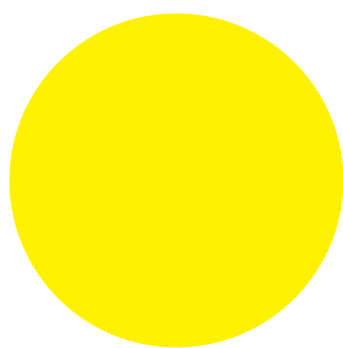


Disruption
in internal
cohesion
would create
problems
for country:
Pezeshkian

7 >



Iran Daily

Vol. 7631 • Monday, August 19, 2024 • Mordad 29, 1403 • Safar 14, 1446 • 100,000 rials • 8 pages



> irandaily.ir

newspaper.irandaily.ir

IranDailyWeb

China, Russia, emerging powers to take centerstage in Iran's foreign policy: *Araqchi*

7 >

Message of Araghchi's nomination



By Mohammad-Ali Sobhani
Former Iranian diplomat

EXCLUSIVE
OPINION

With Masoud Pezeshkian's nomination of Abbas Araghchi, a career and highly regarded diplomat, for the post of Iran's foreign minister, a clear message is being sent. The president has made it clear that constructive engagement with the global community is a top priority for his government's foreign relations agenda. Naturally, to effectively pursue and implement such a policy, seasoned officials with a deep understanding of international relations and the contentious issues between Iran and other countries are needed. Araghchi ticks all these boxes and more. With his extensive diplomatic career at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and his experience as deputy to former foreign minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, during Hassan Rouhani's administration, along with his role as a key member and lead negotiator of the Iranian nuclear team, Araghchi brings a wealth of relevant experience to the table.

One of the most pressing matters in Iran's foreign policy is the uncertainty surrounding the 2015 nuclear deal and the ongoing strict sanctions imposed on the country. Issues in other areas, especially the economy, is intricately linked to sanctions. Recognizing this, the president has made resolving the sanctions issue a key priority for his government. In this context, Araghchi is an ideal pick for the role of foreign minister. He has the ability to forge consensus in the country on solutions to address the challenges in foreign policy.

Page 8 >

US on Trail in Iran Over 1953 Coup

7 >



Mahmoud Mosaddegh(c), the grandson of Mohammad Mosaddegh who served as Iran's prime minister from 1951 to 1953, attends a trial of the US administration and its officials in Tehran on August 18, 2024 over the 1953 coup in Iran.
● MIZAN

Kamala Harris needs to knock Trump in her DNC speech

But she shouldn't pop joy balloon

4-5 >



SPECIAL ISSUE



Oil Ministry nominee vows to minimize energy shortage

2 >

From Tokyo ashes to Paris podium: Kiani's journey toward Olympic milestone

6 >



Iran eyes new markets for rosewater in Europe, Southeast Asia

2 >



EXCLUSIVE

Actor, 'French monument' Alain Delon, dies at 88

8 >



Iran's subsidized imports top \$27b: **CBI**

The Central Bank of Iran (CBI) said it has subsidized more than \$27 billion worth of imports into the country in nearly five months that have passed since the start of the calendar year in March 20.

CBI figures showed that some \$27.263 billion had been allocated to imports of basic goods, medicine, commercial goods and products and imports that have taken place in return for exports of goods or services from Iran between March 20 and August 16, Press TV wrote. The CBI has a rate of 285,000 rials per US dollar which it uses to subsidize imports of basic goods and medicine. The rate is much lower than a market price which is currently hovering around 590,000 rials per US dollar.

That comes as importers can also receive hard currency at a rate applied in CBI's Integrated Currency System and is known by its Persian initials NIMA. The price was 450,937 rials per US dollar on August 17. The CBI said subsidized currency earmarked for imports of basic goods and medicine had reached \$6.151 billion over the five months to mid-August, of which \$4.85 billion had gone to imports of wheat, oil seeds and animal feed and the rest were allocated to medicine, active pharmaceutical ingredients and medical equipment.

It added that some \$14.639 billion had been supplied to importers at NIMA rate or rates close to that for imports of commercial goods and products including parts and equipment needed in manufacturing, mining, power and electronics and textile industries between March 20 and August 16.

CBI figures showed that another \$5.814 billion had been spent on imports of goods and equipment that had taken place in exchange for exports of services and goods from Iran over the same period.



Oil Ministry nominee vows to minimize energy shortage

The proposed nominee for the Oil Ministry Mohsen Paknejad has plans to minimize energy deficit for running the ministry. According to a blueprint of his plan submitted to the Parliament, there are two short-term (one-year) and long-term (four-year) measures in order to reduce the mismatch between gas production and consumption in the country, Tasnim News Agency

reported. Gas field maintenance projects, setting up the NGL-3100 plant with the aim of collecting associated gases, constructing pressure boosting stations, completion of Phase 11 of South Pars as well as some other projects on gas extraction are among Paknejad's plans to lower gas shortfall. Paknejad will be the 14th admin-

istration's minister of oil in case of securing a vote of confidence which will be held on Wednesday.

Born in 1966 in the capital city of Tehran, Paknejad has a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from University of Tehran and a master's degree in industrial engineering from the AmirKabir University of Technology. He has already served in the Oil

Ministry as the deputy minister of oil for supervision over hydrocarbon resources from 2018 to 2021.

Paknejad started his career in the early 1990s in the Ministry of Energy and then moved to the Petroleum Ministry in 1997 where he has served in different managerial posts.

The Iranian Parliament's specialized committees started deliber-

ations on Pezeshkian's cabinet lineup as of August 11 afternoon in two work shifts during four days.

The proposed ministers are being discussed in the Parliament's open sessions since Saturday. Pezeshkian was elected as the new Iranian president in a runoff election on July 5 after late president Ebrahim Raisi lost his life in a tragic helicopter crash in May.

Iran eyes new markets for rosewater in Europe, Southeast Asia

By Sadeq Dehqan & Reza Abesh Ahmadi

Staff writers

Iran's rosewater has now targeted the markets of Persian Gulf countries such as Kuwait, the UAE and Saudi Arabia, Southeast Asia including China and Japan, as well as European states such as Germany and Spain, said the head of Kashan Rosewater and Herbal Distillates Guild.

Reza Navvabi told Iran Daily that the country's rosewater

industry is looking for new destinations in all parts of the world by increasing the supply of raw materials and using new technologies.

Pointing out that Kashan is the center of production of rosewater and herbal distillates in Iran, he stated, "Currently, more than 70% of the country's rosewater and herbal distillates are produced in Kashan."

"The cultivation of roses and the production of rosewater are also carried out in other

cities in Iran, but most of the roses grown in the country are brought to Kashan from all over the country to produce rosewater."

Navvabi referred to the harvesting time of roses for production of rosewater, saying, "Collecting roses in Kashan starts from late May and continues until early July, which takes about one month in each region."

The guild head put the average figure for rose production at 5 to 6 tons per hectare, adding that the figure reaches 10 tons

per hectare in some irrigated farms. One kilogram of essential oil and 15 kilograms of rosewater are obtained from every three tons of freshly harvested roses, according to Navvabi.

"In Kashan, a total of 2,400 traditional rosewater production units, 47 industrial plants as well as 138 demo plants along with two plants for extracting essential oils operate in the field of rosewater production." Due to the favorable rains across the country in spring in

the current Iranian calendar, the rose production increased considerably compared to the previous year, he noted.

"The selling price of each kilo of roses by the farmers to the production units was announced at 77,000 tomans (\$1.3), but due to the financial hardship of the plants and the high amount of rose production, the farmers could not sell their products at more than 55,000 tomans (920 cent) per kilo which was a loss for them," Navvabi said.

