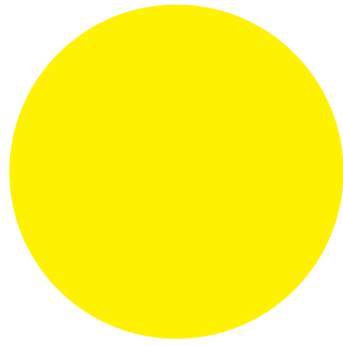


**Leader:**  
Struggles of  
Nasrallah,  
Sinwar  
changed fate  
of region



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# Iran's 1st BRICS Meeting as Official Member

**Pezeshkian calls on bloc to  
prioritize economic issues**

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president.ir

## Muslim world should throw weight behind Resistance Front

By Syed Ali Hassan  
Iran Daily's  
correspondent

OPINION

The reaction expressed by US President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris after the tragic martyrdom of Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar was contrary to human dignity and values. It is true that Israel serves as the guardian of US interests in the region. Israel was created by colonial powers through the United Nations after oil was discovered in Arab lands, aiming to secure the economic and political benefits related to oil for the West. Israel, surrounded by Arab nations, relies on Western support for its defense, as its existence is otherwise impractical and illogical. After the US dropped atomic bombs on Japan in World War II, the balance of global power began shifting toward the US. During this period, with the help of Britain, the US persuaded the ruling Al Saud family to peg oil prices to the dollar. The Al Saud family and their tribal allies, who lacked intellectual and political insight, were blinded by wealth. They came to power by overthrowing the Ottoman Caliphate and dividing the territories where Israel would eventually be established, which were under Ottoman control. Meanwhile, the Turkish people were seeking their salvation in nationalist politics, distancing themselves from Arabic language and politics. A review of the politics of that era reveals that Muslim political leadership had vanished. Under the British influence, the land of Muslim-majority regions was being divided among powerful, loyal Arab tribes, and new countries were emerging. In such circumstances, it was in the US's interest to impose an unnatural state on the Arabs, which led to the creation of Israel. The security of Israel became essential to protecting US interests in the region, which is why the US is seen standing with Israel at every level. [Page 2 >](#)

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## A new powerhouse for Iran

By Nozar Shafiei  
University  
professor

OPINION  
EXCLUSIVE

Membership in international organizations like BRICS is, in itself, a form of "institutional power" for countries. Iran's membership in BRICS, as a form of institutional power, has opened up new opportunities and bestowed new powers upon the country. These opportunities include:

1. BRICS has its finger on the pulse of national, regional, and international issues, as well as all domains of politics, economy, security, science, and more. By joining the organization, Iran is bound to reap tangible benefits, and its presence in BRICS, as a trans-regional organization, defies the common perception that Iran is an isolated country.
2. BRICS is an institution that shares Iran's vision for changing the global governance structure. Tehran has long been a vocal critic of the US-led unipolar world order and a proponent of multilateralism. This alignment of views reinforces Iran's approach to governance.
3. BRICS shares concerns with Iran on issues like sanctions. For instance, regarding unilateral sanctions not approved by the UN Security Council, which China and Russia also face, BRICS takes a critical stance and condemns such illegal measures. This indicates that BRICS will move toward countering such sanctions.
4. BRICS has an economic structure that can boost its members' economies, including Iran's. The organization has a Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA), payment arrangements, and the New Development Bank. [Page 8 >](#)

## Qatari envoy calls for increase in Doha-Tehran flights



### Economy Desk

The ambassador of Qatar in Iran called for increasing the number of weekly flights from his country to Iran, according to IRNA. In a meeting with Head of the Civil Aviation Organization of Iran Hossein Pourfarzaneh, Saad bin Abdullah Al Mahmoud Al-Sharif announced his satisfaction with the improvement of air transport relations with Iran and demanded an increase in the number of Qatari flights to Iran to 57 flights per week.

Speaking at the meeting, Pourfarzaneh said the air transport cooperation between the two countries enjoys a long history, so it is necessary to boost relations in all technical, training, repair and other fields.

Regarding the similar approaches of Iran and Qatar in many international and regional issues, he emphasized the need to raise the relations between the two countries in various areas of the aviation industry and demanded the updating of the memorandums of understanding which were signed between Tehran and Doha on air transportation.

## Over 53 tons of gold ingot imported in seven months:

**IRICA**



The head of Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) said that over 53 tons of gold ingot was imported into the country in the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (started March 20, 2024).

Mohammad Rezvanifar added that 53.432 tons of standard gold ingot, valued at \$3.443 billion, have been imported into the country from March 20 to October 21, 2024, reported Mehr News Agency. He pointed out that 9.32 tons of gold ingot, valued at \$574 million, were imported into the country in the first seven months of the previous Iranian calendar year (March 21 to October 21, 2023).

# IMF revises up 2024 economic growth forecast for Iran

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) raised its economic growth forecast for Iran in 2024 amid signs the country is becoming increasingly immune to the economic impacts of US sanctions.

In its latest World Economic Outlook, the IMF forecasted that Iran's gross domestic product (GDP) will grow by 3.7% this year, up from a previous estimate of 3.3% announced in July, Press TV reported. That comes as IMF's estimates show that Iran's economy grew by 5% in 2023.

The forecasts showed that inflation in Iran will decline to 31.7% in 2024 from 40.7% last year 2023 while unemployment will drop to 8% this year from 8.1% in 2023.

The IMF said that Iran's current account balance will be 2.9%

of its GDP this year, slightly up from 2.8 last year.

The figures are the latest sign that Iran's economy has actually recovered from the impacts of US sanctions imposed in 2018 which have mainly targeted the country's oil exports and its access to the dollar-based banking services in the world. Iran has been reporting record oil exports in recent months despite the US bans which impose major penalties on buyers with interests in the US economy.

The IMF said that the 2024 global GDP growth will be unchanged from the 3.2% projected in July and one percentage point below last year.

However, the lender dialed back its global growth expectation for 2025 from 3.3% in July to 3.2% in its latest report.



IMF forecasts showed that the US economy will expand by 2.8% in 2024 and by 2.2% next year while China's GDP will grow by 4.8% this year and by 4.5% in 2025.

## Iran's first participation in BRICS summit as full member

The 16th summit of the BRICS nations has officially begun in Kazan, Russia, where it was planned for President Masoud Pezeshkian to meet with his counterparts from Russia, China, India, Egypt and other countries with the aim of developing relations.

The summit is held under the motto of "Strengthening Multilateralism for Equitable Global Development and Security" with the participation of the members and about 30 other countries generally referred to as the Global South, Press TV wrote.

The Kazan meeting has a fundamental difference compared to the previous sessions and that is the addition of Iran, the UAE, Egypt, Ethiopia and Saudi Arabia to Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa as the founders of the bloc, which gives new weight to this group of emerging economies.

Iran, which joined the group under the administration of late president Ebrahim Raisi, is participating as a full member for the first time, which is important for outlining the country's approach to global issues and promoting regional diplomacy at the current critical juncture.

Iran's strategic position in the region has provided the country with the opportunity to have an active presence in various global unions. BRICS is one of the important economic forums where Iran, in addition to strengthening bilateral relations with its members, can make the best of the group's capacities to reinforce its economic foundation and political ground.

With the post-Cold War period over, the world is moving toward a new multipolar era already marked by the highest level of geopolitical tensions and major power competition in decades where new political and economic unions and blocs are forming to increase their influence and power.

Iran's presence in the Kazan meeting as a full BRICS member is set to promote its international position. A separate BRICS Plus summit of some 30 non-member countries represents the future of the international economic system and provides a platform for partnership with African, Latin American, Caribbean, and Asian countries. This gives Iran an opportunity to pursue bilateral cooperation within the framework of the new emerging union and follow the issue of justice in international relations where the country has been under illegitimate sanctions for decades.

