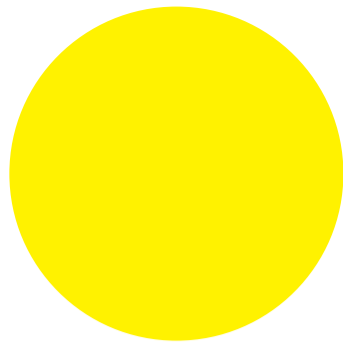


Iran Daily cartoonist awarded at 6th Int'l Book Cartoon Biennial



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Iran Daily

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Iranian Missiles Meant for Defense not Aggression: **Pezeshkian**

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Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian addresses a gathering of dryland farmers in Tehran, Iran on November 4, 2024. president.ir

US election and Iran



By **Jahanbakhsh Izadi**
Professor of international relations

OPINION EXCLUSIVE

As polls indicate, the US presidential election is set to kick off in a highly competitive state, with both candidates running neck and neck. It suggests that American society has become increasingly polarized, and many US analysts do not see this as a positive development for the country's future. Some of those who argue that the US is in decline point to these internal issues, particularly the deepening divisions within American society. One of the consequences of such polarization is that democratic bodies in the United States are being put to the test, especially when someone like Donald Trump, who may not accept the outcome of the democratic process, is involved. The US election and its result have become a global talking point, with all countries, whether allies, critics, or adversaries, analyzing and following it from their own perspective. However, many Iranian analysts' views on the US election are not grounded in reality or based on a proper understanding of the situation. Despite its flaws, American society has the ability to overcome its problems, and there are established legal mechanisms in place to address any issues that may arise during the election. In the previous election, when Trump refused to concede, even the Republicans eventually came out in defense of the election result, and everything was resolved. [Page 8 >](#)



Trump's playbook to win regardless of election night results

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Iranian islands being scapegoated



By **Gholamreza Mansouri**
Political science researcher

OPINION EXCLUSIVE

On October 17, 2024, the European Union signed the joint legal political statement presented by members of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council on the United Arab Emirates' claim that the three islands of Abu Musa and Greater and Lesser Tunbs belong to Abu Dhabi and are occupied by Iran. They also demanded an end to the occupation of the Iranian territory. Although all historical records affirm Iranian ownership of the three islands, it was the clearest and most interventionist statement ever issued by a legal union beyond the region. They clearly raised the level of intervention to the signing of a statement rather than relying on conventional political slogans. Despite the fact that the UAE claim is not new, the timing of the tension contains a very important point. It could be seen as a sign of a new scenario against Iran. As we know, the UAE was a leading member of a political faction including Bahrain, Sudan, and Morocco that tried to bring peace to Palestine through the Abraham Accords, originally presented by the Trump administration. [Page 2 >](#)

NIOPDC: Gasoline consumption soars by 7.4%



Economy Desk

Iran's gasoline consumption averaged 124.5 million liters per day from the start of the [Iranian] year (March 20) through November 2, representing a 7.4% increase compared to the same period last year, when the average was 116 million liters per day, according to the managing director of the National Iranian Oil Products Distribution Company (NIOPDC).

Speaking in a press conference in Tehran on Monday, Keramat Veys-Karami also said Iran mainly imports gasoline through swap deals, with the country importing an average of 8.5 million liters of gasoline per day in the first six months of the current year (March 20-September 21), Shana reported.

Gasoline imports reached 9 million liters per day during the month to September 21, with the quality of imported gasoline meeting the national standard index and Euro 4 standard, added the deputy oil minister.

In late-August, Iranian power stations' diesel storage levels decreased by 43% as mazut storing decreased by 23% compared to the same period last year, according to Veys-Karami. He also said that deliveries of diesel to power plants increased by 32% in the month to September 21 and raised 27.5% during the month to October 21, compared to the same months last year.

To address the challenges, the official noted that weekly meetings were held by the Oil Ministry's production, transportation, and storage departments, adding, "At these meetings, ways to increase the capacity of product production and improve the volume and speed of transportation for the winter fuel supply will be discussed and decided upon."