Exploring significance of Iran's transit of Russian gas



A June deal to receive 300 million cubic meters of Russian gas daily enables Iran to position itself as an energy hub and a regional leader in energy diversity.

One of the most frequent questions about gas import from Russia is why Iran, as the second-largest holder of natural gas reserves in the world, should ever import

gas. The simple answer is that the lack of sufficient investment in development of gas fields and the runaway increase in industrial and domestic consumption of gas is a drain on production, Press TV wrote.

In recent years, the consumption in the cold and very hot seasons of the year has steadily trended

upwards, forcing Iran to resort to partial cutoff of gas exports, seasonal shutdown of some energy-intensive industries, and burning of expensive diesel or low-quality furnace oil in some power plants to produce electricity.

Energy diplomacy is used in today's world to secure and promote the national and international security of nations. Iran is well suited to utilize its oil and gas resources and capacities in a manner to secure an appropriate place commensurate with its true potential in order to play a meaningful role in the international community and consolidate its national and international security.

The Ukraine war was a massive and historic energy shock which upended global energy markets. While the US and the Europeans

tried to cut Russia's revenues by imposing a price ceiling on crude oil and oil products, Moscow responded by moving its export market to China, India, Turkey, and the UAE.

Russia's attempt to do the same with its gas exports, however, hit the wall of political and technical limitations. In 2023, Gazprom increased gas supplies to China via the Power of Siberia to 22.7 billion cubic meters from 8.2 billion cubic meters in 2021. The increase in exports to the countries of the Caucasus and Central Asia also fell short of 5 billion cubic meters a year.

The overall figure was a fraction of gas which Russia exported to Europe. Russia exported 244 billion cubic meters of gas a year, which fell to 142 billion cubic meters in 2023 after the war began. More

than 55% of Russia's exports or about 140 billion cubic meters went to Europe, which tumbled to 27 billion cubic meters in 2023. Currently, there is about 95 billion cubic meters of excess export capacity in the Russian gas sector, where the strong need for new export markets combined with the war pressure on state coffers gives Iran a unique chance to establish itself as a new energy hub.

Most of Iran's neighbors suffer from insufficient gas supplies. According to statistics, there is a capacity to export 25 billion cubic meters a year to Turkey, another 25 billion cubic meters to Iraq, 10 billion cubic meters to Pakistan and 10 billion cubic meters to Oman.

The necessary infrastructure is already available across some of these countries, while others need

to develop and construct pipeline and distribution system. Hence, there is a potentially strong market on Iran's doorsteps for imports of gas produced in Russia.

Nevertheless, one should not look at regional energy cooperation purely from an economic prism since the security and political benefits of developing this cooperation and creating mutual dependence in the field of energy are a very valuable issue.

Given the significance of natural gas imports from Russia, it is safe to say that one of the most important projects in Iran's energy and foreign policy is in the offing. Its economic, foreign policy and security dividends are so vast that it should be treated as national imperative and not be allowed to wane in bureaucratic administrative twists and turns.

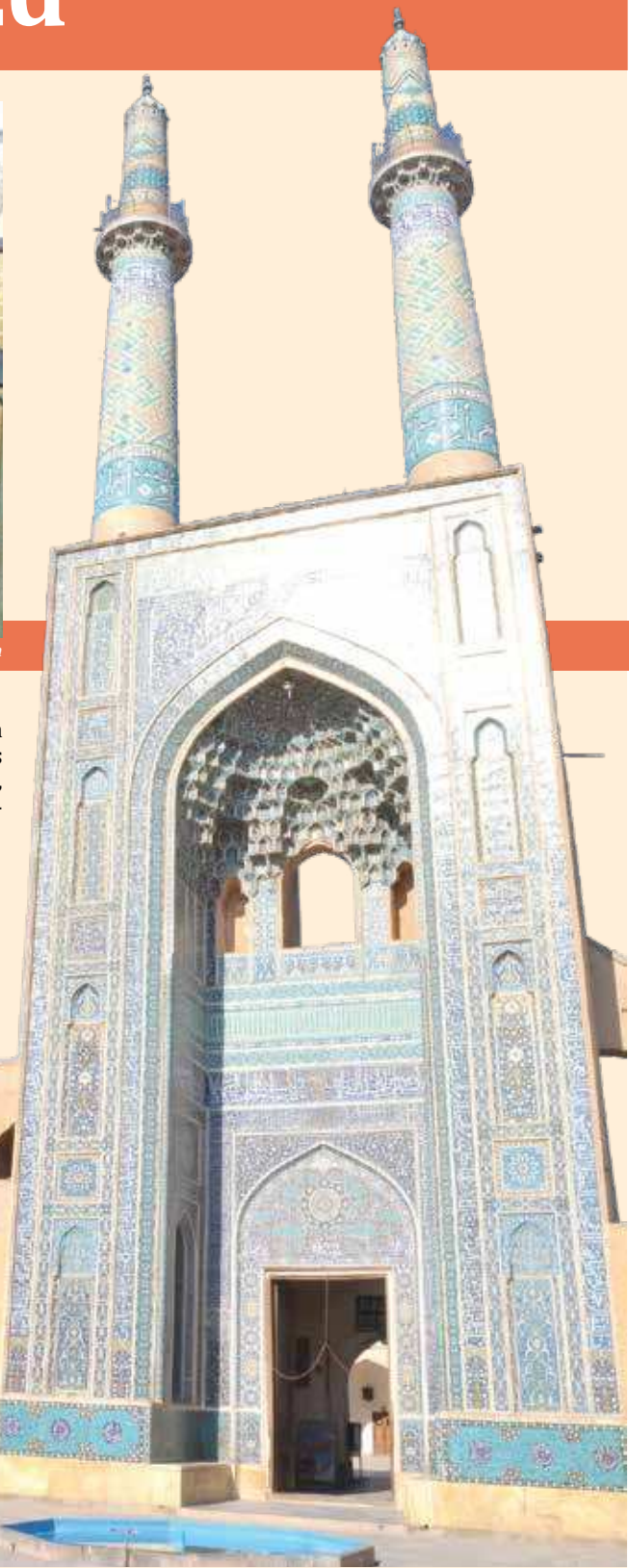
Splendor of Jaame Mosque in Yazd



visitiran.ir



gotoyazd.com



In the heart of Yazd, the Jaame Mosque stands tall, a symbol of both ancient wisdom and enduring faith. Its story began over 800 years ago, when it replaced a Sassanid fire temple on the orders of A'la Al-Dowleh Kalanjar. Fast forward two centuries, and the mosque received a stunning makeover, thanks to Seyyed Rokneddin Mohammad Qazi.

A testament to timeless beauty

One of the most striking features of the mosque is the intricate tile work inside, dating back to 1364, located in the eastern entrance. Despite being a 19th-century creation, the mosque is still bustling with worshippers today, a true testament to its lasting importance. Thanks to a significant renovation from 1943 to 1986, the Jaame Mosque has preserved its charm, standing strong through the years as a center of community and devotion.

Stunning eastern entrance

The eastern entrance of the Jaame Mosque of Yazd is a breathtaking sight. It features a tall structure called the *pishtaq* at the center, flanked by two soaring minarets on either side. This design creates an impressive visual effect, making the entrance appear even taller. The *pishtaq* is adorned with intricate decorations, including arabesque tiling and detailed muqarnas work added in the 15th century. Each design tells a story, filling the entrance with history and culture. It serves as a glorious reminder of

the beauty and spirituality found in Islamic art and architecture.

Majestic minarets

The Jaame Mosque is a prime example of Persian architecture in the Azari style, flanked by two of the tallest minarets in Iran, standing approximately 52 meters tall. Covered in gleaming blue tiles, these minarets feature a captivating mix of bricks and mosaic tiles, accented with angular Kufic writing. Although they experienced some damage over the years, significant restoration was completed in 1945, ensuring they remain a proud feature of the mosque's skyline.

