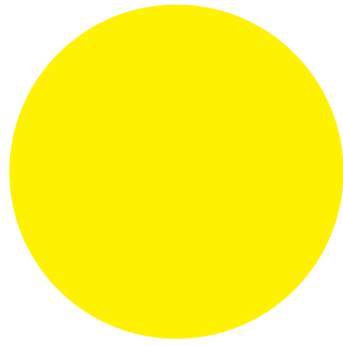


Transit sectors register sizable growth in five months

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Israel's attack on Lebanon to ignite full-scale war led by resistance front



By Syed Ali Hassan
Iran Daily's correspondent in Pakistan

OPINION

The right-wing majority in the Israeli regime is prioritizing arrogance, racial discrimination, and self-made doctrines of supremacy over war principles, which is increasing the risks for millions of Jews. The retreat of the Arabs in recent history has exacerbated Israeli arrogance, as they are stuck in the mindset of the 1960s and 1970s. Power can intoxicate any nation, and Israel's existence and expansion are built on force and oppression. The success of the Islamic Revolution in Iran had already raised questions about Israel's existence. Iranian leadership systematically tightened the noose around Israel. Israel's response on October 7, 2023, further shortened its existential timeline. Yemen, with its ballistic missile striking Tel Aviv from nearly 2000 kilometers away, has disrupted Israel's war machine.

Now, the Yemeni government and the Houthi resistance movement, Ansarullah, have announced plans to deploy thousands of highly trained soldiers and commandos to Lebanon to counter Israeli aggression. All preparations are complete. In a significant briefing in the capital, Sana'a, it was expressed that the Yemeni military is fully prepared to fight alongside Lebanon's Hezbollah against Israel. Nasruddin Amer, the deputy head of Ansarullah's media office, said on Monday, during a conversation with the Palestinian news agency Shehab, that Yemen will support Hezbollah in the same way it supports the Palestinian resistance movements Hamas and Islamic Jihad in Gaza. The Yemeni government and army are determined to stand at the forefront of the Islamic duty of struggle against Israel and its allies.

Israel's right-wing extremist cabinet, driven by false ideologies, has been limited to announcing a large-scale attack on Lebanon since June. However, the fearful Israeli regime is pushing its Western allies, especially the cunning American administration, to fight the war on its behalf.

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West's Double Standards Evident in Paris Games: *Leader*

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Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei addresses Iranian medalists, athletes, coaches and organizers of Iranian delegations to the 2024 Paris Olympics and Paralympics in Tehran, Iran, on September 17, 2024.

khamenei.ir



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SPECIAL ISSUE

Iran, Russia discuss INSTC completion to boost trade



Iranian Roads and Urban Development Minister Farzaneh Sadeq-Malvajerd discussed completion of the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) as well as railway projects with the visiting aide to the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin, Igor Levitin in Tehran on Tuesday.

According to IRNA report, the meeting was part of the efforts of the two countries to strengthen infrastructure cooperation and develop international transportation routes, which plays a key role in improving regional economic and commercial relations.

In the meeting, the Iranian minister emphasized the necessity of maximum commercial use of existing rail capacities.

For his part, Levitin, who was the former minister of roads of Russia for eight years, talked about the importance of rail transport logistics.

On Monday, Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance of Iran Abdolnaser Hemmati stressed the need to implement the INSTC as a transit route to boost cooperation between the Islamic Republic, Russia, India, and the Persian Gulf states.

Hemmati made the remarks in a meeting with Levitin, saying it is expected that Russia to seriously support the mega project of the INSTC.

The government of the Islamic Republic supports the investment of other countries in the project, he said, voicing Iran's readiness to facilitate the participation of other countries in the INSTC by providing specific investment incentives.

The INSTC is a 7,200-km (4500 mile) long multi-mode network of ship, rail, and road route for moving freight between India, Iran, Azerbaijan, Russia, Central Asia and Europe.

The route primarily involves moving freight from India, Iran, Azerbaijan and the Russian Federation via ship, rail and road.

The objective of the corridor is to increase trade connectivity between major cities such as Mumbai, Moscow, Tehran, Baku, Bandar Abbas, Astrakhan and Bandar Anzali.

Transit sectors register sizable growth in five months

Iran's rail and road transit sectors experienced a remarkable 47% and 73% boost, respectively, in the first five months of the current Iranian year ending on August 21 compared to the same period last year.

According to statistics published by the Ministry of Roads & Urban Development, the volume of cargo transit via railways reached 773,000 tons, up

from 526,000 tons in the same period last year, IRNA reported.

The majority of transited goods entered the country through the borders of Sarakhs and Astara, indicating the importance of the northeastern and northwestern borders of the Islamic country in international rail transit routes.

In terms of passenger transportation, the Iranian rail sector recorded the

transfer of 12.8 million passengers in the first five months of this year, with the highest volume in the Tehran and Razavi Khorasan provinces.

Furthermore, the volume of commodities transported via the road sector during the same period indicates a 73% growth, reaching 7.8 million

tons compared to 4.5 million tons in the corresponding period last year.

The greatest volume of freight delivery by the road transportation sector was directed to Isfahan and Tehran provinces, accounting for 24 and 22 million tons, respectively. The number of passengers transported during this period is reported to be 56 million.



Semi-finished steel output hit by power supply deficits



Iran reported a decline in its five-month production of semi-finished steel with industry sources blaming electricity cuts that happened this summer for the fall in output.

The Iranian Steel Producers Association (ISPA) said that production of semi-finished steel in the country had dropped by 5.4% year on year in the five months to August 21, according to Press TV.

The ISPA said the fall in production had amounted to 0.7 million metric tons (mt) in volume terms which is worth \$300 million.

Semi-finished steel or mild steel

is used to make long steel products, which are then used mainly in construction of buildings, roads, bridges and other infrastructure.

The ISPA data showed that Iran's production of rebar (reinforcing bar) had dropped by 9.2% in the five months to late August compared to the same period last year while angle steel and U-steel output had dropped by 13.6% over the same period.

Steel ingot production in Iran fell by 7.9% year on year in the five months to late August, the figures showed.

The ISPA blamed heavier elec-

tricity supply restrictions this summer for the fall in Iran's semi-finished steel production. The Iranian government was forced to cut electricity supplies to industries, including steel manufacturers, in July and August amid an unprecedented heat wave in the country that pushed demands for cooling to all-time records.

Iran is one of the 10 largest steel producers in the world. The country has reported a steady increase in production and exports of steel in recent years amid a war between Ukraine and Russia that has affected regional supplies.

Iraq agrees to repay Iranian firms pre-Daesh debts

The Iraqi government has vowed to facilitate the repayment of some \$0.9 billion worth of debts to Iranian companies that were involved in various business and construction projects in the Arab country before the 2013 rise of the Daesh (ISIL) terrorist group.

Chairman of Iran's Chamber of Commerce (ICCIMA) said that Iraqi authorities had vowed during a trip last week by Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian to the country to sort out the issue of arrears owed by Iranian companies, Press TV wrote. "It was agreed that a task-

force made up of representatives from the two countries prepare the ground for the repayment of these arrears," said Samad Hassanzadeh.

