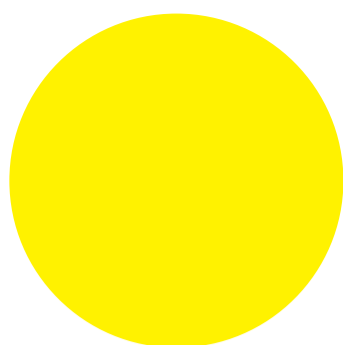


President submits draft budget bill to Parliament

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Pezeshkian: BRICS Eyes Ending US Unilateralism

Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian (c) arrives at the Kazan airport to attend the BRICS summit, hosted in the Russian city of Kazan from October 22 to 24.
● AFP

BRICS; a response to unipolar order



By Jafar Qannadbashi
Former Iranian diplomat

OPINION
EXCLUSIVE

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian is on a state visit to Russia to take part in the BRICS summit, marking one year since Iran's official membership in the bloc, founded by emerging economies. Iran's accession to BRICS and Pezeshkian's attendance at the Kazan summit are significant in multiple ways. Iran has now a member of another major international organization in addition to the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. BRICS is not solely a trade or security agreement; it's a coalition of countries opposing US global dominance, representing a new world order in contrast to the current unipolar system. Just as the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) was a response to the bipolar world of the past century, BRICS is a reaction to today's unipolar order. Countries that didn't want to be under the influence of the two traditional power blocs, the Soviet Union and the United States, came together in the NAM to protect themselves from the harm caused by the bipolar system. Now, countries critical of the unipolar order, particularly emerging economic powers, have joined forces under BRICS to shield themselves from the harm caused by the US-led unipolar system. As Pezeshkian said before departing for Russia, "The BRICS summit will strengthen our ties with member states and provide a way out of US unilateralism."

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Regional countries concur with easing tensions: *Iran*

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Joint art exhibition 'Patterns of Friendship' opens in St. Petersburg

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World at threshold of uncontrollable fury

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In the name of Allah

The Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance

17th International Award on Cultural Research (IACR)

The Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, introduces the best works and presents the researchers with a plaque of appreciation and a fine prize. It aims to appreciate and support the researchers who research in various cultural, art, and communication fields. Scientific and research centers, Iranian and foreign researchers, and experts if they have studied one of the topics of the CFP between 2023 and September 2024 (in the domestic division) and 2023 to 2024 (in the international division), are invited to send their studies to the festival secretariat. Research in the culture and cultural issues in/about Iran may be in one of the formats of a research project, master's thesis, doctoral thesis, authored book, paper (highly cited), or policy report. Pathological works that are practical and include solutions are given priority. The works of non-Iranian researchers are only accepted in the field of Islam and Iran.

Topics

New technologies and cultural future studies

- Startups
- Scholars
- Artificial intelligence
- Creative and cultural industries
- Expos
- Cultural marketing

Art

- Philosophy of art and sociology of art
- Traditional and Islamic arts
- History and stylistics of art
- Economy and art market
- Art education
- Management and artistic organizations
- Literary research and Persian language
- Art and literature of revolution and resistance
- Islamic Iranian architecture and urban planning
- Cinema and performing arts
- Music
- Artistic diplomacy

Culture

- Public culture
- Cultural history
- Theoretical issues of culture
- The cultural situation of Iran today
- The realms of culture (books and reading, etc.)
- Cultural diplomacy
- Cultural communication

Religious and Islamic research

- Quranic research and rhetoric
- History of Islam and Shiism
- History and biography of Ahl al-Bayt
- Studies of modern Islamic civilization
- Mysticism and Sufism
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- Jurisprudence studies (art and communication jurisprudence)
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- Pilgrimage studies and religious rites and rituals and religious institutions
- Nazr and endowment
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Specific prize for Emâd AFROUGH: (Critique and political-cultural strategies)

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WSA: Iran among top 10 crude steel producers despite power cuts

Economy Desk

Iranian steelmakers churned out 21.3 million tons of crude steel in the first nine months of 2024, according to statistics released by the World Steel Association (WSA) on Tuesday, indicating that the country ranks 10th among steel producing countries despite power cuts ordered for industries over the summer months.

The nine-month steel ingot production of Iranian mills indicated 3.1 percent of drop compared to the corresponding figure in 2023. The country's steel ingot production for September 2024 hit 1.5 million tons, registering a 41.2-percent drop compared to the figure for September 2023. World crude steel production for the 71 countries reporting to the association was 143.6 million tons in September 2024, a 4.7-percent decrease compared to September 2023.

China produced 77.1 million tons in September 2024, down 6.1% over September 2023, while India produced 11.7 million tons of steel ingots last month, down 0.2% compared to the figure for last year, as Japan produced 6.6 million tons, down 5.8% compared to the same month last year. The United States produced 6.7 million tons of crude steel in September, up 1.2%. Russia is estimated to have produced 5.6 million tons, down 10.3%. South Korea produced 5.5 million tons, up 1.3%. The World Steel Association is one of the largest and most dynamic industry associations in the world, with members in every major steel-producing country. The WSA represents steel producers, national and regional steel industry associations, and steel research institutes.

President submits draft budget bill to Parliament

Economy Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian submitted a draft state budget to the parliament for the Iranian calendar year 1404 that will start on March 21, 2025.

Pezeshkian presented a bill to the parliament containing the draft budget on Tuesday as he urged the lawmakers to cooperate with his administration and ratify the bill, IRNA reported.

He said the value of the draft budget for year 1404, including the budget earmarked to state companies, will be 504,890 trillion rials (\$77.675 billion at the free market rate).

The budget is more than 57% bigger than the budget for the current calendar year in terms of local currency.

The president said the budget would benefit many groups in the Iranian society, adding that people on lower income stratifications would have to pay less tax next year.

He also said the draft bill has given special consideration to a build-up of defense capabilities.

He said a basic principle of the budget bill, draft-



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (U) presents a draft state budget for the next Iranian year to Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf in Tehran on October 22, 2024.
● president.ir

ed by his administration after two months of tireless efforts, is strengthening Iran's defense power considering the regional

circumstances and the threats against the Iranian nation.

According to the internal regulations of the Iranian

Parliament, the administration should present the annual budget bill to the parliament in December at the most.

The bill is submitted by the president to the legislature for review and approval.

Once the parliamentarians

endorse the government's proposed budget bill, it will go to the Constitutional Council for ratification before becoming law.

