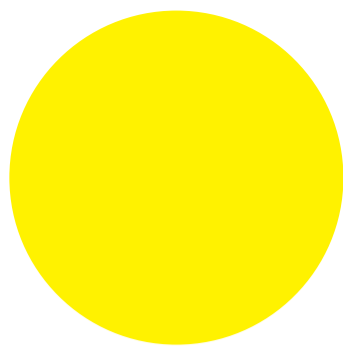


Iran's top security official in Russia for BRICS meeting



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Iran ready to develop Arash gas field amid Kuwait's repeated claims

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Setting sights on \$50b trade target with Iraq

By Heshmatollah Falahatpisheh
Mideast affairs expert

OPINION EXCLUSIVE

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian's choice of Iraq as his first foreign visit destination is defensible from political, cultural, and economic perspectives. However, among the various fields for potential bilateral cooperation, I want to zero in on economic collaboration as the real standout in this piece. Although security strategies still hold sway along the Iran-Iraq border, the frontier is still Iran's most lucrative border, thanks to the political and cultural affinities between the two neighbors.

Based on my 12-year experience in Iraqi affairs, I believe that if security considerations step aside and make way for developmental ones at the border, Tehran-Baghdad trade capacities can reach \$50 billion annually. However, unfortunately, security considerations have sometimes stopped or postponed some important economic projects or even removed them from the agenda.

If the authorities of Iran and Iraq do not get a move on and put these economic agreements into action pronto, border trade will fall into the hands of middlemen and mafias.

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Water diplomacy in full force during Pezeshkian's Iraq visit

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EXCLUSIVE



Trump's new court in Tehran has implied message

It matters for Iran who is POTUS

Although on the eve of every presidential election period in the United States, the official line out of Tehran, sometimes delivered by the spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, is that it makes no difference who wins from their perspective, this time one of the other two candidates is facing charges in Tehran for the murder of an Iranian general. No matter how symbolic the trial is considered to be, it means we cannot say in all honesty anymore that the two candidates are indistinguishable.

SPECIAL ISSUE

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Iran's tax revenues top \$6.88b in five months



● IRNA

Figures released by the Iranian National Tax Administration (INTA) indicated that the country earned more than \$6.88 billion in tax revenues in the five months to August 21.

INTA figures showed that tax receipts had reached some 4,060 trillion rials in the five months to late August, up 44% compared to the same period last year, wrote Press TV. The report said that the tax collected over the April-August period was 20% short of a target set in the Iranian budget law for the calendar year to March.

Direct tax accounted for 2,850 trillion rials (\$4.83 billion) or more than 70% of the tax collected in Iran in the five months to late August, said the report, adding that direct tax receipts had increased by 58% compared to the same period in 2023.

Direct tax in Iran mainly includes the income tax as well as duties imposed on corporations and tax levied on the rich.

Indirect tax, which is imposed on commodities and services, reached a total of 1,210 trillion rials (\$2.05 billion) in the five months to late August, up 20% from the same period last year and 44% short of the budget law target, the INTA data showed.

The Iranian government has relied more on tax revenues in recent years amid sanctions that have restricted its ability to sell oil in international markets.

The INTA has reported major increases in its annual receipts over the past few years thanks to better taxation policies and the increased use of online platforms for tax payments.

Disequilibrium in Iranian banks should be addressed: *Economy minister*

There is no choice for Iran but to solve the problem of disequilibrium in banks, said Economy Minister Abdolnaser Hemmati, adding that a negative cash flow leads to the growth of liquidity and inflation.

Speaking at 34th Islamic Banking Conference in Tehran on Tuesday, the minister noted that we have a good collaboration in the Economic Headquarters of the government, IRNA reported.

"I hope that gradually by stopping the government's involvements in the economy, including in the exchange rate, the impact on exports will be prevented and consequently the trade balance to become positive along with the economy being predictable," Hemmati said. Good economic news is coming, the minister said, noting that considering the foreign exchange problems of the importers and their restrictions, our goal is to make the trade easier and to expand the production.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the conference, Governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) Mohammadreza Farzin pointed to the recent upward trend of the country's economic growth and said the growth of non-oil gross domestic product (GDP) has reached 4.2 percent in the first quarter of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-June 20).

"GDP in spring was 4.2 percent. The combination of the growth shows that we are in a better situation in agriculture, we also had good growth in the oil sector, however, we faced a decrease in growth in the mining and services sectors," he said.

According to the CBI governor, the inflation in the country is also expected to be curbed to 30 percent in the current calendar year.

The 34th Islamic Banking Conference kicked off in Tehran on Tuesday with the participation of senior bank managers.

Over the years, the conference

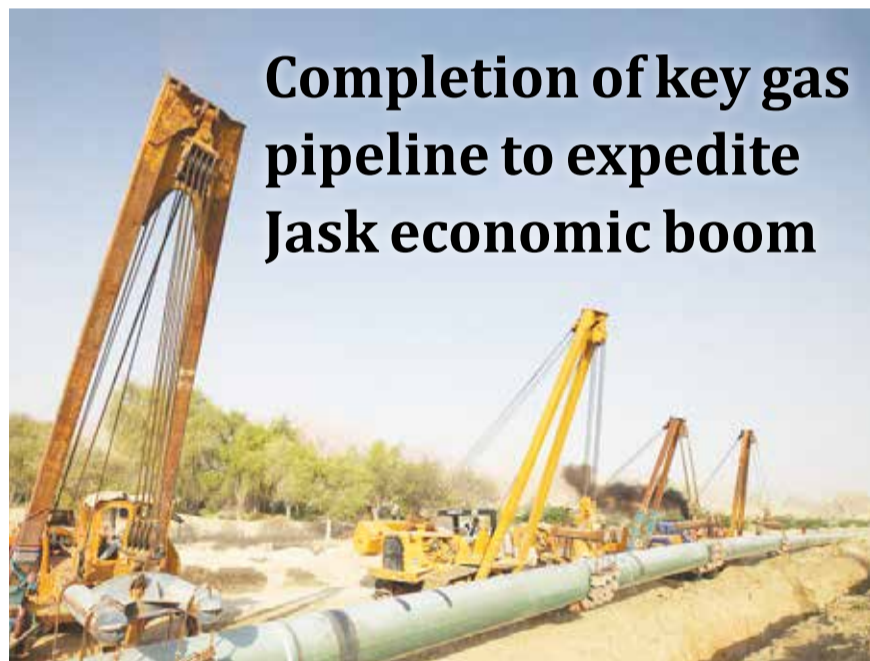


● IRNA

has become a venue to develop banking knowledge and sci-

ence, and exchange opinions between domestic and foreign

experts with the aim of creating synergy in a worthy manner.



● SHANA

Completion of key gas pipeline to expedite Jask economic boom

A new energy hub will be formed in the eastern part of Hormuzgan Province in the south of Iran by launching Minab-Sirik-Kouhmobarak gas pipeline in the new future, which will also accelerate the economic boom in Jask.

The managing director of the Iranian Gas Engineering and Development Company broke the news on Tuesday, adding that the government has plans to push the industrial and

economic development of the coastal regions of southern Iran, Shana reported.

Reza Noshadi noted that huge gas projects in line with Makran Coastal Development Document have been implemented for the cities of Chabahar, Konarak, Jask, Sirik, Kouhmobarak and Minab in the provinces of Sistan and Baluchistan and Hormuzgan.

He announced that preparing the necessary

infrastructure for the export of gas to Oman is one of the main goals of the construction of the "Minab-Sirik-Kouhmobarak gas pipeline Gas Pipeline" project.