Hassanzadeh said the debt is owed by Iranian companies for technical and engineering services they carried out in Iraq before the rise of Daesh.

Iraq declared victory against Daesh in 2017 after the terrorist group was defeated in many parts of the country.

Iranian companies were a major partner in Iraq's construction efforts before the rise of Daesh and after an



eight-year US-led occupation ended in 2011.

Engineering and construction firms from Iran are still present in many projects in Iraq as Baghdad seeks to rely on good political relations with Tehran to expand

its economy.

Pezeshkian ended a three-day visit to Iraq on Friday. During the visit, the two countries signed some 14 new documents to further expand their economic and trade cooperation.

Economic boom hinges on financial market efficacy:

Minister



Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance of Iran Abdolnaser Hemmati said on Tuesday that economic development depends on the proper performance of the financial market.

Speaking at the induction ceremony of the head of the Securities and Exchange Organization, Hemmati added that if the financial market does not work well, production will not grow and conse-

quently the economy will not grow, IRNA reported.

Reports by the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) shows that with keeping the current trend, it is unlikely that the economic growth of Iran will hit 4% by the end of the current Iranian year (March 20, 2025), the minister stated.

We need capital to develop the economy, but trust in the capital market has been lost, Hemmati criticized.

Iran resumes LPG exports to Pakistan via southeastern border

Iran has resumed exports of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) to Pakistan through the Mirjaveh border crossing, a provincial official said. Mohammad Ali Khashi, the customs supervisor for Sistan and Baluchestan Province, made the remarks on

Tuesday while speaking to IRNA's correspondent.

Last week, Pakistan's Taftan customs prevented the unloading of 300 Iranian gas tankers, he said. He further noted that the obstacles to exports through the Mir-

javeh-Taftan border have been removed.

He added that the exports process has returned to normal following steps taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration and Iran's Foreign Ministry.



Talesh and its scenic natural getaways

Subatan



● alibaba.ir

Located 35 kilometers northwest of Hashtpar, the lush summer resort of Subatan is celebrated as one of Iran's most stunning tourist destinations. Positioned 20 kilometers southeast of Neor Lake, Subatan is bordered by the forests of Talesh to the east and the pastures of Ardebil to the west, with the roaring Lisar River and Khotbeh Sara pastures to the north. The resort is approximately 135 kilometers from Rasht, making it easily accessible for residents of nearby areas.

With an elevation of around 2,000 meters above sea level, Subatan experiences cold winters and cool summers, with snow occasionally visible in some areas during the summer. Therefore, the best time to visit is during the warmer

months of spring and summer. This resort marks the boundary between the forests of Talesh and the plains of Ardebil, characterized by lush meadows, vibrant flower fields, and bubbling springs. Wildlife enthusiasts may spot wild horses and unique animal species in certain parts of the region.

The village of Subatan is considered the prime summer area for the nomadic and semi-nomadic people of Talesh. However, it becomes snow-covered and uninhabited during the winter months when the nomads migrate to Subatan in the summer and return to their homeland in the winter. This village lacks electricity, gas, piped water, and internet access, with the nomads

residing in traditional wooden houses and black tents, thus preserving the area's pristine and untouched nature.

Among Subatan's attractions are its captivating clouds, which envelop the region on many days throughout the year, creating breathtaking vistas perfect for capturing memories. Additionally, the wooden and mud cottages, along with the domestic animals of the nomads and expanses of poppy fields, create a unique landscape ideal for exploration and photography. Notable sights in Subatan include Neor Lake, Varzan Waterfall, and the historic Gori Dareh Cemetery, which showcases artifacts and graves that highlight the region's significance throughout history.

Iranica Desk

Talesh is a sprawling and verdant city in Gilan Province, bordered by Ardebil, Astara, and Rezvanshahr. Covering an area of over 2,370 square kilometers, Talesh represents ap-

proximately one-third of Gilan Province's total area.

Known for its pristine natural beauty, Talesh is an attractive tourist destination that draws many visitors each year. The region is rich in natural attractions,

including azure beaches, meandering rivers, and enchanting forests. Among its highlights, the summer resorts and rural areas of Talesh are particularly renowned for their picturesque mountain pastures.

Shekrdasht

Shekrdasht is a distinct and untouched summer resort located just seven kilometers from Subatan. Nestled in the mountains, it is 30 kilometers from Hashtpar and 130 kilometers from Rasht, straddling the border of Gilan and Ardebil provinces. At an elevation of 1,700 meters above sea level, Shekrdasht serves as a summer pasture for Taleshi herders during the spring and summer months.

Each season in Shekrdasht presents a unique charm,

earning it the nickname "the Bride of Talesh." The area is primarily adorned with various beech and maple trees, while spring brings a vibrant display of wildflowers, including red poppies, across its slopes. Bees flock to these blooms, producing high-quality honey, making Shekrdasht honey and its dairy products delightful natural souvenirs.

The traditional residences and rural lifestyle enhance the picturesque beauty of Shekrdasht, captivating all

who visit. Due to its high elevation, the village can often become shrouded in thick fog, creating a dreamy and ethereal landscape.

For accommodation in Shekrdasht, guests can pitch a tent amidst its pristine surroundings or rent traditional cabins or rooms from local residents. Visitors may also experience the warm hospitality of the nomads in the area. However, note that the weather can be quite cool for much of the year, so it is advisable to bring warm clothing.



● diyarmirza.ir

Dukhaleh Summer Resort



● diyarmirza.ir

Dukhaleh Mountain summer area is a delightful destination in Gilan Province, located near Hashtpar. For those interested in experiencing the lifestyles of rural Gilan, this untouched and pristine resort is an ideal option. The best time to visit is during the first six months of the year, particularly in the summer when the heat becomes intense, making a getaway to this cooler region especially refreshing. Spring, particularly May, is also an excellent time to visit due to the pleasant weather brought about by recent rainfall.

Tranquility reigns in Dukhaleh Mountain, free from the hustle, bustle, and pollution

of urban life. It's important to note that there are no recreational or service facilities available at this resort; therefore, visitors should bring sufficient water, food, medications, and first aid supplies to avoid any inconveniences. Additionally, as with any summer resort trip, don't forget to pack warm clothing, a mat, a tent, and a sleeping bag.

At Dukhaleh Mountain, you can immerse yourself in the untouched beauty of nature and interact with the warm-hearted locals, taking in the stunning scenery and the simplicity of rural life. Walking is the best way to explore this resort, and for those who enjoy cycling, mountain biking

across the meadows enhances the experience.

The area is quite safe due to the presence of nomads and villagers, making it easy for families to set up tents in nature. If desired, you can rent a room from local villagers to experience authentic hospitality, or alternatively, head to Hashtpar to rent a house.

Access to the Dukhaleh summer area is via the Asalem to Khalkhal road. Due to numerous side roads and the absence of signposts, it's advisable to ask local Taleshi residents for accurate directions before embarking on this beautiful journey.