Since the Islamic Revolution in 1979, the United States along with European countries has adopted the most severe sanctions against Iran. Bilateral meetings in Kazan with the presidents of China, Russia and India can



help strengthen economic exchanges and forge cooperation with other member countries, especially from Africa and Asia.

Currently, the dollar is not a currency, but an important weapon for the US to control the world and advance Washington's economic, political and security domination. Therefore, initiating and elevating trade and commercial exchanges in national currencies among the member countries can help a lot to reduce the value of the dollar.

In recent months, numerous meetings have been held among BRICS banking and economic officials, which can expand communication and transportation platforms among the member countries.

President Pezeshkian's itinerary in Kazan naturally includes such important issues as the expansion of economic, commercial, corridor, regional relations and trade in national currencies.

One of the important features of the BRICS bloc is that it has two permanent

members in the UN Security Council. Meanwhile, Russia and China together with Brazil, South Africa and India account for more than half of the world's population which allows for unique economic, political, security, commercial and other cooperation.

Transit corridors are key to economic development and growth. In recent years, the US has proposed to build a transit route from India to Europe through the UAE, Saudi Arabia, the Israeli-occupied territories and Greece in order to bypass Iran.

However, Iran, with its sprawling rail, road and transit infrastructure, has always been the most viable bridge between Asia, Africa and Europe and a paramount player in international equations. Iran's membership in BRICS will clearly safeguard and solidify this position.

As for de-dollarization, trade in national currencies by Iran and Russia in recent years can be applied to other BRICS members in order to stop the US from using the dollar as a weapon of sanction.

## BRICS embodies dissatisfaction with Western leadership: Hemmati

Iran's Economy Minister Abdolnaser Hemmati has characterized BRICS as a symbol of dissatisfaction with Western leadership at the World Bank.

Hemmati, who attended the BRICS summit in Russia alongside Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, stated on Wednesday that BRICS represents a new phase of South-South collaboration, adding that this cooperation includes significant political and security dimensions and is evolving in terms of economic and financial relations, reported Mehr News Agency.

He noted that the New Development Bank (NDB) and the BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA) are symbols of BRICS members' dissatisfaction with the performance of similar institutions namely the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which are predominantly influenced by the US and West.

Hemmati pointed out that the difference between this period and six decades ago, when South-South cooperation was formed but could not achieve much success against the economic power of the West led by the US, is that the leading countries of the BRICS currently play an important role in the world economy, adding that China and India are among the top five economies in the world.

He emphasized that Iran's active involvement in the economic and financial sectors of BRICS offers valuable opportunities for economic collaboration with nine other countries.

## Muslim world should...

Without US military and political support during the year-long Israeli aggression, the very existence of Tel Aviv would be at risk. The killing of Palestinian children and women, the destruction of buildings and infrastructure

in Gaza and Lebanon, are all part of a US plan being executed by Israel. The US fears Russia and China, both of which have focused on the Middle East and West Asia since 2018. While China is currently concentrating on economic ties, Russia's interest has increased in

both economic and political terms. This is the reason for the US's anxiety. If the US were sincere about ending the war, the conflict in Gaza and Lebanon would not have dragged on for over a year. Israel is on the brink of economic collapse, with its citizens emigrat-

ing, capital being withdrawn, and the war causing a severe economic slowdown. The shortage of workforce due to mandatory military duties has forced thousands of small businesses to close, with 46,000 businesses, especially small enterprises, shut down. The tourism

industry has been devastated, with major hotels in Jerusalem al-Quds laying off workers due to an 86% drop in tourism. The war's costs have increased the national budget deficit, exacerbating instability and causing irreparable damage to Israel's economy. Israeli

economists are calling for an end to the war to restore economic stability. It is essential for Muslim countries to support the Resistance forces fighting against Israel, particularly Hamas and Hezbollah, and to provide them with financial assistance to stop genocide.

# Heritage, innovation in Iranian windmills



A water mill in Nehbandan  
● TASNIM



A watermill in Tabas-e Masina  
● BORNANNEWS

## Iranica Desk

Wherever continuous winds have blown, the resourceful Iranians have pragmatically harnessed this divine blessing to enhance their livelihoods. Windmills, often regarded as one of humanity's first industrial creations, boast a rich history that stretches back through time.

In the vast expanse of Greater Khorasan, which encompasses the three provinces of South Khorasan, Khorasan Razavi, and North Khorasan, windmills have traditionally operated using the 120-day winds, particularly during the grain harvest season, from the north of Herat to the south of Sistan.

Among the regions of eastern Iran, the handcrafted structures found in the desert landscapes of South Khorasan Province hold particular significance. Recent surveys indicate that this province has the highest number of windmills in the country, IRNA wrote.

Historically, these windmills were employed to grind wheat using wind power, and they remained operational in South Khorasan, especially in Nehbandan, until about 70 years ago, thanks to the presence of

the prevailing 120-day winds of eastern Iran.

Unlike European windmills, which are designed with horizontal shafts, the windmills in this region feature vertical axes. Their design consists of two parallel walls that rise to a height of 10 meters and are spaced four meters apart, forming the general structure. In the northern part of this structure, large blades rotate, harnessing wind power. This rotation activates a large lever, which in turn moves a lower grinding stone and initiates the grinding process.

Currently, Darmian and Nehbandan have the highest number of windmills in Iran, though windmills can also be found in Birjand, Sarbisheh, Qaenat, and Khusf.

In the historical city of Tabas-e Masina, located in the border district of Darmian and dating back at least to the Parthian period, the abundance of fertile plains has led to a high number of windmills, with 60 structures recorded in this city alone.

Additionally, there are 16 sites with windmills in Nehbandan, with the highest concentration found in the city of Neh and the villages of Chahar Farsakh, Hamand, all of which are considered beautiful historical artifacts



A watermill in Sistan and Baluchestan Province  
● MIZAN

of Iranian heritage.

Given the importance and uniqueness of Iran's windmills, efforts for their global registration began several years ago, and the application is currently being prepared for South Khorasan, Sistan and Baluchestan, and Khorasan Razavi provinces. Mohammad Hassan Talebian, who oversees the dossier of Iranian windmills, noted that this dossier is being compiled for the three provinces mentioned. However, with the number of windmills in South Khorasan province alone estimated at approximately 350 to 400 units, organizing and structuring this many windmills into a single application is indeed time-consuming.

He emphasized that all efforts and resources are focused on the windmills dossier, and more accurate information regarding the status of this application can be expected in the near future. Director General of the Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Organization of South Khorasan Province, Hadi Shahvardi, stated that the province, with more than 308 identified windmills, is currently regarded as the capital of windmills in Iran. The application for the inclusion of these windmills on the UNESCO World Heritage list has been submitted.

He noted that 92 windmills in the province have the potential for global registration, adding that this number is less than the

total number of windmills present in the area, highlighting that efforts are underway to evaluate and finalize the application.

He mentioned that plans have been made for the restoration, boundary determination, and revitalization of the surroundings of some windmills, with local authorities providing support for the global registration process. Shahvardi emphasized that South Khorasan Province, which has nine registered global sites across six categories, holds the record for the registration of historical and natural sites on the World Heritage list. The global registration of the province's windmills will further showcase the unique capabilities of the province on an international platform.

Head of South Khorasan Province's Watermills Site said with the identification of two new windmills in the Qadamgah of Nehbandan, the province now boasts over 310 windmills across seven cities, solidifying its status as home to the highest number of windmills in Iran. Hossein Shabani noted that these windmills are distributed across 40 locations within the town of Nehbandan, Darmian, Sarbisheh, Birjand, Qaenat, Sarayan, and Khusf, with the majority located

in Nehbandan and Darmian.