"The first section of the project is the 42-inch Minab-Sirik pipeline with a length of 120 kilometers, which will be launched in the near future, and the industries of the eastern province of Hormuzgan will benefit from gas," the official said.



● SHANA

Iran's petchem industry to be self-sufficient soon: *NPC chief*

The managing director of the Iranian National Petrochemical Company (NPC) said that 87% of equipment used in Iranian petrochemical industry is produced by domestic companies. Speaking at a press conference on Tuesday, Morteza Shahmirzaei added that by implementing NPC plans, the country will gain self-sufficiency in production of petro-

chemical goods and facilities in the near future, Shana reported.

He also stated that more than 80 million tons of petrochemical products will be produced in the country by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (to end March 20, 2025).

Shahmirzaei put the volume of petrochemicals produced in Iran during the previous Iranian cal-

endar year (ended March 20, 2024) at 73 million tons.

He said the current production capacity of the petrochemical units in the country is 96 million tons, expandable to 100 million tons.

Shahmirzaei added that about 30 million tons of petrochemicals were exported last year, and 13 million tons of petrochemicals were also consumed in the country.

Setting sights on ...

The Iran-Iraq border is such that transportation routes can be established along its length because people inhabit the surrounding areas, thus providing grounds for trade.

Moreover, familial, tribal, and clan ties have remained intact even during the war between the two countries and still exist on both sides of the bor-

der. After Saddam's regime's fall, the very same ties served as the underlying structure of trade between the two nations.

Therefore, I advise President Pezeshkian to take on these few essential tasks during his trip to Iraq:

First, remove the obstacles hindering the implementation of agreements signed between the two countries.

Second, ensure that his minister of roads and urban development joins the Iranian entourage to set up a permanent joint working group with Iraq. The initial, primary task of this group could be to plan for the construction of four railway lines between the two countries, namely Shalamchah-Basra, Ilam-Mehran-Karbala-Najaf, Tehran-Kermanshah-Khos-

ravi-Baghdad, and Hamadan-Sanandaj- Iraqi Kurdistan.

If such a working group is formed, investors from both countries will enthusiastically participate in these profitable projects.

At the end of the day, one of the sticking points in the way of Tehran-Baghdad trade relations, despite all the good vibes and political ties, is the

absence of these joint permanent working groups. I hope that President Pezeshkian's trip will resolve this issue.

The third important task that the President can undertake in Iraq is a visit to the Iraqi Kurdistan Region. Some mistakes or misjudgments in the past few years have led to mutual resentment and negatively impacted economic and political relations be-

tween Iran and the Kurdistan Region.

Taking a trip to the Kurdistan Region and holding meetings between Pezeshkian and its officials could dissipate these resentments and pave the way for enhanced relations and cooperation. Even now, a significant portion of Iran's trade is with the Kurdistan Region, which has the potential to grow substantially.

Kerman, located in southeastern Iran, is a city that holds a treasure trove of historical and cultural significance. As one of Iran's oldest cities, Kerman has served as a crossroads of civilizations, blending various cultures, religions, and architectural styles to shape its unique identity. Surrounded by vast deserts and rugged mountains, this ancient city offers a journey through time with its remarkable historical sites, traditional bazaars, and breathtaking landscapes.

The history of Kerman dates back to ancient times, with significant development occurring in the 4th century CE under Ardashir I, the founder of the Sassanid Empire.

The city's strategic location along ancient trade routes linking Iran, India, and Central Asia made it an important center of commerce and culture. Over the centuries, Kerman has witnessed the rise and fall of several empires, including the Sassanid, Safavid, and Qajar dynasties, each leaving a lasting mark on the city's architecture and cultural heritage.

During the Safavid era (1501-1736 CE), Kerman emerged as a major center for the production of carpets, textiles, and copper goods — industries that continue to thrive today.

The city's bazaars and caravanserais, some of which still stand, served as bustling centers of trade, attracting merchants from across the region. Kerman's cultural significance is also evident in its diverse religious heritage. The city has been home to Zoroastrians, Muslims, and various other religious communities, contributing to a rich tapestry of religious architecture and traditions.

The best time to visit Kerman is during the spring (March to May) and autumn (September to November) when the weather is mild and pleasant. Summers can be extremely hot, particularly in the surrounding deserts, while winters can be cold, especially in the mountainous areas.

Explore the heart of Persian heritage in Kerman



irantripedia.com

Arg-e Bam

Arg-e Bam, located about 200 kilometers east of Kerman, is one of the most remarkable ancient sites in Iran. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is the largest adobe (mudbrick) structure in the world, dating back to at least the Achaemenid period (6th-4th century BCE), but it truly reached its zenith during the Sassanian era (224-651 CE) and the subsequent Islamic periods.

As an important stop on the Silk Road, the city of Bam, along with its fortress, Arg-e Bam, served as both a military stronghold and a thriving urban center. The complex included residential

quarters, a bustling bazaar, religious buildings, and a grand citadel, showcasing the architectural and urban planning prowess of ancient Persia.

The architecture of Arg-e Bam is a testament to the ingenuity of ancient Persian builders. The fortress is perched on a rocky outcrop, with walls rising as high as seven meters and encompassing an area of approximately 180,000 square meters. The highest point, known as the citadel, offers a panoramic view of the surrounding plains.

Designed with a complex system of defensive walls, towers, and gates, the structure high-

lights the strategic importance of the site. The adobe bricks used in its construction have withstood centuries of harsh desert conditions, showcasing the durability and resilience of traditional Persian building techniques.

In 2003, a devastating earthquake struck Bam, causing significant damage to Arg-e Bam and the surrounding area. However, extensive restoration efforts have been undertaken, and the site has been partially restored to its former glory. Today, Arg-e Bam serves as a symbol of resilience and a testament to Iran's rich architectural heritage, drawing visitors eager to learn about its history and significance.



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Ganjali Khan Complex

The Ganjali Khan Complex, situated in the heart of Kerman, is a stunning example of Safavid architecture and urban planning. Constructed between 1596 and 1621 at the behest of Ganjali Khan, the governor of Kerman under Shah Abbas I, the complex functioned as a vital center of trade, governance, and culture. The Ganjali Khan Complex comprises several key structures, including a bazaar, caravanserai, mosque, bathhouse, and school. Each of these buildings showcases intricate tilework, stucco decorations, and dazzling frescoes, reflecting the artistic and architectural

achievements of the Safavid era.

Ganjali Khan Bathhouse: The bathhouse, or 'hammam,' is one of the best-preserved structures in the complex. It features beautifully decorated walls and ceilings adorned with scenes of Persian life and mythology. Beyond being a place for bathing, the bathhouse served as a social hub where people gathered to relax and converse. Ganjali Khan Mosque: This small yet elegant mosque is renowned for its harmonious proportions and exquisite tilework. The mosque's prayer hall, decorated with delicate floral motifs and Quranic inscriptions, offers a peaceful space for worship.

Rayen Castle

Rayen Castle, located about 100 kilometers south of Kerman, is a well-preserved adobe fortress that shares many similarities with Arg-e Bam. Believed to date back to the Sassanid period, it remained in use through the Islamic era until the 19th century. Rayen Castle served as a military stronghold and a center of commerce, protecting the local population from invaders and facilitating trade along caravan routes. Remarkably intact, the castle offers visitors a glimpse into the architectural and military strategies of ancient Persia.

The layout of Rayen Castle is typical of Persian fortresses, featuring a central citadel surrounded by residential quarters, stables, and storage areas. The castle's walls are reinforced with defensive towers, and the main entrance is flanked by two imposing watchtowers. Inside, visitors can explore maze-like passageways, courtyards, and rooms that once housed the castle's inhabitants. The structure's simplicity and functionality are harmoniously balanced by the elegance of its design, making Rayen Castle a must-visit for anyone interested in ancient Persian architecture.