Russia, Iran using local currencies in bilateral trade: *Kremlin*



National currencies are being used in more than 96% of mutual payments between Russia and Iran, the Kremlin's press service said on the verge of the

meeting between presidents of the two countries to be held on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit in Kazan.

"The leadership of both countries pay the most attention to development of trade and economic ties. Growth of mutual trade in 2023, despite a certain decline, totaled over \$4 billion. We record growth by 12.4% as of the end of January - August. The share of

national currencies in mutual payments is over 96%," the press service said, Mehr News Agency reported.

Russia and Iran are implementing several large-scale mutual projects in the realm of transport and energy, the Kremlin said. The International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) project is developing and Russian-Iranian relations are on the rise, the press service added.

BRICS; a response to...

The Islamic Republic of Iran is also among the countries strongly opposed to the US-led unipolar order, making its membership in BRICS a natural fit. Iran's membership, with its clear policy of fighting US hegemony worldwide, can contribute to BRICS' core policy of promoting multilateralism, demonstrating Iran's prominent position in international relations and its influence in the world. The international coalition that most closely aligns with the fundamental policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran is BRICS.

On the sidelines of the BRICS summit, the Iranian president will also have the opportunity to meet and discuss bilateral relations with the leaders of some participating countries, such as China, Russia, and India, which have good potential for developing ties with Iran. The meeting between Pezeshkian and his Egyptian counterpart on the fringes of the summit could also be noteworthy, paving the way for resolving some existing differences and restoring diplomatic relations between the two regional countries.

Energy diplomacy in shaping Iran's power dynamics

World countries have become increasingly reliant on each other for sustainable economic growth and trade benefits where anything that happens to one country also affects others. Today, political relations have become a function of the economic situation of countries where the prosperity of nations is transforming diplomatic relations and political equations, wrote Press TV. The urgent need of industrialized countries for energy and cheap labor and the reciprocal need of developing countries for industrial products and technology of industrialized countries have created a situation where countries are forced to use existing capacities based on national interests to interact with each other.

That said it is no longer possible to confine the effects of economic and commercial developments only within the framework of the internal and national borders of countries.

Foremost, the economic interdependence of the countries has made it very hard to sanction a country which is an effective player in the growth and development of large and industrialized countries and is their energy supplier.

Iran, besides being an important oil and gas producer, is an electricity exporter which has forced the Americans to grant periodic sanction waivers to the countries that import electricity from the Islamic Republic.

The country is being billed as the largest emerging

market closed to business since the fall of the Soviet Union, with a tremendous amount of energy resources.

With a well-educated population of 85 million and an annual output of over \$400 billion and a market capitalization size of \$170 billion, Iran is one of the largest economies in West Asia and the world's 18th largest by purchasing power parity (PPP).

Due to its strategic geographical position in West Asia, Iran plays a key role in energy diplomacy at the international level and is known as a prominent actor in this field.

The country sits atop the world's largest oil and gas reserves combined and also on sizable mineral resources, which makes it a crucial

player in providing energy security and developing transit corridors.

One of the opportunities in advancing Iran's economic diplomacy is for the country to establish itself as a significant energy supplier of its eastern neighbors and Asian countries. Also, by developing infrastructure, it can help the countries of the region and beyond send their energy to global markets, including Europe.

In other others, by tapping its geopolitical and geo-economic position, Iran can play a constructive and central role in energy exchange and transit and turn into the energy hub of the region. This is especially important in times of energy crisis when any contribution to the stability and security of the markets

would raise Iran's global weight and stature.

Meanwhile, abundant natural gas resources have enabled Iran to be a decisive player in the advancement of global climate policies at a time when clean energy is the bedrock of empowerment and economic growth.

Given the importance of natural gas as a source of clean energy compared to other fossil fuels, Iran can stand out as a crucial member of the international community committed to protecting the environment and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. It can play a prominent role in the COP United Nations climate negotiations and participate in the development of new technologies.

In sum, the multifaceted



impact of Iran on energy diplomacy and transit corridors as well as energy exports allows it to act as an independent player in the global energy market and thus help to diversify energy sources and reduce the dependence of industrial and consumer countries on specific producers.

On the other hand, due to

its geographical location, Iran can make a significant contribution to facilitating energy trade between regional and extra-regional countries, which will not only lead to an increase in regional and international cooperation, but also strengthen energy security and eventually neutralize unilateral sanctions.

Vital role of Persian Gulf mangrove forests



Iranica Desk

Forests are among the largest and most vital genetic resources, both from ancient times to the present. The history of ancient plant formation and distribution dates back approximately 420 million years. Iran's vast forests contain rich gene reservoirs of specific species that have been utilized and exploited by humans for thousands of years. They are crucial habitats and some of the oldest living organisms on Earth, covering about one-third of the planet's surface. Over time, forests have evolved and adapted, spreading rapidly to dominate many landscapes. Despite undergoing changes or destruction due to climate change, many forests endure, providing habitats for various animal and plant species. The gene pools and genomes of the ancient forests of the Persian Gulf, which harbor some of the rarest plant species, have attracted human interest due to their unique geographical location throughout history, as noted by chtn.ir.

Mangrove forests of the Persian Gulf

The Persian Gulf can be viewed as the cradle of ancient civilizations in southern Iran, with mangrove forests covering approximately 10,070 hectares. These forests consist of various plant

species that thrive in three primary forms: island, deltaic, and coastal. However, environmental pollution, particularly marine pollution, poses a complex challenge that humanity currently faces, threatening the delicate balance of these vital ecosystems. The importance of mangrove forests, recognized globally as biosphere reserves, is significant. Despite extensive exploitation, these ecosystems have persisted. Mangroves are wetland areas situated between tidal zones, characterized by a variety of unique plants and specific animals that thrive in coastal and marshy environments. In Iran, mangrove forests are primarily composed of two species: *Avicennia marina* (known as Hara) and *Rhizophora mucronata* (known as Chandl). These species flourish in their unique habitats, continuously influenced by sea tides and flooding.