Kaaba-like structure

As the oldest surviving example of 16th-century architecture, the Jaame Mosque of Yazd holds a special place in history. Its unique square shape, resembling the sacred Kaaba in Mecca, adds to its significance. The Kaaba, a central symbol in Islamic architecture, enhances the mosque's stature as a holy structure in the Islamic world. Inside, visitors will find a museum that invites exploration of a treasure trove of cultural and spiritual wonders. The stunning tiles adorning the dome, mihrab, and entrance feature exquisite Persian calligraphy, embellished with verses from the Holy Qur'an and the names of revered Islamic figures. These intricate designs add a deeper layer of significance to their beauty, making it essential for those interested in Iran's history and culture to appreciate these captivating artworks fully.

To enhance your experience, consider hiring a guide well-versed in Arabic script, whose insights can illuminate the stories behind these pieces, transforming your visit into an enlightening journey rich with tales of devotion and respect.



Efforts to achieve national heritage status for choqa-bafi

Iranica Desk

Given the importance of traditional clothing and handicrafts in Aligudarz, Lorestan Province, efforts are underway to register the art of *choqa-bafi* as a national heritage, said the representative of Aligudarz in Parliament Hamidreza Gudarzi.

Choqa, the traditional clothing of authentic Bakhtiari men, dates back 2,700 years. This long sleeveless cloak was first

worn by the Medes and is depicted in various petroglyphs and sculptures from the Sassanid era, ISNA wrote. He added that choqa-bafi is recognized as one of the authentic handicrafts of the Bakhtiari tribe. During a meeting with the Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, Seyyed Ezza-tollah Zarghami, discussions were held about its national registration.

He further noted that choqa-bafi has 22 distinct features in Aligudarz, making the city unique in this craft. Gudarzi emphasized that organizing exhibitions of handicrafts and traditional clothing, along with supporting the artisans of the Bakhtiari tribe, can significantly enhance the promotion of local handicrafts and boost the region's economic and tourism potential. The dossier for Aligudarz's

registration as the national city of choqa-bafi has been submitted to the Cultural Heritage Ministry's Department of Handicrafts. Last year, experts from this department visited the city to evaluate and review the documentation. Made from delicate sheep's wool, the choqa is designed to provide warmth in winter and coolness in summer. It covers the upper body from the shoulders to the knees and is impermeable.

All choqas feature similar patterns with black and white stripes. Some believe these patterns are inspired by the Choqa Zambil Ziggurats, an ancient Elamite complex in Khuzestan Province, while others link them to the battlements of Persepolis, which are also seen on the crowns of Iranian kings. To create a medium-sized choqa, approximately one kilogram of cotton yarn and one kilogram of raw wool are used. Bakhtiari men don their choqas for weddings and other significant ceremonies. This hand-woven garment holds a vital place in Bakhtiari culture and tradition.

bazaremina.ir



ISNA



Kamala Harris needs to knock Trump in her DNC speech

But she shouldn't pop joy balloon



By Chris Smith
Reporter

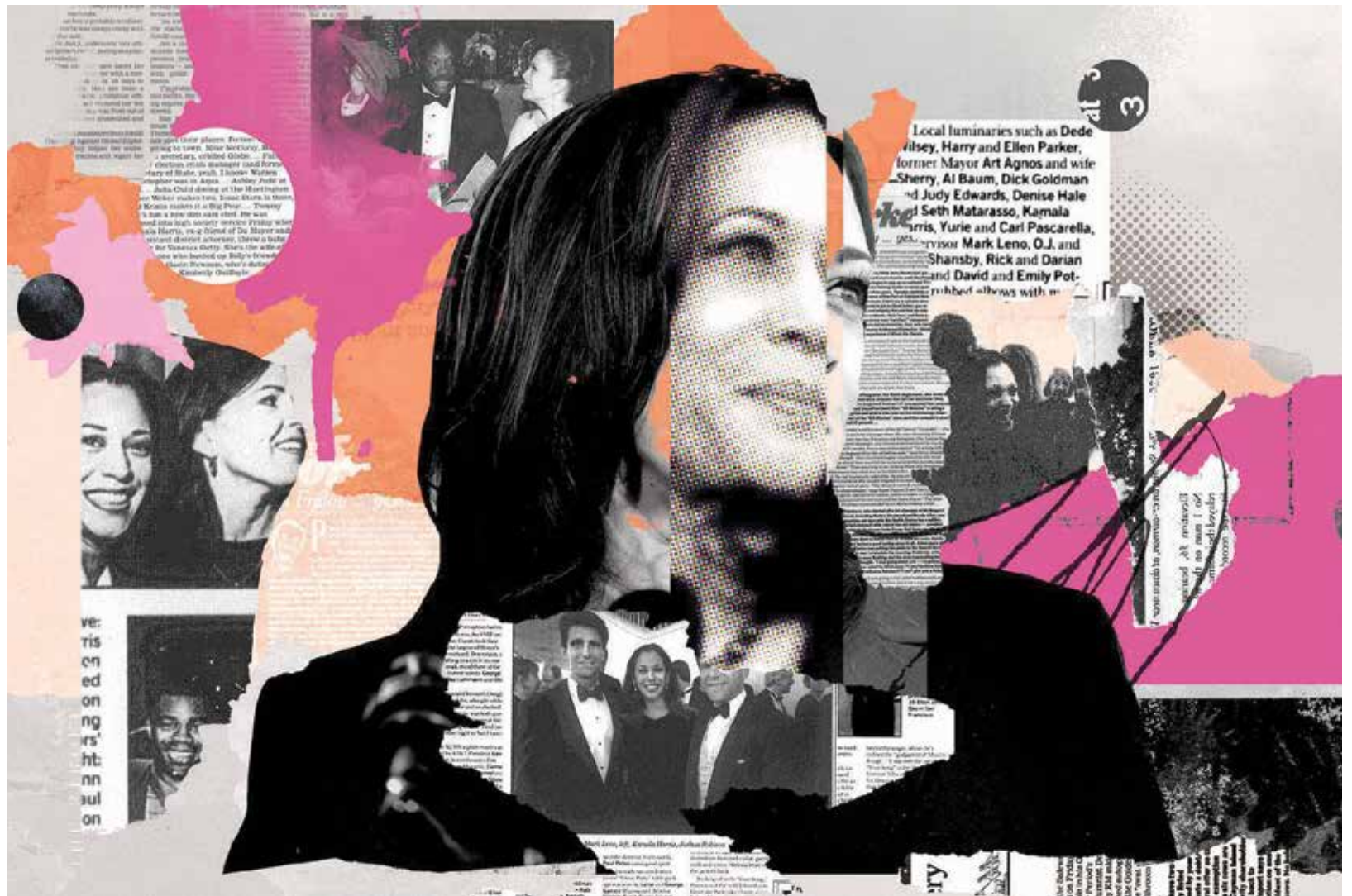
OPINION

Kamala Harris's first few weeks as the Democrats' 2024 godsend have been fun, but the drumbeat to get serious is growing louder. The *New York Times*: "Trump's tax plan could add trillions to the national debt. Harris's is a mystery." The *New Yorker*: "Harris's campaign Web site, meanwhile, does not even have a policy section, or an articulation of beliefs." The *Washington Post*: "If she hopes to prevail, Ms. Harris needs to present her ideas."

Well, as luck would have it, there's a perfect opportunity just around the corner to satisfy those demands for specifics at an event in which Harris will have the stage to herself and tens of millions of people will be listening to her every word. She is, of course, the star and the closing speaker of the Democratic National Convention and can use the spotlight to explain all the policy details she'd pursue if she were elected president of the United States...