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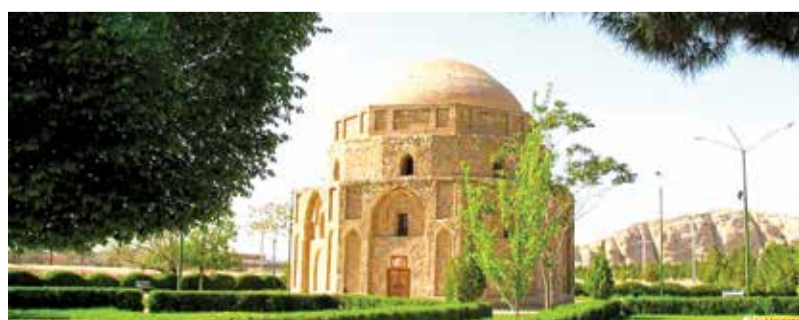
Jabalieh Dome

The Jabalieh Dome, also known as the Gabri Dome, is one of Kerman's most enigmatic ancient structures. Located on the eastern outskirts of the city, this octagonal stone building is be-

lieved to date back to the Sassanid or early Islamic period, though its exact origins and purpose remain a mystery. Some historians suggest that the Jabalieh Dome was originally a Zoroastrian fire temple, while others believe it may have served as a tomb or

a place of worship for early Muslims. The structure's unique construction, utilizing stone rather than the more common adobe bricks, adds to its intrigue.

The Jabalieh Dome is an octagonal structure topped with a dome, which has partially collapsed over time. The walls are constructed from large stone blocks, held together without mortar, showcasing the advanced engineering skills of its builders. Inside, the dome's interior is plain and unadorned, lacking inscriptions or decorations that might provide clues about its origins. The simplicity of the structure, combined with its mysterious purpose, has made the Jabalieh Dome a subject of fascination for archaeologists and visitors alike.



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Shahdad Desert

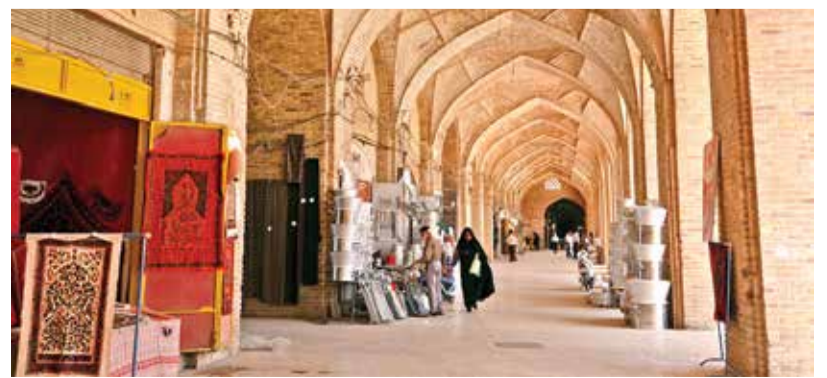
Shahdad Desert: Located northeast of Kerman, the Shahdad Desert is part of the larger Lut Desert, one of the hottest and driest places on Earth. This vast, barren landscape boasts a stark beauty, characterized by endless dunes, salt plains, and the eerie silence of the desert. Shahdad is home to some of the oldest human settlements in Iran, with archaeological evidence suggesting habitation as far back as 6,000 years ago. The remnants of ancient irrigation systems, known as 'qanats,' can still be seen in the desert, highlighting the ingenuity of early desert dwellers.

Kaluts of Shahdad: One of the most fascinating features of the Shahdad Desert is the *kaluts*, a series of wind-sculpted ridges and formations that stretch across the landscape like the ruins of an ancient city. These natural formations, shaped by centuries of wind and sand erosion, create a surreal and otherworldly environment that must be seen to be believed. The kaluts are particularly breathtaking at sunrise and sunset when the shifting light casts dramatic shadows and bathes the ridges in a palette of golden hues. For adventurous travelers, the kaluts offer opportunities for trekking, photography, and simply marveling at the raw power of nature.

Traditional bazaars

Kerman is renowned for its traditional bazaars, where visitors can immerse themselves in the vibrant culture and commerce of the city. The Kerman Bazaar, one of the oldest in Iran, is a labyrinth of narrow alleys and covered passageways lined with shops selling

everything from spices and textiles to copperware and carpets. Kerman is particularly famous for its carpets, known for their high quality and intricate designs. The city's copper workshops, where artisans handcraft a variety of items using traditional techniques, are also a highlight of any visit to the bazaar.



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Trump's latest problem?

Republicans for Harris



By Patricia Lopez
Columnist

OPINION

Michael Brodkorb, former deputy chair of the Minnesota Republican Party, finds himself part of an unlikely yet growing wave that could affect the outcome of the November election: lifelong Republicans who have broken with Donald Trump to support Vice President Kamala Harris. The movement is without precedent in American presidential politics. Its ranks now include hundreds of staffers of former Republican presidents and nominees, retired senior military officers, White House lawyers going back to Ronald Reagan's administration, and many others.

I've known Brodkorb for years. He was a hardcore party guy who delighted in finding dirt on the opposition, including launching an early blog he called "Minnesota Democrats Exposed". But he and others in this breakaway group no longer recognize their party under Trump — a party without principles, without history, and built entirely around a cult of personality.



The illustration shows Democratic presidential candidate Vice President Kamala Harris (C) flanked by Republican prominent figures former congresswoman Elizabeth Lynne "Liz" Cheney (R) and former congressman Adam Kinzinger who have endorsed Harris.
● THE HILL

These are not people who have abandoned their conservative principles. Certainly not former Minnesota Governor Arne Carlson, who last month said in an opinion piece that "the Republican Party will continue its obedience to Trump and destroy our democracy." Nor Mesa, Arizona Mayor John Giles, who co-chairs Republicans for Harris. Nor Jim McCain, son of late Arizona Senator John McCain, the 2008 Republican presidential nominee. Nor former Wyoming Representative Liz Cheney, daughter of former Vice President Dick Cheney and vocal Trump critic, who on Wednesday announced that she will vote for Harris. Cheney, whose criticism of the former president's efforts to overturn the 2020 election and vote to impeach him cost her her seat, said it wasn't enough to not vote for Trump.

"It is crucially important for people to recognize — not only is what I've just said about the danger that Trump poses something that should prevent people from voting for him, but I don't believe we have the luxury of writing in candidates' names, particularly in swing states," Cheney said during an appearance at Duke University. Her father, who served two terms under president George W. Bush, said Friday that he also plans to vote for Harris.

"In our nation's 248-year history, there has never been an individual who is a greater threat to our republic than Donald Trump," former vice president

Cheney said in a statement. "He tried to steal the last election using lies and violence to keep himself in power after the voters had rejected him. He can never be trusted with power again."

"As citizens, we each have a duty to put country above partisanship to defend our Constitution. That is why I will be casting my vote for Vice President Kamala Harris," he said.

These "normie" Republicans, as they often call themselves, have a daunting task. To succeed, they must build a structure that allows Republicans to adhere to their conservative beliefs yet gives them permission to act decisively to block the threat of a

second Trump term.

The key won't be in forcing them to move left. They don't want to abandon a lifetime of GOP principles, including believing in small government, free trade, and a strong defense. Neither will it come from Harris lunging right. Doing so would risk too much of her progressive base.

