champion, defeated Taylor in a best-of-three series at the trials. Brooks has a U23 world title and is now the biggest threat to

notch as Taylor found out at the trials. A wait-and-watch counter-attacking bout can ensue if the two meet in Paris.

Brooks is unseeded and will be drawn at random in the 16-wrestler bracket which means he can face any of the top wrestlers in the first bout.

Myles Amine (SMR), who won a historic bronze for San Marino in Tokyo, is returning, hoping to stand on the podium again.



● UWW

Yazdani was winning the Tokyo final when Taylor scored a take-down in the final moments to claim the gold. A furious Yazdani

Yazdani's gold medal. Yazdani has a solid underhook and has improved his conditioning but Brooks' defense is top-

Dauren Kurugliev (GRE) is another master of defense and will be a tough case to crack for any wrestler.

Osman Nurmagomedov (AZE), Magomed Ramazanov (BUL), Vladimeri Gamkrelidze (GEO), Hayato Ishiguro (JPN) and Azamat Dauletbekov (KAZ) are some other potential medal hopefuls in Paris.

In another development on Wednesday, Iran's freestyle wrestlers collected nine gold medals to become U20 Asian champions in the competitions held in Thailand.

On the final day of the Asian Freestyle Championships on Wednesday, the Iranian freestyle wrestling team became champions after grabbing 9 medals.

The Iranian wrestlers bagged 5 gold, 2 silver and 2 medals to win the title of the competition for their country.

The Iranian team became the champion with 201 points, the team of Kazakhstan with 150 became runner-up and Uzbekistan with 136 points came third.

The U20 Asian Freestyle Championships were held on July 23-24, 2024 in Sriracha, Thailand.

Also, 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.

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.

Pezeshkian on Netanyahu’s Congress speech:
**Criminal cannot be absolved
with standing ovation**
Protesters rebuke Israeli PM outside US Capitol



Iran’s President-elect Masoud Pezeshkian denounced frequent applause from US lawmakers for the Israeli prime minister during his address to Congress which was met with protests, noting that applauding a criminal will not result in his absolution. “The crime of killing innocent people and homeless children cannot be overlooked, nor can the criminal be absolved with a standing ovation,” Pezeshkian wrote in a post published on X on Friday in response to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s address to the US Congress.

In an address to Congress on Wednesday, American lawmakers applauded in multiple intervals Netanyahu’s recount of the regime’s genocidal war in the Palestinian territory over the past ten months. Israel has killed more than 39,000 Palestinians – mostly women and children – in the Gaza Strip after it launched its devastating war on the Palestinian territory on October 7 after Palestinian resistance groups carried out a surprise retaliatory operation into the occupied territories.

The regime has been also enforcing a near-total siege on the coastal territory, which has reduced the flow of foodstuffs, medicine, electricity, and water into the Palestinian territory to a trickle.

Netanyahu’s ‘lies’
The Palestinian resistance movement Islamic Jihad denounced the Israeli prime minister’s speech as “full of lies and slander”. “Netanyahu’s speech is full of lies and slander,” the statement said. “Netanyahu’s lies that his

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu waves before addressing a joint meeting of Congress at the US Capitol in Washington, DC on July 24, 2024.
● ROBERTO SCHMIDT/AFP

army did not kill a single civilian in the attack on Rafah, and is not waging a war of starvation and genocide against the Gaza Strip, indicate his mockery of the world and his shameless indulgence in lies.” Earlier, Hamas also termed the Israeli prime minister’s so-called ideas about a “future” for the Gaza Strip that excludes the resistance from the territory’s rule as mere “delusions.” “We in the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) affirm that the war criminal Netanyahu’s visions for the future of the Gaza Strip are mere delusions and fantasies he is trying to market,” the Gaza-based Palestinian resistance movement said. On Wednesday, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei underscored the Israeli regime’s utter failure to defeat the Palestinian resistance, despite receiving enormous support on the part of the United States and others. “The strength of the resistance becomes more and more evident every day,” read a Hebrew-language post published on Ayatollah Khamenei’s official X account on Wednesday. “A huge military, political, and economic system, like the Unit-

ed States, is standing behind the Zionists in the fight against Hamas, but they have failed to bring them to their knees,” it added.