Nah.

She is unlikely to use the podium in Chicago to roll out proposals for changes to marginal tax rates or suggestions for how to end the carnage in Gaza. She will want to come across as serious, but she doesn't want to puncture the joy balloon that has been energizing Democratic crowds and lifting her up in the polls.



The illustration shows the US Vice President and Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris along with snippets of her younger years.
● ELEANOR SHAKESPEARE/POLITICO

Harris's main goals next Thursday night will be to introduce herself to that large cross-section of Americans who are not obsessive politicians but are just starting to pay attention to the race for the White House, and to sell herself to anyone unsure of her ability to lead the country. She will cite facts and examples from her record in public office to illustrate accomplishments. But Harris will probably lean most heavily on broad themes and visions while trying to forge a personal connection with voters by talking about her own compelling rise from humble roots: the child who grew up in a working-class Berkeley neighborhood as the daughter of Indian and Jamaican immigrants to become California state attorney general, US senator, and vice president. "Telling her story as part of the larger American story and as an example of what is possible in this country is going to be inspiring," says Jon Favreau, the former top speechwriter for Barack Obama who went on to cofound Crooked Media and cohost *Pod Save America*. "It's also going to help inoculate her from the darker charges by Trump and

JD Vance that she is other, that she is not like us."

Retailing her biography for political purposes has not always come easily to Harris. "Men have no problem talking about how great they are," says Ashley Etienne, who was a senior aide to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and to Vice President Harris. "Women want to talk about you. She had to get comfortable talking about herself. It's very different than Barack Obama. I mean, he ran a whole tour talking about himself for two years before he ran for president." An Obama speechwriting alumnus, Adam Frankel, is leading the drafting of Harris's convention speech as the Democratic nominee for president. Frankel had already been crafting a convention speech for Harris as the vice-presidential nominee. "He's very good at uplift," says Favreau, who hired Frankel to work for Obama's 2008 campaign. "He was close for a long time with Ted Sorensen, so Adam has a lot of JFK, RFK kind of style." Another Obama veteran, Megan Rooney, who had been on President Joe Biden's White House team, was recently hired as the Harris campaign's director

of speech writing. "Megan is, I think, the best in the business at bringing somebody's humanity through in a speech," says Dan Schwerin, who was director of speechwriting for Hillary Clinton's 2016 run, with Rooney as his deputy. "And having written for Hillary and for Michelle Obama, she knows as much as anyone about how to write for a strong woman leader."

One tricky choice for Harris will be how much to go after the eminently mockable Donald Trump. Most attacks on the Republican nominee will likely come from the convention's opening acts, including vice-presidential nominee Tim Walz, creator of the Democrats' "big weirdo" strategy. Yet, Harris can't entirely skip drawing a sharp contrast. "You don't ever want to look like you're afraid of taking on your opponent," says Cody Keenan, Obama's director of speech writing from 2013 to 2017. "And with somebody like Trump, who is abnormal, basically an overgrown bully, taking him on directly is the most important thing you can do."

Another challenge is covering a lot of ground without putting everyone to



US President Joe Biden (R) and Democratic presidential nominee Kamala Harris hold a joint event in Maryland on August 15, 2024. This was the president's first joint speaking event with Harris since he dropped out of the presidential race.
● GETTY IMAGES

sleep. It's no accident that the most memorable Democratic convention speeches tend to be delivered by someone other than the presidential candidate. Ted Kennedy's "The Dream Shall Never Die" in 1980, Mario Cuomo's "A Tale of Two Cities" in 1984, Jim Hightower's "Born on Third Base" in 1988, and Obama's career-making 2004 stem-winder were all part of the undercard because the lesser figures can stick to a narrower narrative.

Harris doesn't write out her own first draft or outlines for speeches, Etienne says, but instead prefers to brainstorm with her writers and aides and then edit and revise what her staff puts on the page. The basic framework, which Harris has been workshopping in her speeches at enormous rallies around the country, is already fairly clear: a choice between a prosecutor and a felon, between going backward and going forward, between retribution and hope. "I was dreading having to

write a speech or read anyone's drafts trying to advocate for Joe Biden," a top Democratic speechwriter says. "This will be a lot more fun." Which doesn't mean the end result will be lightweight. Schwerin says Harris will probably lead with her values and use policy as proof points. "So, for example, I am virtually certain that she will talk about signing a law to bring back *Roe v. Wade* as the law of the land," he says. "That's policy. But you don't need to add 10 footnotes." Harris always emphasizes that her speeches need to provide context and foundation, Etienne says. Her speech can't just be about Trump. "She's going to wrap it in a bow, asking this question about who we are as a nation and who we want to be." The messy details, about exactly how Harris proposes to take us there, may need to wait until at least September's debate.

The article first appeared on *Vanity Fair*.



People listen to Congresswoman Dina Titus deliver an opening speech at a Kamala Harris rally at Thomas & Mack Center in Las Vegas, Nevada, on August 10, 2024.
● ALEXIS JAZZ/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Voters sending clear message ahead of DNC

Arms embargo on Israel good policy, good politics



By Mitchell Plitnick
President of ReThinking
Foreign Policy

OPINION

As Democrats prepare for their National Convention in Chicago this week, anti-genocide protesters and advocates are gearing up to meet them there. While Democratic leaders hope to demonstrate unusual party unity at the Convention, the yawning gap between those leaders and most Democratic voters — especially the key sectors of young voters, progressives, Muslims, and Arab-Americans — stands in the way of that unity.

Democratic policy toward Palestine is not the only problematic issue in the Democrats' policy book, but it's a prominent one. Neither Vice President Kamala Harris nor her running mate, Governor Tim Walz, has demonstrated any commitment to changing that policy despite its manifest failure and its unpopularity among Democratic voters.

Harris hoped that a change in tone to one that is more empathetic to the suffering in Gaza and one that makes anti-genocide protesters and members of the Uncommitted movement "feel heard" would give her breathing room on this issue. That is both misguided and insulting, to the American advocates for an end to US support and enabling of Israel's genocide, but even more, to the victims of the genocide itself in Palestine.

Arms embargo on Israel

While polls have long shown that an overwhelming majority of Democrats want a permanent cease-fire in Gaza and that a clear majority believe that Israel is committing genocide, Harris seems to be banking on the crowds at her rallies who, while they may fall into those groups, don't find their enthusiasm for her dampened by Harris' role in that genocide.

Harris has shown that she has learned some of the lessons of the Democrats' recent failures, but she is still betting on being able to dupe and buy off supporters of Palestinian rights on the cheap. There have been clear messages sent, particularly from the Uncommitted movement (which, it is fair to say, represents more moderate Palestinian advocates) that they are desperate for something substantive from the Democratic nominee. But they don't seem likely to get it.

A new poll, just released Wednesday by YouGov and the Institute for Mideast Understanding (IMEU) showed that in three key battleground states, "About a quarter of those surveyed across these states say the violence in Gaza will sway how they vote," and that "60% or more disapprove of more weapons to Israel." Even more stunning, the number of Democratic and Independent voters who would be less likely to vote for Harris if she vowed to stop arming Israel is minuscule. In Pennsylvania, only 7% said they would be less likely to vote for Harris if she pledged to stop sending weapons to Israel; in both Arizona and Georgia, that figure was just 5%.

The gaps are huge. In those same states, the numbers saying they would be more likely to vote for Harris if she pledged to stop arming Israel were 34% in Pennsylvania, 39% in Georgia, and 35% in Arizona. The rest said it wouldn't affect their vote.

These are unprecedented numbers when it comes to sending weapons to "our closest ally," Israel. It is clear that the idea that forcing Israel into a cease-fire by withholding weapons would be beneficial to Harris, and all the more so if Israel then stops its genocide, and Iran and the rest of the Axis of Resistance stand down, as has been promised, and is the overwhelmingly likely result.