Instead, it will take a skillful reframing of what's at stake in this election and the GOP's role. It centers around a simple message: Country before party, together with a recognition that the old Republican party is gone and that, in Giles' words, "We don't owe a damn thing to what's been left behind."

This will be a temporary truce but one that could yield extraordinary benefits for the country and, ultimately, a new Republican Party finally free of Trump's toxic, decade-long hold.

The spirit of compromise needed to vote for the opposition's nominee could become the building block for a new, more principled, and ultimately more successful Republican Party. In aligning with Harris, these Republicans display a level of discipline and maturity that will bode well for rebuilding their party.

Such an approach could have yielded the strong border policy crafted by a bipartisan group of senators and maliciously torpedoed by Trump. It could have tempered Democratic spending without resorting to gridlock. It could have shifted focus from the culture war nonsense to the harder but gratifying work of building a stronger economy.

A CBS opinion poll in August showed that 9% of likely voters who support Trump are prepared to at least consider voting for Harris. Tapping into that discontent, Republican Voters Against Trump launched an \$11.5 million ad campaign in critical battleground states, including Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. The ads feature former Trump voters talking calmly about why they are voting for Harris.

Harris is wisely seizing on this new movement and making it easy for these disillusioned Republicans to join her. She is openly courting the disaffected, offering a sign-up to "reach out to other Republican, Independent, and Trump-skeptical voters" about supporting her campaign. Republicans, including Giles, were given prominent speaking roles at the Democratic

National Convention last month. Former Illinois Representative Adam Kinzinger, who along with Cheney served on the committee that investigated the January 6 attack and was one of 10 House Republicans who voted to impeach Trump, was taken aback by the warm and thunderous reception he received from Democratic delegates.

Harris also has begun offering sensible, middle-of-the-road policies, such as her proposal on small business startups, that belie Trump's attempts to categorize her as "Komrade Kamala". She has promised to sign the bipartisan border bill, showing that compromise does not have to be a dirty word.

If there is a new Silent Majority today, it's the Republicans who yearn to break free of Trump's dystopian vision of America on the brink of ruin but have done nothing.

The Republicans who can look past tribal divisions and cross party lines to vote for Harris can also provide something else this country desperately needs: a win decisive enough to shatter Trump's fallback for challenging the election results.

Giles is actively stumping for Harris. Brodkorb says he is doing persuasion talks with Republicans, holding Zooms, and creating lists. "I put my door-knocking shoes back on for the first time in a long time," he told me.

Giles and Brodkorb are right. It's not enough to stay home. It's not even enough to vote for Harris. Republicans who want to defeat Trump and reclaim their party will need to reach out to others and build that breakaway group until MAGA fades into obscurity.

The full article first appeared on Bloomberg.



These "normie" Republicans, as they often call themselves, have a daunting task. To succeed, they must build a structure that allows Republicans to adhere to their conservative beliefs yet gives them permission to act decisively to block the threat of a second Trump term.



A group of Republicans launch the 'Arizona Republicans for Harris' coalition led by Mesa Mayor John Giles (C), who previously endorsed Vice President Harris over former president Donald Trump, on August 5, 2024.
● X

Cheney makes strong case against Trump, weak one for Harris



By Ramesh Ponnuru
Columnist

OPINION

Given that she has spent the last few years decrying the threat that Donald Trump poses to our constitutional order, Liz Cheney's endorsement of Kamala Harris came as no shock. Nor is it surprising that the Trump campaign responded with a fact-free tirade that ignored the substance of Cheney's argument. But that doesn't mean the former Republican congresswoman's case for Harris is entirely convincing.

Asked about Cheney's stance, GOP vice-presidential nominee JD Vance said that her "entire career has been about sending other people's children off to fight and die for her military conflicts" and accused her and Harris of getting "rich when America loses wars instead of winning wars". Vance offered no evidence for either statement or even for the implied claim that Cheney's endorsement was primarily motivated by foreign policy concerns. If opposition to Donald Trump's foreign policy was what moved her, then it was peculiar for her to support his election in 2016 and again in 2020. Trump was less inclined to intervene abroad than the Democrats back then, too. What's different since the 2020 election is that, in the interim, Trump campaigned to overturn its result, culminating in a riot at the Capitol on January 6, 2021. That's the core of Cheney's stated case against Trump.



Rep. Liz Cheney (front-C) swears in witnesses during primetime hearings on the January 6 attack on the Capitol, on July 21, 2022.
WIN MCNAMEE/POOL

Her political trajectory during the Trump years has been the opposite of Vance's. She supported Trump even while Vance was likening him, in private, to Adolf Hitler. Now, the two have switched places. Vance's shift has worked out well for his career, to say the least: It got him into the Senate and then onto a presidential ticket. People who are appalled by his turn see him as a cynic who believes in nothing. I suspect, though, that he genuinely believes that what he is doing now will ultimately benefit Americans. Cheney has evidence for the sincerity of her move: It did not coincide with her self-interest. If she had decided to let Trump's lies about 2020 slide—to keep her objections private, as most Republican representatives who shared them did—she would likely still be in the House GOP leadership today. Instead, she voted to impeach Trump and served on a committee to investigate the events leading to the Capitol riot. It cost her what had been a safe House seat and led to such intense hostility from Republicans that leading members of her own party do not hesitate to launch absurd personal attacks against her. Very few people in our politics have been as willing to pay such costs for something they believe. Cheney's hits against Trump land. There are, however, two holes in her argument for Harris. The first is the inevitable gap between the circumstances of the individual

voter and those of the country as a whole. The country faces a binary choice between Trump and Harris, but the individual does not. Cheney says that Trump poses so great a threat that she doesn't "believe we have the luxury of writing in candidates' names, particularly in swing states". Even in swing states, though, one person's vote is unlikely to determine the election. If that person objects to both major candidates, why not use legal means to express that view? The more important problem is that Cheney, while professing her continued conservatism, sidestepped conservative concerns about Harris in her endorsement. The closest she came was clarifying that she was not speaking "as someone who agrees with policies on the left most of the time". As she describes it, then, she has mere policy differences with Harris but grave constitutional objections to Trump. That framing makes her choice too easy. Harris has endorsed term limits for the Supreme Court. What that means—according to the leading Democratic bill on the subject, which has occasioned no whisper of disagreement from Harris—is stripping Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. and Justice Clarence Thomas of their ability to take part in most constitutional cases. What's more, it means doing so without constitutional amendment. Never mind that the Constitution says that

federal judges hold their offices for life unless they are impeached and removed by Congress. A supermajority of Senate Democrats, including their leader, Charles E. Schumer (N.Y.), has also sponsored legislation to force the courts to violate Supreme Court rulings. These would be radical and dangerous changes in our form of government. Someone with a conservative view of the Constitution, as Cheney insists she is, should also be alarmed by the goal of this change: the destruction of the court's conservative supermajority. Even if that goal were pursued by normal means, such as judicial appointments, most conservatives rightly find it inimical to the Constitution. It is always possible that a President Kamala Harris would not really try to oust judges who disagree with her, or that a Republican Senate would restrain her. But Trump apologists have offered similar assurances about his risks, and the point of Cheney's argument was to provide something more than just a difference in the degree of danger between them. And besides, she is also campaigning for Democratic senators. The tragedy of this election, for conservatives and everyone else, is that Cheney's case against Trump is strong—but her case for Harris isn't.

The article first appeared on *The Washington Post*.