Protests against Netanyahu
Thousands of protesters opposing the Israel’s onslaught on Gaza descended on Washington, D.C. on Wednesday to condemn Netanyahu’s address to Congress. With chants of “Free, free Palestine,” they marched toward the Capitol before some clashed with police and were pepper-sprayed. Pro-Palestinian activists, who promised a “day of rage” ahead of Netanyahu’s visit, filled the streets of the nation’s capital, many carrying Palestinian flags and signs calling for an end to US aid to Israel and to “arrest Netanyahu.” Outside the fenced-off Capitol, the scene was most tense at Washington’s Union Station as pro-Palestinian demonstrators removed American flags and hoisted Palestinian ones in their place. At one point, an American flag was set on fire alongside an effigy of Netanyahu, prompting cheers from the crowd. “Netanyahu, you can’t hide. You’re committing genocide,” protesters shouted. Protesters also spray painted graffiti on a monument to Christopher Columbus and an adjacent Liberty Bell replica, including the words “Hamas is coming” and “All Zionists are bastards.”

Nine out of every 10 people displaced in Gaza:
UNRWA



The UN agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA) said nine out of every 10 people in the Gaza Strip have been “forcibly displaced” during the Israel’s devastating war on the besieged territory. The agency highlighted the dire conditions facing families seeking shelter in overcrowded schools, destroyed buildings, or makeshift tents amidst sand and trash. “Families seek shelter where they can: overcrowded schools, destroyed buildings, makeshift tents on the sand or amid piles of trash. None of these places are safe. People have nowhere left to go,” it said on X. Since the Israel’s genocidal war in Gaza began, Palestinians have been forced to flee multiple times in search of safety. UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini also announced a troubling development: six samples of type 2 polio have been detected in parts of Gaza. Fortunately, no paralytic cases have been reported so far. “This is another serious development in the never-ending journey of misery,” Lazzarini said on X. He attributed the emergence of polio to Gaza’s deteriorating health system, the lack of clean water and hygiene materials, overcrowded shelters, and extremely poor sanitation. The ongoing conflict has drastically reduced vaccination rates among children from near-universal levels to just over 85%, as families are constantly on the move, fleeing combat zones and searching for safety.

Iran expresses support for Hamas-Fatah reconciliation deal

Iran said a recent meeting of Hamas and Fatah in the Chinese capital is a valuable step in the direction of national reconciliation for Palestine. Nasser Kanaani, the Foreign Ministry spokesperson, said on X that the Iranian government backs the Palestinian groups “in confronting the occupation of Israel and their collective movement in the direction of exercising the funda-



mental right to self-determination”. The Palestinian groups agreed this week to form a unity government at the talks hosted by China in a deal meant to deliver a post-war Gaza administration. The agreement was quickly rejected by Israel.

Iran: Israeli allegations of threat to its athletes ‘lies’

Iran’s permanent mission to the United Nations dismissed Israeli allegations that resistance forces pose a threat to Israeli athletes and tourists at the Paris Olympic Games, calling the allegations “lies.” “Terrorist acts have no place in the principles of resistance groups. Lies and deceit cannot switch

the roles of the plaintiff and the accused,” Iran’s permanent mission to the United Nations said in a brief statement, Press TV reported. The rebuttal came after Israeli foreign minister Israel Katz was reported to have warned his French counterpart Stephane Sejourne of attempts to carry out at-

tacks against members of the Israeli delegation and Israeli tourists during the Olympics. The Israeli allegation comes as a global campaign has been launched to ban the regime’s representatives from participating in the Games, citing the ongoing genocide in the Gaza Strip.

Notice of tender for export sale No. 12/1403/Z

Hereby Golgohar Mining & Industrial Co. announces selling and export 50.000 metric tons of Iron Ore pellet (%Fe:65.8) on basis of F.O.B at Shahid Rajaee Jetty Bandar-Abbas - Iran. Interested bidders should find tender documents at Golgohar website: ww.geg.ir. All bids on conformity to tender instructions must be submitted no later than 9:00 A.M. on 6th Aug. 2024 to the Golgohar complex in Sirjan. (50 km in Shiraz road) Bidders are invited to the transactions commission department of the seller with an introduction letter of interested buyer and personal identification of the representative. Tender results shall be announced at 9:00 A.M. on 6th Aug. 2024 at the office of the Seller.