He stated that 80 windmills have been successfully restored and reconstructed, and emphasized the need to activate and complete the flour production chain, as two windmills in Nehbandan and one in Darmian are currently operational during the 120-day winds of Sistan.

Shabani indicated that six windmills have been nominated for global registration as a result of the restoration efforts undertaken in Nehbandan and Darmian. He identified the main objective of the restoration efforts as enhancing the operation of the windmills and finalizing the global registration dossier.

He pointed out that, due to the significance of the international recognition of Iran's windmills, the number of windmills in various cities within the province is increasing thanks to new archaeological studies. Shabani noted that Nehbandan accounts for the highest number, with 110 windmills, followed closely by Darmian with 104.

He added that over 79% of Iran's windmills are located in South Khorasan, while approximately 14% are found in Sistan and Baluchestan Province, around 7% in Khorasan Razavi, and 1% each in Kerman and Yazd provinces.

## Beauty, benefits of Garab Spring Complex

### Iranica Desk

The holy shrine of Imam Reza (PBUH) is the focal point of Mashhad, drawing numerous visitors. However, the city also boasts many natural attractions that offer delightful experiences. One such gem is Garab Spring Complex, which comprises several springs, each with its unique features. This natural masterpiece is a valuable treasure, renowned for its abundant therapeutic benefits.

Despite its remarkable characteristics, Garab Spring Complex is located 50km from Mashhad and just 1km from the old Mashhad-Neyshabur road, yet it has not received adequate attention and remains difficult to access.

What makes this attraction particularly noteworthy is that the water from each spring contains distinct mineral compositions, resulting in a variety of tastes and colors, ranging from sour and salty to bitter. This diversity adds to the uniqueness of Garab Spring Complex, which includes several cone-shaped springs lo-



cated 500 meters apart, IRNA wrote.

The largest spring in this collection, characterized by its green water, sits atop a 30-meter-high mound and is considered the source from which the others flow.

Researchers have confirmed the valuable therapeutic properties of the spring water through extensive studies. Water geology

experts classify Garab Spring as part of chloride sodium iron-bearing and hyperthermal waters with high total dissolved solids and elevated acidity levels. Further scientific investigations reveal that the water from the springs is rich in chloride and sulfate salts, as well as saturated compounds, suggesting a connection to abundant underground sources of these min-



● afarmarket.com

erals. These compounds are remnants found in sedimentary deposits from the Triassic period.

For many years, local residents have sought healing from these springs for various skin ailments. Research indicates that the water significantly aids in eliminating waste materials from the body due to its unique compounds. Additionally, stud-

ies show that springs' water can be highly beneficial for treating joint diseases and enhancing the secretion of gastric fluids, bile, saliva, and pancreatic enzymes, among other therapeutic properties.

During your trip to Garab, amidst these beautiful springs, you will undoubtedly be drawn to a peak. This peak, with an elevation of about 70 meters, close-

ly resembles volcanic summits. If you climb to the top of this stunning peak, you will see its volcanic crater, which extends around eight meters from the summit down to the water's surface, while the rest is filled with water. There is an intriguing claim that this water basin may connect to an underground water tunnel. Regardless of the speculation, be sure to take advantage of the opportunity to enjoy a refreshing bath in its waters.

Overall, considering all the aforementioned information about Garab Spring Complex, it's clear this site is one of the unique and valuable natural heritages and tourist attractions of Khorasan Razavi Province. Not only is it fascinating for geologists, but its exceptional therapeutic properties make it an excellent option for attracting a diverse range of tourists and boosting local tourism. To fully realize this potential, greater efforts must be made to promote the spring and substantially improve access routes and facilities in the surrounding area beyond their current state.

# Saudi Arabia, BRICS – balancing act?

By Nesibe Hicret Battaloglu and Nikolay Kozhanov  
Researchers

## OPINION

Russia last month invited Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman to attend the October 22–24 BRICS summit it is hosting in Kazan. The summit is the bloc's first since its expansion last year when six new members — Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) — were invited to join. While countries such as Iran have been quick to accept the invite, the Kingdom has yet to confirm its formal alignment with BRICS. Most likely, Saudi strategists are still weighing all pros and cons of membership — with factors in favor and against broadly balanced.



### Potential Saudi gains from joining BRICS

Firstly, it is more economic considerations that might push Saudi Arabia towards BRICS as the bloc represents a huge market: the expanded group of countries will represent 45% of the world population and 28% of global GDP, uniting its members with a high level of mutual economic cooperation.

Core members (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) are responsible for approximately 40% of the new BRICS members' exports and imports. In the case of Saudi Arabia, this figure is 30% and steadily growing — along with a positive trade balance for the Kingdom. Of further note, this trade volume has long since surpassed that with the main political ally of Riyadh, namely the United States.

Mindful of certain setbacks, there is also a growing inflow of investment in the Saudi economy from the core BRICS countries. These capital inflows are playing an important role in the Kingdom's attempt to transform its economy. According to Bloomberg, Saudi Arabia has already launched \$1.3 trillion in "real estate and infrastructure projects over the past eight years as part of its plan to diversify the economy away from oil" — and more will come. Given the size of investments needed, sole reliance on its own oil income is not a solution for the Kingdom.

Moreover, while Western investors might be doubting the necessity to deal with the Saudi economy at a time of change and global economic instability, China and India as well as other non-Western countries have clearly shown their readiness to work with Riyadh, including on projects targeted at the development of the green and sustainability-related sectors.

BRICS membership could further support the Kingdom's positions on the global oil market.

On the one hand, the emerging bloc includes two major consumers of Saudi crude, namely China and India. Given that competition for the Asian market among hydrocarbon producers will grow in the coming years, cooperation with Beijing and New Delhi with-

in BRICS could additionally ensure the loyalty of potential consumers. On the other hand, by joining BRICS, Saudi Arabia would take one step closer towards Russia with which it coordinates efforts within OPEC+. Thus, it will further strengthen its relations with one of the key hydrocarbon producers in the world.

### A brave new world?

The increasing multipolarity in global politics — amid the uneasy US relations with regional states — allows Saudi Arabia to hedge its bets for improved security and political relations by diversifying its network of international partners. These dynamics also permit the Kingdom to assert itself as an independent regional powerhouse with greater international prominence.

BRICS membership, therefore, provides a multilateral opportunity for Riyadh to diversify its international partnerships and engage more directly with non-Western global powers. Formally joining the bloc aligns well with both the political sensitivities and preferences of the Saudi leadership given BRICS's commitment to non-interference in domestic affairs and respect for sovereignty, principles that resonate strongly with Saudi interests. The pro-Palestinian stance of the group of countries

also reflects an alignment with Riyadh's political and regional positioning.

Given the increasing Chinese presence in the region as well as the expansion of trade and investment relations with Saudi Arabia, joining BRICS creates an advantage for Saudi Arabia to strengthen bilateral ties with Beijing.

The economic partnership between the two countries has expanded significantly, encompassing port and industrial zone infrastructure projects, logistics and supply chains, renewable energy, emerging technologies, artificial intelligence (AI), and the defense sector.

China has also emerged as a diplomatic broker in the region, departing from its previous non-interventionist stance. In 2023, Iran and Saudi Arabia restored diplomatic ties with Chinese mediation, resolving a protracted impasse that first erupted in 2016.

