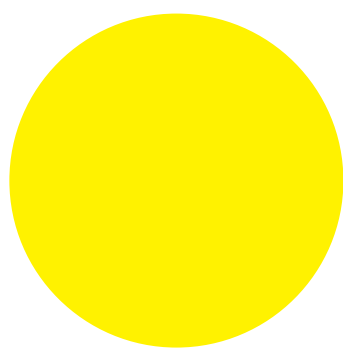


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# Iran Daily

Vol. 7672 • Tuesday, October 15, 2024 • Mehr 24, 1403 • Rabi' al-Thani 11, 1446 • 100,000 rials • 8 pages



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# Israel's Holocaust

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People react at the site of an Israeli airstrike around tents for displaced people inside the walls of Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir al-Balah, in the central Gaza Strip early on October 14, 2024.  
● UNRWA

### Netanyahu's antics threatening Zionist regime's future

By Mohammad Ali Senobari  
Director of New Vision

OPINION  
EXCLUSIVE

when he ordered the assassination of Hezbollah's martyr leader, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah. The assassination took place at a time that cannot be dismissed as coincidence: while Netanyahu was at the United Nations, and more importantly, without prior approval from the United States. Although the Biden administration later defended the assassination—despite it violating international law, state sovereignty, and the Four Geneva Conventions—this reckless act revealed a stark truth that had been simmering for years: Netanyahu no longer views the Zionist entity's interests as aligned with those of the United States in the same way the political establishment in Washington does. This may prove to be Netanyahu's most grievous mistake. It must be remembered that despite Washington's complicity in the massacres and crimes committed by the Zionist entity throughout the region, the United States views these ongoing wars as a serious threat to its own national interests.

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## Iran's non-oil exports up 6.5% y/y in H1 amid trade deficit



Iran's non-oil exports continued to rise in the first half of the current calendar year, according to figures by the country's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO). TPO's head Mohammad Ali Dehghan said on Sunday that the value of exports from Iran had reached a total of \$25.8 billion in the six months to September 21, up 6.5% from the same period last year, Press TV reported. Dehghan said the volume of export shipments had also increased by 3.4% year on year in April-September to reach 70 million metric tons. The official said imports into Iran were worth \$32.5 billion in first half of the current calendar year that started in late March, up 2.8% from the same period in 2023. The UAE, China, Turkey, Germany and India were the top five exporters to Iran over the period as they were responsible for 75% of the shipments supplied to the country, said the TPO chief. The figures mean Iran had a trade deficit of \$6.7 billion over the six months to late September which experts attribute to continued decline in the global prices of some commodities as well as a decrease in the Iranian natural gas exports.

# CBI chief: Iran, China, Russia 'very interested' to dump dollar in trade

## Iran to become BRICS bank shareholder

### Economy Desk

Iran, China, and Russia are "very interested" in ditching the US dollar in their trade dealings with other countries, opting instead to use local currencies, Governor of the Central Bank of Iran Mohammadreza Farzin said on Monday. "We are moving forward with conducting transactions in local currencies and phasing out the US dollar from international trade," Farzin told Russian broadcaster Russia Today (RT) on the sidelines of the second meeting of BRICS finance ministers and central bank governors in Moscow. Initially comprising five emerging economies – Brazil, Russia, India,

China, and South Africa – BRICS was set up in 2009 at Russia's behest. The group has since expanded to include Iran, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Ethiopia, with Saudi Arabia on the cusp of joining. Around 40 other countries have expressed interest in joining the forum. Farzin also hinted that BRICS member states were looking to create an alternative to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank. "The global financial system is largely built around the IMF, the World Bank, and Western countries and unfortunately, due to political dealings with those countries, the world is now looking for alternative arrangements," he said.

His comments echoed those of Russian Finance Minister Anton Siluanov, who had recently called on Moscow's partners to establish an alternative to the IMF to "counter political pressure from Western nations." Farzin also said that Iran intended to join the BRICS New Development Bank (NDB) as a shareholder and expressed hope that the institution would be able to "pursue many of the development goals of BRICS member states, as the World Bank currently operates within the framework of US and Western goals." The BRICS bloc launched the NDB in 2015 and initiated formal talks with potential new members in 2020. Since its inception,



the Shanghai-based lender has signed off dozens of multibillion-dollar proj-

ects in its member countries, stretching across sectors from transport,

water and sanitation to clean energy or digital and social infrastructure.

## Thermal electricity serves as Iran's top power resource

### Economy Desk

Thermal power plants (TPPs) are the main contributors to Iran's electricity grid despite their low efficiency and amid a growing power deficit, a senior manager at the country's largest thermal power producer said on Monday. Ismaeil Namazi, the head of the production technical office of the state-owned Thermal Power Plants Holding Co. (TPPHC) said TPPs churned out a record high

of 193mn megawatt hours (MWh) in the first half of the current Persian calendar year (March 20 - September 21), IRNA reported. According to Ismail Namazi, the figure represents a 2% increase compared to the same period a year earlier. With nearly 210 power plants in 29 provinces, the TPPHC is responsible for operating and developing the stations and facilitating private sector participation in thermal electricity

production. Namazi pointed out that TPPs generated 50,000 MW of power per day during the peak summer months. He stopped short of providing any further information about the total daily power output. However, Energy Ministry officials already stated that this summer's scorching temperatures pushed electricity consumption to an all-time high of 80,000 MW per day.

The above-mentioned figures indicate that TPPs remain the largest suppliers of electricity with a contribution of around 63%. Namazi also noted that daily thermal power output hit a high of 1.19mn MWh on August 24 amid an unprecedented heat-wave. The mismatch between power generation and consumption peaked at 18,000 MW this summer on the hottest days, which is expected to surge to 26,000 MW



per day next summer. Experts estimate that at least \$20bn is needed in investment to rein in the shortfall.

## Netanyahu's antics threatening ...

### A man out of alignment

#### Page 1 >

The divergence of interests between Netanyahu and the United States, especially with the Democrats, is not a new development. For over a year, Netanyahu has clashed with the Biden administration over expanding the conflict in Gaza and areas controlled by Hezbollah, repeatedly resisting Washington's calls for de-escalation. What was once a strong strategic alliance has now become a fragile partnership, tainted by mistrust and frustration. Netanyahu's willingness to act unilaterally, sometimes against the direct wishes of his closest allies, has not only isolated him from the Biden administration but has also alienated a growing faction of military and intelligence officials within the Zionist entity itself. But Netanyahu's actions are not driven by shortsightedness alone. His insistence on maintaining an aggressive stance stems from a deeper motivation: securing the unwavering support of the Zionist lobby in the United States, a powerful force in shaping American foreign policy. This support has emboldened Netanyahu to disregard American concerns, act independently, and orchestrate high-risk

political moves like the assassination of martyr Nasrallah. Yet, in a rapidly shifting geopolitical landscape, this once-solid pillar of support could crumble at any moment.