Characteristics of Hara trees

The Hara tree is a remarkable plant that thrives in sunlight, reaching heights of five to ten meters. Its flowering period occurs in early August, producing small yellow flowers with a delightful fragrance. An interesting aspect of Hara's growth is its viviparity; the seed germinates while still attached to the mother tree and falls into the water after sprouting. The roots of the Hara

consist of a short vertical root and numerous inclined lateral roots. When seawater rises, the crowns of the Hara trees remain above the water, creating a stunning landscape that attracts many tourists who explore the area by boat. Hara trees can thrive in salty water while purifying it into freshwater. Additionally, the sap of the Hara tree possesses medicinal properties and has been shown to affect the bacillus that causes leprosy. The mangrove forests in Hormozgan, located around Qeshm Island, Bandar Pol, Hormoz Island, and Bandar Khamir, are home to diverse wildlife and pristine nature, making them important tourist attractions. These forests are designated as protected areas by the Environmental Protection Organization and are recognized as the Hara Biosphere Reserve due to their international significance. The Hara forest in Tis, Chabahar, is noted as one of the most beautiful tourist attractions in the region, located about 120 kilometers from Chabahar, near the Iran-Pakistan border and close to the Gwadar Gulf.

Conservation strategies and economic importance

Studying the distribution patterns and genetic diversity of these species helps prioritize populations for conservation, identify at-risk species, and highlight gaps in gene bank col-

lections. This information is vital for addressing global challenges such as food security and climate change. Many of these species possess commercial value, contributing to local economies. Additionally, marine forests play a crucial role in stabilizing coastlines against erosion caused by powerful sea waves. They are also acknowledged for their significant contributions to providing wood and fodder. Furthermore, these ecosystems are effective in reducing carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere, thereby playing a role in mitigating climate change.

Historical context and threats to mangroves

Historically, mangrove environments were deemed harsh and useless, leading to their destruction through various means. Consequently, 80% of the world's marine forests have been lost due to road construction, waste dumping, excessive harvesting, and the establishment of irrigation systems, pushing these ecosystems toward extinction. The study of ancient forests in Iran, such as the Hara, highlights the need for increased discussions about the preservation and protection of these ancient genetic reservoirs and their sustainable use. With the global destruction of tropical forests, there is growing attention to

marine ecosystems that are threatened or facing extinction, recognized as habitats for numerous aquatic species and the animals that depend on them.

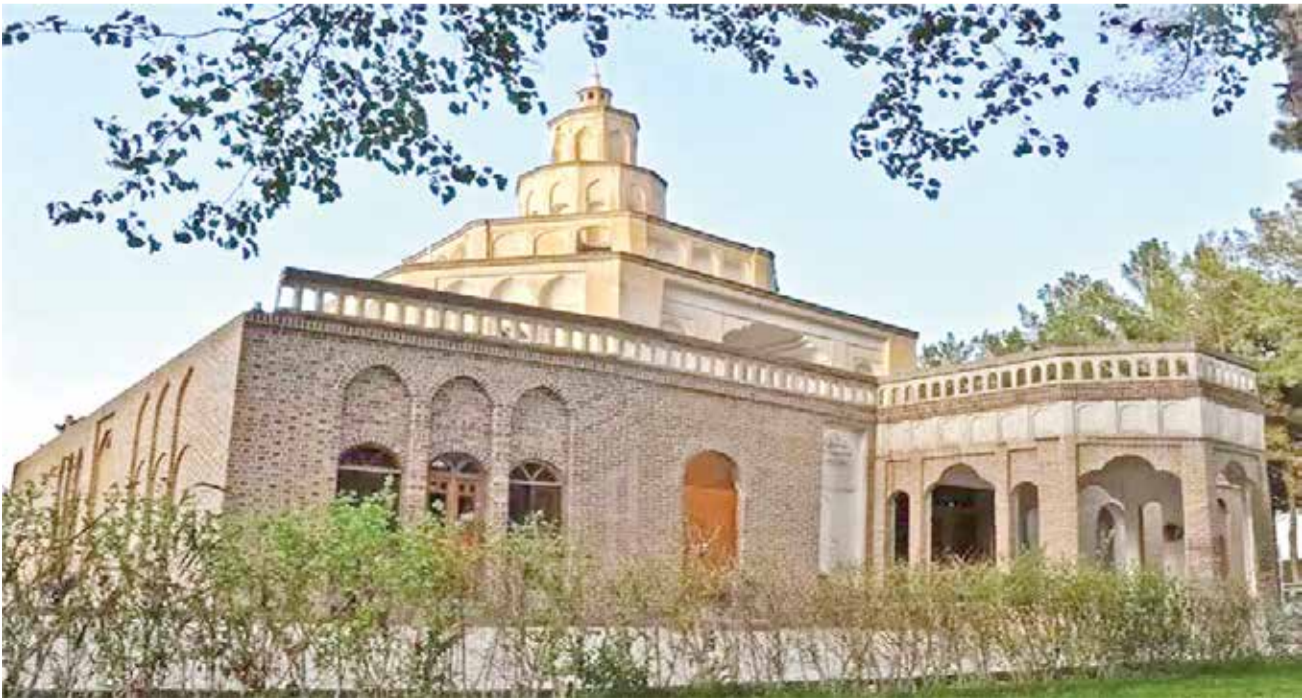
Biodiversity and the Persian Gulf

Biodiversity encompasses a wide range of concepts, from genetic diversity to ecosystem diversity. A key component of biodiversity is species diversity, which refers to the variety of species present at local or regional levels. The ancient forests of the Persian Gulf harbor some of the rarest plant species, making their gene pools and genomes particularly significant. This unique geographical location has attracted human attention throughout history. In recent years, as tropical forests face widespread destruction, there has been increasing attention on marine forest ecosystems that are threatened or at risk of extinction. Many specialists recognize these ecosystems as vital habitats for numerous aquatic species and the animals that depend on them. Marine forests play a crucial role in stabilizing coastlines against erosion caused by powerful sea waves. They are also acknowledged for their significant contributions to providing wood and fodder. Furthermore, these ecosystems are effective in reducing carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere, thereby playing a role in mitigating climate change.

Kolah Farangi Citadel; heritage of South Khorasan Province

The Kolah Farangi Citadel is one of the historical monuments of Birjand in South Khorasan Province. Attributed to Amir Hasan Khan Sheybani, the citadel was presented to the Birjand governorship by its owner, Amir Alam Khazimeh, in 1977. The citadel dates back to the Zand period and the beginning of the Qajar period. It is also known as Hesham Al-Dowleh Citadel, Bi Bi Arous Palace, and Sarkar Citadel. The architecture of the citadel sets it apart from other urban buildings. It is a hexagonal structure topped with a cone, characterized by its striking white color and impressive design. The building consists of six floors, constructed in the

style of a ziggurat, with the most effective spatial planning found on the ground floor. The entrance of the citadel is prominently located on the ground floor, offering an eye-catching appearance with its elegant arcs. While two floors are functional, the additional floors were added to enhance the external façade, particularly over the dome of the spring house. The entire structure is adorned with intricate decorations made of clay, brick, lime, and sarooj. Historical documents indicate that the yard and garden were originally designed in the Persian *chahar bagh* style of architecture, though they have lost their original form over time.