Maryan village

Maryan village is another scenic summer resort in Gilan Province, located 31 kilometers northwest of Talesh and 143 kilometers from Rasht. Situated at an altitude of about 1,080 meters above sea level, Maryan experiences cold winters and mild summers, making the period from May to October the best time to visit. On hot, sunny summer days, Maryan is an excellent choice for a cooler destination. For accommodations, visitors can rent a house from local villagers or pitch a tent amid the village's pristine greenery. Being close to Talesh allows for easy access to Hashtpar, where a variety of accommo-

datations are available.

The village features stunning attractions, including picturesque views of the Karganrud River, tree-covered mountains, expansive green meadows, and often foggy weather, presenting a dreamlike setting for visitors. Surrounding wheat fields and fruit orchards, such as pear and apple trees, further enhance the village's charm. In addition to its natural beauty, Maryan holds historical significance. Among its notable structures is the summer palace of Sardar Amjad, which has been restored and is now managed by the Cultural Heritage and Tourism Department.



● jigo.ir

Aq Owlar village



● villarabet.com

Aq Owlar village is one of the most beautiful summer resorts in Talesh, nestled in the mountains of the region. Located 32 kilometers from Talesh, Aq Owlar is surrounded by tall mountains and features the stunning Hyrcanian forests, known for their deciduous and towering trees, making it a compelling choice for nature enthusiasts.

As a historic summer resort, Aq Owlar is celebrated for its pleasant weather, cool summers, and stunning spring scenery. The best time to visit is from May to October, when the weather is delightful and refreshing; however, skilled nature enthusiasts often enjoy the snowy winters here as well. The journey to this village offers breathtaking sights, with the

Kargan River flowing alongside the road towards the Caspian Sea, adding beauty and a refreshing ambiance to the area. In spring, the forests boast an incomparable grandeur, with their lushness peaking in summer. Autumn transforms this summer village into a vibrant canvas of colors, further enhancing the region's allure.

How Trump wins

And Harris and Democrats blow it



By David Brooks
Columnist

OPINION

It's November 6, 2024, the morning after Election Day. The people in the Trump campaign should be counting their lucky stars for Donald Trump's close victory, given the political incompetence they showed in July and August. In the six weeks between July 21, when Joe Biden dropped out, and Labor Day they had one job: to define Kamala Harris as an elite San Francisco liberal before she could define herself as a middle-class moderate. The Trump campaign did next to nothing. All they needed was to play the 2019 clips of Harris sounding like a wokester cliché, but they couldn't even come up with an argument, let alone act upon it. Harris brilliantly defined herself in that vacuum. This mistake could have been fatal for the Republicans because Trump is the 46 percent man. That's roughly the share of the popular vote he won in 2016 and 2020. He was never going to ride a majority wave to victory in 2024, so it would have been helpful to take his opponent down a few points.



The illustration shows Republican presidential candidate former US president Donald Trump in front of a map that forecasts his win in 2024 election. NEWSWEEK

Elections are driven by a few core realities. Trump had several fundamental issues that drove support to him, no matter how jerkish he could be. Trump being victorious in 2024 comes down to these five turbines of Trumpism:

People like the red model more than the blue model. The fastest-growing states by population are mostly governed by Republicans, including Florida, Texas, Idaho, and Montana. The fastest-shrinking or-stagnating states are mostly governed by Democrats, including New York, Illinois, California, Pennsylvania, and Hawaii. The red model gives you low housing costs, lower taxes, and business vitality. The blue model gives you high housing costs, high taxes, and high inequality.

Many American voters might envy the long European vacations, but they want economic dynamism more. For years, voters in swing states had been telling pollsters that the economy and inflation were their top issues. They looked around the country and concluded that the Republican approach seemed better at generating dynamism and growth, or at least better than Harris's pitch for and defense of Bidenomics.

Democrats are the party of the ruling class. The most important divide in American life is the diploma divide. College-educated folks tend to vote for Democrats, and high-school-educated folks tend to vote for Republicans. Thus, the richest places tend to be Democratic. The Democrats dominate the media, the universities, the cultural institutions, and the government. Even the big corporations, headquartered in places like New York and San Francisco, are trending blue.

Ruling-class Democrats live in very different worlds than high-school-educated Republicans. The average high school grad dies nine years sooner than a college graduate, is more likely to be obese, is much less likely to marry, and is much more likely to divorce. The overdose death rate for high school grads is about six times as high as the rate for college grads. Of course, working-class voters resent these inequalities.

Worse, educated-class folks have rigged the game. Children from affluent families tend to attend public and private schools flush with cash, while working-class kids don't. By the eighth grade, children from affluent families are performing at four grade levels higher than children from poor families. According to Daniel Markovits of Yale, on the SAT, "Students from families earning over \$200,000 per year (roughly the top 5 percent) score 388 points higher than students from families earning less than \$20,000 per year (roughly the bottom 20 percent)." According to a 2017 study led by Raj Chetty of Harvard, students from families in the top 1 percent of earners were 77 times as likely to get into the Ivy League as students from families making less than \$30,000 a year. In that year, students from the top income quintile were about 16 times as numerous at the University

of North Carolina at Chapel Hill as students from the bottom quintile.

Global populism is a revolt against these kinds of inequities — driven by the sense that the educated class has too much cultural, academic, political, and economic power. The revolt is fueled when highly educated professionals condescend to or don't even see the masses they are sitting on and when students at elite universities spending upward of \$100,000 a year on them pretend to be the marginalized victims of oppression.



Supporters cheer for Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump during a campaign rally at the Freedom Hill Amphitheater in Sterling Heights, Michigan, on November 6, 2016. CHIP SOMODEVILLA/GETTY IMAGES

Highly educated Democrats like Harris see themselves as increasing the size of government to help the downtrodden. But many Americans look at those efforts and they just see affluent people amassing more power for themselves in Washington. They conclude: This is what the educated elites always do. They promise to do stuff for us, but they end up serving only themselves.

Social and moral cohesion. Republicans can be rugged individualists when it comes to economics, but Democrats can be rugged individualists when it comes to morality. They are more likely to hew to a code of moral freedom that holds that individuals should be free to live by their own values. Individuals get to choose their own definition of when human life begins. Any form of family and social life is OK so long as the individuals within it give their consent. This is the privatization of morality.

Yet in most places, people are formed within morally cohesive communities. They derive a sense of belonging and solidarity from shared moral values. Their lives have meaning and purpose because they see themselves living in a universal moral order with permanent standards of right and wrong, within family structures that have stood the test of time, with shared understandings of, say, male and female.

Privatized morality leaves even many progres-

sives with existential insecurity. Forty-one percent of very liberal men and 60 percent of very liberal women report that they are in poor mental health more than half the time.