### Iranian missiles chart Israel-US ties

The assassination of martyr Nasrallah ignited a firestorm of violence. In the aftermath, Iran launched missiles at Tel Aviv, causing a level of destruction that the Zionist entity has desperately tried to conceal. Perhaps the most shocking development was the strike on the Navatim Air Base, a critical military hub. Reports of the destruction of F-35 hangars and the damage inflicted by Iranian missiles have shaken the Zionist entity's military foundations. Despite efforts by the Israeli regime to downplay the damage, top-secret images were soon leaked, courtesy of Maxar Technologies and Planet Labs. These satellite images, revealing the destruction of 27 F-35 hangars, were not only a severe breach of security for the occupation entity but also an implicit rebuke from the United States. Such sensitive imagery could not have surfaced without the tacit approval of American

authorities—namely the Pentagon and the National Reconnaissance Office. This leak sends a chilling message to Netanyahu: the U.S. will not remain passive while he continues dragging the Zionist entity, and by extension, American interests, into further chaos. These images are more than just a security breach; they mark a turning point in U.S.-Israel relations under Netanyahu. Washington's discontent has now been made clear in a way that cannot be ignored, by exposing the Zionist entity's vulnerabilities and proving the failure of Netanyahu's attempt to control the narrative surrounding its security.

### Biden's calculated silence

After the attack on Tel Aviv, Netanyahu sought immediate support from President Biden, hoping to secure American backing or at least a gesture of solidarity. What he received, however, was cold silence. Biden's refusal to return Netanyahu's call—an unprecedented snub between two leaders who once referred to each other as allies—speaks volumes. Biden's silence is not just a rejection of Netanyahu's overtures; it signals a strategic distancing of the U.S.

from Netanyahu's increasingly isolated regime. Behind the scenes, Netanyahu has reportedly tried to channel his frustration through back channels, insisting he was not acting in collusion with former President Donald Trump—a claim aimed at calming Democratic concerns about his loyalty. He framed the assassination as a national security imperative, citing martyr Nasrallah's meeting with a senior IRGC official as justification. But these explanations have fallen on deaf ears in Washington, where the Biden administration is focused on maintaining regional stability—stability Netanyahu's actions have continually jeopardized. In response to the Iranian strikes, Biden's reaction was predictably restrained. He condemned Iran and promised more sanctions but notably stopped short of threatening military retaliation. This restraint is more than just caution; it's a deliberate refusal to escalate tensions to satisfy Netanyahu's belligerent ambitions. Washington's message is clear: the Zionist entity's war with Iran, provoked by Netanyahu's reckless provocations, is not America's war.

### High price for Zionist regime's future

Netanyahu's gamble in assassinating Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah has spiraled into a much larger crisis, one that could determine his political fate. Whispers of Netanyahu's possible resignation have grown louder, as pressure mounts from both inside the Zionist entity and its closest ally, the United States. American patience is running thin, and Netanyahu's ability to justify his aggressive tactics both domestically and internationally is rapidly crumbling. The damage to the Zionist entity's military infrastructure, combined with growing opposition within Netanyahu's own government, has left him in a precarious position. The public, exhausted by years of conflict, is losing faith in Netanyahu's leadership. His decision-making is now being openly questioned, and the once-unchallenged image of him as the occupation entity's ultimate defender is falling apart. Even more concerning is Netanyahu's increasingly shortsighted approach to diplomacy, which is isolating the Zionist entity on the world stage. As Biden distances the U.S. from its reckless military cam-

paigns and the international community calls for a ceasefire, Netanyahu's days of acting with impunity appear numbered. His failure to align the occupation entity's strategic interests with those of its most important allies, while relying on the waning influence of Zionist lobby groups to shield him from repercussions, has put the regime in a vulnerable position. It now faces real and significant threats from multiple actors, including Hezbollah, Hamas, Iran, Yemen, and Iraq.

### Political implications

As the U.S. presidential election approaches, the consequences of Netanyahu's actions will extend far beyond the Zionist entity's borders. The assassination of martyr Nasrallah and the ensuing chaos could influence American voters, especially as Democratic candidates emphasize Netanyahu's defiance of U.S. policy and his destabilizing role in the Middle East. For the Biden administration, distancing itself from Netanyahu could prove politically advantageous, as it seeks to position itself as a stabilizing force on the global stage, in sharp contrast to the chaotic legacy of the Trump-Netanyahu

era. Meanwhile, Netanyahu's domestic adversaries in the Zionist entity are gaining momentum. Calls for his resignation are growing louder, and revelations of the damage to the Navatim Air Base have only heightened the sense of failure and helplessness surrounding his leadership. With the public growing increasingly weary of endless conflict and uncertainty about the future, they may soon decide that Netanyahu's gamble was a costly mistake.

### End of Netanyahu?

In the end, Netanyahu's decision to assassinate Martyr Hassan Nasrallah may go down in history as a catastrophic miscalculation—one that precipitated the very collapse he sought to avoid. His disregard for American interests, reckless military strategies, and failure to secure peace at home or abroad have left the Zionist entity more vulnerable than ever before. With the United States pulling away and Netanyahu's enemies closing in, his political future—and perhaps the entire security of the occupation entity—now hangs in the balance, battered by threats from multiple military and political fronts.



# Cultural bonds between Kerman and neighboring regions



Vakili Caravanserai of Kerman  
● tandistb.ir

Iranica Desk

Today, advancements in technology and the emergence of new communication and media tools facilitate rapid exchanges and interactions between different civilizations and geographical regions. However, in past millennia and centuries, communication was often limited to local geographical boundaries. In the realm of culture and its subfields, such as media, interactions and communications between nations and civilizations have existed since ancient times. Although these communications were slow and limited, discovered artifacts and motifs suggest that humans engaged in cultural exchanges even with distant places. In fact, the cultural interactions between civilizations can be observed despite vast distances. For example, during the Neolithic period (9,000 to 6,000 years ago), traces of such exchanges are evident between the civilization of southern Kerman and its neighbors.



An archeological site in Jiroft  
● iranwonders.com



Esfandagheh Plain  
● lovarjontoub.ir

Kerman Province, with its rich civilizational artifacts, has been a significant region due to its position along the spice route and proximity to Eastern civilizations, thereby enabling cultural exchanges with various ethnic groups and civilizations, in addition to trade and the movement of goods. An official from the Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts, and Tourism Organization of Kerman Province emphasized the region's cultural interactions. He stated, "Throughout history, media, ideas, and cultures have been exchanged, and this exchange continued through eras such as the pre-stone age and rural and urban settlements, with evidence of this exchange still present today in the civilization of southern Kerman and its neighboring cultures." Nader Alidadi Soleymani noted that the historical site of Esfandagheh dates back to the Neolithic period. He remarked, "I have had the opportunity to work at this site for three seasons, and the findings indicate intellectual and cultural connections between the people of distant and neighboring regions." He emphasized that the Esfandagheh archaeological site contains architectural remains of a temple and valuable Neolithic-era artifacts, including significant human figurines. The archaeologist continued, "In addition to the pottery discovered