A man drinks from a water source he found among the ruins of Gaza following Israeli bombardment.

● EYAD EL BABA/UNICEF



By Mohsen Anjom Shoa
Guest contributor

OPINION EXCLUSIVE

It has been centuries since the dawn of scientific and technological growth in the world — a moment that brought humanity safety, comfort, and ease, reducing the burdens of life. Yet, at the same time, it has cast a shadow of worry. A shadow filled with words like unrest, warfare, displacement, and perhaps many others.

Since the beginning of scientific and technological advancements, which also brought the creation of wealth, the alphabet of politics gradually formed. An alphabet that perhaps spelled out, “Comfort for me, welfare for me, economy for me,” and other forms of selfishness. The combination of selfishness, wealth, and technology slowly opened the path toward expanding geographical borders, where military weapons became the tools of this expansion, along with selfishness, greed, and tyranny.

Somewhere along the political spectrum, each of us witnessed how a mixture of money, power, modern technology, and selfishness leads to war, bloodshed, and displacement. The cries of children were unheard by politicians and, perhaps alongside painful groans, were forever silenced. This cry may have belonged to a child who would have undoubtedly possessed a brilliant mind, which with proper guidance, could have one day solved some of the most complex problems faced by humanity on Earth.

But today, we are witnessing the stockpiling of gunpowder in most of the world’s powerful territories. The reason for this accumulation of gunpowder on Earth stems from the lack of trust among humans. The illusion — or perhaps foresight — that if I (or my country) do not possess something, my fellow human (another country) might, and they might attack me. Therefore, everyone hoarded gunpowder and weapons, with part of their minds always occupied with developing better arms, until we arrived at weapons of mass destruction like the atomic bomb. Even if no one attacked me (or my country), the groundwork was laid for my (or my successors’) adventurism, to be the instigator. This instigation, if not controlled, will lead to the annihilation of every individual on this planet — a peak catastrophe.

World at threshold of uncontrollable fury

The destruction of humanity on Earth should not result from fratricide, for if we annihilate one another, where then is the place for reason and intellect? There are countless uncontrollable ways for humanity’s extinction, many of which mankind has somewhat controlled through science and technology. Therefore, to prevent killing one another, too, we must find solutions. It is undeniable that, up to this moment, mankind has been the highest form of creation, distinguished by intellect, reason, and discernment from other living beings. But where does humanity stand in the midst of all this?

A world devoid of wrath and war is something the inhabitants of Earth will achieve through the implementation of human-centric equations. Humanity and humanism are a blend of kindness, beauty, honesty, and trust, which make humans feel safe with one another. One of the outcomes of this is the spread of compassion and kindness, with the highest form being the nurturing love of a mother for her child. In the present era, as science and technology advance at an extraordinary pace, if humans do not feel secure and peaceful in each other’s presence and continue to entertain thoughts of eliminating one another, surely, in the near future, they will strive to showcase their scientific prowess in the field of weaponry and arms. This pursuit of superiority might leave behind ashes of a kind never before seen in any war.

Humanism a way out

In the midst of this, it is humanism that can enhance compassion among people and ensure peaceful coexistence, always providing goodness and tranquility for the creatures of Earth in every sphere. Looking back, we can see that in the equations of politics (with few exceptions in peaceful times), we have constantly witnessed unrest and war between humans. This has brought consequences such as the displacement and slaughter of children and people, the violation of geographical borders, the destruction of socio-economic infrastructure, and many other issues. During such

times, we have seen the expansion of arms industries, whereas, if we hadn’t harbored such belligerent attitudes toward one another, we could have focused more on other fields, and surely the daily problems of humanity would have been resolved more swiftly. The production of weapons and the growth of arms factories have stemmed from a lack of trust among humans.

not the existence of ignorant individuals, but rather that everyone, wherever they stand, believes they are the wisest person and the savior of humanity without having knowledge, awareness, or years of study under their belt. Over the past hundred years, we have followed a path called “politics,” and we have seen its results: a mixture of very good virtues and very bad vices, either concentrat-

ed for others. A humanistic perspective is one that shows kindness toward the basic needs of every person and promotes the flourishing of humans in every field. It ensures welfare, security, health, economy, and mental peace for every individual, ultimately aiming for a world without war and bloodshed.

The correct path in this universe is to stand beside humanity and humanism. One of the outcomes of war and bloodshed between humans is that when a war leads to the death of a single person, it ultimately destroys a thinking mind. If we consider every human as possessing a thoughtful mind and if humanism can protect each person by keeping them safe from war, violence, disease, and other harms, it will in fact be safeguarding a thinking mind. Therefore, we conclude that the loss of a single human is equivalent to the loss of an opportunity to save humanity and humanism. It means losing someone who could, perhaps, through a technological or innovative idea, solve one of humanity’s problems at any point in time or in any field. Respecting every thought and every mind, and protecting them, increases the likelihood of discovering new solutions to society’s emerging problems, advancing humanity at least one step forward. Just as quantum physics opened a new chapter in the world’s scientific equations and changed the way humans view the universe, humanism too will open a new chapter in managing the world through peaceful human coexistence.

Implementing the equations of humanism will prevent the extinction of humanity and mankind. In the world of politics, rulers of every nation will build such advanced weapons that they will eventually realize they must never start a war. Humanity is kindness and respect for the power of another person’s mind and striving to preserve that power. Humanity teaches us that instead of building walls along our country’s borders and distancing ourselves from one another, we should build bridges across those borders, come closer to each other, and be kind to one another.



A relief worker from the World Central Kitchen (C-L) consoles a Gazan woman living inside a tent camp for the displaced victims of Israeli war on the enclave.

● WCK

The greatest justification for the existence of weapons in politics is the argument of self-defense, whether for individuals or nations. From a non-humanistic perspective, they are also used for attacks, but within the domain of humanism, there is no place for them — not even for defense. This is because, in the realm of humanity, it is thoughtfulness, wisdom, and human altruism that hold the highest value. In fact, in the equations of humanism, the Earth is a limitless geography filled with bridges of kindness, where all humans live together in one safe domain to achieve comprehensive growth. Not only is there no place for war and weapons, but the universe itself becomes an integrated and secure foundation for the growth and flourishing of every single human idea, and a space for the peaceful coexistence of all.