2024 Democratic platform

Despite this clear political incentive, it seems unlikely that such a massive break with Israel would be possible, es-

pecially while Joe Biden remains in office. Even if Harris wants to pursue such a course — and there is absolutely no evidence that she does — it is doubtful that she would break with Biden publicly on such a high-profile issue.

But, if she wanted to do that, there are ways she could indicate it without actually throwing the gauntlet down in front of Biden. The Democratic platform for 2024 offers such an opportunity.

The technical reasons for holding a National Convention are to officially nominate the party's choice for president and to formally adopt the party platform. Democrats have already nominated Harris, via delegate count. So, her nomination at the Convention is simply going to be an acceptance speech. That leaves the platform.

A party platform is a non-binding statement of positions. No elected official — whether the president or members of Congress — is bound by the platform. But it's still an important political document. It gives voters a sense of where the party claims to stand on the issues and, ostensibly, should give party activists, delegates, and voters a way to gauge how well their elected officials are keeping to their campaign promises. But the 2024 Democratic platform, drafted for a Joe Biden campaign, needs revision in many ways, and the Middle East/North Africa section is the most obvious place for it as it is a massive step backward from 2020.

In 2020, the Democratic platform promised to elevate diplomacy over warfare in its Middle East approach. It promised to de-escalate tension with Iran and reinstate the JCPOA. It vowed not to indulge "authoritarian impulses, internal rivalries, catastrophic proxy wars, or efforts to roll back political openings across the region." And it pledged to find a way to end the civil war in Syria and stand for the civil and human rights of all Syrians.

On Israel-Palestine, the 2020 platform promised to work for a Palestinian state, restore diplomatic ties with the Palestinians, and restore aid to the Palestinian people. Less aspirational than much of the platform, it was mostly a bland statement of standard Democratic policy and was left intentionally vague.

But the 2024 platform is radically different. Since the platform was drafted before Biden stepped aside in favor of Harris, it is essentially an endorsement of Biden's disastrous policies in the region.



Pro-Palestinian protesters are barricaded in Harlem, New York, across the street from a fundraiser for Vice President Kamala Harris' presidential bid, on August 14, 2024, with some of their placards declaring "No Arms Embargo No Vote".
SAM COSTANZA/NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

De-emphasizing diplomacy, the 2024 platform features Biden's efforts to build a Mideast NATO to "counter Iran," and the attempt to wipe out what little diplomatic leverage Palestinians had by brokering a normalization deal between Saudi Arabia and Israel. On these bases, the platform is less a statement of positions than a defense of a Middle East policy that has been an utter disaster in every regard.

Here's how the draft platform describes the current situation in Gaza: "Many vulnerable civilians are suffering deadly consequences of the Israel-Hamas war. Residents of Gaza have been displaced, and food insecurity has been severe. The Administration has worked relentlessly to deliver food, medicine, and other aid to the people of Gaza and to set the conditions for the reconstruction of communities in Gaza that have been devastated by the war."

That hardly sounds any different than the conditions in Gaza for many years before October 7. It not only fails to describe the horrific conditions in Gaza, but it also completely avoids naming a responsible party, as if Gaza's condition was the result of a natural disaster. Without updates, this packaging of Biden policies stands as a statement that such policies are meant to continue under a potential President Harris.

It is for this reason that a coalition of DNC delegates is calling on the party to reject the platform when it comes up for a vote at the convention.

Still, because the platform is non-binding, and especially since it was written when Biden was still the presumptive nominee, it could, in theory, be changed, and even changed dramatically. That is, it could if Harris really wants to make changes to it.

Harris' options

It would be politically sensible and clearly in the best interests of the Palestinian people, the Middle East, the United States, and the Israeli people as well if Kamala Harris paid attention to the most recent polls and declared that, if she is elected, she will not continue to support Israel's operations in Gaza, and that she will not send them any more weapons until they agree to and implement the plan President Biden presented at the end of May.

This is, of course, the most basic demand of protesters, the Uncommitted movement, and supporters of Palestinians (as well as many whose primary concern is the well-being of Israelis). But it is impossible to imagine Harris doing something so explicitly at odds with current US policy.

So, what might she do instead?

Jim Zogby of the Arab American Institute, and a longtime leader in the Democratic party, published a list of recommendations for Harris. They include a demand for a cease-fire, with consequences for "either side" if the terms are violated; an end to settlement expansion; and mutual condemnation of "incitement and terror" aimed at Palestinians and Israelis, civilian and official. That's a pretty moderate list and one that really shouldn't present issues for Harris, though it certainly would. But we could go further, even without bringing in more radical suggestions that might be more divisive.

Democrats could state:

- That the Democratic Party does not recognize the acquisition of land by force, nor the annexation of land taken in war by any state;
- That Israel's settlements are illegal, or at the very least, inconsistent with international law (consistent with the language the State Department used for decades);
- That the Democratic Party calls for a full review of all arms sales, grants, and other forms of support to all foreign nations to ensure compliance with the Arms Export Control Act, the Foreign Assistance Act, and the Leahy Law;
- That the Democratic Party holds all parties with governing authority over

the Palestinian people responsible for protecting the human and civil rights of those under its jurisdiction.

None of these are radical suggestions. Indeed, they are all applications of US law, which includes adherence to international law. These positions would provide a basis for a different direction in US policy toward Israel and Palestine, something that most Americans demonstrably want.

This would not bind the Harris administration, but it would certainly bring a loud response from the pro-Israel world as it would send a message to the nominee of what the rank and file will expect on this issue. What would be important to Harris for her campaign, which is certainly what she cares most about, is that it would send a signal to Palestine advocates that she would be different from Biden and that change is possible, even if there would still be plenty left for them to fight for.

It would surely push the pro-Israel zealots even further toward the Republican party. But the more liberal pro-Israel groups, such as J Street or Americans for Peace Now should be fine with these positions, as they largely codify things they have been saying themselves, at least during the 10 months of the Gaza genocide.

These suggestions reflect the will of most Democratic voters, and many others as well. Those voters see an Israel they don't like, doing things with their tax dollars they find objectionable or even reprehensible.

This is an opportunity for Kamala Harris to not only lay the foundation for a US policy in the Middle East that is sensible and in the interests of all concerned, but also for her to show the kind of leadership we haven't seen in the United States in my lifetime. It's the right call, and it will help her win. And it will give advocates for Palestinian rights — and, yes, also those who want a better future for Israeli citizens as well — something concrete to work with for the first time. The struggle for Palestinian rights would have made not just a gain but would open up possibilities for real justice, which these suggestions certainly do not bring.

It's the very definition of a win-win, except for Benjamin Netanyahu, his band of right-wing zealots, and their servants in AIPAC and related organizations.

The article first appeared on Mondoweiss.



Protesters rally against President Biden's support of Israel, in Chicago in March 2024.
JAMIE KELTER DAVIS/THE NEW YORK TIMES

From Tokyo ashes to Paris podium: Kiani's journey toward Olympic milestone



By Amirhadi Arsalanpour
Staff writer

Nahid Kiani felt like the loneliest person in the world when she arrived at Tehran's Imam Khomeini Airport following a disappointing taekwondo campaign at the Tokyo Olympics, as only family members were there to welcome her back to the country.

A politically-charged contest had seen Kiani square off against fellow-Iranian Kimia Alizadeh, representing the IOC refugee team, in the first round and a defeat meant her run in what she later described in an Instagram post as the "Covid-hit and unpeaceful Olympics" came to an end after a single bout.

The overwhelming consequences of the result were hard to deal with for the Iranian girl, for whom "overcoming the unpleasant circumstances in the aftermath of the defeat were one of the toughest things to do in my life."