In friendlier days, then-president Donald Trump (sitting) gives a pen to Rep. Liz Cheney (L) after signing legislation at the White House on March 27, 2017.
JIM WATSON/AFP

Trump's new court in Tehran has implied message

It matters for Iran who is POTUS



By Mehrdad Khadir
Journalist

OPINION

Although on the eve of every presidential election period in the United States, the official line out of Tehran, sometimes delivered by the spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, is that it makes no difference who wins from their perspective, this time one of the other two candidates is facing charges in Tehran for the murder of an Iranian general. No matter how symbolic the trial is considered to be, it means we cannot say in all honesty anymore that the two candidates are indistinguishable. This is not, of course, the motive for holding the trial, and it has nothing to do with the American elections, but this implied message can be taken from it.

According to an announcement by Iran's Judiciary about the new trial, an investigation into the assassination of General Qassem Soleimani in Baghdad was held on September 7, at the Imam Khomeini Judicial Complex. Reportedly, the breach of international law principles in this terrorist operation was among the topics covered in the indictment. The defendants in the case are former US president Donald Trump and former US secretary of state Mike Pompeo, and it is interesting to note that the defendants' lawyers were also present. Naturally, the news attracts attention because many want to know whether the trial is only symbolic or not, and who the lawyers for the defendants were. Does this mean that lawyers actually spoke in defense of Donald Trump and in justification of the assassination of a top Iranian commander in a court in Tehran?

happiness. Hashemi answered, "Why shouldn't we be happy about the defeat of the killer of Martyr Soleimani?" Whenever the name of General Soleimani is brought up, they could no longer claim that the candidates were all the same, and their arguments fell flat. Even now, with another trial for Trump taking place in Tehran, we can ask Iranian radical fundamentalists: does it really make no difference to you if it is announced in November that Donald Trump—the mastermind of the assassination of General Soleimani—will return to the White House and that the world would effectively be rid of him forever? We should not be so naive and idealistic as to think that the president of the United States is all-powerful, nor so pessimistic and conspiracy theorist as to consider him irrelevant. If it didn't matter whether the president was a Democrat or a Republican, and which Republican or Democrat, Iran's



A trial session for the perpetrators of the assassination of General Qassem Soleimani is held in absentia at the Imam Khomeini Judicial Complex on September 7, 2024.
MIZAN

This note cannot address the legal aspects or how the court's final judgment can be enforced. It only serves as a political observation. Just four years ago, when some media outlets expressed hope that Trump's departure from the White House would revitalize the JCPOA and that Joe Biden would become president, some fundamentalist figures and media outlets criticized this, with even the speaker of the parliament, who was new to this position, sarcastically asking why our eyes should be on New Jersey and Arizona. The concern of radicals in their ranks in Iran, of course, was that with Biden's victory and a subsequent boost in the hopes of reviving the JCPOA, Mohammad Javad Zarif or another pro-JCPOA candidate would win the Iranian presidency, dashing their dreams of securing the presidency. Perhaps this was why they preempted and, after the assassination of Iranian nuclear scientist Mohsen Fakhri-zadeh, passed the Strategic Action Law in Parliament that made the revival of the JCPOA difficult, if not impossible. When Biden won, some Iranian political figures expressed their satisfaction. During a morning television show, the host asked Mohsen Hashemi Rafsanjani, who was the head of the Tehran City Council at the time, the reason for his

ousted Mohammad Reza Shah would not have tried to influence the 1976 presidential election in favor of Gerald Ford over Jimmy Carter. If there was no difference, Americans would not have signed a nuclear deal with Iran under one president—Barack Obama—and withdrawn from it under the next—Donald Trump. No two people are the same, and when the Republican George W. Bush is different from the Republican Donald Trump, it is obvious that the policies of the Democrat Kamala Harris will differ from Trump's as well. Holding a trial for Trump in Tehran and trying him as the commander-in-chief who ordered the killing of an Iranian general, regardless of legal and political interpretations and whether it is a real or symbolic trial, sends a clear message: this time, the Islamic Republic of Iran should view the outcome of the US election as significant. Not only because in Iran, Masoud Pezeshkian became the president instead of Saeed Jalili but also because such a trial has not been held for Ms. Harris. Based on this principle, Iranian radicals cannot fall back on their usual refrain that "they are all the same, and it makes no difference."

The full article first appeared in Farsi on *Asr Iran*.

Iran trials for World Championships: Ghassempour secures 92kg spot; Geraei stunned by Sohrabi

Sports Desk

An action-packed day in Iran trials for the Wrestling World Championships in non-Olympic weight categories – starting October 28 in Tirana – saw Kamran Ghassempour seal the freestyle 92kg spot in emphatic fashion.

In the Greco-Roman contests, former world and Olympic champion Mohammadreza Geraei fell to a shock defeat against Danial Sohrabi and missed out on the 72kg slot.

Ghassempour showed no signs of the groin injury, which sidelined him on different spells over the past 12 months, on his return to action in Tehran on Monday as he cruised to a 7-1 victory over Amirhossein Firouzpour – a winner of four world age-group titles and the Asian senior champion in 2022.

The dominant force of the 92kg class in 2021 and 2022, Ghassempour was eager to add the Olympic glory to his already-impressive medal haul but stood behind fellow-Iranian Amir-Ali Azarpira, who went on to win the bronze in Paris, in the pecking order of the 97kg class and will now be looking to win a third world gold medal in his familiar territory.

Geraei, meanwhile, was dealt a major blow in em-



Kamran Ghassempour (blue) is seen in action against Amirhossein Firouzpour in the freestyle 92kg bout in Iran trials for the Wrestling World Championships in Tehran, Iran, on September 9, 2024.

● FARSHAD BANDANI/IAWF

barking on a new chapter in his career.

The 28-year-old was once tipped to dominate the 67kg class for years following his back-to-back Olympic and world crowns in 2021, but

his form diminished over the following two years, as he settled for the world silver in 2022 before laboring to the bronze in the 2023 edition. He then missed the chance

to defend his Olympic title after comprehensive defeats against Saied Esmaeili in the Iranian trials and when the young prodigy took the Games by storm to win the gold, Geraei, who had been

clearly struggling with massive weight losses before every tournament, was convinced to move up to the 72kg division.

His hopes of a flying start in the new weight class,

however, ended in despair against Sohrabi, who had beaten Mohammadreza Rostami 7-3 earlier in the day.

Geraei looked to be back to stellar form when he took a 7-0 lead in the early stages

against the former world under-23 champion but Sohrabi managed to reduce the deficit to four points in the second period.

Geraei was still in a comfortable position before Sohrabi performed a last-ditch flying squirl move with 12 seconds left on the clock and won the bout 8-7 to punch his ticket for the Albanian capital.

Meanwhile, Geraei's older brother Mohammad-Ali came out on top in the 82kg event – held in a round-robin format featuring six wrestlers – and will fancy his chances of improving on his three world bronze medals in Tirana.

Geraei began his campaign with a 6-3 defeat against Mohammadreza Mokhtari – Asian champion in 2022 – but bounced back to beat Shahin Badaghi 5-0 to make it to the semifinals.

A two-time Asian silver winner, Geraei then came out 7-3 winner against Abbas Mahdizadeh to set a rematch with Mokhtari in the final, which he won 4-3 to secure his place in the Iranian squad.

Iranian boxers make history in Asian Junior Championships

Sports Desk

A milestone campaign at the ASBC Asian Junior Boxing Championships saw Iranian boys finish as the runner-up in Al Ain, UAE – a best-ever finish for the country in the history of the competitions. The Iranian nine-man squad bagged double golds and silvers apiece as well as three bronze medals to finish behind boxing powerhouse Uzbekistan, which grabbed seven golds, five silvers, and a bronze. Kazakhstan stood third with double gold and bronze medals apiece.

Iranian boy came out on top against Ukrainian Serhii Artemenko to win the 46kg crown, while Mohammad-Saleh Mesbahi defended his 70kg title thanks to a victory over Diyorbek Murodilloev in the final.