Analysis %		
Fe%	65.8	Ave
FeO%	0.8	Ave
P%	0.05	Max
S%	0.008	Ave
SiO2%	3.5	Max
Al2O3%	0.7	Max
CaO%	0.9	Max
MgO%	2.5	Max
CCS (kg/p)		Ave 260
8-16 mm%		Min 95
A.I%		Max 3.5
T.I%		Min 95
Prosity%		Ave 23
Reducibility%		Min 90

GOLGOHAR MINING & INDUSTRIAL CO.

Notice of tender for export sale No. 11/1403/Z

Hereby Golgohar Mining & Industrial Co. announces selling and export 70.000 metric tons of Iron Ore pellet (%Fe:65.00) on basis of F.O.B at Barco Jetty Bandar-Abbas - Iran. Interested bidders should find tender documents at Golgohar website: ww.geg.ir. All bids on conformity to tender instructions must be submitted no later than 9:00 A.M. on 6th Aug. 2024 to the Golgohar complex in Sirjan. (50 km in Shiraz road) Bidders are invited to the transactions commission department of the seller with an introduction letter of interested buyer and personal identification of the representative. Tender results shall be announced at 9:00 A.M. on 6th Aug. 2024 at the office of the Seller.

Analysis %		
Fe	65.00	Min
FeO	1.0	Ave
P	0.05	Max
S	0.01	Max
SiO2	3.5	Max
Al2O3	0.7	Max
CaO	0.9	Max
MgO	2.5	Max
CCS (kg/p)		Ave 250
8-16 mm%		Min 90
-6 mm%		Ave 5
A.I%		Max 3.8
T.I%		Min 95
Prosity%		19-24
Reducibility%		Min 90

GOLGOHAR MINING & INDUSTRIAL CO.



Iran's Nat'l Film Archive opens its doors, preserving country's cinematic heritage

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's National Film Archive finally opened its doors on July 25, marking a momentous milestone in the country's efforts to preserve its rich cinematic heritage.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by a host of cultural officials and artists, including the Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance, Mohammad-Mehdi Esmaeili.

Located at the Cinema Museum of Iran, the archive houses a vast collection of films, newsreels, documentaries, animations, photographs, and slides, offering a comprehensive glimpse into the history of Iranian cinema, IRNA wrote.

Ladan Taheri, the director of the National Film Archive, highlighted the significance of this event, noting that as of 1977, only 40 feature films, roughly 10% of Iran's cine-

matic works, were archived. Today, the archive boasts a collection of 90% of Iranian films, including pre-Islamic Revolution works.

Taheri also emphasized the high quality of the archived films, including rare gems such as 'Lor Girl' and 'Haji Agha, the Cinema Actor'. The archive also possesses films dating back to the early days of Iranian cinema, such as 'Mirza Ebrahim Khan Akkas Bashi'. Since 1993, filmmakers have been mandated to submit a copy of their films and promotional materials to the archive. The archive has also actively acquired film rights, ensuring a diverse and comprehensive collection.

Taheri expressed her pride in the archive, stating that it is the result of four decades of dedicated efforts, professional work, and support from successive governments.

She noted that the National

Film Archive of Iran has become one of the most important repositories of cinematic heritage in the country and the region.

Veteran actor Dariush Arjmand, who was also present at the ceremony, echoed Taheri's sentiments, calling the archive a "sanctuary for the pilgrimage of Iranian cinema."

He emphasized the importance of cinema in documenting the social and cultural history of Iran, allowing future generations to witness and study the past.

Arjmand also drew a comparison with the US, where no government institution has taken responsibility for film restoration, leaving directors like Martin Scorsese to fund restoration efforts from their own pockets.

In contrast, he highlighted the cultural significance of the National Film Archive of Iran and its role in preserving the coun-



try's rich cinematic legacy. The ceremony also included remarks from Ali Dehkordi, the CEO of the House of Cinema, who underscored the

importance of cinema in the preservation of culture and civilization.