### Potential pitfalls

BRICS membership also comes with potential risks, particularly regarding political entanglements. Aligning with a group that includes Russia may embroil the Kingdom in the ongoing geopolitical tensions between Moscow and the West. Similarly, the rivalry between China and the US could complicate the Saudi diplomatic

balancing and have a negative domestic effect.

According to one recent poll, almost half of Saudis prefer closer cooperation with the US and its allies rather than China. In this sense, the US presidential elections next month add even more agitation. The potential return of Donald Trump to the White House might increase China-US tensions and backfire on Saudi-US relations should Riyadh formally join BRICS. Meanwhile, the US remains the unrivaled defense partner and arms provider for Saudi Arabia. The Kingdom was the world's second-largest arms importer in 2019–23, with the US supplying 75% of the weapons. Riyadh's extensive cooperation with the West on security and military matters may make BRICS membership a precarious choice.

Another potential drawback is the loose structure of BRICS itself. Divergences between member nations, such as the India-China rivalry, complicate the bloc's ability to form a unified stance on critical international issues. Moreover, it remains unclear why Saudi Arabia should prioritize formal BRICS membership as its main platform for engaging key partners.

The Kingdom has effectively built economic and political relations through bilateral channels, making BRICS membership seem

more symbolic than necessary. Most of Saudi Arabia's objectives can be achieved directly, and its selective participation in BRICS-related events already reflects a form of de-facto involvement. This approach allows the Kingdom to align with its interests while mitigating potential risks with the West, which sometimes views BRICS as an adversarial bloc.

### Looking ahead

Saudi thinking on whether to formally join BRICS is presented with an even balance of pros and cons at this point. As such, the preservation of a formally undefined status of participation in the bloc may be in the interest of Riyadh.

In broad terms, the Kingdom is expected to continue pursuing a pragmatic and balanced approach, focusing on retaining its strategic autonomy.

While formal BRICS membership may not be crucial, it is important that Saudi Arabia continues to engage with the bloc in a concrete and meaningful way. In doing so, the Kingdom will likely aim to maintain strong relationships with both BRICS nations and its traditional Western allies — without fully aligning with either bloc.

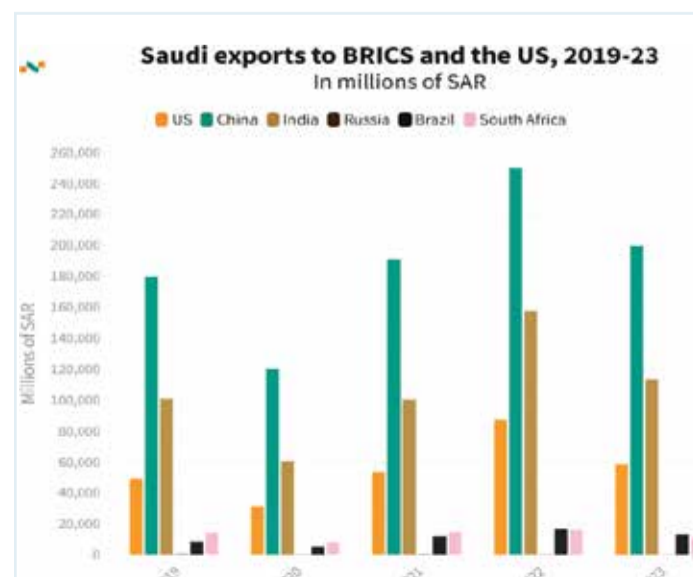
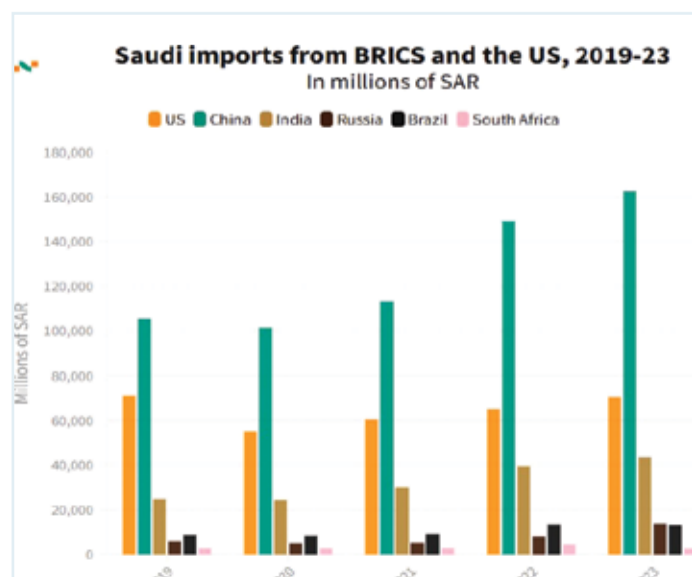
The article first appeared on Amwaj Media.



Saudi Minister of Foreign Affairs Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud (2nd-L) attends the BRICS summit in Johannesburg, South Africa, on August 24, 2023.



According to Bloomberg, Saudi Arabia has already launched \$1.3 trillion in "real estate and infrastructure projects over the past eight years as part of its plan to diversify the economy away from oil" — and more will come. Given the size of investments needed, sole reliance on its own oil income is not a solution for the Kingdom.



# Why NATO member Turkey wants to join BRICS



By Selcan Hacaoglu  
Journalist

## OPINION

Starting in the 1940s, Turkey, wary of Moscow, positioned itself as an ally of the US and soon after joined NATO, the military alliance founded to protect Europe against Soviet attack during the Cold War. Since coming to power in 2003, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has gradually reinvented Turkey as a power in its own right that's free to make new friends even if it upsets the old ones. In the past decade, it's been courting a number of US adversaries — China, Russia, and Iran — as distrust of Western powers propelled its search for new partnerships. Now, it's seeking to join those three countries in the BRICS group of emerging-market nations.

### Why is Turkey seeking to join BRICS?

Citing frustration over a lack of progress in its decades-old bid to join the European Union, Turkey has formally asked to join BRICS. The aim, according to people familiar with the matter, is to bolster Turkey's global influence and forge new ties beyond the country's traditional Western allies. Officials in Erdogan's administration say that the geopolitical center of gravity is shifting away from developed economies and that joining BRICS could improve Turkey's economic ties with Russia and China.

The BRICS grouping — named for the earliest members: Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa — includes some of the biggest emerging economies and touts itself as an alternative to what its participants see as Western-dominated institutions such as the World Bank and International Monetary Fund. New members can potentially broaden their political and trade relationships and get access to financing through the group's development bank. Four new members — Iran, the United Arab Emirates, Ethiopia, and Egypt — joined at the start of 2024. Erdogan is scheduled to attend the BRICS summit in Kazan, Russia, starting October 22.

### What's Turkey's beef with West?

During much of the Cold War, Russia was the hostile neighbor that motivated Turkey to seek powerful allies to help defend its territory. But Turkey's ties with its Western allies began to deteriorate a decade ago. Erdogan accused Western governments

of backing anti-government protests in Turkey in 2013 in the wake of the Arab Spring revolts. When the US in 2014 began to supply weapons to Kurdish militants in Syria who were helping in the effort to combat Islamic State, Turkey — which is fighting its own conflict with affiliated Kurdish separatists — saw the move as a betrayal.

tempt by followers of a US-based cleric to topple his government in 2016. The same year, negotiations about Turkey joining the EU stalled. A year later, Turkey purchased an advanced Russian missile defense system, the S-400. It took delivery of it in 2019 after dropping talks to acquire a comparable US system, the Patriot, because of Washing-

ton's refusal to share technology. Following the S-400 deal, the US barred Turkey from buying F-35 fighter jets out of concern the Russian system could be used to collect intelligence on their stealth capabilities. The US later imposed sanctions that effectively cut off Turkey's top defense procurement agency from US financial institutions, military hardware, and technology. Further complicating Turkey's relations with Western partners are Erdogan's growing anti-Israeli rhetoric and criticism of US arms

### What new ties is Turkey nurturing?

Turkey has opened dozens of

supplies to the Jewish entity amid its punishing military campaign in the Gaza Strip against the Palestinian Resistance group Hamas. Erdogan has embraced Hamas, which the US and EU consider a terrorist organization. company Rosatom is building a \$24-billion nuclear power station on Turkey's Mediterranean coast, and Turkey's government has asked it to construct another. Turkey is in talks with China to build a third nuclear power plant. It seeks to secure more Chinese investment in plants making electric vehicles as well as a partnership with China to process a deposit of rare earth elements.