In the world of politics, the issue is

ed or scattered.

Let’s change the path because continuing the previous one will only lead to the same old results. Although today’s politicians strive to eliminate the negative outcomes of their decisions, the structure of politics is such that some results are often unexpected and unpredictable. However, if we change course today, we will undoubtedly see a different outcome. Let’s replace the path of politics with the path of humanism. On this path, let us take a compassionate view toward all human aspects and all inhabitants of Earth, regardless of their color, race, language, or religion.

“The only thing that can save a human is another human” — but only if there is a commitment to humanity. Perhaps humanity may lose to politics, but humanity does not lose to itself because politics is about self-interest, while humanity is about caring

Three children skip rope among the rubbles of bombed homes in Gaza.
● [actionforhumanity.org](#)



'World divided is a world political'

If human politics is based on the idea that part of the Earth should have the highest levels of technology, welfare, and peace, while the other part remains indifferent to development, then, inevitably, humans will be drawn toward the land of technology, resulting in a global migration crisis. The outcome will be such that a portion of the Earth is left uninhabited while another becomes densely populated, and controlling such a situation will be far more difficult. So, before we divide the Earth's soil into "good" and "bad" regions and force everyone to move toward the "good" part, let's transform the entire Earth into a safe, compassionate, and advanced

place. Today, all human efforts should be directed at solving the problems and challenges currently confronting the planet's inhabitants, which are rapidly multiplying. These include issues such as climate change, greenhouse gases, unknown diseases, biological terrorism, and advanced remote-controlled weapons. If today human rights organizations have not been able to fully implement their ideal policies in the world, one of the reasons may be that human issues cannot be realized in a political framework. The guiding framework for Earth must be based on trust and humanity. Politics serves the interests of a select few, while humanity benefits all people. Perhaps it can be said that politics is

opaque, while humanity is transparent, and combining something opaque with something transparent will certainly not lead to a clear result. With the advancement of science and technology, the arrival of new knowledge, the development of artificial intelligence, and the creation of robots with reasoning and understanding capabilities similar to a natural human being, on the one hand, and the rise of technology without human logic on the other, the geographical security of human societies is becoming increasingly endangered. From now on, humans must draft specific frameworks and laws for human existence without violating each other's rights. Because, if one day robots gain decision-making capabilities, humans

may no longer have the opportunity for human connection, and robots will make the best decisions for them based on machine logic. If political power is not controlled or transformed into humane laws, political powers will inevitably morph into military powers, leading to nothing but misery, displacement, destruction of infrastructure, the suffering of children and people, and the undermining of mutual understanding and human thought. I will end with one recommendation: If humanity does not shift from the tracks of politics to the tracks of humanism at this point in time, it may forever be forced to choose the path of war and violence, instead of the path of kindness and peaceful coexistence.

“

The correct path in this universe is to stand beside humanity and humanism. One of the outcomes of war and bloodshed between humans is that when a war leads to the death of a single person, it ultimately destroys a thinking mind. If we consider every human as possessing a thoughtful mind and if humanism can protect each person by keeping them safe from war, violence, disease, and other harms, it will in fact be safeguarding a thinking mind. Therefore, we conclude that the loss of a single human is equivalent to the loss of an opportunity to save humanity and humanism.



By Syed Ali Hassan
Iran Daily's correspondent in Pakistan

O P I N I O N

Tel Aviv has stated that in responding to Iran's October 1 missile attack, it will not only consider but also give importance to Washington's opinion as the US is Israel's greatest ally and has always helped Israel out of difficulties since its inception. A statement from the office of Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu further noted that while Tel Aviv will consider the US perspective regarding any response to the Iranian missile attack, the ultimate decision will be made based on Israel's national interests.
On the other hand, Israel has assured Washington that it will avoid attacking Iran's nuclear facilities and oil fields, limiting any retaliatory strike to military targets. According to the Wall Street Journal, this assurance was given during a phone call last week between Netanyahu and US President Joe Biden, as well as discussions between US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and his Israeli counterpart, Yoav Gallant. Biden has stated that he will not support an attack on Iran's nuclear facilities, which could escalate tensions and drag the US into the conflict. Russia has also conveyed through diplomatic channels that if Iran's nuclear sites are attacked, Israel's nuclear facilities will not remain safe either. Iran already demonstrated on October 1, 2024, through ballistic missile attacks on Israel that the Zionist regime's nuclear facilities are within its reach. Russia's policy regarding the Middle East has completely shifted, and it now stands with Iran and its allies. There is a possibility that any mistake by Israel could bring Russia directly into the conflict, which would harm the US-led alliance.

Biden sometimes gets his way with Netanyahu

Cost of supporting Israeli genocide still high

Iran has been recognized as a powerful country in the Middle East. What is more, the fear of Israel among Arab nations is gradually diminishing. The US and Israel's plot to normalize relations between Israel and Arab nations through the Abraham Accords was completely thwarted when Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman was forced to base any diplomatic ties with Israel on reaching a two-state solution to the Palestinian issue. Meanwhile, Israel is moving further, not closer, to establishing

peace in the Middle East. After Hezbollah's attack on a gathering of Israeli soldiers, the Israeli Air Force expanded its attacks on Lebanon, carrying out 200 strikes on the country in just one day. The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) has warned of a "lost generation" in Lebanon, stating that 400,000 children have been displaced within the first three weeks of Israeli attacks. The exact number of missing children is not known, but scientific estimates suggest it may

be in the millions. Previously, reports surfaced of sexual abuse of Gazan children in Israeli detention centers. This would be one of the worst human tragedies in history. On October 15, buildings in the besieged Jabalia camp were razed to the ground in the midst of Israeli ground operations in northern Gaza. Gaza's Ministry of Health reported that at least 55 Palestinians were martyred in Israeli strikes on Gaza the previous day. Yet, the Pentagon recently announced that the US has sent

Israel a modern missile defense system, the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD). In essence, the Biden administration is seeking to provide Israel with an "iron shield" amid rising tensions with Iran. The US is a partner-in-crime in the genocide of Arabs in Gaza and Lebanon. The confrontation with Iran and the Resistance movements now directly involves the US military, which has also set foot in Israel. Although the US has fulfilled Israel's demands, it will ultimately have to bear the cost of this support.