But the lack of social and moral order is a practical calamity for less-educated folks. For them, economic policy is not separate from social issues and moral values. The things that derail their lives are broken relationships, infidelity, out-of-wedlock births, addictions, family conflict, and crime. When Republicans talk about immigration, crime, faith, family,

and the flag, they are talking about ways to preserve the social and moral order. Democrats are great at talking about economic solidarity but not moral and cultural solidarity. General dissatisfaction. Kamala Harris practiced the politics of joy in this election, running a hopeful and sunny campaign, as any incumbent party tries to do. But many Americans are not feeling it. As the fall general election campaign got unofficially underway after Labor Day, only 25 percent of Americans were satisfied with the direction of the country, according to Gallup, while 73 percent were dissatisfied. According to Ipsos, 59 percent of Americans said the country was in decline, 60 percent agreed with a series of statements conveying that "the system is broken," 69 percent agreed that the "political and economic elite don't care about hard-working people," and 63 percent agreed that "experts in this country don't understand the lives of people like me."

In other words, many Americans feel betrayed, distrustful, angry. They feel that the American dream has been destroyed. Trump, like all global populists, tells this betrayal story well. The Blue Bubble problem. Bill Clinton and Barack Obama lived in the shadow of Ronald Reagan's and George W. Bush's victories. Clinton and Obama both understood the Blue Bubble problem: If you spend

your life listening to what Democrats in the big cities say to one another, then you will misunderstand America. Both Clinton and Obama took tough stances to show that they were not Blue Bubble natives: the crime bill, welfare reform, Obama's stances on illegal immigration, and fossil fuels. Clinton triangulated and Obama talked about transcending left and right. Clinton and Obama are still popular across the country, but they are disdained by many of the cadres who work in Democratic campaigns and administrations. During the 2010s, right-wing populists took over the Republican Party from the outside — MAGA. Left-wing populists like Bernie Sanders tried to do that but failed. They had more success in winning the hearts of minds of the progressive intellectual and apparatchik class, from the top down. In progressive circles, Clinton and Obama are often dismissed as neoliberals who were complicit in preserving the corporate order.

This shift to the left produced the defund the police/decriminalize the border frenzy of 2020. It's also had dubious economic effects. The new cadres were convinced (rightly) that Obama did not stimulate the economy enough after the financial crisis. In response, they decided to stimulate the hell out of the economy after the pandemic. They ended up exacerbating inflation and effectively destroyed Biden's re-election prospects even before the age issue became so dominant.

Clinton and Obama essentially followed the median-voter theory: Run to the center where independent voters are. By contrast, the new cadres are more likely to believe in the mobilize-the-base theory: Run a really progressive campaign so that young lefties turn out. Harris tried to run a campaign that gave something to each wing of the party. It resulted in the everything bagel — a campaign that offered gestures and a hodgepodge of policies for everybody but lacked a clear vision. Pennsylvania was the most important state in this election, the hinge around which all sorts of election scenarios pivoted. But as Nate Silver noted in August, there weren't many polls showing Harris ahead there. Clinton and Biden led in polls there, and Clinton lost and Biden barely won. In hindsight, Harris's decision not to select Gov. Josh Shapiro of Pennsylvania as her running mate looked like a terrible act of overconfidence. But Shapiro was perceived as a moderate. The progressive wing lobbied against him. So, Harris went with a guy who helped her win a state she was always going to win anyway. I know who I fervently wanted to win — Harris. But many Democrats were always a little over-ebullient about her. A Trump victory has never come down to running a brilliant campaign. It comes down to those five turbines driving enough support in enough key places in his direction.

The full article first appeared on the New York Times.

How Harris wins

And Trump and Republicans blow it



By Ross Douhat
Columnist

OPINION

It's November 6, 2024, the morning after Election Day.

To understand Kamala Harris's narrow victory over Donald Trump, you have to think about Marie Kondo, the Japanese style guru famous for her ruthless minimalism, whose prescription

for a cluttered home is to remove any object that doesn't immediately "spark joy".

The progressivism that infuses the contemporary Democratic Party can be a cluttered, claustrophobic worldview. In its Trump- and Biden-era form, it doesn't just include a large array of interest groups, each making their own policy demands. It argues that all of these demands must be accepted and acted on together; that there's an underlying philosophical or even creedal unity ("In this house, we believe ..."), a seamless garment that can't be divided up. Everything is intersectional, and you can't just pick and choose: Climate justice is reproductive justice is antiracism; if you stand with migrants, you also have to stand with teachers' unions and vice versa.



The illustration shows Democrat presidential candidate US Vice President Kamala Harris beside a map that forecasts her win in the 2024 election.

NEWSWEEK

This cluttered sensibility — a variation on what my colleague Ezra Klein once dubbed the “everything bagel” spirit in liberal governance — hasn't prevented progressivism from becoming the most powerful ideology in American life. Even with the wilder forms of wokeness in partial retreat, progressive ideas still pervade the nation's cultural institutions to such a degree that you can wander from an Ivy League faculty lounge to a corporate human resources department to a Hollywood gathering to a magazine editorial meeting and feel as though you inhabit a single-party state.

But for Democratic Party leaders, the combination of doctrinal clutter and sweeping cultural power creates political headaches and electoral vulnerabilities. The inflexibility of left-wing ideology means that if you dissent forcefully on its litmus tests, you'll quickly feel like an outsider if not a heretic, choosing between a difficult life as a moderating influence (ask Joe Manchin and Kyrsten Sinema how that goes) or a lurch into outright opposition. And progressive cultural dominance means that anyone who feels disillusioned with some arm of the American establishment — with the medical system or the modern university, with the FDA or the CIA — can end up feeling alienated from liberalism writ large. This creates a lot of very different kinds of swing constituencies that can be happy to see the left's power tempered or rebuked.

Since 2015, the remarkable resilience of Donald Trump has depended on making himself an avatar for these varied discontents — a symbol of rebuke and rebellion and a natural leader for a coalition of alienated and disappointed outsiders, plus a few disillusioned insiders as well. When Trump was riding high in the early summer of 2024, his outsider coalition seemed to be adding members at a rapid clip — picking up young men and recent immigrants and Silicon Valley entrepreneurs, none of whom had necessarily embraced a consistent right-wing agenda but all of whom were looking for a countervailing force against Democratic orthodoxy.

On paper, Kamala Harris seemed like an unlikely candidate to stanch this bleeding of support. She was a consummate Democratic insider from a super-liberal state, perhaps more a machine politician than a progressive true believer but one with a long record of fealty to left-wing groups and causes. She lacked the history of moderation that made Joe Biden a reassuring figure in 2020 and had little experience with the sort of Clintonian triangulation that Biden practiced intermittently at best. In the heat of July, it seemed the Democrats desperately needed a capable centrist, not a California liberal, and that turning from Biden to Harris would save them from a rout but still probably lead to a defeat.

But it turned out that there was an alternative to explicit centrism.

Harris did stake out some moderate positions, promising border enforcement and touting her prosecutorial credentials. But mostly, she followed a Marie Kondo strategy, applying the life-changing magic of tidying up to the Democratic platform. She didn't offer a comprehensive moderate agenda or seek out a Sister Souljah confrontation with some left-wing interest group. Instead, she offered a form of progressive minimalism, reducing a cluttered agenda to a few popular promises and just leaving everything else out.