### What's at stake?

Erdogan's balancing act challenges Western efforts to forge a unified front to persuade Moscow to stop its war against Ukraine. In July, Erdogan cautioned fellow NATO members against taking steps that could drag the alliance into the war. US officials have repeatedly warned that Turkish entities run the risk of running afoul of American sanctions against Russian entities and Hamas. But if the US pushes Erdogan too hard, it could jeopardize relations with an important partner in the volatile Middle East. Turkey hosts US nuclear warheads at an air base close to Syria and an early-warning radar that's part of NATO's ballistic missile defense capabilities. It's also absorbed millions of refugees from the Middle East and Asia and acted as a buffer for that flow to Europe.

Turkey, too is keen to avoid any move that could endanger its most important military alliance and scupper a deal to buy US-made F-16 warplanes and upgrade other military equipment.

The article first appeared on Bloomberg.



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan makes a video address to a summit in Kyiv, Ukraine, on September 11, 2024, with Ukrainian leader Volodymyr Zelenskyy (c) looking on.

POOL

Turkey's sense that it must take its defense into its own hands was deepened in October 2015 when the US and then Germany withdrew air defenses from Turkey following Ankara's crack-down after a surge of Kurdish militant violence. A month later, under pressure from the US, Turkey canceled its plan to buy a missile defense system from a state-run Chinese company that had been sanctioned by the US for alleged missile sales to Iran. Erdogan's anti-Western rhetoric escalated following a failed at-

tempt by followers of a US-based cleric to topple his government in 2016. The same year, negotiations about Turkey joining the EU stalled. A year later, Turkey purchased an advanced Russian missile defense system, the S-400. It took delivery of it in 2019 after dropping talks to acquire a comparable US system, the Patriot, because of Washing-

ton's refusal to share technology. Following the S-400 deal, the US barred Turkey from buying F-35 fighter jets out of concern the Russian system could be used to collect intelligence on their stealth capabilities. The US later imposed sanctions that effectively cut off Turkey's top defense procurement agency from US financial institutions, military hardware, and technology. Further complicating Turkey's relations with Western partners are Erdogan's growing anti-Israeli rhetoric and criticism of US arms

The article first appeared on Bloomberg.

# Significance of country X joining BRICS

By Iqbal Surve and Banthati Sekwala  
Senior BRICS representatives

## OPINION

As the world shifts towards a multipolar reality, BRICS has emerged as a crucial platform for nations seeking to shape their own futures and redefine the global order.

Composed of some of the most powerful and dynamic emerging economies, BRICS stands as a beacon of inclusivity, cooperation, and fairness in an increasingly fractured world. The addition of new members to this prestigious group is not merely a formality — it represents a transformative moment in the evolution of global governance.

BRICS is more than a group of nations; it is a vision for a future where the voices of the Global South are heard and respected. With 47% of the global population and 36% of the world's GDP, BRICS is a force that cannot be ignored. Its growing influence, both politically and economically, draws countries eager to participate in the bloc's mission to reshape the rules of international engagement.

### Appeal of BRICS

The BRICS vision is centred on promoting dialogue, fostering equitable cooperation, and creating a new world order — one that moves beyond the skewed policies of the past. Traditional institutions, like the IMF and World Bank, have often imposed rigid structures that prioritise the interests of a few at the expense of many. BRICS, by contrast, seeks to build a system where all nations have the opportunity to thrive.

At the heart of this mission is the New Development Bank (NDB), a BRICS initiative designed to offer fair financing to nations that have historically been underserved by Western financial systems. For many countries, joining BRICS represents not just an opportunity for economic growth, but a chance to break free from the financial constraints imposed by institutions that have long favoured the Global North.

### Political, security cooperation: Shared commitment

One of the core pillars of BRICS is political and security cooperation. For countries that join BRICS, this pillar represents an opportunity to engage in global dialogues that prioritise peace, stability, and mutual respect. Unlike other global bodies, where power dynam-



The photo shows an empty convention room, days before it hosts the 2024 BRICS Summit in Kazan, Russia, from August 22-24, 2024.

SPUTNIK

ics often stifle smaller voices, BRICS offers equal footing to all members. This equality in decision-making allows BRICS nations to present a united front on the global stage, promoting principles of non-interference and sovereignty. In an increasingly polarised world, BRICS' commitment to multilateralism and peaceful coexistence sets it apart. The bloc's support for non-alignment ensures that no nation is forced into choosing sides in global conflicts. Instead, BRICS encourages dialogue and diplomatic solutions, offering a model for how global governance can function in a more just and balanced way.

### Economic cooperation: A path to prosperity

For many countries, the pri-

mary appeal of BRICS lies in the economic opportunities it offers. As a member of BRICS, nations gain access to vast markets, enhanced trade relationships, and investment opportunities that can drive sustainable economic growth. The intra-BRICS trade network provides a platform for countries to diversify their economies, reducing reliance on traditional trading partners and external markets. Infrastructure development is another key focus of BRICS, with the NDB providing alternative financing solutions for nations looking to invest in critical sectors. For countries struggling under the weight of high-interest loans from Western institutions, BRICS offers a lifeline — one that allows for economic development with-

out the strings attached. This is particularly crucial for nations looking to build resilient economies that can weather the storms of global instability.

### Cultural exchange: Building bridges between nations

The third pillar of BRICS cooperation focuses on culture and people-to-people exchange. In a world where differences are often exploited for political gain, BRICS stands as a model for how diverse nations can come together in the spirit of mutual respect. Through cultural initiatives, such as the BRICS Film Festival and educational exchange programs, BRICS fosters deeper connections between its citizens, promoting tolerance, understanding,

and collaboration. Cultural exchange is not just a matter of diplomacy — it is a way to build lasting relationships between nations. By sharing their stories, histories, and experiences, BRICS nations create a foundation of trust and solidarity that strengthens the bloc as a whole.

### A future of opportunity

The decision to join BRICS is not merely symbolic — it is a commitment to a future where all nations have a say in how the world is governed. For countries like Country X, membership in BRICS represents an opportunity to shape the global narrative, to participate in a system that focuses on fairness, and to contribute to a bloc that is leading the charge toward a more just world order.

As BRICS continues to expand, it is poised to play an increasingly important role in global governance, offering a platform for nations to thrive and ensuring that the voices of the Global South are heard and respected. Together, BRICS nations can build a future where all perspectives are valued, and where global development benefits everyone, not just a privileged few.

The full article first appeared on IOL.