US President Joe Biden (R) meets with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, DC, on July 25, 2024.
● [SUSAN WALSH/AP](#)



An additional small group of US troops is deploying to the Middle East as fighting in the region intensifies, the Pentagon said on September 23, 2024.
● [US ARMY](#)

AFC Champions League Elite: Garrido rues missed chances as Persepolis undone by Al Sadd

Sports Desk

Persepolis head coach Juan Carlos Garrido was left rueing his team's wasted opportunities after the Tehran Reds fell to a 1-0 away loss to Al Sadd at the AFC Champions League Elite on Monday.

A similar scenario unfolded for Garrido's men in Doha's Jassim Bin Hamad Stadium as in their opening-day setback at Al Ahli Saudi, where Persepolis also dominated for the best part of game and created numerous chances but ultimately left the pitch empty-handed.

Portuguese striker Lucas Joao, Masoud Rigi, Ali Alipour, Farshad Ahmadzadeh, and Issa Alekasir all came close to finding the net and Omid A'alishah's effort went out off the bar deep into stoppage time to sum up a frustrating night for the Reds as Mateus Uribe's first-half strike proved enough to seal the three points for the home side.

"It is unfortunate that we lost and I do not know how we lost today, we did everything in football," Garrido said after the game.



Persepolis midfielder Vahid Amiri rues a missed chance during a 1-0 defeat against Al Sadd at the AFC Champions League Elite in Doha, Qatar, on October 21, 2024.
● IRNA

"We played well but then conceded a goal and even though we produced a high-quality display in the second half, we still wasted the opportunities we cre-

ated.

"We know that Al Sadd are a very good team but we controlled most of the match, we were the better team and could have

scored even at the last moment," added the Spaniard, who is now without a win in nine outings in the Asian elite clubs' competition with Persepolis and Al Ain.

Monday's result also extended Persepolis's winless run in the Asian Champions League to six matches, leaving the Reds third from bottom in the West Zone's

12-team table with a single point.

Garrido's men will have no room for further error when they are back in the Asian action in a fortnight

against Qatari club Al Gharafa in Dubai, with Al Rayyan and Iraqi champion Al Shorta also coming the Reds way before the two highly-anticipated matchups against Saudi giants Al Hilal and Al Nassr.

Meanwhile, Garrido's counterpart and opposite number on Al Sadd bench Felix Sanchez was thrilled to see his team remain on track for a place in the round of 16.

"I congratulate the players on winning a very difficult match against Persepolis, we got very important points and I congratulate the players and the fans on the win," said Sanchez.

"Persepolis played their way and lost, and we played our way and won, and we deserved to win the match.

"Winning two matches and drawing one indicates that we are on the right track towards qualification and this is the most important thing for us at the moment," added the ex-head coach of the Qatari national team.

The top eight teams of each of the West and East tables will progress to the knockout stage.

Injured Yazdani ruled out of Wrestling Worlds, replaced by Khalili

Sports Desk

Iranian freestyle wrestler Amirmohammad Yazdani will miss the UWW World Championships – starting next Monday in Tirana, Albania – due to a hand injury, the Iranian Wrestling Federation confirmed on late on Monday.

The Iranian head coach Pejman Dorostkar and his coaching staff made the decision after the two-time world silver medalist failed to fully recover from a broken hand he suffered 40 days ago, with Sina Khalili replacing him in the 70kg contests.

A world under-17 champion last year, Khalili was to represent the country at the U23 World Championships – also taking place in the Albania capital – on Saturday but now will make room for fellow-Iranian Ali Khorramdel, who grabbed the 65kg gold in September's under-20 world event in Pontevedra, Spain. Khalili will be joined by Kamran Qasempour, Mohammad Nokhodi, and Reza Mo'meni

in the Iranian team at the upcoming competitions, which will feature four non-Olympic weight categories. All eyes will be on the freestyle 92kg contests, where two-time world champion Qasempour is expected to be a part of the three-way battle for the ultimate prize, alongside Russian sensation Abdurashid Sadulaev and American David Taylor, who have won a remarkable 11 world and Olympic gold medals between them. Nokhodi will chase a fourth successive world medal in the 79kg class, having won double silvers before last year's bronze, though American great Jordan Burroughs, who beat the Iranian in the 2021 and 2022 finals, remains the favorite to walk away with an eighth gold medal in major events.

Mo'meni, meanwhile, will be the Iranian wrestler in the 61kg class, with his previous senior international appearance coming in the 2022 FS World Cup, where he won a bout and lost two.

Asian Youth Beach Handball Championship: Iran beats Qatar to seal World Championship berth

Sports Desk

A fourth successive victory at the 3rd Asian Youth Beach Handball Championship in Bangkok, Thailand, saw Iran secure a place in next year's World Championship.

Stepping into the competition as the defending champion, Iranian boys defeated Qatar 2-1 on Tuesday to stay atop the seven-team table with eight points.

Taha Vatan Fada and Shayan Sousani were in top form as Iran took the first set 22-20, before the Qataris bounced back in the second to win 18-16 and force the contest into the shootout.

Iranian keeper Mohammad-Hossein Kamali stole the show by denying the Qataris twice to lead his side to a 9-6 shootout win.

Having beaten Oman (2-1), Jordan (2-0), and China (2-1) prior to Tuesday's outing,

Iranian boys will be back in action today against Indonesia, before taking on the host country – and champion in the inaugural event in 2016 – in the final round of fixtures on Friday.

The top three of the final standings will qualify for the World Championship in Tunisia.

Iran defeated France to win the men's bronze in the 2022 World Championship in Greece.



● FARSHAD BANDANI/LAWF



● asianhandball.org

Pezeshkian: BRICS eyes ending US unilateralism

International Desk

Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian described expansion of cooperation between the members of the BRICS group of major emerging economies as an effective step in ending the US totalitarianism and unilateralism.

Speaking before his departure for Russia on Tuesday, where he is scheduled to attend the 16th summit of BRICS, the president said Iran's member-

ship of the BRICS and its participation in the bloc's summit provide a good opportunity for the country to strengthen its relationship with the world and end US totalitarianism and unilateralism.

Pezeshkian also said Iran is set to reach "good agreements" in the fields of energy, industry, trade and tourism during the summit. Upon his arrival in Russian city of Kazan, Pezeshkian held a meeting with Indian Prime

Minister Narendra Modi. According to the president's official website, Pezeshkian will address several meetings including the BRICS's main meeting and the first session of BRICS Plus.

Iran's Ambassador to Moscow Kazem Jalali also said Iran and Russia will also sign a comprehensive strategic partnership treaty.