at the historical site of Esfandagheh, there are seals that, when compared to designs found in excavations in Syria and southeastern Turkey, suggest they originate from the same culture and demonstrate the craftsmanship of a skilled artisan. However, the production distance exceeds 2,000 kilometers, highlighting the connections established between these regions." He described Jiroft and southern Kerman as among the oldest, richest, and few remaining sites of urban civilization from the beginning of the third millennium BCE, emphasizing the intensified connections in this region — especially with the West, Mesopotamia, modern southern Iraq, and the Indus River in present-day Pakistan. Soleymani noted that cultural exchange has persisted throughout all historical periods, reaching its peak during the Safavid era. "Interestingly, during the Safavid period, Kerman experienced a flourishing time in cultural exchanges due to the influence of a powerful figure named Ganjali Khan." He also highlighted the numerous historical caravanserais in Kerman Province, stating, "A strong communication network has been established thanks to the existence of caravanserais, which are still in use today. We

can find them along the roads to Khorasan, Yazd, Rafsanjan, and Sirjan." He added that as caravans move, the exchange of ideas and culture occurs alongside them. Even today, we observe that information enters regions through individuals known as 'pileh var' (small-scale traders). The historical sites of Jiroft have contained valuable artifacts throughout the third millennium BCE and are considered some of the richest historical sites in the world. The discovery of a written tablet in Jiroft shifted scholarly attention from Mesopotamian civilization to Jiroft itself, as a large ziggurat over five thousand years old was also discovered in this region, fundamentally transforming the history of the Middle East. Among the remnants of this great civilization is Konar Sandal Hill, located 30 kilometers from the city of Jiroft, known for its southern and northern Konar Sandal Hills. According to experts, these hills are a few kilometers apart and stand at heights of 13 and 21 meters, respectively. Finally, the Esfandagheh Plain, situated 80 kilometers northwest of Jiroft, has recently yielded archaeological evidence confirming that settlement in this region dates back 8,180 years.



Konar Sandal Hill  
● yjc.ir

## Archeological treasures unearthed at Kan Gonbad Cemetery

Iranica Desk

Archaeological excavations at the Kan Gonbad Cemetery in Ilam Province have revealed a history dating back to 2600 BCE. Habibollah Mahmoudian, a faculty member at the Islamic Azad University of Ilam, told ISNA that Kan Gonbad is located southwest of the city of Ilam, along the secondary road from Mar Barreh village to Gol-Gol village near Malekshahi. This graveyard, situated in the northern region of Nakhjir Mountain, was excavated in 1986 by a team from Iran's Cultural Heritage Organization. Mahmoudian noted that numerous graves in this cemetery were uncovered in four distinct work-shops. He emphasized that this

ancient site was a significant location for sedentary settlement during the pre-Elam and Elam periods. The area surrounding Kan Gonbad held considerable importance during the Bronze Age and the establishment of the Kassites, ISNA wrote. The archaeologist highlighted that most artifacts discovered at the Kan Gonbad Cemetery are made of bronze, including daggers, arrows, hooks, banners, bracelets, and metal rings. He also mentioned the presence of two types of pottery: plain and decorated. The plain pottery is predominantly red, with some examples being black or dark-colored, indicating they are handmade. The ceramic artifacts include small bowls, jars, and handled vessels. A report from the archaeological

team describes a cylindrical bead made of a greenish stone, measuring 22mm in height and 9mm in diameter, featuring an engraving of a bull with raised horns standing in front of a tree. Moreover, Mahmoudian noted that the discovered necklaces consist of stone and shell beads, including both small and large agate stones. Only half of a stone bowl made of sedimentary fossil material has been found at this cemetery. The name Ilam comes from Elam, the pre-historic civilization that ruled the area in modern southwest Iran from 2700 BCE to 539 BCE. Archaeological findings date human settlement of the area to around 5000 BCE. Ashurbanipal, the then king of Assyria, invaded Elam in 639 BCE and totally destroyed it.



● yjc.ir





# Experts weigh in: Can Iran and US cooperate amid turmoil in Mideast?



By Shahab  
Shahsavari  
Journalist

INTERVIEW

*One year after the onset of the war in Gaza, it is believed by many experts that the US and Iran are the two influential players in this conflict. For this reason, this question was raised in a conversation with several prominent Iranian and American experts: whether there is any scope for cooperation between the two sides to contain tensions in the Middle East.*



A staff member removes the Iranian flag from the stage after a group picture with foreign ministers and representatives of United States, Iran, China, Russia, Britain, Germany, France and the European Union during the Iran nuclear talks at the Vienna International Center in Vienna, Austria July 14, 2015.

● CARLOS BARRIA/REUTERS

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Both the US and its Western allies agree that the Gaza war must end, the path for humanitarian aid to the people of Gaza must be opened, and a ceasefire must be established.

There are two main perspectives on the current tensions: first, that Tehran and Washington - as the main supporters of the Resistance Axis and Israel, respectively - can pressure their allies to reduce tensions. And second, that Israel (an ally of the US) and the Resistance Axis (an ally of Iran) are proxy forces engaged in a proxy war to serve the interests of the US and Iran, respectively. In both perspectives, the role of Tehran and Washington in the current conflict is significant.

Proponents of the first perspective, who make up a large portion of observers and analysts, believe that Iran and the US, each for their own interests and motivations, are opposed to the escalation of tensions in the region. They argue that, having found themselves in a situation where their allies have become embroiled in a widespread conflict, the two sides can interact with each other to prevent the conflict from spreading further and even cooperate to achieve a ceasefire and halt hostilities.

Among the experts, Michael Wahid Hanna, a researcher at the Crisis Group think tank, and Ahmad Dastmalchian, Iran's former ambassador to Lebanon, believe that Iran and the US have different motivations for preventing the spread of war in the region, but since their goal is common, they can cooperate to reduce tensions.

On the other hand, there are experts who believe that the current war in the Middle East is, in fact, a confrontation between the US and Iran. Many conservative analysts and supporters of Israel in the US, as well as a number of conservative analysts in Iran, believe that Israel is responsible for protecting US interests and implementing US demands in the Middle East, while the Resistance Axis groups are Iran's arms for implementing Iranian demands. Whether Israel is an agent of the US in the Middle East or whether Washington is unable to control Israel due to the influence of the Israeli lobby is an issue that remains a subject of debate among American analysts. Thinkers like Stephen Walt and John Mearsheimer argue that the US is unable to control Israel due to the influence of the Israeli lobby, despite its own wishes, while Jewish thinkers like Norman Finkelstein and Noam Chomsky argue

that Israel is an agent of US interests in the Middle East.

Among the experts, Hamidreza Azizi, taking into account recent developments, was somewhat closer to the view that, given Israel's recent successes in damaging Hezbollah in Lebanon, the US is satisfied with the current trajectory of events and the approaching goal of weakening Iran's allies in the region. Therefore, he believes that there is no possibility of interaction between Tehran and Washington to bring the region closer to reducing tensions and stopping the conflict.