# U23 Wrestling World Championships: Naqousi wins gold, Iran bags three Greco-Roman medals

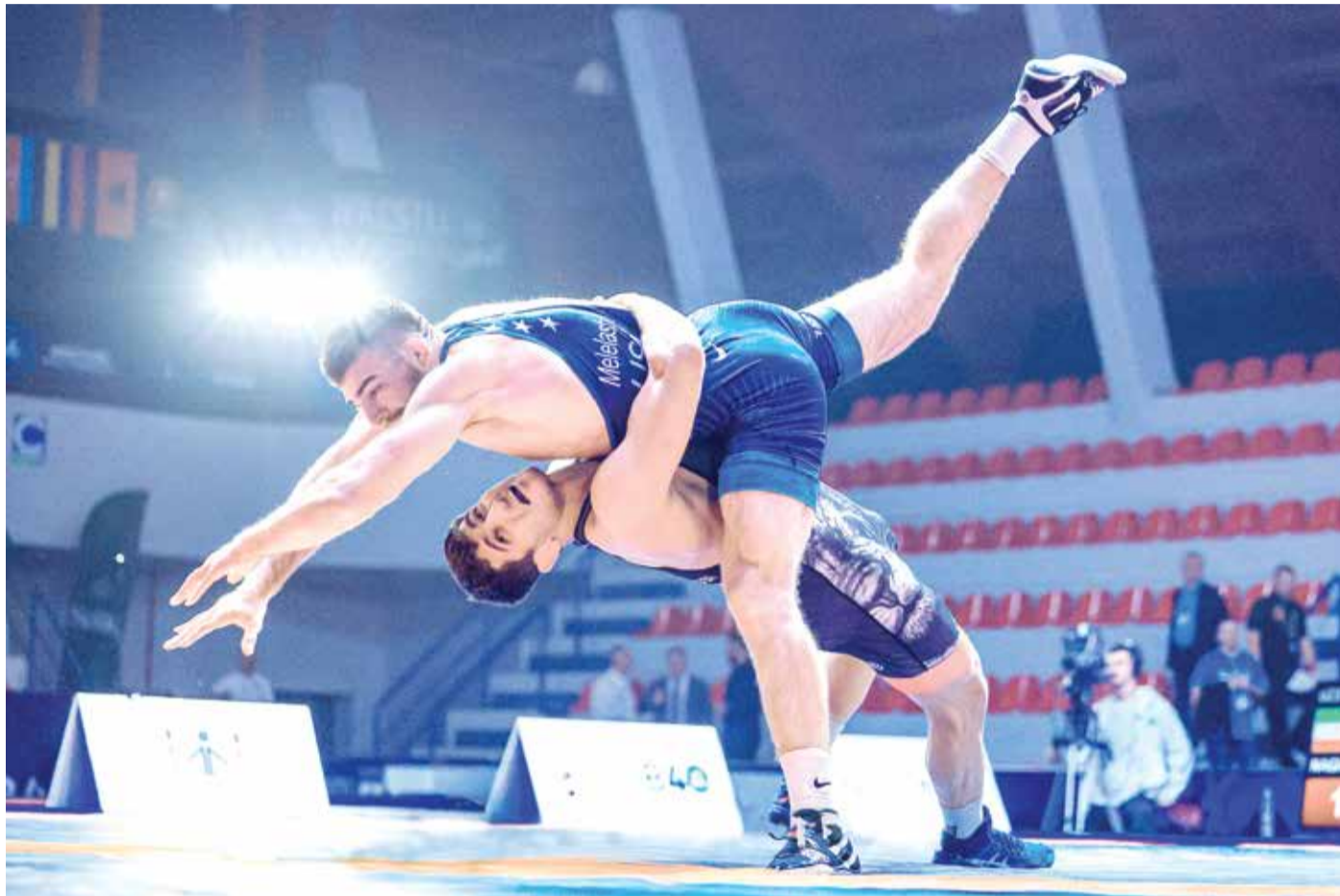
## Sports Desk

Iranian Greco-Roman wrestlers collected three medals, including a gold, across five weight classes at the U23 World Championships in Tirana, Albania.

Mohammad Naqousi defeated American Beka Melelashvili for the ultimate prize of the 82kg contests, while Danial Sohrabi and Shayan Habib-Zare' added a couple of bronzes to Iran's medal haul. Naqousi jumped out to a 3-0 lead against the Georgian-born wrestler, courtesy of a passivity point and a correct throw without exposure. Melelashvili fought back in the second frame with a passivity point of his own. The duo traded a pair of two-point maneuvers with action stemming from par terre. Melelashvili had the final minute from neutral to find a score, but Naqousi held strong defensively to secure a 4-3 victory and claim a second world age-group gold, following his under-20 triumph in 2019.

Melelashvili, meanwhile, became the first Greco-Roman medalist for the United States in the history of the competition.

In the 72kg contests, Sohrabi recovered from a fall defeat against Armenian Shant Khachatryan in the quarterfinals to finish with a consolation bronze. A 67kg gold medalist in the competition in 2022, Sohrabi first



Iranian wrestler Mohammad Naqousi (red) is seen in action against American Beka Melelashvili in the Greco-Roman 82kg final at the U23 Wrestling World Championships in Tirana, Albania, on October 22, 2024.  
● UWW

defeated Swiss Michael Portmann by superiority (8-0) in the repechage before outmuscling Georgios Barbanos of Sweden in emphatic fashion (9-0) to share

the third podium with neutral athlete Imran Aliev. Khachatryan went on to settle for the silver after a 3-1 loss to Georgian Giorgi Chkhikvadze in

the final. Habib-Zare' began his 97kg campaign in despair, suffering an 8-0 defeat against Abubakar Khaslakhanaev, but was given a

second chance when the Belarusian, also representing the individual neutral athletes' team, made it to the final showdown. The Iranian beat Georgia's La-

sha Tvildiani 3-0 and then came out victorious 8-5 against Estonian Richard Karelson in a thrilling third-place bout.

Hayk Khloyan defeated Khaslakhanaev 11-6 for the gold medal of the class, with Magomed Murtazaliev winning the other bronze.

Mohammad-Mahdi Gholampour was the other Iranian in action on the first day of the event, finishing empty handed in the 60kg contests following a 10-5 defeat against Azerbaijan's Nihad Guluzade in the quarterfinals.

Alisher Ganiev of Uzbekistan won the 60kg gold, thanks to an 8-4 win against Dinislam Bamatov, with Guluzade and Pridon Abuladze of Georgia taking the bronze medals.

Ahmadreza Mohsennejad was to represent Iran in the 67kg event but will leave Tirana without a bout after a weigh-in failure.

Razzak Beishekeev of Kyrgyzstan came out on top against Diego Chkhikvadze of Georgia in the final showpiece, while Daniil Agaev and Polish Arslanbek Salimov won the two bronze medals of the class.

## AFC Champions League Elite:

# Ronaldo kept at bay, but Laporte leaves it late as Al Nassr edges Esteghlal

## Sports Desk

Portuguese superstar Cristiano Ronaldo again failed to find the net against Iranian teams, but an Aymeric Laporte's late header proved enough for Saudi giant Al Nassr to edge out Esteghlal 1-0 in the AFC Champions League Elite on Tuesday.

Ronaldo, who was on the score-sheet from the spot when Portugal beat Iran in the 2006 World Cup, has now been without a goal in four meetings with teams from the Middle East country - including the 2018 World Cup encounter where he had a penalty saved by goalkeeper Alireza Beiranvand. The Portuguese still played his part in Al Nassr's match winner as his goal-ward header from Miroslav

Brozovic's corner was pushed high into the air by Blues keeper Seyyed Hossein Hosseini, before Spanish international Laporte rose to steer the rebound home on the far post with nine minutes left on the clock. Meanwhile, South African Pitso Mosimane, who was named as the Tehran Blues' new head coach last Friday and watched the game from the stands in Dubai's Rashid Stadium, was treated to a glimpse of the task on his hands when taking over from interim coach Sohrab Bakhtiarizadeh for Saturday's game at Khaybar in the Iranian Pro League. For all their defensive struggles throughout the season, Esteghlal players put in a solid performance to stifle Al Nassr's formidable front-line, also featuring former Liverpool striker Sadio Mane, before

the Spanish center-back made the difference at the end.