Meanwhile, Sahand Najafi (48kg) and Ashkan Hashemi (63kg) settled for a couple of silver medals after respective defeats against Uzbekistan's Elyor Rustamov and Suhrob Rakhmatullaev in the final showdowns.

Mohammad Beiranvand (60kg), Amirmohammad Rostampour (66kg), and Mahan Sajedi (75kg) were

the Iranian bronze medalists in the junior competitions.

The historic result for Iran came after the country scooped two golds and a bronze medal to finish third in the medals table of the schoolboys contests.

Matin Chamipa defeated Ukraine's Bohdan Smoliak for the 49kg gold, with Farzan walking away with the ultimate prize of the 61kg event after a final victory over Kazakhstan's Aliimran Aliyev.

Mahan Mohammadian finished his decent run in Al Ain with a bronze in the 52kg division as

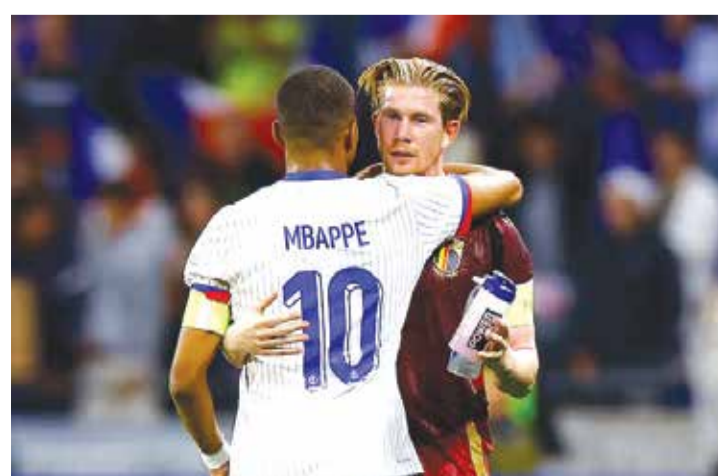
all other members of the Iranian squad across seven weight classes left the competitions empty-handed.

More than 460 boxers from 26 countries – including Ukraine, which recently joined the Asian Boxing Confederation – took part in the 11-day event in Al Ain.



Iranian boxer Mohammad-Saleh Mesbahi (L) is seen in action against Diyorbek Murodilloev of Uzbekistan in the junior 70kg final at the Asian Championships, in Al Ain, UAE, on September 9, 2024.

● ASBC



● SARAH MEYSSONNIER/REUTERS

De Bruyne lashes out at errant Belgium teammates after France loss

REUTERS – Belgium captain Kevin De Bruyne launched an angry tirade against his teammates after his side were beaten 2-0, opens new tab away to France in their Nations League clash on Monday. Not for the first time, De Bruyne was visibly frustrated during the Group A2 match and afterwards told Belgian VTM television too many things had gone wrong in the game.

"I can't say here what went wrong. I already did that to the team at halftime," he said. "I cannot repeat that in the media but it has to be better in every way. If the standard we want to reach is the best, but we're no longer good enough to get to that level, then you have to give everything. If you don't even do that, it's over. "I can accept that we're not as good as in 2018," the 33-year-

old De Bruyne said of the side that reached the World Cup semi-finals in Russia. "I was the first to see that, but other things are unacceptable. I'm not going to say what." But pressed in the interview he did point out one problem. "We are too many at the back. If you stay with six at the back, there is no connection. It is what it is. It is not about transition, but about people who do not per-

form their tasks." Coach Domenico Tedesco said he understood De Bruyne's anger. "He is our captain and has a huge winning mentality, so he can also react emotionally." Belgium made a lively start to the game but were quickly overwhelmed by a superior France side, who bounced back from last week's loss to Italy in Paris to win comfortably.

River that connects us

Water diplomacy in full force during Pezeshkian's Iraq visit

International Desk

On the eve of Iranian president's visit to Iraq, Foreign Minister Abass Araghchi highlighted the significance of the neighboring country as the first destination of Masoud Pezeshkian's official trip, saying that Tehran aims to activate "water diplomacy" with Baghdad.

In an interview with Iraq's Al-Furat TV network on Tuesday, Araghchi said Iran suffers from drought, and his country wants to activate water diplomacy and turn it from a subject of dispute to a subject of cooperation.

The foreign minister went on to address the relations between Iraq and Turkey and their border disputes, saying, "The differences between Baghdad and Ankara over water, in terms of quantity and quality, are different from the differences between Tehran and Baghdad."

"Because Iran is the source of less than seven percent of the water that enters Iraq. Iran also suffers from drought, and we want to activate water diplomacy and turn it from a subject of dispute to a subject of cooperation," he added.

The control of the headwaters of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers by Turkey has been a source of tension with Iraq, as these rivers are vital for Iraq's agriculture and drinking water supply. Turkey's dam construction and hydroelectric projects have reduced water flow downstream to Iraq, leading to accusations of water theft and exacerbating water scarcity concerns. However, a landmark 10-year agreement signed in April between the two countries aims to address this issue by ensuring a fair share of water resources for Iraq.

Under this new agreement, Iraq will receive priority in its share of water from the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. Turkey

will also assist Iraq in introducing modern irrigation techniques and optimizing water use in agriculture.

Iraq is highly dependent on water resources originating beyond its borders. Like the Diyala, which begins in Zagros mountains in western Iran — where it is called the Sirvan — and runs along the border between the two countries before crossing into Iraq to join the Tigris in Baghdad.

Araghchi touched on various issues, including the agenda and importance of Pezeshkian's visit to Baghdad, the security agreement between the two neighboring countries, and the expulsion of the US occupation forces from Iraq.

"Iraq is more than just a neighboring country for Iran; Iraq is our friend and brother, and we have a lot in common," he said. The foreign minister also said that the countries are on the right track when it comes to securing their borders and



countering saboteur groups. According to a report on Monday, all terrorists affiliated with the anti-Iran Komala separatist group have been forced to relocate from their previous camps in Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdistan region under a security agreement between Tehran and Baghdad.

Tasnim quoted an unnamed source as saying that security forces from the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) entered the Zrgwez bases, where

the three Komala branches were based, a few days ago and transported all its residents to a new camp in Surdash area by truck. Araghchi added, "Security and stability in Iraq mean security and stability for Iran, and our common enemy is the Zionist regime."

Araghchi emphasized that the fact that the president chose Iraq as the first country to visit shows the depth of the relationship between the two countries.

Iran's top security official in Russia for BRICS meeting

Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) Ali Akbar Ahmadian arrived in Russia to take part in a meeting of security officials of the BRICS group of countries.

Ahmadian arrived in the port city of St. Petersburg on Tuesday for the summit that will be held on September 10-12, Press TV reported.

In addition to the BRICS security summit, Ahmadian will attend another meeting in St. Petersburg with high-ranking representatives in charge of security issues from BRICS+ countries, including Indonesia, Turkey, Kazakhstan, Serbia, Thailand, Belarus, Vietnam, Venezuela, Uzbekistan, Nicaragua, Cuba, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Mauritania and Laos in attendance.

On the sidelines of the gatherings, Iran's top security official will also hold talks with some of his counterparts and discuss with Russian officials the most important regional and international developments in the political, security and economic fields. The BRICS group of fast-developing economies initially consisted of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.

This year, the group was expanded to include Iran, Egypt, the UAE and Ethiopia as new members.

Dozens killed in Israeli strike on Gaza camp

International Desk

Israeli strikes on a crowded tent camp housing Palestinians displaced by the war in Gaza killed at least 40 people and wounded 60 early on Tuesday, Palestinian officials said.