Below are the answers of Michael Wahid Hanna, a researcher at the Crisis Group think tank, Sina Azodi, a professor at George Washington University, Hamidreza Azizi, a researcher at the German Institute for International and Security Affairs, and Ahmad Dastmalchian, Iran's former ambassador to Lebanon, to questions on this topic.

## Two parallel lines in one direction

### Michael Wahid Hanna

Despite the contact between Iran and the US, it is a mistake to assume that the current situation in the region and the messages being exchanged mean that there is an opportunity for cooperation between the two countries. In reality, Iran and the US are working in parallel to avoid a comprehensive regional war.

I believe that the Biden administration has completely focused on reducing tensions in the region, and Iran is one of the main issues in this effort. Over the past year, there have been various forms of messaging and indirect communication between Iran and the US. The channels for communication between Iran and the US have been one of the most important tools for managing expectations regarding current issues in the region.

From Iran's perspective, there is hope that the Biden administration can control Israel, and on the other hand, the US is trying to convey the message to Iran that Tehran and its regional allies should reduce tensions and not exert more pressure for further retaliatory operations.

At the same time, it should not be forgotten that the calendar and political

climate in the US, just a few weeks before the elections, are a very important variable.

There is no doubt that the Biden administration wants to avoid a comprehensive regional conflict that would draw the US into the region, but in the electoral climate, it faces limitations in communicating with Iran.

## No prospect for interaction

### Hamidreza Azizi

From last spring to the present, we have moved from a space where interaction between Iran and the US was underway and there was a sense that Tehran and Washington were inclined to reduce tensions, to a space where tensions are increasing every day and there is no clear prospect for interaction between the two sides.

Considering all the circumstances, there is no room for dialogue and tension reduction between Iran and the United States. There are factors in both countries that make it impossible to have a conversation or negotiations between Iran and the US at present. On the American side, Washington's approach to Israel's actions in the region, not just in Gaza but also in Lebanon, has changed, especially given the reactions of American officials to recent events in Lebanon.

I believe that the US approach has changed compared to what we saw in the first few months of the Gaza war. Currently, the emphasis and efforts on the American side to establish a ceasefire and stabilize the situation no longer exist. There are two main reasons for this. First, given the developments over the past year in Gaza and the several rounds of negotiations that reached the brink of a ceasefire, it became clear to the US that Benjamin Netanyahu's domestic considerations as the Prime Minister of Israel mean that he does not want a ceasefire and intends to continue operations under any circumstances. Therefore, the levers that the US thought it could use to push Israel towards a ceasefire either failed or were never implemented, such as stopping arms shipments to Israel due to domestic considerations. The second factor was the developments over the past month, which have led to a significant shift in the US

approach to the war, and given Israel's achievements on the ground and the blows it has dealt to Hezbollah, this has created hope in Washington that the project the US has been pursuing for years in Lebanon, which it could not implement as it wanted, is now being achieved by Israel. Washington sees these developments as a means to weaken the Iran axis in the region.

As Netanyahu said after the assassination of Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, from the perspective of Israel and Washington, these events can be a move towards a new order in the region. Reports suggest that before the recent Israeli attacks on Lebanon, Biden's advisors gave Netanyahu the green light for these actions. It appears that these actions are being taken in the interests of the US. As long as Washington sees this potential in Israel to change the balance of power in the region in its favor, the US will not be inclined to reduce tensions.

In my opinion, on the Iranian side, given the situation of Iran's allies, particularly Hezbollah, it is such that showing a willingness to engage in diplomacy is interpreted as weakness, and therefore Iran, as far as I have observed, presents its messages to the West in the form of warnings rather than a willingness to interact. Iran openly states that if the war expands to Iran, it will respond extensively.

In my opinion, both sides are currently trying to change their red lines and draw new ones. As long as this process is underway and field developments are changing the political landscape, I don't think there is a real prospect for reducing tensions. The only area for interaction is the issue of Iran itself, and Washington's concern is that the war should not turn into a direct war between Iran and Israel.

Otherwise, the step-by-step operations that Israel continues to carry out against Iran's allies in the form of limited operations are supported by the United States. However, the disagreement is that if Israel responds strongly to Iran's recent military operations and this response goes beyond the usual rules of engagement, it may put the achievements Israel has made so far at risk, and more importantly for Washington, it may put US interests in the region at risk.



For these reasons, I don't see a prospect for interaction between Iran and the US. We need to consider that due to the upcoming elections, the US is focused on the presidential elections in a few weeks, and it does not want a major crisis to occur in the foreign policy sphere that would have significant and direct impacts on US interests, in a way that would require direct US intervention, either extensive or limited. In any case, the US wants to be in the loop of Israel's plans and not be caught off guard. In fact, Washington wants the achievements Israel has made so far in countering Iran's allies to be preserved and, at the same time, it prefers that nothing happens that Iran gets extensively involved in the conflict. Let's not forget that it was last spring that there was talk of an unwritten understanding between Iran and the US for a prisoner exchange, the release of frozen Iranian assets, and a reduction in tensions between the two countries, including avoiding attacks by Iran's allies on US interests and US non-interference in Iran's secret oil exports. If Mr. [Masoud] Pezeshkian had been elected as president last spring and had raised the slogan of improving relations with the West, we would have been facing a different situation. However, after Hamas's operations last fall and the start of the war in Gaza, we are

facing different realities in the region, including attacks by Iran's allies on US interests, which, after the killing of US personnel and extensive US attacks on the positions of Iran's allied groups in Iraq, were resumed as part of the previous understanding between Tehran and Washington. As a result, from last spring to the present, we have moved from a space where interaction between Iran and the US was underway and there was a sense that Tehran and Washington were inclined to reduce tensions, to a space where tensions are increasing every day and there is no clear prospect for interaction between the two sides.

Resolving Iran-US issues after Gaza War

**Ahmad Dastmalchian**  
To stop the current conflicts in the Middle East, the most effective step the Americans should take is to stop Israel's countless crimes in the region. The whole world is united in condemning Israel's actions in the region, considering them to be against international and humanitarian laws and norms. There is no doubt that the focal point of the current crisis in the Middle East is the Israeli war in Gaza and, more recently, Lebanon. Currently, there are two perspectives on the role of the US in the current

elections, Washington will be more active in containing tensions and crisis in the Middle East and will enter into negotiations and dialogue. Of course, there is another perspective that some observers and analysts believe that Israel is, in fact, carrying out US orders, and what Israel is doing in the Middle East is advancing US desires and plans in the region. I do not entirely agree with this perspective. In my opinion, there is no basis or will for direct confrontation from the US. Based on the US approach to managing and containing the crisis, the US intends to take a high-risk approach to confronting Iran, and as long as the US does not have such an intention, Iran also does not have an inclination to engage in such a confrontation. Such a confrontation is possible only if the crisis in the region completely gets out of control, and in that case, the situation will change, and it is unclear what situation the Middle East will face. But as long as crisis management is implemented by both sides, there is no reason for direct confrontation between Iran and the US in the region. To stop the current conflicts in the Middle East, the most effective step the Americans should take is to stop Israel's countless crimes in the Middle East. The whole world is united in condemning Israel's actions in