"I was devastated by the fact that a part of my compatriots cheered my opponent's victory, which is why I had to seek professional help from a therapist," Kiani told Varzesh3 in January.

Three years on, the 26-year-old, along with other three Iranian taekwondo medalists, received a hero's reception on her arrival in the same airport, having etched her name into history books of the Iranian sport at the Paris Olympics. The country's maiden female gold medalist in the World Championships, Kiani built on her historic success in 2023 toward another milestone in Paris, as she became the first Iranian girl to reach the final showpiece in any sporting event over the 30 editions of the modern Games.

Her -57kg campaign finished with a straight-round loss to South Korean Kim Yu-jin, though the precious silver medal was still enough to make August 8 "the sweetest day of my life," as she had promised in the buildup to the event.

"I had beaten the Korean opponent in the previous meetings but she was in her best form in Paris," Kiani told Mehr News Agency, adding: "There were valuable lessons for me in the Olympics, which I am sure will contribute to my achievements in the future."



Kiani's journey in the French capital's Grand Palais, ironically, began with another clash against Alizadeh, now competing under the Bulgarian flag. All the sad memories of Tokyo were relived when Alizadeh won a thrilling first round 10-7.

Kiani, however, was not to back off this time around and drew the contest level in the second round before producing a heroic fightback in the final 20 seconds in the third to tie the scoreline at 6-6 and eventually sealing the victory on criteria. Kiani went on to beat Tunisian Chaima Toumi in the quarterfinals and then

came out on top in successive rounds against Lebanese Laetitia Aoun for a historic place in the final showdown. Sports fans might say it just takes three victories to stand on the Olympic podium.

For the athletes, though, it is about years of dedication and hard work to succeed in the grandest sporting extravaganza. "Those who have experienced the Olympic setback know how tough it is to recover from the mental and emotional blow. That was the case for me three years ago, but I rose up again and promised myself to get the job done in Paris,"

Kiani said.

"I had visualized myself with an Olympic medal time and again before the Games. I was fully aware of what was to come my way in Paris, and was confident August 8 would be the day that all the years of tireless efforts would pay off."

Kiani can rest and enjoy all the publicity for now, but it will be no time before she embarks on preparations for the next challenge: A world title defense in Wuxi, China, next year or, perhaps, a shot at further Olympic history; the ultimate prize itself in LA 2028.



Iran's Nahid Kiani celebrates her first-round victory over Bulgaria's representative Kimia Alizadeh in the women's taekwondo -57kg contests at the Paris Olympics on August 8, 2024.

● WORLD TAEKWONDO

Inzaghi lets off steam after Inter lose lead in late draw at Genoa



Inter coach Simone Inzaghi reacts during the match against Genoa in their Serie A opener in Genoa, Italy, on August 17, 2024.

● ALBERTO LINGRIA/REUTERS



REUTERS –

Inter Milan manager Simone Inzaghi said his side were sloppy in failing to protect their late lead, as Genoa secured a last-gasp draw in the first Serie A match of the season on Saturday. Inter were pegged back to a 2-2 draw at Genoa after a stoppage-time goal from Junior Messias, who scored on the rebound after a penalty awarded for a handball, cancelling out Marcus Thuram's second goal for Inter six minutes before time.

"A team like ours, leading in the 84th

minute, shouldn't concede any more goals, especially in that way," Inzaghi told DAZN after the match.

"Football owes you nothing. Today we had to give a bit more," he said.

"Conceding two goals like that makes it difficult to win matches. Credit to Genoa, but it's a draw that doesn't leave us much satisfaction given what we created."

He said Inter would struggle to defend their Serie A title playing as they did in the match.

"Yes, winning is difficult, winning it again even more so. The boys know it, they are mature enough and that's why I'm disappointed."

Inzaghi added that, despite the hectic season for several of the players, including the recent European Championship and Copa America, there was no excuse for their performance.

Inter will next host Lecce on Aug. 24 in Serie A.

Barca boss Flick hopeful Gundogan will stay this season



● GETTY IMAGES

REUTERS – New Barcelona manager Hansi Flick said he expects Ilkay Gundogan to stay this season after reports linked the midfielder with a move away from the LaLiga club. The 33-year-old Germany international is in the final year of his Barcelona contract, having joined from Manchester City in 2023.

Gundogan is one of the top earners at the club, and Spanish media reports suggested he might leave after the signing of midfielder Dani Olmo.

Gundogan missed Barcelona's opening league match, a 2-1 win at Valencia on Saturday due to a minor injury. «(Gundogan) hurt his eyebrow on Monday and that's why he's staying at home,» Flick told reporters after the game.

"I appreciate what kind of player he is and what he is like as a person. I've talked to him a lot, but it's something between me and him, we have a good relationship. I know him well. I have the feeling that he will stay."

Barcelona host Athletic Bilbao next in LaLiga on Saturday.

Disruption in internal cohesion would create problems for country: *Pezeshkian*



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian speaks during a meeting with a group of lawmakers in Tehran on August 17, 2024.
● [president.ir](#)

National Desk

President Masoud Pezeshkian said at the time when Iran is engaged in a full-scale economic war with the world, any disruption in the internal cohesion would create problems for the country in the face of international challenges. Pezeshkian emphasized the necessity of synergy, cohesion and unity among the country's political factions to overcome external challenges facing the country. He made the remarks in a meeting with a group of Iranian lawmakers in Tehran on Saturday evening. Pezeshkian said strict and exclusionary policies in the

past have led to the isolation of many "caring and hardworking people" from the management of the country's affairs. Therefore, the government of national accord has been seeking to employ competent individuals and elites regardless of any attitude, religion or ethnicity to this end. The meeting came as the Parliament in Iran has already commenced the reviewing of the qualifications of the proposed ministers by the Iranian president. Earlier on the day, the president attended an open session of the Parliament to defend his 19 ministerial picks. "The cabinet that was in-

troduced to the parliament today is the government of national unity; the government of national unity is a government that considers itself the government of all Iranian people. The national unity government is obligated to secure the citizenship rights of all Iranians and is committed to the prioritization of national interests over any other interest," Pezeshkian told the lawmakers at parliament. During the second day of reviewing the ministers' qualifications on Sunday, the lawmakers discussed the plans outlined by the proposed ministers for the ministries of foreign

affairs, intelligence, economic affairs and finance, health and medical education as well as cooperatives, labor, and social welfare. President Pezeshkian submitted the list of his new cabinet members to the Parliament on August 11, less than two weeks after he was sworn in before the country's legislators. Pezeshkian's cabinet lineup has ruffled the feathers of a number of individuals in the Reformist camp but he has defended his proposed ministers and has called on critics to "wait for the cabinet to start work and criticize it based on its performance."

US on trail in Iran over 1953 coup

An Iranian court has begun the trial of the US administration and its officials over the 1953 coup against the democratically-elected government of Prime Minister Mohammad Mosaddegh. The first session of the trial was held at the 55th branch of the court dealing with international affairs in Tehran's Imam Khomeini Judicial Complex on Sunday, on the occasion of the 71st anniversary of the coup, Press TV reported. The court will hear a lawsuit filed by some 402,000 Iranians against six American natural persons and legal entities over their role in the ousting of Mosaddegh that consolidated the rule of the pro-Western monarch, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, until the 1979 Islamic Revolution. Lawyer Shami Aghdam, representing the defendants, said documents show the US spy agency CIA, with the help of its British counterpart MI6, planned the coup by using internal and external agents against the legitimate government of Iran on August 19, 1953.