Delegates cheer during the Democratic National Convention on August 22, 2024, at the United Center in Chicago, Illinois, the venue wherein Vice President Kamala Harris officially accepted the Democratic presidential nomination.

ABC7 CHICAGO

Her convention speech was especially Kondo-ist: short, sparse, and nonspecific about virtually everything except restoring *Roe v. Wade*, protecting middle-class entitlements, and keeping Trump out of the Oval Office. The interest groups got oblique gestures, not shout-outs and promises. The ideological buzzwords disappeared. When climate change came up, it was linked vaguely to “clean air” and “clean water” rather than any specific regulatory regime. The words “racism” and “affirmative action” made no appearance at all. The everything bagel wasn't rejected or reseasoned; it just wasn't on the menu.

To Republicans, this was all incredibly frustrating, as was the minimalist media strategy that accompanied the minimalist agenda. They argued, correctly, that Harris was often just avoiding issues, not offering some clear new policy approach. They complained, accurately, that she was dropping her past positions without any adequate explanation. (Indeed, her minimalism often didn't even rise to the level of a flip-flop, because there wasn't any new landing place.)

They also pointed out that her minimalism would have never survived contested Demo-

cratic presidential primaries with a gantlet of interest-group demands — that only the last-minute coronation and the urgency and brevity of a general election campaign enabled Harris to sell herself this way. And they noted that all the interest groups would be ready to reassert themselves on Day 1 of a Harris administration, that their ideological demands had been muted but not repudiated, and that a vote for her was still a vote to hand them power once again.

If all these points had merit, there was one aspect of the Harris campaign that the complaining conservatives badly misunderstood. They

growing as an oppositional force, an alliance of every kind of anti-progressive and anti-Biden impulse, from crunchy to corporate, populist to Reaganite, socially conservative to techno-futurist. But without the big target of progressivism's full agenda to organize against, with only a few popular ideas defining Harris's sprint to the November election, the spotlight fell increasingly not just on Trump's own sins and limitations but also on his coalition's internal contradictions. Suddenly, the absence of a coherent conservative policy agenda actually mattered. Suddenly, it was a problem that Trump's path to victory depended on both anti-woke secular voters and pro-life evangelicals, on conservatism-curious minority voters and aggrieved blue-collar white people, on mainstream business elites as well as the likes of Robert F. Kennedy Jr., on traditional movement conservatives and moderates who had no interest in the policies favored by the Heritage Foundation.

If there was a synthesis that would satisfy all these varying constituencies, Trump was not the man to find it. All the way to Election Day, his supporters complained that he was too undisciplined — which is to say, too much himself — to drive a consistent anti-Harris message. But the deeper problem was that his ticket needed an affirmative alternative to defeat her Marie Kondo-fied progressivism, and he was far too steeped in personal grievance and reflexive oppositionalism. He needed an obvious foil, a unifying threat to make his fractious anti-progressive alliance into a majority, and her minimalism refused to give him what he needed.

Of course, it was still a close-run thing. The Harris message wasn't the basis for any kind of great realignment or sweeping new majority, and Harris herself was still the inherently limited politician that she appeared to be as vice president — propped up by the media's anti-Trump and pro-Democratic tilt, dependent on Trump's weaknesses to compensate for her own rhetorical deficiencies, white-knuckling it through debates and interviews.

But winning on the most limited agenda and by the narrowest of margins is still winning. The 2024 campaign didn't permanently bury Trumpism or populism, fix progressivism's internal problems, or claim a mandate for sweeping change of any sort. It merely won the tens of thousands of swing votes required to carry the handful of swing states that decided the election. A minimalist message yielded a minimalist victory — and that was, for Kamala Harris and her supporters, quite enough.

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The full article first appeared on the *New York Times*.

West's double standards evident in Paris Games: *Leader*

Sports Desk

PRESS TV – Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamanei has deplored “double standards” employed by the countries ruling over international governing bodies of the sports, saying that the flawed policies were starkly evident during the recently-finished Summer Olympics and Paralympics in Paris. Ayatollah Khamanei made the remarks on Tuesday in a meeting with a group of Iranian medalists, athletes, coaches and organizers of Iranian sports delegations to the international multi-sport events. “One thing which was strongly noticeable this year at the Olympic Games was the dual policies of the countries regulating international sports matters. They really showed that double standards and biased policies govern their behaviors,” the Leader pointed out. Ayatollah Khamanei added

that certain countries banned a country because it had waged a war against another country, but they “refused to ban the Zionist regime from the Games despite the fact that it has killed thousands of children and massacred over 41,000 people in nearly a year,” lambasting such double standards as heavily biased.

“This is what we have long been saying. Some people tend to refer to our words as exaggeration. It is no exaggeration. They assert that sports should not be politicized. This is while they take and exhibit the most politicized actions in the field of sports,” the Leader noted.

Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamanei poses for a family photo with Iranian medalists, athletes, coaches and organizers of Iranian delegations to the 2024 Paris Olympics and Paralympics in Tehran, Iran, on September 17, 2024. [khamenei.ir](#)



FIFA Futsal World Cup:

Shamsaei hails team effort as Iran runs riot against Venezuela



Sports Desk

Iran head coach Vahid Shamsaei praised his players for being “like a true team” after the Asian powerhouse opened its Futsal World Cup campaign in style, cruising to a 7-1 victory over Venezuela in Group F. Salar Aghapour got Iran off the mark in Bukhara Universal Sports Complex thanks to a sublime team goal seven minutes into the game and then Mahdi Karimi scored twice before Milton Francia pulled one back for the Venezuelans, only to see Behrouz Azimi restore the three-goal cushion for Shamsaei's men at halftime. Aghapour bagged his second of the afternoon three minutes after the break with Amirhossein Davoudi and Azimi also on the scoresheet in the

second half as Iran tied its all-time biggest World Cup win, having beaten Cuba by the same scoreline in 1996. “It was a good game. I have special respect for Venezuela as they finished third in Copa America [in February] and I had seen many impressive performances from them,” Shamsaei said after the game. “Our players were like a true team today and gave it their all throughout the game. We were looking to start the tournament with a victory and I'm glad we made it in a tough match,” added the Iranian. “There were short spells when we lost hold of the game, but the players managed to turn things around. Now that the game is behind us, we need to look ahead to the next matches and take things step by step,” said Sham-

saei, whose team sits atop the group table on goal difference before facing Guatemala – beaten 6-3 by France later in the day – on Thursday. Monday's game marked a milestone for Iranian skipper Ali-Asghar Hossainzadeh – who matched a record fifth participation in the World Cup finals – while it was a debut appearance in the global showcase for some of Shamsaei's young talents, including Man of the Match Aghapour and Azimi.