US President Joe Biden (R) meets with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at the White House in Washington on July 25, 2024. ● ANDREW HARNIK/GETTY IMAGES

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Both sides (Iran and the US) are currently trying to change their red lines and draw new ones.

situation in the Middle East. Some analysts and observers believe that the US and Iran are trying to manage the crisis. From this perspective, it seems that there is a shared understanding between Iran and the US, which, unlike Netanyahu, who wants to expand the crisis to save his own political fate, Tehran and Washington do not have an inclination to expand the conflict due to their own interests. Of course, Iran and the US have different motivations. Iran has its own reasons and motivations, and the US has its own. Direct and indirect talks between Iran and the US to prevent the escalation of tensions in the region began during the presidency of the late President Ebrahim Raisi. In my opinion, now is a good opportunity to create a connection between Tehran and Washington and prevent the situation from getting out of control. If a widespread war breaks out in the region, it will not only put Iran's interests at risk, but also those of the US. Given the predicted dire situation ahead, it is essential for the US to take the initiative and engage in constructive dialogue with effective parties in the region. Although the US is currently on the eve of elections and the government is heavily focused on domestic affairs, I believe that after the

the region, considering them to be against international and humanitarian laws and norms. There is no doubt that the focal point of the current crisis in the Middle East is the Israeli war in Gaza and, more recently, Lebanon. Both the US and its Western allies agree that the Gaza war must end, the path for humanitarian aid to the people of Gaza must be opened, and a ceasefire must be established. Almost all world leaders, not just Muslim countries, but Western countries and even the US, constantly emphasize the need for a ceasefire in Gaza as a prerequisite for stopping the conflict, at least in word. The focal point of the current crisis in the Middle East is the Gaza war. If the countries of the region, Iran, and the US, in cooperation with other countries of the world, can tame Netanyahu through interaction and cooperation and stop the continuation of this war, I believe that other issues between us and the US can be reviewed in a negotiating process and resolved in the same way that was done previously in the framework of the JCPOA, within the framework of national interests.

The full article was first published by Persian-language Hammihan daily.

# An opportunity that Netanyahu should be denied



● REUTERS

By Mostafa Shirmohamadi  
Editor-in-chief  
**OPINION**

A few hours after the inauguration of Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian on July 30, Ismail Haniyeh, the head of Hamas' political bureau, who had traveled to the Iranian capital to attend the ceremony, was assassinated at his residence in northern Tehran in the wee hours of the day.

No one expected such a shocking incident to happen in the early days of Pezeshkian in office – a reformist president, who had won Iran's July election with a campaign promise to lift US sanctions on Iran through negotiations and improve relations with other countries. The finger was pointed at Israel, which had long been involved in killing Palestinian and Lebanese resistance leaders. It is no secret that Israel stood to gain the most from Haniyeh's murder, although the regime did not claim responsibility.

Israel's warmongering Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu could have ordered the assassination of Haniyeh in another country, such as his permanent residence in Qatar or Turkey, but his choice of Tehran and the timing which came shortly after Pezeshkian's swearing-in appeared to be deliberate. Less than two months after Haniyeh's assassination, another targeted killing took place; this time in Lebanon's capital Beirut. While Netanyahu was addressing the UN General Assembly in New York on Friday, Israeli warplanes bombed buildings where Hezbollah Secretary-General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah and several other leaders of the movement, as well as a senior commander of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, had come together for a meeting. The massive bombardment leveled the buildings, killing Nasrallah and others. The assassination of Nasrallah, who is seen as the most prominent leader of the Middle Eastern resistance movement against Israeli occupation, came hot on the heels of the talks Pezeshkian and his Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi held with leaders and foreign ministers of the parties to the 2015 nuclear deal, known as the JCPOA, on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly meeting to set the stage for the resumption of negotiations to resuscitate the tattered agreement and lift hefty sanctions on Iran. Over the years, Netanyahu had done his utmost to hinder an agreement between the Islamic Republic and the West on the Iranian nuclear program and demonized Iran's peaceful nuclear work by falsely claiming that the country was just a few days away from making an atomic bomb. Netanyahu failed to achieve his goal during the term of former US president Barack Obama, but his successor, Donald Trump, fulfilled his dreams by walking out of the JCPOA

in 2018 and imposing "toughest ever" sanctions on Iran. It is not hard to imagine how much Netanyahu is terrified of Pezeshkian's possible efforts to resume nuclear talks and seek détente with the European Union, and, to some extent, the United States. It appears that Netanyahu dealt his first blow to Pezeshkian's government by killing Haniyeh in Tehran and delivered a second one to potential efforts to ease tensions by assassinating Nasrallah. Political factions in Iran that are opposed to negotiations on the nuclear issue have come out again, shouting that Iran should not engage in any direct or indirect talks with the US, as it is the main supporter of the Israeli regime and its terrorist actions. It stands out a mile that the Pezeshkian administration should not fall for such provocations as this is a trap set by Netanyahu to nip in the bud any potential diplomatic efforts to ease tensions between Iran and the West. The Israeli premier has a long history of torpedoing any such rapprochement. The assassination of Nasrallah, Haniyeh and others has hurt the feelings of millions of Muslim and non-Muslim supporters of the Resistance Front. However, while reserving the right to hit back at Israel over its heinous crimes and avenge the resistance leaders, Iran should act shrewdly and steer clear of walking into Netanyahu's trap of closing the gate to diplomacy on the nuclear standoff. By carrying out such assassinations in recent months, Netanyahu aimed to kill two birds with one stone, as the saying goes. He has already achieved his first goal by liquidating a number of top leaders and commanders of the Resistance Front, but he should not be given the chance to attain his second goal, that is to sabotage Iran's foreign policy.



## AFC Asian Qualifiers

## Iran eyeing victory over Qatar to lead Group A

Islamic Republic of Iran and Qatar are set for a blockbuster clash when they meet today in Group A of the AFC Asian Qualifiers - Road to 2026.

Iran lead the standings together with Uzbekistan while a win for Qatar will see the two-time AFC Asian Cup™ champions drawing level with Tuesday's opponents, the AFC wrote.

Iran had to be satisfied with a draw against Uzbekistan on Thursday and will know that they can't afford to drop points against Qatar.

Particularly concerning for head coach Amir Ghalenoei will be the fact that goals have been hard to come by, with Iran only having found the back of the net twice in three matches.

Thursday's 3-1 win against Kyrgyz Republic was Qatar's first triumph of their campaign and head coach Marquez Lopez will be hoping the victory was the booster his side needed in their bid to qualify for the FIFA World Cup Finals on merit for the first time.

The West Asian side will go into the tie with the psychological ad-



● AFC

vantage of having defeated Iran 3-2 in thrilling AFC Asian Cup semi-final in February.

Meanwhile, Uzbekistan will have a great opportunity to boost their hopes of an inaugural appearance at the FIFA World Cup when they host the United Arab Emirates in

Group A of the AFC Asian Qualifiers on Tuesday.