The BRICS Summit 2024, themed "Strengthening Multilateralism for Just Global Development and Secu-

rity," will be held for two days with discussions by world leaders on key global issues.

According to the Russian president's foreign policy aide, Yuri Ushakov, 32 countries have confirmed participation, with more than 20 heads of state attending. Iran officially became a member of BRICS at the beginning of this year, five months after it announced its acceptance as a full member into the group along with Argentina, Egypt, Ethi-

opia, the UAE and Saudi Arabia.

Turkey, Azerbaijan, and Malaysia have also formally applied, with other countries expressing interest.

BRICS was formed by and initially consisted of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, which collectively represent around 40% of the global population, a quarter of the world's gross domestic product (GDP) and about two-fifth of the world's population.



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (L) shakes hands with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Kazan, Russia, on October 22, 2024.
● president.ir

Regional countries concur with easing tensions: Iran

International Desk

Iran's foreign minister said there is a common understanding among regional countries to ease tensions in West Asia as he visited Kuwait and Bahrain, part of a regional tour aimed at "stopping Israel's genocide and aggressions."

Abbas Araghchi made the remarks during a press conference in Kuwait's capital, Kuwait City, on Tuesday. Araghchi underlined that the regional countries have the ability to prevent a disaster in the region through joint efforts.

The Iranian foreign minister said that Iran has done its utmost to reduce tensions, adding that Iran is not seeking a war; however, is ready for any scenario.

On October 1, Iran responded to the Israeli assassination of Hamas political bureau chief Ismail Haniyeh, Hezbollah Secretary General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, and IRGC Major General Abbas Nilforoushan by launching as many as 200 ballistic missiles toward the regime's military and intelligence bases all over the occupied Palestinian territories.

The Israeli regime has threatened to retaliate. Iranian officials have repeatedly warned that Tehran is ready to respond to any Is-



Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa (R) meets with Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi in Manama, Bahrain, on October 21, 2024.
● BNA

raeli strike.

Araghchi described Iran's strikes on Israel's military sites as a defensive move and a response to the regime's attacks against the Islamic Republic.

"Our friends have given us assurances that they will neither allow their soil nor their airspace to be used to launch an attack on Iran. All regional countries have expressed their opposition to any assault on Iran and its nuclear facilities," Araghchi stated.

Iran's top diplomat said that he has told the regional countries that the Israeli regime aims to spread the war in the region and that the regional countries should stop it. The situation in Gaza and Lebanon is critical and the attacks of the Israeli regime must be stopped, Araghchi said.

"Israel has left no crime uncommitted and has not stopped short of perpetrating any form of crime up until now. Unfortunately, it

continues to commit such atrocities with the support of the United States and certain European countries," the top Iranian diplomat said.

He underscored that Israel does not commit itself to international principles, arguing that the international law has so far failed to stop the Zionist regime's atrocities.

During his visit to Kuwait on Tuesday, the Iranian foreign minister met with Kuwait's Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khalid Al-Sabah and his counterpart Abdullah Ali Al-Yahya.

Before Kuwait, Araghchi was in Bahrain on Monday as part of his regional tour that has also taken him to Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman, Iraq, Egypt, Jordan and Turkey.

'The smell of death is everywhere' in Gaza: UNRWA

International Desk

The head of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), Philippe Lazzarini, issued an urgent plea for a pause in the fighting in northern Gaza to allow humanitarian aid to reach civilians trapped there.

In a post on X, Lazzarini said UNRWA staff reported that they were unable to find food, water or medicine in the war-battered region.

"The smell of death is everywhere as bodies are left lying on the roads or under the rubble. Missions to clear the bodies or provide humanitarian assistance are denied." Lazzarini called for an "immediate truce, even only for a few hours" to allow safe passage for families seeking refuge.

"This is the bare minimum to save the lives of civilians who have nothing to do with this conflict," he said.

Israel laid siege to north Gaza more than two weeks ago and has been attacking everyone left in the area ferociously since, resulting in the deaths of many civilians.

Assault in northern Gaza

Israel launched the assault in northern Gaza on October 6, claiming it aimed to stop Hamas from regrouping.

Hamas resistance group has called on the international community to take immediate action "to stop the crime of forced displacement, ethnic cleansing and massacres" carried out by Israel in northern Gaza.

The Palestinian group said the



AFP

Israeli occupation army has been "besieging schools and hospitals, committing massacres against defenseless and displaced citizens, and carrying out the most heinous forced displacement operation live on air and in full view of the entire world."

It also called Israel's practices "a blatant violation of all laws, regulations and norms, and would not have been passed without the silence and inaction of the international community, and the complicit behavior of the US administration."

According to Gaza's Health Ministry, more than 40 Palestinians were killed in Israel's attacks on Gaza on Tuesday. Thirty-seven of them were killed in northern Gaza.

Munir al-Bursh, the director of the Gaza Health Ministry, who is currently in northern Gaza, said, "Many of the wounded have died before our eyes, and we couldn't do anything for them."

No coffin for dead

"Hospitals also ran out of coffins to prepare the dead, and we have asked people to donate any fabric they have at home," Al-Bursh said

in a statement.

The Israeli military besieged hospitals and shelters for displaced people on Monday, preventing critical aid from reaching civilians, residents and medics said. Troops rounded up men and ordered women to leave the Jabalia historic refugee camp, they said. An Israeli airstrike on a house in Jabalia killed five people and wounded several others, medics said.

Medics at the Indonesian Hospital said that Israeli troops stormed a school and detained the men before setting it ablaze.

Later on Monday, Hussam Abu Safiya, director of Kamal Adwan Hospital said at least two critically wounded patients at the facility's intensive care unit died due to the lack of medical supplies.

"The hospital's blood units have run out completely... We are implementing a priority treatment method for patients. This is the reality," said Abu Safiya in a video message to media outlets.

At least 42,718 Palestinians – mostly women and children – have been killed and 100,282 wounded in Israeli attacks since October 7, 2023.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Call for Tender 1st Announcement for Supply of Closed Drain Pump Packages Related to the Belal Gas Field Development Project, Tender No. 974240

Iranian Offshore Engineering and Construction Company intends to purchase the Tender of Closed Drain Pump Packages Related to the Belal Gas Field Development Project through a public tender. Therefore, the applicants are allowed to have 21 days after the date of 1st publication of the tender notice in the newspaper to participate in this tender.

To download the tender documents, please visit the tender's section of the IOEC's website: WWW.IOEC.COM/EN/TENDERS, and Please do not hesitate to contact with Transaction Committee office with Tel: +9821-82842740 under sign for any inquiries and more information.