Iranian players celebrate a goal during a 7-1 victory over Venezuela at the FIFA Futsal World Cup in Bukhara, Uzbekistan, on September 16, 2024. [ROBERTUS PUDYANTO/GETTY IMAGES](#)

AFC Champions League Elite:

Esteghlal off to flying start; Persepolis rues poor finishing

Sports Desk

Persian Gulf Pro League club Esteghlal kicked off its AFC Champions League Elite campaign in emphatic fashion, defeating Qatari side Al Gharafa 3-0 in Tehran. Esteghlal archrival Persepolis, meanwhile, was left regretting missed chances in front of the goal after a 1-0 loss to Al Ahli Saudi in Jeddah.

Perfect start

Having endured weeks of uncertainty swirling around his future on the Blues' bench, Esteghlal head coach Javad Nekounam couldn't have asked for a brighter start in the Shahr-e Qods Stadium after Al Gharafa defender Abdalla Yousif turned Ramin Rezaeian's cross from the right flank into his own net four minutes into the game. The Blues had to wait until the closing stages for a second goal when Rezaeian nutmegged Matias Nani on the right flank before his low drive found the bottom corner in the 79th minute. Substitute Aarash Rezavand wrapped up

the points with a cool finish from inside the box two minutes from normal time. “This win is for the players who worked hard. I was just by their side and they showed that they have a high position in Iranian football,” said Nekounam said after the game.

“The condition of the team is getting better day by day. The players overcame the difficult conditions we faced in the last few days and I am really happy for the fans.”

Wasteful Reds

When Ivorian midfielder Frank Kessie fired a star-studded Al Ahli in front with less than two minutes into the game, Persepolis fans feared for a long night in a packed Prince Abdullah Al Faisal Stadium. The following proceedings, however, proved otherwise as the Iranian champion dictated the tempo for the remainder of the first half, with Soroush Rafiei and Vahid Amiri winning the midfield battles while Oston Urunov was a menace on the left flank. Persepolis came close to drawing level in the 35th minute as Ali Alipour's point-

blank header forced Edouard Mendy into a superb save before Urunov's attempt on the rebound went just wide.

The Reds thought their dominance paid off when Urunov was brought down in the box by Turkish center-back Merih Demiral and Jordanian referee blew in his whistle for a spot-kick, only to controversially change his decision after a VAR review.

“Everyone in the stadium saw it was a clear penalty and I don't really why the ref changed his mind,” Persepolis coach Juan Carlos Garrido said after the game.

The Reds were again the likeliest of the two sides to score after the break though they had goalkeeper Alexis Guendouz to thank for not conceding a second goal as he denied Algerian international teammate Riyad Mahrez from the spot just before the hour mark.

The defeat meant Persepolis has only managed one win in four outings under the new Spanish coach but the performance in Jeddah was defiantly one to build on for the future games.

“Overall, we played a good match. We have a good team and we have great



fans. Al Ahli have good players, especially Kessie, and I am happy with our control despite the opponents having several illustrious players,” said the Spaniard.

Esteghlal players celebrate their second goal in a 3-0 victory over Al Gharafa in the AFC Champions League Elite in Tehran, Iran, on September 16, 2024. [MOJTABA SALEH/AFC](#)

Ethnicity, religion to be disregarded in appointments: *Pezeshkian*



National Desk
Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said he will try to choose competent and accomplished individuals to serve the country irrespective of their ethnicity, race, religion and faction affiliations. Pezeshkian referred to the appointment of a politician from the country's Sunni community as a member of the government for the

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (c) talks with a Sunni cleric during a meeting on the occasion of the Unity Week on September 17, 2024. **IRNA**

first time since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, saying he has placed a premium on unity and cohesion from the beginning of his tenure. He made the remarks in a Tuesday meeting with the country's Sunni scholars and clerics on the occasion of the Unity Week. The Iranian president named Abdolkarim Hosseinzadeh from the Sunni minority as his vice president for rural development and disadvantaged areas after taking office in August. Hosseinzadeh, 44, has since 2012 represented the northwestern cities of Naghadeh and Oshnavieh in parliament. Sunni Muslims account

for around 10 percent of Iran's population, where the vast majority are Shias. During the Tuesday meeting, Pezeshkian also pointed to Israel's genocidal war in Gaza, which has killed more than 41,000 Palestinians in nearly one year. He said differences between Muslims have caused the Israeli regime to do whatever it wants in the region and kill women, children, young and old. If Muslims are united, the Israel regime cannot continue its crimes. Pezeshkian won presidential vote on July 5 against former nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili. He replaced Ebrahim Raisi who died in a helicopter crash in May.

Iran repudiates allegations of arms transfer to Yemen



Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi once again dismissed claims that the country has supplied weapons to Yemen, saying Sana'a is capable of meeting its military requirements. "Accusing Iran of sending weapons to Yemen is an insult to the people of Yemen," Araghchi said in an interview with Yemen's al-Masirah television channel on Monday, Press TV reported. He added that Yemen possesses the military technology and has become capable of strengthening its arsenal. The top Iranian diplomat emphasized that Yemen has become one of the key pillars in the Axis of Resistance and plays an exceptional role in supporting the Gaza Strip, which has been under brutal attacks of the Israeli regime over the past 11 months. Araghchi noted that Yemen makes its own decisions about using its weapons in a way it deems suitable. Earlier in the day, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian dismissed claims that Iran has provided Yemen with hypersonic missiles or the technology to manufacture the weaponry. He said, "We have the missile power but we do not give missiles to Yemen. Before the war [in Gaza], Yemen had acquired the technology to manufacture missiles and was producing them."

Pager blasts injure thousands in attack on Hezbollah

International Desk
Lebanon's Health Minister Firass Abiad said eight people were killed and some 2,750 wounded, including Iran's ambassador, after pagers used by the Lebanese Hezbollah movement detonated simultaneously on Tuesday. The blasts "killed eight people, including a girl," Abiad told a televised press conference. "About 2,750 people were injured... more than 200 of them critically" with injuries mostly reported in the faces, hands and abdomens, he added. According to Iranian media, the wounds of Iranian ambassador to Lebanon Mojtaba Amani were "superficial" and that he was "conscious and in no danger." Hezbollah said in a statement that Israel is "fully responsible" for pager blasts.



There was no immediate comment from the Israeli military. Photos and videos from Beirut's southern suburbs circulating on social media and in local media showed people lying on the pave-

ment with wounds on their hands or near their pants pockets. Hezbollah has been exchanging near-daily fire with Israeli forces since the beginning of Israel's war in Gaza in last October.

EU trying to keep up diplomacy with JCPOA parties

The European Union is actively engaging with Iran, the US, and other parties to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) to keep diplomatic channels open and explore opportunities for resuming meaningful nuclear talks, said Peter Stano, European Commission spokesperson, in an interview with TurkicWorld. Stano emphasized the EU's role as the JCPOA coordinator under UN Security Council Resolution 2231, stressing the importance of diplomacy in addressing the issue of Iran's nuclear program. He highlighted the EU's

deep reliance on the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) as the sole international body responsible for monitoring Iran's nuclear activities. However, recent reports from the IAEA have raised serious concerns about Iran's nuclear trajectory and its alleged lack of cooperation with the agency, the spokesperson noted. Tehran began to scale back its commitments to the JCPOA in a series of pre-announced steps after the US' withdrawal from the agreement in 2018 and other parties' failure to fulfill their obligations.

SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Invitation for one stage Bidding

Islamic Republic of Iran
FARS Six Cities Sanitation Improvement Project
Invitation for Procurement of:
DESIGN, BUILD, INSTALLATION AND OPERATION OF SEPIDAN WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT
IsDB Financing No. IRN-0107

The Government of Islamic Republic of Iran has received financing from the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) towards the cost of the Fars Six Cities Sanitation Improvement Project, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this financing to payments under the contracts for Sepidan wastewater treatment plant. The Fars Water and Wastewater Company (FWWC) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for Procurement of: Remaining Works of Design, Build, Installation And Operation Of Sepidan Wastewater Treatment Plant as described in the following table:

No	City	Description of Package
1	Sepidan	Remaining Works of Procurement of Design, Build And Operate Sepidan Wastewater Treatment Plant with capacity 4,400 M ³ /day

Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures using Post-Qualification as specified in the IsDB's Guidelines for the Procurement of Goods, Works and Related Services under IsDB Project Financing (April 2019), and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the guideline and Bidding Documents. In addition, please refer to paragraphs 1.18 -21 setting forth IsDB's policy on conflict of interest.

Interested eligible Applicants may obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents from the Fars Water & Wastewater Company (address below) as from the date of SPN Publication.

A complete set of the Bidding document in English may be purchased by interested Applicants (a) on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of

آگهی تدارک خصوصی

(فراخوان مناقصه یک مرحله‌ای)

جمهوری اسلامی ایران
پروژه بهسازی بهداشت ۶ شهر استان فارس
دعوت برای باقیمانده تدارک طراحی، ساخت، نصب تجهیزات و بهره‌برداری تصفیه‌خانه فاضلاب شهر سپیدان

شماره اعتبار سرمایه بانک توسعه اسلامی: IRN-0107

دولت جمهوری اسلامی ایران اعتباری از بانک توسعه اسلامی (IsDB) جهت اجرای پروژه ارتقای بهداشت ۶ شهر استان فارس دریافت داشته و در نظر دارد بخشی از این اعتبار را به منظور پرداخت‌های قراردادها و احداث تصفیه‌خانه‌های فاضلاب شهرهای مربوطه به مصرف برساند. شرکت آب و فاضلاب استان فارس هم اکنون از پیشنهادات لگ و مهر شده پیمانکاران واجد صلاحیت جهت باقیمانده طراحی، ساخت، نصب، بهره‌برداری تصفیه‌خانه فاضلاب شهر سپیدان که در جدول زیر تشریح شده است، دعوت می‌کند.

ردیف	نام شهر	شرح کار
۱	سپیدان	باقیمانده کارهای طراحی، ساخت، نصب تجهیزات و بهره‌برداری تصفیه‌خانه فاضلاب شهر سپیدان به ظرفیت ۴۴۰۰ متر مکعب در شبانه روز

مناقصه از طریق فرآیند پست ارزیابی تعیین شده در دستور العمل تأمین کالا و اجرائی کار بانک توسعه اسلامی (آوریل ۲۰۱۹) برای مناقصه رقابتی داخلی (NCB) انجام خواهد شد و در دسترس تمامی پیشنهاددهندگان از شرکت‌های واجد شرایط بانوی که در دستور العمل بانک مذکور تعریف شده، می‌باشد. علاوه بر این، لفظیاً پاراگراف ۱۸-۱۹ که سیاست IsDB را در مورد تعارض منافع از آن می‌دهد، ملاحظه کنید. مناقصیان علاقه‌مند واجد شرایط می‌توانند برای بررسی و کسب اطلاعات بیشتر، اسناد مناقصه را در ساعات اداری از شرکت آب و فاضلاب استان فارس به آدرس زیر از تاریخ انتشار آگهی دریافت نمایند. مناقصیان می‌توانند مجموعاً کامل از اسناد مناقصه به زبان انگلیسی و فارسی (نسخه فارسی صحت‌اطلاع) با درخواست کتبی در مقابل پرداخت هزینه انتشار آگهی به‌عهد برده مناقصه خواهد بود.

وزارت نیرو
شرکت آبفارس
نوبت اول
First Announcement

Iran celebrates Nat'l Day of Persian Poetry, Literature

Arts & Culture Desk

Iranians on Tuesday commemorated the National Day of Persian Poetry and Literature, paying tribute to the country's rich literary heritage and highly respected contemporary Persian poet, Mohammad-Hossein Behjat Tabrizi, known as Shahriar.

The anniversary of Shahriar's death, which typically falls on Sept. 18, is celebrated on that day, although this year it coincides with Sept. 17 due to the Iranian calendar.

Spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry Nasser Kan'ani marked the occasion by highlighting the significance of Persian poetry and literature in fostering empathy and connection with lovers of Iranian culture worldwide. "Persian poetry and literature are the valuable heritage of our history and ancestors, the essence of Iran's identity," Kan'ani wrote

on his X account. In the northeastern province of East Azarbaijan, 120 cultural programs were held to coincide with the anniversary of Shahriar's death, including poetry and music nights, calligraphy and painting exhibitions, and a ceremony to honor the poet's memory.

In Kermanshah Province, a grand ceremony was held which was attended by local artists, writers, and students. Pooriya Jalali, the provincial director of culture and Islamic guidance, emphasized the importance of literature in Iranian culture, saying that "from the beginning, our culture has been intertwined with poetry, and it is this connection that makes it essential for us to preserve and protect it."

In Alborz Province, literary events and poetry readings were held to celebrate the day, with many paying tributes to Shahriar's contributions to Per-

sian literature. Shahriar was a famous Iranian poet who died in 1988. His poetry is known for its themes of love, nature, and fairness, and has been translated into many languages.