UN Middle East peace envoy Tor Wennesland strongly condemned the Israeli strike on the densely populated safe area.

"The principles of distinction, proportionality, and precautions in attack must be upheld at all times... The killing of civilians must stop, and this horrific war must end," he said.

Israeli strikes blasted a huge crater in the designated safe zone in southern Gaza before dawn, setting tents ablaze and



burying Palestinian families under sand.

The Israeli military claimed it had struck a command center for Hamas members who had infiltrated the designated "humanitarian" area in al-Mawasi. Hamas denied any fighters were present.

"This is a clear lie that aims to justify these ugly crimes," said Hamas in a statement.

Iran condemned the mas-

sacre, calling for immediate action to curb the Israeli crimes.

Spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry Nasser Kan'ani censured the use of bunker busters in the strike, Press TV reported.

Residents and medics said the camp was struck by five or six missiles or bombs. The Gaza Civil Emergency Service said at least 20 tents caught fire.

Iran ready to develop Arash gas field amid Kuwait's repeated claims

A senior Iranian military official on Tuesday urged the oil and foreign ministries to push for Iran's right to develop a disputed gas field in the Persian Gulf.

Iran has been locked in a long-standing tug-of-war with Kuwait and Saudi Arabia over the Arash field, referred to as Durra by the two Arab countries. Iran stresses that Arash is a shared gas field, while Kuwait and Saudi Arabia insist that, as per a seismic survey conducted by British energy giant Shell, the gas field lies "entirely" within their territorial waters, making its natural resources their exclusive property.

Kuwait reiterated its claim on the gas field as part of a final communiqué by the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) on Tuesday, saying the Durra gas field is "entirely located in Kuwait's maritime zone and its natural resources are shared jointly with Saudi Arabia."

Pursuing the development of the Arash gas field is a "bread-and-butter issue," said Brigadier General Abdolreza Abed, who runs Khatam al-Anbiya Headquarters (KAA), the construction arm of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC).

"Iran and Kuwait are on an equal footing and have equal interests when it comes to the Arash gas field," Abed was quoted as saying by Tasnim News Agency.

Reiterating the KAA's readiness to develop the Arash gas field, Abed said, "We are all set to kick off drilling in the Arash field, and we have drilling rigs, but the Oil



Ministry and the Foreign Ministry need to step up and set the stage for work to begin."

The KAA chief said the Kuwaiti side had already teamed up with Saudi Arabia in developing the Arash field. "We should not just stand by and watch."

Earlier in May, Abed said 40% of Arash belongs to the Islamic Republic of Iran and rejected claims by Kuwait and Saudi Arabia that Iran had no shares in the gas field.

Iran says a seismic survey by the Iranian Offshore Oil Co. (IOOC), which is a subsidiary of the National Iranian Oil Co. (NIOC), shows that 40% of the gas field's reserves fall within Iranian waters.

Kuwait and Saudi Arabia signed a deal in 2022 to jointly develop the gas field. In October, the deputy CEO of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation said the gas field was expected to be fully commissioned by 2029.

The Arash/Durra gas field is located in the Persian Gulf. The field is estimat-

ed to hold 20 trillion cubic feet (566 billion cubic meters) of natural gas and 310 million barrels of gas condensate in its proven reserves. Assessments suggest that \$7 billion is needed to develop the underwater reservoir. The field was discovered 60 years ago. Iran has held inconclusive negotiations with Kuwait for three decades to determine the maritime borders. Tehran has on numerous occasion called for "technical and legal talks" to hash out the decades-long dispute.

The final communiqué by the GCC also drew criticism from Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kan'ani, who rejected the inclusion of Kuwait's unilateral claim on the Arash gas field and said, "issuing repetitive statements and making unilateral claims have no legal value and doesn't prove any right for the Kuwaiti side."

Kan'ani stressed that "technical and legal negotiations and bilateral dialogue" are the "only reasonable and fruitful" way to reach a

related sustainable agreement that serves the common interests of the two sides.

Trio isles Iran's 'inseparable' parts

The spokesman also slammed as "repetitive, non-constructive and futile" the GCC's final communiqué, a segment of which pointed the three Iranian islands of Abu Musa, the Greater and Lesser Tunb as Emirati ones.

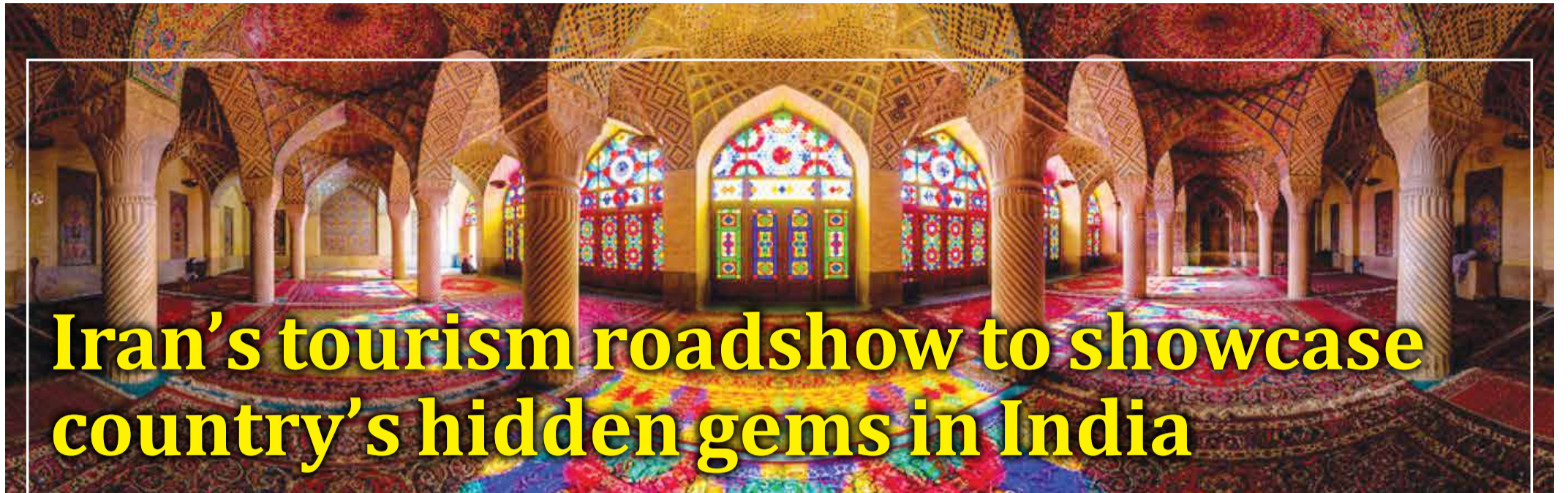
Stressing that the three islands are "integral and eternal" part of the Iranian territory, Kan'ani said, "The Islamic Republic of Iran considers any remarks regarding the residential development [of] and the travel of civilian and military officials to the islands that belong to Iran, as well as the holding of military exercises on its territorial borders as interference in its sovereign affairs and condemn them."

The three Persian Gulf islands of Abu Musa, the Greater and Lesser Tunbs have historically been part of Iran, proof of which can be found and corroborated by countless historical, legal, and geographical documents in Iran and other parts of the world.

However, the United Arab Emirates has repeatedly laid claim to the islands. The islands fell under British control in 1921 but on November 30, 1971, a day after British forces left the region and just two days before the UAE was to become an official federation, Iran's sovereignty over the islands was restored.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist





Iran's tourism roadshow to showcase country's hidden gems in India

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts is holding a tourism road show in three Indian cities of Mumbai, Hyderabad, and New Delhi from September 10 to 14, aiming to promote the country's tourism industry.