He expressed hope that the inauguration of the archive

would mark a new era of security and openness for Iranian cinema, recognizing its value as a shining gem in the country's cultural heritage.

Iran, Malaysia seek to strengthen academic ties

Arts & Culture Desk

High-level talks between Iranian and Malaysian officials have highlighted a shared commitment to bolstering academic and scientific cooperation.

Iran's ambassador to Malaysia, Valiollah Mohammadi Nasrabadi, and the Malaysian Minister of Higher Education, Zambray Abdul Kadir, met to discuss ways to enhance bilateral ties, with a particular focus on higher education, IRNA reported.

During the discussions, Ambassador Nasrabadi proposed a memorandum of understanding on higher education cooperation as a strategic framework to strengthen academic exchanges.

He emphasized the value of student and faculty mobility, suggesting that exchanging delegations would foster greater mutual understanding and collaboration.

Minister Kadir concurred, offering his condolences for the recent tragic loss of Iran's pres-

ident and foreign minister in a helicopter accident.

He also extended congratulations on Iran's recent presidential election. The minister affirmed Malaysia's willingness to intensify university collaborations with Iran, acknowledging the impressive achievements of Iranian scholars and researchers despite the challenges posed by US sanctions. The meeting also featured a report by Iran's science and technology attaché in Malaysia, who provided insights into

the current state of bilateral university collaborations. The attaché invited the Malaysian delegation to attend an upcoming exhibition in Tehran this September, showcasing Iran's advancements in higher education.

This development signifies a positive step toward enhancing academic ties between Iran and Malaysia, with potential benefits for scientific research, cultural exchange, and mutual understanding between the two nations.

Iranian music instructors to participate in int'l educational project

Three Iranian musicians and instructors have recently traveled to the city of Salzburg to take part in an educational initiative at the prestigious Mozart University.

Amin Ghaffari, a renowned violinist, alongside Amir Ali Sorkhani and Reza Maleki, embarked on a journey to attend the Summer Academy at Mozart University, Mehr News Agency reported. The trio joined fellow musicians from diverse countries, including China, the US, Taiwan, Poland, Austria, the UK,

Hong Kong, and Germany. They had the opportunity to learn from prominent music professors and immerse themselves in a cross-cultural exchange of musical traditions and techniques.

The Mozart Academy and the Salzburg Festival are among the most acclaimed music festivals and educational programs globally, attracting renowned orchestras such as the Vienna Philharmonic and the Berlin Philharmonic.

This international gathering of musical talents



provides a platform for cultural dialogue and the sharing of expertise, fostering a rich environment for musical growth and collaboration. The participation of Iranian instructors in this project highlights the country's thriving musical commu-

nity and its active contribution to the global music arena. It also underscores the importance placed on musical education and cross-cultural engagement, creating a harmonious bridge between nations through the universal language of music.

'Karabakh Conflict: From Beginning to End' hits bookstores

Arts & Culture Desk

'Karabakh Conflict: From Beginning to End' hits shelves as Azerbaijan and Armenia near a peace deal. The book, written by former Iranian ambassador to Azerbaijan Mohsen Pak Ayeen, explores the roots of the Karabakh dispute and its regional and international implications. Published by Farhang Sabz in 196 pages, the book offers understandings into the roles of Russia, the US, France, and Turkey in the conflict, as well as Israel's maneuvers in the region. It offers a review of the po-

sitions and actions of Iran's Leader, Ayatollah Khamenei, and provides insights into the country's involvement in the first and second Karabakh wars through the memoirs of Ayatollah Hashemi Rafsanjani. The volume also explores Tehran's assistance to Baku throughout the dispute. Dedicated to the late Ayatollah Raisi and his entourage including the late foreign minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, known for his advocacy for the territorial integrity of neighboring countries, the book is now available for purchase on the Farhang Sabz website.

A seasoned diplomat, Pak Ayeen has previously published his memoirs from his ambassadorial postings in Zambia, Uzbekistan, Thailand, and Azerbaijan.