Bakhtiarizadeh was pleased with his team's display, but lamented the chances his men missed on the break.

"I believe we saw a very good game from a technical standpoint. Both teams started with different plans, aiming to score, and we focused on playing behind the opponents, knowing they had creative and experienced attackers. Our goal was to close the spaces and limit their chances while looking to strike on counter-attacks," said the interim coach.

"Defensively, we performed well except for a lapse that led to their goal. We had good chances to score on the counter, but we didn't capitalize.

"Even after conceding, we had opportunities to equalize but failed to take advantage. Our strategy was based on the resources we had, not on whether it was a home or away game. We believed this approach could neutralize Al Nassr's stars like Ronaldo and Mane while hurting them on the break. Unfortunately, we didn't make the most of our chances, which cost us the result."

As if Esteghlal fans needed more reason to rue a second successive defeat in the competition, instrumental winger Mehrdad Mohammadi faces a lengthy layoff after leaving the pitch seven minutes into the game with a leg injury.

The result left Esteghlal in the sixth place of the West Zone's 12-team table with three points, while Al Nassr is fourth with seven points.



● FFIRI



● SUSANA VERA/REUTERS

## Ancelotti lauds 'rare and extraordinary' Vinicius after Dortmund win

REUTERS- Real Madrid manager Carlo Ancelotti praised the 'extraordinary' Vinicius Jr on Tuesday after the Brazilian forward scored a second-half hat-trick to help them fight back from two goals down and thrash visitors Borussia Dortmund 5-2 in the Champions League.

Ancelotti told a press conference he was convinced that the 24-year-old Vinicius would win the Ballon d'Or award for the best player in the

world on Monday.

"What I can say is that it's rare to see a player who plays a second half like Vinicius did. And not because of the three goals but because of his character; he's extraordinary," Ancelotti said.

"Vinicius is going to win (the Ballon d'Or), not for what he did tonight, but for what he did last year. These three goals are already going to count for next year's Ballon d'Or, that's for

sure. He is a player who gets whistled at because he can make a difference." In a rematch of last season's final, Ancelotti said there was no panic in the changing room after Real went into the halftime break two goals down, and that his side had the maturity and experience to understand what they needed to do to come back.

"We lived it calmly, calmly (over the break). We changed the system and came back playing more intensely,"

Ancelotti said.

"Talking about scoring three goals might have seemed utopian, so we talked about small details like passing well, winning duels... We had to win the dynamic of the game and from there you start to win the game. "We were timid in the first half, we weren't intense on the ball and in the second half we did better with more quality, more pressure. It was the best second half of the season."

# Iran's 1st BRICS meeting as official member Pezeshkian calls on bloc to prioritize economic issues

## International Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian put forward five proposals to realize the goals of the BRICS group of major emerging economies and called for the establishment of a secretariat to follow up on the bloc's plans.

Addressing the 16th summit of BRICS in the Russian city of Kazan on Wednesday, the Iranian president called on the member states to give priority to economic and financial issues in the next year.

Pezeshkian also described the "inhumane and illegal" sanctions imposed on independent countries as one of the most important challenges facing these countries. He said that countering these "illegal" sanctions requires collective measure and joint mechanisms. The Iranian president said that it is necessary to take practical and calculated steps to prevent countries to sanction others in the future.

## De-dollarization

Currently, most countries in the world are dissatisfied with the fact that the US uses the dollar as a weapon or a tool to control

other countries, Pezeshkian said.

He stressed that the world knows BRICS as a group established with the aim of reducing the strength of dollar and increasing exchanges with national currencies. The Iranian president said that the use of digital currencies and new financial mechanisms and technologies such as messaging platforms are in line with the main goals of BRICS.

## New technologies

The president said that countries in the Global North have consistently hindered the access of countries in the Global South to new technologies. "So, we have a duty to equip ourselves with new technologies through co-operation, exchange of information, joint investments, and other measures."

Pezeshkian also pointed to the necessity of strengthening the New Development Bank (NDB), which is one of the institutions established by BRICS, by accepting new members and increasing its capital. Pezeshkian said that Iran is ready to have close cooperation with the bank.

The president emphasized that Iran has significant capabilities in various fields and can foster beneficial cooperation within the BRICS group.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Pezeshkian pointed to Israel's ongoing genocidal wars in Gaza and Lebanon and urged members of the BRICS grouping to help "end the war" in Gaza and Lebanon.

"I call on all members of the influential BRICS group to use all their collective and individual capacities to end the war in Gaza and Lebanon."

## Talks with BRICS leaders

Pezeshkian, who arrived in Kazan on Tuesday, has also held several meetings with the leaders of countries attending the summit, including Russian and Egyptian presidents as well as Indian and Ethiopian prime ministers.

Russian President Vladimir Putin told Pezeshkian he wanted to further "strengthen" ties with Tehran.

"One of the main tasks in our relations is to strengthen the emerging positive trend in trade and economic cooperation," Putin said.



Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian addresses the 16th BRICS summit in Kazan, Russia, on October 23, 2024.  
president.ir

## Pezeshkian-Sisi meeting

In his meeting with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, the Iranian president condemned the West's double standards towards Israel's genocide in Gaza and their support for the regime.

The Egyptian president, for his part, said that during all the years that relations between the two countries have been strained, he never has taken a position against Iran. "In my opinion, you should

try to right the distorted image that has been portrayed of Iran in the region and the world in the past 40 years," he told Pezeshkian.

President Pezeshkian also held a meeting with Ethiopia's Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed.

Pezeshkian asserted that any potential Israeli act of aggression against Iran will be met with a "decisive and unbelievable" response from the Islamic Republic.

"We are not whatsoever in

favor of the expansion of conflict and tension in the region, and welcome any action that is in line with peace and calm," Pezeshkian said, adding, "The Zionist regime's actions, however, are being squarely carried out with the aim of setting the entire region on fire."

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.

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, Ethiopia, the UAE and Saudi Arabia.

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

## Leader: Struggles of Nasrallah, Sinwar changed fate of region



Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said the struggles of Hamas' Polit-

ical Bureau chief, Yahya Sinwar, and Hezbollah's Secretary General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah served

to change the fate of the West Asia region.

Ayatollah Khamenei made the remarks in a meeting with organizers of the Congress of 15,000 Martyrs of the southern Iranian Fars Province on Wednesday.

The Leader described the events in the region and the steadfastness and efforts of the resistance as factors that have changed the fate and history of the region, Press TV reported.

He noted that the Israeli regime had clearly failed

to destroy the resistance despite the massacre of more than 50,000 innocent people, describing this as a "great defeat for the Zionist regime."

Yet, Ayatollah Khamenei stressed that the greater defeat lies in the disgrace of Western culture, civilization, and politicians.

"In the confrontation between the resistance front and the front of evil, victory belongs to the resistance," the Leader emphasized.

Ayatollah Khamenei described the current de-

velopments in the region and the events in the besieged Gaza Strip, Lebanon, and the occupied West Bank as historic.

"If figures like Martyr Sinwar had not emerged to fight until the last moment, or if great leaders like Martyr Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah had not combined jihad, wisdom, courage, and sacrifice and brought them to the field, the fate of the region would have been entirely different," he stressed.

The Israeli regime assassinated Hamas' chief

Ismail Haniyeh in the Iranian capital Tehran back in July and Hezbollah's Nasrallah in southern Lebanon last month.