The Central Asian side lead the standings ahead of Islamic Republic of Iran on goal difference and victory against UAE will see them opening a six-point gap against Tuesday's opponents.

Having dropped two points at home against Iran on Thursday means Uzbekistan have to win against UAE if they are to stay ahead in the race for the two automatic spots to the FIFA World Cup. Vlado Radmanovic, standing in for indisposed head coach Srecko

Katanec, felt his players had done well against Iran but will emphasise on the need for Uzbekistan to get back on the winning trail against the UAE.

Head coach Paulo Bento did not hold back after his side's 1-1 draw with DPR Korea on Thurs-

day, with the Portuguese admitting UAE did not deserve to win against the East Asians.

Bento, who previously guided Portugal and Korea Republic to the global showpiece, will expect a reaction from his players despite Uzbekistan having the advantage of playing at home.

Also on Tuesday, it will be a meeting between two teams desperately in need of a win when Kyrgyz Republic welcome DPR Korea to the Dolen Omurzakov Stadium for their AFC Asian Qualifiers.

Debutants Kyrgyz Republic have yet to register points on the board while DPR Korea only have two from their previous three matches. Thursday's 3-1 defeat to Qatar was the biggest margin of defeat Kyrgyz Republic have suffered in their campaign so far as the Central Asian side have generally been competitive against their higher ranked opponents.

However, victory is needed if they are to keep their hopes alive - with the top two teams to earn automatic spots in the global showpiece while the third and fourth-placed sides to advance to a playoff.

DPR Korea are in a slightly better position as their two points mean they are just two adrift of United Arab Emirates and Qatar, while pacesetters Uzbekistan and Islamic Republic of Iran are on seven.

Sin Young Nam felt his team can do better after their 1-1 with UAE on Matchday Three and the DPR Korea head coach will be expecting his side to take all three points in Bishkek.

## Sinner wins Shanghai Masters to deny Djokovic 100th career title

World number one Jannik Sinner defeated 24-time Grand Slam champion Novak Djokovic 7-6 (7/4), 6-3 on Sunday to win the Shanghai Masters.

Sinner took a crucial break in the fourth game of the second set to defeat the Serb in 1hr 37min and deny him a 100th career singles title, AFP reported.

Facing off before an impassioned crowd, neither player blinked in the first set, unable to break the other's serve.

In the tiebreak Sinner quickly took control, breaking Djokovic's serve on the first point and going 5-1 up.

The Serb steadied himself but then netted a volley to bring up set point at 6-3.

Sinner failed to convert initially but didn't miss the second time behind serve.

The next key moment came in the fourth game of the second set, when Sinner was up 40-15 on Djokovic's serve.

Djokovic saved one break point with a fiery ace, but couldn't stop a superb forehand down the line from Sinner that saw him pull ahead.

All that remained was for the Italian to hold his nerve, hitting an ace to finish the match and claim the title.

Sinner's victory is the latest triumph in a formidable season, in which he has won two Grand Slams and retained the top spot in the rankings since June.

But it is also a year that has seen him embroiled in controversy after he twice tested positive for a banned steroid in March.

In August, the International



● AFP

al Tennis Integrity Agency accepted Sinner's explanation that the drug entered his system unintentionally when his physiotherapist used a spray containing it to treat a cut, then provided massage and sports therapy to the player.

However, the World Anti-Doping Agency said last month it would appeal against the decision to clear him of wrongdoing and was seeking a ban of up to two years.

That news came as Sinner was contesting the China Open, where he lost in the final to Spain's Carlos Alcaraz, who was also watching from the stands on Sunday.

"This year has been very, very tough for me... At points I lost a little bit of smile," Sinner said on Sunday.

"It's never easy to play in these kinds of circumstances," he added.

"I feel like I'm strong when I go on the court trying to

not think about it... When I wake up, I try to focus on every single (match or practice) I do, but then of course I have moments when I think about it which is not comfortable." Djokovic said Sinner played "the big points better" and "deserved to win".

The 37-year-old said that getting a 100th title was "not a live-or-die type of goal", but he would keep trying.

Djokovic became the last man standing from tennis' golden era after Rafael Nadal announced his retirement this week and said that, despite the loss, he was pleased with his performance in Shanghai.

"I played pretty good, which gives me, I guess, a reason to believe that I can still play with these guys that are the best in the world at this level," he said.

"As long as that's the case, I guess I'll still feel the need to keep on competing and the motivation to be out there."

## Iranian rowers dazzle in Asian championships

Iranian rowing athletes have grabbed six colorful medals in the 2024 Asian Rowing Championships held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.

Iranian athletes won six medals in total at the 2024 Asian Rowing Championships, which took place in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, from October 10 to 14, reported Mehr News Agency.

The medals included two gold, three silver, and one bronze.

Iranian female rower Zeinab Norouzi won a gold medal in the lightweight women's single-scull rowing event.

Zeinab Norouzi and Kimia Zarei also claimed a gold medal in the women's lightweight double-sculls event.

Additionally, Iran's Kimia Zarei, Fatemeh Mojallal, Mahsa Javar, and Zeinab Norouzi secured a silver medal in the women's quadruple-sculls.



Fatemeh Mojallal won a silver medal in the heavyweight women's single-scull rowing event. Amir-Hossein Mahmoudpour claimed a silver medal in the lightweight men's

single-scull rowing event.

Finally, in the women's heavyweight double-sculls event, Kimia Zarei and Fatemeh Mojallal grabbed a bronze medal.

## Alipour bags bronze at 2024 IFSC Asian competitions



● MEHR

Iranian climber Reza Alipour bagged a bronze medal for his country at the IFSC Asian Championships Tai'an 2024.

Wu Peng of China won a maiden individual men's speed title due to Kazakhstan's Amir Maimuratov's false start in their duel, according to Mehr News Agency.

In his last competition, Alipour defeated Rishat Khaibullin with a time of 4.95s. The Kazak climber Rishat Khaibullin registered 5.12s.

The 2024 Asian Championships started on Oct. 9 in Tai'an, China and ended yesterday.



# Pezeshkian: Presence of outsiders not to benefit regional countries

International Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said regional countries themselves are able to settle their security issues by cooperation, stressing that the presence of extra-regional states would not be in the interests of countries in the region. "We believe that we can ensure security and address our problems through cooperation. This is the principled policy of Iran's government,"

Pezeshkian told Azerbaijan Deputy Prime Minister Shahin Mustafayev in Tehran on Monday. The Iranian president also reaffirmed Tehran's respect for the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, saying that the sovereignty of no country should be disregarded. He said that there is no need to construct walls along the borders in order to strengthen security and establish peace between the countries. He laid emphasis on im-

proving the cooperation between the two countries, saying that Iran welcomes establishment of railway and highway routes between the two countries and wants the continuation and expansion of cooperation in the fields of energy and agriculture. Pezeshkian also said that regional countries should pave the way for better relations between people in the region, stressing that Tehran welcomes all projects that further develop relations between the Is-



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (R) meets Azerbaijan's Deputy Prime Minister Shahin Mustafayev in Tehran on October 14, 2024. [president.ir](http://president.ir)

lamic countries. The Azerbaijani official, for his part, said that Baku attaches great importance to relations with Iran. Shahin Mustafayev underlined that his country wants to further improve its relations with Iran in various fields including economy, culture and security.