Washington and London, it added, "designed the military coup through violating international principles and rules, and interfering in the internal affairs of Iran, intending to maintain their influence and power in the government, securing their interests and looting the country's property." It added that the coup was perpetrated by military and political figures affiliated with the US and the UK governments, as well as thugs. "In fact, the coup marked the beginning of the US's complete domination over Iran to make it more dependent than before and prevent its independence and progress. The domination lasted for more than 25 years and inflicted costs, as well as material and spiritual damage, on the country and the nation." Also on Sunday, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani said in an X post that the overthrow of the Mosaddegh government, and political, security, and military support for the tyranny, will always re-

main a disgrace to the US and the UK regimes. "Slavery, colonialism, coups, and military interventions in other countries are only part of the dark and shameful history of the US and UK meddling in the world's affairs," he said. The 1953 coup set off a series of events, including riots on the streets of the Iranian capital Tehran, leading to the ousting and arrest of Mosaddegh, who was popular in Iran for nationalizing the country's oil industry and taking it back from largely British control. It also enabled the return from exile of Mohammad Reza Pahlavi who remained in power until the victory of the Islamic Revolution, led by Imam Khomeini. Mosaddegh, who was convicted of treason by a court martial after the coup, served three years in solitary confinement and eventually died under house arrest in exile in 1967. In 2013, the US formally admitted its role in the coup in 2013 with the declassification of intelligence documents.

China, Russia, emerging powers to take centerstage in Iran's foreign policy: *Araqchi*

National Desk

Iran's foreign minister designate Abbas Araqchi said on Sunday his foreign policy priorities would center on relations with China, Russia and emerging powers as he addressed Parliament during a debate to review his qualifications. "China, Russia and other countries that sided with Iran while the country was subject to US sanctions as well as emerging powers are the priorities of foreign relations in the upcoming government," Araqchi said as he outlined his plans if approved by lawmakers as Iran's top diplomat, according to IRNA. "New arenas in Africa, Latin America, and East Asia are also among the foreign policy priorities. If Europe rectifies its wrong and hostile behaviors toward the Islamic Republic of Iran, it will be placed on our priority list," he added. The career diplomat said that he will pursue three primary missions in his role as foreign minister: secur-

ing national interests and enhancing national wealth; consolidating national security and preserving and promoting national dignity and prestige. According to the Foreign Ministry designate, distinct plans have been developed for each mission. Among the proposed plans, eight key areas were of paramount importance to the nominee and his advisors. Iran's strategic standing, wealth creation, Iran's border status, active global presence, good neighborliness, lifting of sanctions, parliamentary diplomacy, and Iran's dignity were among the areas that Araqchi elaborated on. He said that the country's policy towards the US will be one of "managing animosity." Meanwhile, Araqchi said that, "Removal of US sanctions on Iran is a top priority for the government." He said the ministry will continue the path of supporting the Axis of Resistance and Palestine. In this session, which was

the second public meeting of the parliament to review the qualifications of the proposed ministers by President Masoud Pezeshkian, the lawmakers delivered speeches both in opposition to and in support of Araqchi's plans. In opposition to the Foreign Ministry nominee, Mohammadreza Sabbaghian Bafqi and Amir Hossein Sabeti criticized Araqchi's performance in negotiations related to 2015 nuclear deal, known as the JCPOA. Sabeti described the text of the Iran nuclear deal as detrimental and questioned the revival of the deal, while Sabbaghian questioned Araqchi for signing "a one-sided" deal. Meysam Zohourian delivered a speech in opposition to Araqchi's plans, criticizing him for "immature" positions on economic and political issues. "Araqchi held positions that tied the livelihood of the people to the will of foreigners. He has repeatedly stated that the FATF issue must be resolved in order to



continue negotiations with Europe," Zohourian argued. In support of the qualifications of the proposed minister of foreign affairs, Ahmad Azadi-Khah stated that policy-making is not the job of the minister. If we have objections to the policies, they are made elsewhere, and the minister is just an executor. He added that Araqchi was a member of Iran's nuclear negotiation team. If we have any issues or ambiguities regarding the policies, we should direct our criticisms elsewhere. Hadi Qavami was another parliamentarian that delivered a speech in support of Araqchi's plans, saying, "Economic growth cannot be achieved through slogans, and Araqchi has plans for this important matter." Qavami emphasized that to achieve "the 8% growth projected in the five-year development plan, we need \$200b in investments, a portion of which will come from foreign investment. This cannot be achieved through slogans."

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Hamas: US has no genuine will for cease-fire in Gaza

International Desk

A senior member of the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas said in a statement that there is no genuine will by the United States to establish a cease-fire in the Gaza Strip. Osama Hamdan, who represents Hamas in Lebanon, noted that the US is trying to give Israel more time to carry out more massacres in the Gaza Strip. Hamdan said that the US's proposal in cease-fire talks does not include any cease-fire or troops' withdrawal from Gaza. His comments came after

the US, Qatar and Egypt, the three mediators of a possible cease-fire deal, concluded two-days of talks on ending Israel's attacks in Gaza in Qatar's capital on Saturday. The talks are expected to resume in Cairo in the coming days after two days of negotiations in Doha. The mediators said they presented a bridging cease-fire proposal to both sides and that negotiations were making progress, but they also cautioned that there is still work to be done. They also reported progress in negotiations and a US official said remaining gaps were "bridgeable."

US President Joe Biden also said a cease-fire was closer after talks in Doha. But Hamas political bureau member Sami Abu Zuhri said the optimism that a deal was close after talks in Doha was "an illusion." "We are not facing a deal or real negotiations, but rather the imposing of American diktats," he said. Meanwhile, the US's top diplomat Anthony Blinken was set to arrive in Israel on Sunday, where he is expected to meet Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and other senior officials. Israel's negotiating team on Saturday expressed "cau-

tious optimism" on the possibility of advancing a deal, according to a statement from Netanyahu's office. However, Hamas sees Netanyahu as the main obstacle to a cease-fire and an exchange deal for the remaining captives and Palestinian prisoners. "From day one, we said we will not accept a temporary arrangement, it was done in November 2023, and the Israelis undermined that," Hamdan has told Al Jazeera. Israel's war on Gaza has left more than 40,000 Palestinians dead and more than 92,000 wounded since last October.



Iran's Taheri picked as Shimla festival's jury

Arts & Culture Desk

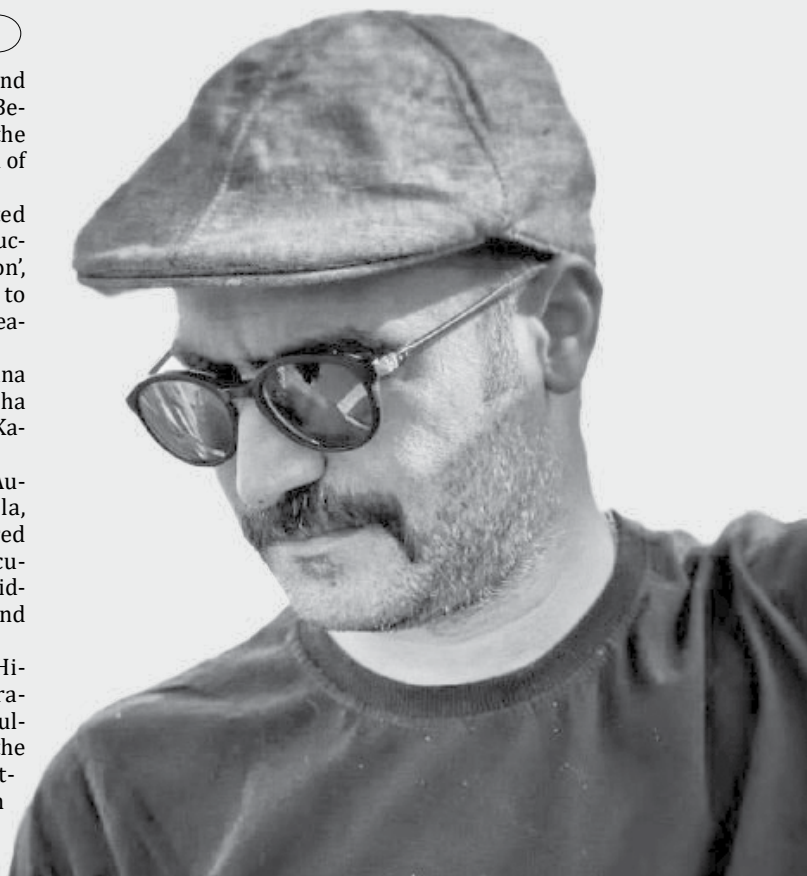
Iran's independent filmmaker and international film distributor Be-lal Taheri judged the films at the 10th International Film Festival of Shimla in India.