'Patterns of Friendship' opens in St. Petersburg

Arts & Culture Desk

A joint exhibition of Iranian and Russian artists, titled 'Patterns of Friendship', opened in Saint Petersburg, Russia on October 22. The exhibition, which was organized by the cultural consultation of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Russian Federation, showcases the works of 200 painters from both countries. According to Iran's cultural attaché to Russia, Masoud Ahmadvand, approximately 100 works on various topics from Iran were created by Russian artists, and 100 works on Russia were created by Iranian artists specifically for this event. The exhibition is a result of a joint effort between the two countries to promote cultural exchange and understanding, IRNA reported.

The exhibition was inaugurated at the Catherine Palace in St. Petersburg, with the presence of some cultural figures from St. Petersburg and art enthusiasts. Ahmadvand expressed his gratitude to the government and private sectors of both countries for their help in organizing the event. The exhibition was held in Moscow at the Academy of Watercolor and Fine Arts for almost two months. And now it will be on display in St. Petersburg for a month. It will also be showcased in the Sirius Federal Territory in Sochi, and later in Tehran, Isfahan, and Shiraz, each for a month. Ahmadvand noted that one of the unique aspects of the exhibition is that it allows people from both countries to showcase their perceptions of each other's countries through art.

He also emphasized that holding art events like this will have a positive impact on deepening and sustaining the relations between Iran and Russia, as it helps increase mutual understanding between the people of the two countries. Ahmadvand added that the will of the authorities of both countries is to expand and strengthen their relations, and they have a special interest in arts and culture, which is a foundation for stable and sustainable communication. Olga V. Taratynova, the head of the Catherine Palace Museum, thanked the Iranian Cultural Consultation for their cooperation in organizing the event, saying that it will help increase Russians' awareness of Iranian culture, historical sites, lifestyle, and interests.



Iranian books on display at Tajikistan's book fair



The 12th International Exhibition "Book of Dushanbe-2024" kicked off on October 22 in Tajikistan, with the Islamic Republic of Iran participating in the event. The exhibition was inaugurated at the National Library of Tajikistan, attended by the Deputy Minister of Culture of Tajikistan, the Mayor of Dushanbe, as well as ambassadors of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Russia, IRNA reported.

Iran has set up a booth at the exhibition, showcasing 300 titles of books in various fields, including classical literature, contemporary literature (poetry and fiction), Persian language and script, children and young adult books, history, and books by Tajik poets. In addition to Iran, other participating countries in the book fair include India, Turkmenistan, Russia, Turkey, Uzbekistan, and Belarus.

Iranian cinemas see 17% surge in attendance in one month

Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian cinemas welcomed 2.7 million viewers during the one month-period from September 22 to October 22, generating a box office revenue of approximately \$2.34 million. Compared to the same period last year, the number of viewers increased by 17% and the box office saw a 49% growth, IRNA reported. This achievement is significant, as this month often experiences a decline in cinema attendance due to the reopening of schools and universities, as well as changes in family lifestyles

and weather patterns. However, the release of a popular film helped to offset this decline, preventing from becoming a slow month for cinemas. During this month, the comedy film 'Pressure Cooker' performed exceptionally well, attracting 1,179,000 viewers and generating \$1.07 million in sales within 14 days. The animated film 'Woolina and the No Birds' also exceeded expectations, with 499,000 viewers and \$380,000 in sales within less than a month. The comedy film 'Texas', which was released in June, continued to attract audi-

ences, with 182,000 viewers and \$169,000 in sales during the one-month period, making it the third most popular and highest-grossing film of the month. If the cinemas can also release one or two notable social films, it will provide a suitable offering for fans of this genre, making this season an unforgettable season for Iranian cinemas. This achievement will set a benchmark for future months, providing a basis for comparison with future box office results.



International exhibition stands in solidarity with Palestine

An international art exhibition featuring 321 works by 80 artists from 23 countries opened in Tehran, showcasing a diverse range of graphic designs and illustrations that condemn Israeli aggression against Palestinians. The exhibition, titled 'The Storm Still Rages', is organized by Iran's Art Bureau and is underway at the gallery until next month. The show includes 10 typography works and three graffiti pieces, among others, and features works by 47 artists from around the world, including the United States, Germany, Italy, Norway, Portugal, and Australia, as well as 33 Iranian artists, ILNA reported.

The artworks on display are a reaction to various events and incidents that have taken place over the past year, from October 2023 to October 2024. The exhibition is a response to the Israeli aggression against Palestinians, particularly the Operation Al-Aqsa Storm, and features works that condemn the attacks on schools, mosques, hospitals, shelters, and refugee camps, as well as the assassination of resistance leaders in Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, and Iran. The exhibition's curator, Saber Sheikh Rezaei, said that the idea for the show came about after the Iranian Art Bureau held an exhibition of works by Iranian artist Seyyed Ali Mir-

fattah, which included pieces about Palestine and Gaza. Sheikh Rezaei, who has designed over 100 posters about Palestine and resistance over the years, proposed the idea of a larger exhibition that would include works by artists from around the world. Sheikh Rezaei explained that he used his connections with international artists to collect works for the exhibition, which aims to create a sense of reflection and contemplation about the events that have taken place over the past year. He noted that the exhibition is not just about the Israeli-Palestinian war, but also about the human and emotional connections that exist between art-

ists from different parts of the world. Mirfattah noted that the exhibition is a way to counter the media blackout and the normalization of Israeli aggression against Palestinians, and to show that art can be a powerful tool in the struggle for justice and human rights.



Kiarostami's 'Taste of Cherry' screened in Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev University in Kazakhstan recently screened the acclaimed Iranian film 'Taste of Cherry' as part of its cultural program. The film, directed by renowned filmmaker Abbas Kiarostami, was chosen for its thought-provoking and conceptually rich screenplay, which has captivated audiences worldwide. The screening was a result of the growing interest in Persian language and Iranian studies at the university, initiated by the Iranian cultural center in collaboration with the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, ISNA wrote. This initiative has led to the formation of a Persian lan-

guage club, comprising enthusiastic students who have organized various cultural events, including celebrations for the International Day of Languages and Cultures, introductions to Iranian literary figures, and screenings of Iranian films. The success of the first Iranian film screening at the university has sparked interest in Iranian cinema among students, prompting organizers to plan another screening of a top Iranian film next month. This decision was made in consultation with the university's professor of Persian language and Iranian studies, who will help select the next film.