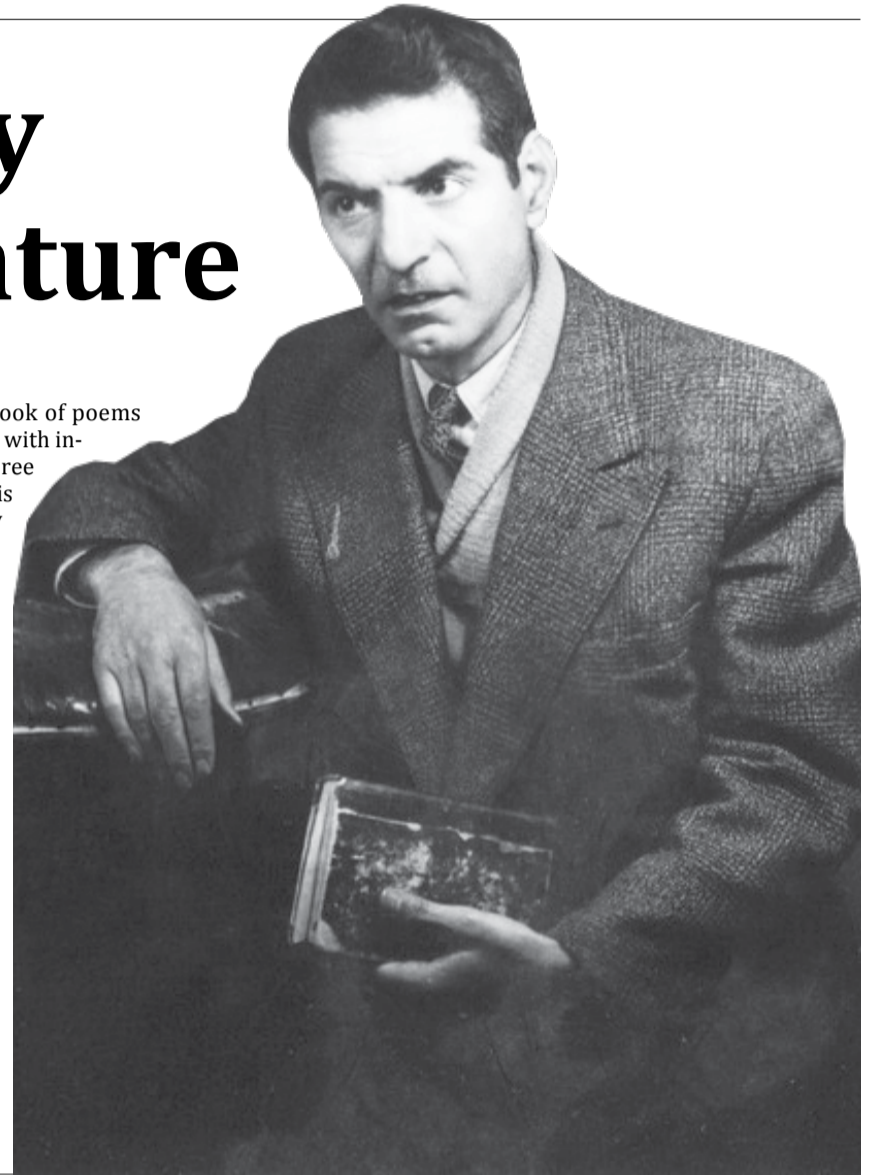
Born on January 2, 1906, near Tabriz City in East Azarbaijan Province, Shahriar showed a love for poetry at a young age. His first poems were published while he was still in high school in Tabriz.

At first, Shahriar wrote under his given name, Behjat. Later, he started using the pen name Shahriar. His first book of poetry, 'Divan-e Shahriar,' came out in Tehran in 1931 and got praise from well-known poets and scholars for its beautiful language and new ideas.

Shahriar wrote in many forms, including songs, four-line poems, and long poems. But he was most famous for his ghazals, which were influenced by another respected Iranian

poet, Hafez. Shahriar's first book of poems came out in 1929, with introductions by three notable writers. His poems are mostly influenced by Hafez. His most famous poem, 'Heydar Babaya Salam,' is considered one of the best modern poems in the Azeri language. It has been turned into several plays and translated into over 30 languages.

One reason for Shahriar's success is that he used everyday language in his poetry, making it easy for many people to understand.



Iran's stall named second best at Zimbabwe tourism expo



The Sanganai/Hlanganani World Tourism Expo, a key event on southern Africa's tourism calendar, wrapped up on September 14, with Iran taking the second spot as the best international exhibitor. The three-day exhibition, held at the Zimbabwe International Ex-

hibition Center in Bulawayo, is an annual event that brings together tourism stakeholders from across the region and beyond. The expo provides a platform for countries to showcase their tourism products and services, ISNA reported. The event, officially opened by

Zimbabwe's Minister of Tourism Barbara Rwdzi, aims to promote destinations, attractions, and tourism services to a global audience. It also allows tourism boards, travel agencies, and related businesses to showcase their products and services.

The expo facilitates networking and business-to-business meetings between tourism stakeholders, including tour operators, hoteliers, and industry players.

This year's event saw a significant increase in participation, with 408 exhibitors, up from last year. Regional and international exhibitors from countries such as Malawi, South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Tanzania, Nigeria, Angola, the UAE, and Iran took part in the exhibition.

Iran-Russia film 'Rekindle' wins top prize at Film7Days in Moscow

Iranian filmmaker Ata Mojabi's short film 'Rekindle' received the top prize at the international Film7Days event in Russia.

Mojabi's film, a neo-noir production shot entirely in Kazan, Russia, beat out other entries to win the first-place award at the festival, which was presented at the opening ceremony of the "Altyn Minbar" Kazan International Film Festival. 'Rekindle' was a collaborative effort between Iranian and Russian producers, and features Russian actors Ramil Vaziev and Gulchachak Garayeva.

The panel includes Iranian director Yoones Eskandari,



as well as directors from Brazil, China, Egypt, India, Russia, and South Africa. Other members of the panel include Paulo Roberto Jr of Brazil, Yu Lan of China, Omnia Adel of Egypt, Riwita Dutta of India, Leonid Demchenko and Hanna

Mironenko of Russia, and Martin Rossouw of South Africa. The Film7Days event, held annually in Kazan, Russia, brings together 10 filmmaking teams from around the world to produce a film within a 7-day period.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Israel's attack on ...

Meanwhile, US policymakers are continually trying to persuade Israel that they cannot expand the battlefield until the new American administration takes power. The Yemeni military has launched multiple attacks on Israeli military and economic targets in the occupied territories to halt the genocide of Palestinians in Gaza. Sunday's ballistic missile strike on Tel Aviv, which rendered Israel and its allies' air defense systems ineffective, has terrified Tel Aviv and its partners.

The occupying entity desires to attack Lebanon to prevent Hezbollah's relentless attacks on its military targets and settlers in the northern occupied areas but is afraid to act alone. It is engaging in conspiracies to involve its allies. Hezbollah has made it clear that if Israel initiates a major attack, it will retaliate in such a way that Israel will not have the ability to end the war. Hezbollah has also warned Israel's Western allies and patrons that any attack on Lebanon will lead to a war against all of Israel's allies, severely im-

pacting the US and Europe. Israel's nuclear assets will also be targeted. Hezbollah has already demonstrated some of its military capabilities to the world, including its underground missile firing system, which can target strategic locations across Israel. Israel made a grave mistake by destroying Gaza and pursuing its plan of genocide against Palestinians. Tel Aviv's traditional strategy of seizing land through genocide has not worked against the steadfast Palestinians in Gaza. Israeli defense experts

and military officials are repeatedly trying to convince their authorities to refrain from turning Israel and the world into a battlefield for baseless ideologies. If a large-scale attack is attempted on Lebanon, the response will not only come from Lebanon but also from Yemen, Syria, Iraq, and Gaza, bringing a rain of fire upon Israel, endangering Jewish civilians. A ceasefire is crucial for Israel's interests, while it holds little significance for the Resistance Axis, including Hamas and Hezbollah.