Ali-Asghar Shalbafian, deputy

tourism minister, is leading a delegation of private sector representatives and tour operators to showcase Iran's tourism capabilities to Indian counterparts, ISNA wrote. The tourism road show aims to promote a positive image of Iran, increase international tourist arrivals, create new business opportunities, and ex-

pand cultural diplomacy. It will also introduce new destinations and attractions, and provide a platform for specialized marketing in target markets. Direct communication between Iranian and Indian stakeholders will be facilitated through B2B meetings, allowing tour operators to establish operational relationships. The event

will also provide opportunities for Iranian tour operators to partner with Indian travel agencies, travel writers, airlines, social media influencers, and other tourism industry stakeholders. India, with a population of over 1.4 billion, is a significant market for Iran's tourism industry. The country's growing middle

class and increasing per capita income make it a major source of outbound tourists. New Delhi, Hyderabad, and Mumbai are ideal destinations for promoting Iranian tourism, given their large populations and cultural significance. The event is part of Iran's efforts to tap into the Indian market, which offers unique

opportunities for cultural and ethnic connections. The Iranian tourism industry is expected to benefit from the road show, with over 100 participants anticipated in each city. The roadshow builds on previous events held in Southeast Asian countries such as Malaysia, Indonesia, and Vietnam, from June 29 to July 6.

'Forbidden' treasury opens door to public

Feast of art from Jackson Pollock to Parviz Tanavoli

By Saeideh Ehsani Rad
Staff writer

The treasure trove of Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art is one of the most important and unique collections of visual arts in Iran and the world. This treasure trove is not just a collection of art, but a historical-artistic collection that showcases masterpieces from artists such as Jackson Pollock, Mondrian, Picasso, Camille Pissarro, Francis Bacon, Renoir, Lautrec, Gauguin, Max Ernst, Rene Magritte, Dubuffet, Alberto Giacometti, and Henry Moore, among others, and displays the artistic developments of the 20th century. Visiting this place is usually off-limits to the public, as the most valuable and expensive works of art are typically kept in the treasure trove and require special security and preservation measures. However, on special occasions and specialized exhibitions, some of the treasure trove's works are displayed in the museum's galleries. A few weeks ago, the doors of this collection were opened to journalists, allowing them to visit the most valuable art collections in Iran and the world. The Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art is among the top 10 museums in the world in terms

of preserving works of art in various styles, including works created between 1850 and 1976. Most of these works were purchased in the 1950s, and some were donated.

Treasure trove renovation

Head of public relations of Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art Hassan Noferesti, talked about the renovation of the treasure trove: "The renovation took place from 2018 to 2020, during which the treasure trove's air conditioning system was completely separated from the administrative and exhibition sections. The treasure trove now has independent air conditioning and emergency power. Previously, this place had three shared air conditioning units with the galleries, which are now separate." Noferesti mentioned the number of works in the treasure trove, saying, "About 1,700 works from the treasure trove are by European and American artists. With the recent donation of works by Dr. Naseri's family and Manijeh Mir Emadi, valued at around \$2.5 to \$3.3 million, the treasure trove now has around 4,000 works by Iranian and international artists." He added that some of the donated works will be transferred to cities with contemporary art museums or suitable locations for preservation and display, with some already sent to Kerman and others in the process of being evaluated.

International standards

The Contemporary Art Museum of Tehran is one of the most important museums in West Asia and among the top 10 museums in the world in terms of its collection of iconic works in various styles, according to its director. Despite being in a country with less advanced facilities compared to others, the museum's preservation standards are on par with other international museums. The director added that over the years, no damage or theft has occurred to the museum's collection. All exhibition staff and services personnel have undergone training in art preservation, exhibition design, and standard packaging of artworks, so that only authorized staff are allowed to handle and move artworks during exhibitions. The director emphasized that nowhere in the world are ordinary people allowed to visit museum collections, only researchers are permitted to enter. Due to the importance of preserving the health and security of the artworks, the museum has strict visitation policies, including limited group sizes, to prevent damage from excessive foot traffic. In 2002, the museum held an exhibition of foreign artworks from its collection, attracting many tourists who had not seen these works in years. To address concerns about visiting the museum's collection, Tehran Museum of Contemporary

Art has also taken steps to provide online and virtual tours of its artworks, as well as those on display in galleries, allowing those who cannot physically visit the museum to still experience its collection.

Process of collecting treasures

On the process of collecting the museum's treasured artworks, he said that the works stored in the museum's collection were largely gathered and selected in the 1970s and are not only significant artistically but also historically. A team of experts carefully curated and purchased the best works from renowned contemporary artists, including Pablo Picasso, Salvador Dali, Mark Rothko, Jackson Pollock, and Francis Bacon. Documents show that some works were rejected by the team and not included in the collection. The museum's collection is stored and maintained on metal rails according to international standards, with information about each work displayed on the rails.

Artworks on metal rails

The director explained the arrangement of the artworks on the rails: "The foreign artworks are displayed in chronological order, from the beginning of modern art to pop art. For example, we have over 15 works by Picasso, and the foreign section

spans from 1850 to 1976." The Iranian section of the collection features works by notable artists such as Kamal-ol-Molk, Mahmoud Farshchian, Mohammad Ehsai, Farah Osoli, Sohrab Sepehri, Sadeq Tabrizi, Parviz Tanavoli, Abolqassem Saidi, Monir Farmanfarmaian, Masoud Arabshahi, Mansour Qandriz, Parviz Kalantari, Hossein Kazemi, and Nasrollah Afjei. The museum has the largest collection of works by Seyyed Mohammad Habib Mohammadi, with over 80 pieces, and over 50 works by Hossein Zenderoudi. The director added that the museum's collection includes a wide range of visual arts, including painting, graphic arts, miniature painting, calligraphy, photography, printmaking, sculpture, and installations, by prominent Iranian and international artists. One of the most valuable works in the collection is a piece by Jackson Pollock, created in 1950, which was loaned to a Japanese exhibition in 2012 and returned to Iran after the exhibition. The director added that the museum's collection includes a wide range of visual arts, including painting, graphic arts, miniature painting, calligraphy, photography, printmaking, sculpture, and installations, by prominent Iranian and international artists. One of the most valuable works in the collection is a piece by

Jackson Pollock, created in 1950, which was loaned to a Japanese exhibition in 2012 and returned to Iran after the exhibition.

Lending treasures to other parts of world

Noferesti also mentioned the museum's practice of lending artworks to international exhibitions. He cited the example of the 'All Eyes on Kees van Dongen' exhibition, a retrospective of the renowned Dutch artist's works, held at the Boijmans Van Beuningen Museum in Rotterdam, Netherlands, in 2019. The Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art loaned one of Van Dongen's works to the exhibition for four months. In 1994, the museum exchanged a non-exhibitable work by Willem de Kooning for 118 pages of 'Shahnameh' manuscript with its original cover. A selection of works from this 'Shahnameh' was later displayed in the 'Masterpieces of Persian Painting' exhibition.

Museum's permanent collection

Noferesti also highlighted the museum's preservation of several foreign sculptures in its sculpture garden. He explained that, according to the museum's definition of a "permanent collection," the beautiful and rare sculptures in the sculpture garden, which have captured the attention of visitors and fans of sculpture, are part of the museum's permanent collection. The sculpture garden features works by renowned artists such as Alberto Giacometti, Henry Moore, Max Ernst, Rene Magritte, Eduardo Chillida, Alexander Calder, Marino Marini, Parviz Tanavoli, Dariush Saniezhadeh, and others.