## Several Israeli soldiers killed, over 60 injured in Hezbollah drone attack



AFP

Hezbollah resistance group in Lebanon said it battled Israeli troops on Monday in south Lebanon, and announced several new attacks on Israel's positions in the occupied territories after its deadliest strike since the start of the war. A drone strike on an Israeli base near Binyamina, south of Haifa, killed four soldiers on Sunday night, while another 60 people were treated for mild to critical injuries, according to the Israeli volunteer rescue service United Hatzalah. Hezbollah said the attack was in response to deadly Israeli strikes in Lebanon Thursday. Hezbollah said it had targeted the Golani Brigade, an infantry unit of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) that has been deployed in

southern Lebanon. The claim of responsibility for the attack came shortly after the group released an audio message from its slain leader Hassan Nasrallah calling on its members to "defend your people, your family, your nation, your values and your dignity." Israeli air defense systems tend to be very reliable, but on Sunday, there were no reports of alerts in the Binyamina area at the time of the attack, raising questions of how the drone was able to penetrate so deep into the occupied territories without being spotted. Hezbollah said it had fired dozens of rockets toward the northern Israeli towns of Nahariya and Acre to engage Israel's air defense systems, while simultane-

ously launching the drone swarm. The IDF's top spokesperson Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari said the military would investigate how the drone got through without raising an alarm at the base. Israeli forces on Monday launched a string of new air strikes on Lebanon, including one on the north of the country which killed at least 18 people, according to the Lebanese Red Cross. Israel also faced new criticism over their alleged attacks on United Nations peacekeepers in southern Lebanon. Just before Sunday's attack, the Pentagon said it would deploy a high-altitude anti-missile system known as THAAD and its US military crew to Israel. After almost a year of tit-for-tat exchanges between Hezbollah and Israeli forces over the Lebanon border, Israel on September 23 intensified its strikes against targets in Lebanon and sent ground troops across the frontier a week later.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist



## Iran, Oman urge swift end to Israeli genocide in Gaza, Lebanon Pezeshkian asks Europe to stop Israel's strikes



International Desk

The foreign ministers of Iran and Oman called for an immediate international intervention to end Israel's genocide and acts of aggression in Gaza and Lebanon. Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and his Omani counterpart Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi made the joint call during a meeting in Muscat on Monday. The meeting focused on the dangerous situation resulting from the Israeli regime's crimes against the Palestinian and Lebanese people and the possibility of an expansion of war in the region. Araghchi and Busaidi called

for intensified diplomacy with regional and international players to protect peace and security and prevent the spread of insecurity and war. The Iranian foreign minister separately met with Mohammed Abdulsalam, senior representative of Yemen's National Salvation Government. Araghchi visited Oman as part of a diplomatic marathon to de-escalate the situation in the region as Israel pushes its deadly aggression against Lebanon and Gaza. He has so far traveled to Lebanon, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Iraq. In talks with regional authorities, the top Iranian diplomat conveyed his

country's message that it is fully ready for a "war situation" while working for establishing peace in the Gaza Strip and Lebanon. In recent weeks, Iranian officials have been in talks with many countries in an effort to stop Israel's genocidal war on Gaza and Lebanon.

Pezeshkian-Macron talks

Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian on Sunday in a phone call with his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron asked him to work together with other European countries to force Israel to stop the genocide and crimes in Gaza and Lebanon. Pezeshkian said Iran will support any proposal aimed at restoring "peace and security" to the region. The president emphasized that Iran favors a secure region free from war and conflict and welcomes any effort towards a cease-fire. He noted that Iran exercised restraint following the assassination of Hamas

leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran early in July, allowing Western diplomacy a chance to broker a truce agreement in Gaza. "However, the Zionists have demonstrated a disregard for any humanitarian framework and international law by intensifying their bombings and crimes in Gaza and extending them to Lebanon," Pezeshkian said. On October 1 and after nearly two months, Iran launched a missile barrage at Israeli military and intelligence bases in retaliation for the assassination of Haniyeh as well as Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah and a senior IRGC commander, who were both killed in a massive Israeli airstrike on southern Beirut. Macron, for his part, called on Pezeshkian to support a "general de-escalation" in the Gaza Strip and Lebanon, his office said. The two presidents also discussed ways to secure a cease-fire between Hezbollah and Israel.

## Israel's Holocaust Bombing targets Palestinian refugee camp

An Israeli airstrike on a hospital courtyard in the Gaza Strip early Monday killed at least four people and triggered a fire that swept through a tent camp for people displaced by the war, leaving more than two dozen with severe burns, according to Palestinian medics. The Israeli military claimed it targeted fighters hiding out among civilians, without providing evidence. In recent months it has repeatedly struck crowded shelters and tent camps, AP reported. The Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in the central city of Deir al-Balah was already struggling to treat a large number of wounded from an earlier strike on a school-turned-shelter that killed at least 20 people when the early morning airstrike hit and fire engulfed many of the tents. Media footage showed chil-

dren among the wounded. A man sobbed as he carried a toddler with a bandaged head in his arms. Another small child with a bandaged leg was given a blood transfusion on the floor of the packed hospital. Hospital records showed that four people were killed and 40 wounded. Twenty-five people were transferred to the Nasser Hospital in southern Gaza after suffering severe burns, according to the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital. Israel is still carrying out near-daily strikes across the Gaza Strip more than a year into the war, and has been waging a major ground assault in the north. Israel's offensive has killed over 42,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. Women and children make up more than half



AFP

the fatalities. Around 90% of Gaza's population of 2.3 million people have been displaced by the war, often multiple times, and large areas of the coastal territory have been completely destroyed. Israel has ordered the entire remaining population of the northern third of Gaza, estimated at around 400,000 people, to evacuate to the south and has not allowed any food to enter the north since the start of the month. Hundreds of thousands of

people from the north heeded Israeli evacuation orders at the start of the war and have not been allowed to return. That has raised fears among Palestinians that Israel intends to implement a plan devised by former generals in which it would order all civilians out of northern Gaza and label anyone remaining there a combatant — a surrender-or-starve strategy that rights groups say would violate international law.