Furthermore, the regime assassinated Haniyeh's successor, Yahya Sinwar, in Gaza earlier this month. The Leader described the outcome of Israel's ongoing aggression in the region as a major defeat not only for the regime but also for Western civilization and culture.

"The Zionists thought they could easily eliminate the resistance

groups. However, despite the martyrdom of more than 50,000 defenseless civilians and several prominent resistance leaders, and despite the enormous costs and US support... the resistance front and the young fighters in Hamas, Islamic Jihad, Hezbollah, and other resistance groups continue to fight with the same resolve and strength," he stated.

"This is a significant defeat for the Zionist regime," Ayatollah Khamenei added.

## Hezbollah confirms Israeli assassination of Safieddine in air raid

### International Desk

The Lebanese resistance group Hezbollah confirmed that its senior figure Hashem Safieddine, who was touted as the likely replacement for martyred leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, had been assassinated in an Israeli attack several weeks ago.

"We pledge to our great martyr and his martyred brothers to continue the path of resistance and jihad until achieving its goals of freedom and victory," Hezbollah said in a statement.

The announcement came a day after the Israeli military officially claimed Safieddine had been killed in the attack, which used bunker-buster bombs similar to the strike that killed Nasrallah on September 27.

Israel has intensified its attacks both on Gaza and Lebanon.

Gaza government media office said on Wednesday that the regime has killed more than 770 Palestinians and wounded 1,000 others after 19 days of attacks and siege on Jabalia, in northern Gaza. The regime's attacks on



Hashem Safieddine

Lebanon also claimed the lives of nearly 30 people in 24 hours, according to an announcement by Leba-

non's government. At least 2,570 Lebanese have been killed in Lebanon since October last year.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist



## Iran's Rahbari to lead orchestras in Russia, China



### Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian composer and international conductor, Ali Rahbari, has been invited to lead six symphony orchestras in Russia and China over the course of six weeks. As the permanent guest conductor of the Mariinsky Opera in St. Petersburg, Russia, Rahbari will kick off his tour on November 8, conducting the Mariinsky Symphony Orchestra in a performance of Anton Bruckner's Symphony No. 5, in celebration of the composer's

200th birthday, IRNA reported. Rahbari will then travel to China, where he will lead five symphony orchestras in different cities. On November 27, he will conduct the Beijing Symphony Orchestra in a performance of Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's Romeo and Juliet Overture, Edvard Grieg's Peer Gynt Suite, and Franz Schubert's Symphony No. 9. Rahbari will also conduct the Hangzhou Philharmonic Orchestra on November 24, performing Bruckner's Symphony No. 5, and the Ningbo

Symphony Orchestra on November 30, with a program featuring Tchaikovsky's Slavic March, Serenade for String Orchestra, and Schubert's Symphony No. 9. Plus, Rahbari will lead the Wuhan Symphony Orchestra on December 7, performing Tchaikovsky's Slavic March, Serenade for String Orchestra, and Symphony No. 5, and the China Youth Symphony Orchestra in Beijing on December 13, with a program featuring Tchaikovsky's Serenade for String Orchestra and Symphony No. 6.

## Four Iranian galleries set to shine at art fair in Moscow

Four Iranian galleries will represent Iranian art at the 12th Cosmoscov International Contemporary Art Fair, which kicked off on October 25 and will run until October 27. According to ILNA, this marks the first time that Iranian galleries will participate in the art event, which has been held annually in Russia since 2014, ILNA reported. Cosmoscov International Contemporary Art Fair was founded by Russian collector Margarita Pushkina with the aim of creating a platform to showcase contemporary art, not only to exhibit the best of contemporary art but also to support emerging artists and galleries, and to nurture a new generation of talents. This year's edition of the fair features over 150 contemporary art pieces from 91 galleries, including a special section dedicated to Iranian



art, titled "Persian Section", which focuses on contemporary Iranian art. Two notable Iranian galleries, Artibition Gallery and Club Gallery, are among the participants in this section, showcasing the best of Iranian contemporary art.



## Iran Film Week underway in Bosnia and Herzegovina

### Arts & Culture Desk

The Iran Film Week and Photography Exhibition kicked off on October 21 at the Mostar National Theater in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The event was inaugurated in the presence of Mohammad Hossein Ansari, the cultural attaché of Iran in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Efenidija Dino Maksumich is the chief imam of Mostar, and Seada Kuštrić, the director of the Mostar National Theater. In her opening speech, Kuštrić, representing the cultural authorities of Mostar, highlighted the significance of the event, stating that it is a valuable opportunity for the people of Mostar to get ac-



quainted with Iranian culture. She praised the rich cultural heritage of Iran and expressed her delight that the Mostar National Theater is hosting one of the richest cultures in the world. Ansari referred to the historical and cultural ties between Iran and Bosnia and Herzegovina and highlighted the achievements of Iranian cinema on the international stage. He emphasized that the film week is a chance to strengthen the people of Mostar's familiarity with Iranian arts and culture. Ansari also pointed out that Iranian cinema's main characteristic is its ability to attract audiences without resorting to violence, instead focusing on moral principles, family values, and human dignity. The event features the screening of four Iranian films, including 'Romanticism of Emad & Tooba,' 'Henas,' 'Sara and Ayda,' and 'The Painting Pool.' The film week will run until October 24 at the Mostar National Theater. The event is organized by the Cultural Center of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in collaboration with the Mostar National Theater, the Islamic Culture and Relations Organization, the Soureh Cinema Organization, and the Farabi Cinema Foundation.

## Russian figure hails Iran's modern arts as 'rapidly growing'

### Arts & Culture Desk

Head of documentary broadcasting at Russia Today (RTDoc) visited the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art and praised the museum's collection and the country's modern art scene. Ekaterina Yakovleva, a member of the Expert Council of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation and director of the documentary network Russia Today visited the exhibitions 'Eye to Eye,' 'Companion of the Sun,' and 'Redisplay of the Iranian artists at the 60th Venice Biennale', IRNA reported. During her visit, Yakovleva said, "We have seen works by both world-renowned artists and Iranian artists in this museum. While the Iranian artists' works are of a very high level and have impressed me, the world needs to see their works. In my opinion, contemporary Iranian art is rapidly growing." "We have visited one of Iran's excellent museums, which is among the world's unique museums and has a rich collection of contemporary artists," she said. Yakovleva, born in 1980, is a graduate of the Screenwriting and Film Studies Department of

the Moscow Film School (VGIK) and a member of the Expert Council of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation for selecting national documentary film projects. Yakovleva is also general producer of the International Documentary Film Festival "RT.Doc: Time of Our Heroes". Yakovlova is a graduate of the School of Screenwriting and Film Studies of the Russian State University of Cinematography (VGIK). She has produced more than 1,500 documentary films as the head of documentary broadcasting at Russia Today. She has won dozens of awards at national and international festivals.



## A new powerhouse ...

Iran can utilize the New Development Bank to implement many of its development projects and draw on the CRA to cushion itself against sudden economic and financial shocks. Recently, BRICS unveiled its payment mechanism, which allows countries to trade in local cur-

rencies. Members are also moving toward launching a new currency. Hence, BRICS' economic capacities can be a golden opportunity for Iran's economy. 5. Iran's accession to BRICS can draw members' attention to its national and regional capacities. One of Iran's most remarkable capacities is its transit

potential. Transport corridors are not built overnight; once constructed, they can remain active for decades. Iran's north-south, east-west corridors, and waterways offer advantages to both BRICS member states and Iran, which was a key topic of discussion between Iranian President Masoud

Pezeshkian and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the Kazan summit. 6. In a nutshell, Iran's membership in BRICS has created a new institutional power for the country, reducing its vulnerability to external political, security, and economic pressure.