Taheri, who recently completed a joint Iran-Bulgaria film production 'Lyon's Lady: Alveh Edition', joined a seven-member jury to screen and select films in the feature film category.

The jury panel also included Bina Paul, Arik Moran, Farha, Manisha Kulshreshtha, and Sarvchetan Katoch.

The festival took place from August 16 to 18, 2024, in Shimla, India. This year's event featured short films, feature films, documentaries, animations, music videos, as well as masterclasses and workshops on filmmaking.

The festival is organized by Himalayan Velocity in collaboration with the Language and Culture Department of LAC and the Tourism and Aviation Department of the Himachal Pradesh government.



Iran's University of Isfahan, China's BICMR ink cooperation deal



The University of Isfahan and China's Beijing International Center for Mathematical Research (BICMR) signed a memorandum of understanding to boost scientific cooperation.

The agreement was signed by Hossein Harsij, head of the University of Isfahan's Faculty of Mathematics and Statistics, and Gang Tian, head of BICMR, according to a statement from the university's public relations office, IRNA wrote. Harsij emphasized the need to expand scientific diploma-

cy between the two countries, noting that mathematics is a fundamental course for universities.

He also highlighted that Iran and China are self-sufficient in terms of mathematical experts and that regional countries rely on their expertise for development.

To strengthen cooperation, the University of Isfahan has launched a Chinese language course, Harsij said.

He expressed hope that Chinese universities would also collaborate with the Univer-

sity of Isfahan to promote the Chinese language program and that Iran would offer Persian language courses to Chinese students.

BICMR, established in 2005, is a research institute that actively recruits global talents and explores new models of mathematical education.

The University of Isfahan, with around 17,000 students and 700 faculty members, is one of Iran's top universities, with around 1,000 international students currently enrolled.

Actor, 'French monument' Alain Delon, dies at 88

Alain Delon, the French actor and heartthrob who was known for his chiseled good look and charismatic on-screen presence, died at the age of 88.

The film actor known for leading roles in classics such as 'Le Samourai' (1967), and 'Rocco and His Brothers' (1960) died early Sunday, his children told French media.

"Alain Fabien, Anouchka, Anthony, as well as [his dog] Loubo, are deeply saddened to announce the passing of their father. He passed away peacefully in his home in Douchy, surrounded by his three children and his family," read his family's statement to the AFP news agency, referring to the city in northcentral France where he spent the last years of his life.

French President Emmanuel Macron was among those who paid tribute to the late actor, calling him not just a legendary actor but a "monument". "Alain Delon played legendary roles and made the world dream. Lending his unforgettable face to turn our lives upside down," Macron wrote on X. "Melancholy, popular, secretive, he was more than a star: He was a French monument."

In Iran, Delon's films were widely popular, thanks in part to the voice of Iranian voice actor Khosro Khosroshahi, who dubbed many of Delon's movies. Khosroshahi, whose unique voice remained fresh and vibrant despite his illness, fell silent for a brief moment after learning of the death of the French cinema figure he had often spoken about. When a reporter asked how he felt about the news, Khosroshahi replied simply, "I'm not feeling well at all. I'm feeling a bit off today."

Over the course of his career, Khosroshahi dubbed more than 40 films featuring Alain Delon, breathing new life into the late actor's roles. Khosroshahi kicked off his work on Delon's films with the movie 'The Yellow Rolls-Royce'.

In a previous interview, Khosroshahi recalled that the late Iranian filmmaker Hamid Qanbari had once shown Delon a clip from the film 'Le Samourai' on TV, and Delon had acknowledged that his best dubber in the world was his Iranian voice actor. French Culture Minister Rachida Dati paid tribute to the late Alain Delon, saying "We believe he was immortal ... his talent, his charisma, his aura made him destined for a Hollywood career at a young age, but he chose France."

The former culture minister Jack Lang spoke of Delon's kindness and their friendship of more than 20 years. Lang said Delon was "an acting giant, prodigious ... a prince of the cinema".

"He was extremely modest, reserved, restrained, shy at the same time; even if he did express himself brutally from time to time, he did it with a flourish," Lang said.

Valérie Pécresse, the president of the Île-de-France region, wrote on X: "Goodbye dear Alain," while Eric Ciotti, of Les Républicains, wrote that Delon was a star apart: "France mourns a sacred giant who existed in the daily lives of French people across the generations and who will continue to thrill us for a long time to come."

The writer and film director Philippe Labro wrote: "Goodbye friend. A wonderful collection of films, an incredible and fascinating personality. Beauty is not enough to explain the exceptional evolution of his talent. He was the ultimate star.

The Samurai."

Delon suffered a stroke in 2019.

Earlier this year, his son Anthony had said his father had been diagnosed with B-cell lymphoma, a type of cancer.

The former actor's dwindling health was the cause of months of public family feuding. Before Delon's debilitating stroke, he made his last major public appearance on the red carpet to receive an honorary Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival in May 2019.

"It's a bit of a posthumous tribute, but from my lifetime," he had said upon receiving the award. Delon's physical appearance was his biggest asset for filmmakers in the 1960s and 70s, at the height of his career. He set the template for one of Hollywood's favourite tropes – the mysterious, cerebral hitman – with his performance as the silent killer in Jean-Pierre Melville's 'Le Samourai'. Directors from Martin Scorsese and Quentin Tarantino to Hong Kong's John Woo all have lauded the actor, although the former French actor never made it big in Hollywood.

And although he was adored by many, he also faced many criticisms.



● GETTY IMAGES

Message of Araghchi's...

I firmly believe that Araghchi has the necessary qualifications, skills and experience to shoulder the main responsibilities that come with the position of foreign minister. While there are indeed many talented diplomats within

the ministry, Araghchi stands out due to his extensive work experience and grasp of various issues, particularly his involvement in the nuclear negotiations. Although it is expected that Araghchi will secure the Parliament's vote of confidence with-

out any major hurdles, a high approval rating would undoubtedly bolster his position and provide a strong mandate as he take on his duties.

The Parliament's endorsement of Araghchi also sends a powerful message to the international community, particularly to Iran's counterparts in specific dossiers. It signals that the new

Iranian government is committed to resolving disputes within the framework of its national interests and favors dialogue and diplomacy. Naturally, foreign parties will welcome his selection as they have had the opportunity to work with the Foreign Minister-designate and have witnessed his expertise and the quality of his work in previous

rounds of negotiations.

Yesterday, Araghchi presented his plans to the lawmakers, and the essence of his program is very much in line with the policies announced by Pezeshkian, focusing on safeguarding Iran's national interests while upholding dignity, expediency, and wisdom.

Araghchi's appointment carries

significant weight both domestically and internationally. Domestically, it reflects the president's commitment to relying on specialists and experts, while internationally, it signals Iran's continued dedication to diplomacy and dialogue, as demonstrated by the selection of one of its most seasoned diplomats with a proven track record in negotiations.