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Vol. 7672 ● Tuesday, Oct 15, 2024 ● 100,000 rials ● 8 pages

# Iranian short film ‘Hooves Beat’ shines at Sharjah festival

## Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian short film ‘Hooves Beat’ has taken the top prize at the 11th Sharjah International Film Festival for Children and Youth (SIFFCY), beating out a French film in the final round of competition. ‘Hooves Beat’ won the Best International Short Feature Award at the festival, which was held from October 5 to 12 in Sharjah. During the week-long festival, a total of 98 films from 18 countries were presented, chosen from an impressive 1,834 submissions reaching 73 nations, highlighting the event’s importance as a key

venue for noteworthy cinematic works. The film, directed and produced by Fargol Masrurirad and Seyyed Hossein Zeitunnejad, previously won the Human Rights Award at the Kurdish Film Festival Berlin. ‘Hooves Beat’ tells the story of Tino, a teenager living with his parents in a border village in Kurdistan. His only friend is a horse that belongs to his father. An accident in the mountains forces Tino to make a difficult decision. Fereydoun Hamed, Shabbou Soleimani, and Mardin Sheikhmoradi are in the cast of the film. The film has been screened at nu-

merous international film festivals, including the Duhok International Film Festival, BUFF Malmö Film Festival in Sweden, the Chicago International Children’s Film Festival, and Seoul Yeongdeungpo International Extreme-Short Image & Film Festival. The Sharjah International Film Festival for Children and Youth was established in 2013 and is one of the most important children’s film festivals in the region. The festival aims to promote media literacy and creativity among children and young people, showcasing the best films about children and young people from around the world.



## Iran, Russia team up on first joint film production



Iran and Russia have sealed a deal on their first joint film production, a comedy-drama titled

‘The Iranian Heart Diamond,’ marking a significant step forward in their cinematic collabo-

ration.

According to a report by the Mehr news agency, the contract was finalized during a meeting of the entrepreneurship committee for film production, held in Moscow. Iranian producer Saber Emami and Russian producer Georgy Zhilkov were present at the gathering, where the project was greenlit.

The film, directed by Saeed Kes-havarz, will be a joint investment by Iran’s Avini Cultural and Artistic Institute and a Russian film company.

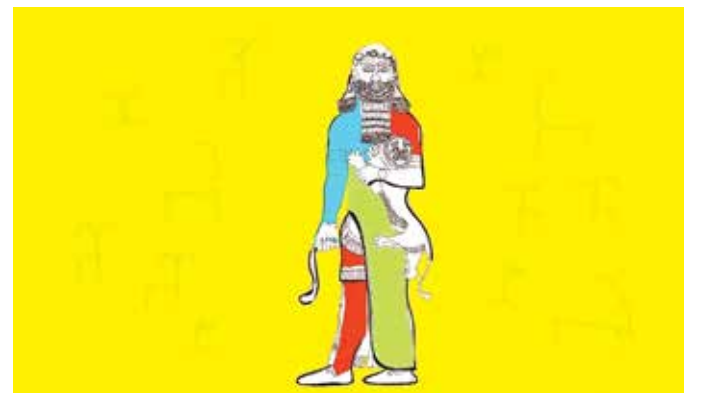
The production will also bring together cast and crew members from both countries.

## Iranian animation ‘Gilgamesh’ wins top prize at US festival

Iranian animation ‘Gilgamesh,’ has won the Best Short Animation at the Diversity Film Festival in the United States.

The 10-minute film, directed by Hossein Moradizadeh, tells the story of Gilgamesh, a legendary hero from ancient Sumeria, who embarks on a quest for immortality. The film was produced by the Institute for the Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults in Iran, Mehr News Agency reported.

Moradizadeh, the film’s director, was also a member of the jury at the fourth T-Short Animated Film Festival in Karl-



sruhe, Germany, in late summer. The Diversity Film Festival

celebrates diverse storytelling and filmmaking from around the world.

## Farrokh Shayesteh retrospective

# Contemporary museums at the confluence of past, present

By Saeideh Ehsani Rad  
Staff writer

The Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art has put on display the works of Farrokh Shayesteh, a 70-year-old Iranian artist with a career spanning nearly six decades. The exhibition, titled ‘Hamsafar-e Aftab’ (Companion of the Sun), is curated by Reza Dabiri-Nejad and features over 200 works from three periods of Shayesteh’s career in Iran and abroad. Reza Dabiri-Nejad, the curator of the exhibition, explained to Iran Persian-language newspaper that the show is a retrospective of Shayesteh’s life’s work, which began when he was just seven years old, learning the art of painting from his father, Sadr-al-Din Shayesteh Shirazi. Sadr-al-Din was a renowned artist and student of the Shiraz school of art, and had learned from masters such as Farrokh’s great-grand-

father, Lotfali Shirazi, and his great-great-grandfather, Aqa Sadeq. Sadr-al-Din had also learned *tazhib* (the art of illumination) from Muhammad Taghi Mazhab Bashi.

Sadr-al-Din was encouraged by Farrokh’s great-grandfather, Farrokh’s great-great-grandfather, and Kamal-al-Molk to pursue his artistic career in Tehran. He studied painting and sculpture at the Tehran School of Fine Arts for eight years and also achieved the degree of Ijtihad from the Sepahsalar School.

With this series of masters and apprentices, Sadr-al-Din became the last heir to the “Shiraz School” in his time through this series of masters and disciples. Farrokh Shayesteh’s early works were influenced by the Shiraz school of art, and he learned the traditional techniques of Persian painting from his father. However, as he grew older, he began to ex-

plore other styles and techniques. He was fascinated by the Impressionist movement and the works of artists such as Monet and Vermeer. He also came across a collection of Impressionist works in his father’s library, which sparked his interest in Western art.

In the 1950s, Farrokh became interested in modern Iranian art, particularly the installation works of Mohsen Vaziri Moghaddam. He traveled to India in 1976 and then to Europe, where he studied paint-

ing in France. However, he did not find the French art scene to his liking and returned to Tehran. Upon his return, Farrokh became interested in pop art, abstract expressionism, and minimalism, which were the dominant art movements in the United States at the time. He experimented with these styles, but eventually returned to traditional Iranian art forms, particularly miniature painting. This decision was initially met with skepticism by his



friends and teachers, but eventually gained recognition and acclaim. In addition to painting, Farrokh also learned printmaking and photography, and later became interested in digital art. He even taught comparative arts and visual communication at universities in Kyoto and Okinawa, Japan. Dabiri-Nejad considered this exhibition to be a narrative of the artist’s quest to connect the artistic heritage of his fathers with what he found in the East and West, and in the midst of all these travels, he remained Iranian, and now his narrative of being Iranian and contemporary is on display in his homeland. Farrokh Shayesteh’s exhibition is an effort to show how a museum narrative can be placed in a museum during an artist’s lifetime and to identify and introduce contemporary heritage. The show features 17 collections of his work, including paintings, prints, and digital art.

Dabiri-Nejad noted that museums are institutions that preserve and showcase cultural heritage, and that the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art is committed to promoting contemporary Iranian art. The museum’s goal is to create a narrative of Iranian arts and culture, and to identify and introduce contemporary artists who are making significant contributions to the field. Museums, according to Dabiri-Nejad, are institutions that stand on the border between past and present, and they continuously transform the present into history. They are responsible for adding to the collection of cultural heritage and providing a sense of identity for the community. The exhibition ‘Hamsafar-e Aftab’ is a significant milestone in the museum’s efforts to promote contemporary Iranian arts, and it provides a unique opportunity for audiences to experience the artistic journey of Farrokh Shayesteh.