He said on October 16 that our estimate is to deliver 10 billion liters of liquid fuel to the country's power stations by the end of the current Iranian year (March 20, 2025). Veys-Karami noted that 70% of Iran's gasoline is produced in the south of the country, while about 75% of consumption is in the northern part of the country, which imposes a heavy and intensive volume of operations on his company.

Pezeshkian says Iran facing all-out economic war

Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian said that the country is currently facing an all-out economic war, emphasizing the need for making every effort to foil enemies' plots to create economic problems for the Islamic Republic.

"Today's war is an economic one, not a war of bombs and missiles. We have missiles so that they dare not attack us. We do not have missiles to attack anyone", the president said on Monday at a ceremony to honor people contributing to a plan aimed at jumping production on rainfed land, IRNA reported.

Pezeshkian also has emphasized the need for accelerating the completion of unfinished projects launched on joint foreign investment with foreign companies, especially the projects in the energy sector.

The president on Sunday evening chaired a meeting that assessed the latest status of joint foreign investment projects that have not been completed yet.

He said that all capacities, including those in neighboring countries, should be used to complete those projects. Ministers of oil and energy were among the participants at the meeting.

Meanwhile, Iran's first vice president said on Monday that state-run bodies, especially the Supreme Economic Coordination Council and the Market Regulation Headquarters, are tasked with making decisions to improve the people's living conditions and economic growth and prosperity, while also closely monitoring, coordinating and cooperating to ensure price stability and reduce



inflation. Mohammadreza Aref emphasized in the meeting

of the Supreme Economic Coordination Council that the approval of the action

plan for energy saving with the participation of the private sector will

contribute to addressing the energy and electricity shortages in the country.

Tehran 'ready' to start AI cooperation with Havana: *Minister*

Iran's Minister of Information and Communications Technology Sattar Hashemi says the country is ready to initiate "good cooperation" with Cuba in the field of artificial intelligence among others.

"We are ready to share our knowledge and experience with you and start good cooperation in various fields, especially artificial intelligence," Hashemi said in a meeting with Cuba's Deputy Prime Minister Eduardo Martinez Diaz, IRNA reported.

He said there are many capacities for cooperation between Tehran and Havana, expressing hope that the agreements reached during his visit will be implemented soon.

For his part, Martinez Diaz highlighted Iran's remarkable progress in science and technology, calling for the expansion of bilateral cooperation in the fields of telecommunications, postal services, and artificial intelligence.

The visit of Iran's minister of ICT to Havana will help a lot in the further development of relations between Iran and Cuba, he added.

Hashemi said in September that Iranian private companies are ready to



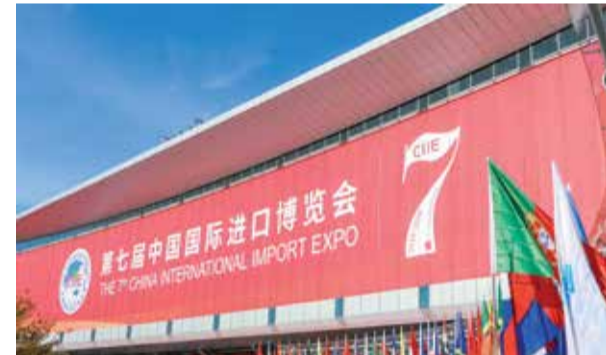
exchange experiences with Cuba. Hashemi made the remarks at an online meeting on September 16 with his Cuban counterpart Mayra Arevich Marin. During the talks, the Iranian minister said that Iran and Cuba are expanding their cooperation in various fields of communications and information technology. He called for reviewing of previous MoUs signed between the two countries in the field of communication and information technology. The minister also announced the readiness of Iranian companies to partake in the 40th Havana Exhibition, saying that attending this exhibition can provide joint cooperation in other fields between the two countries.

Iran to attend China trade exhibition to develop exports

Economy Desk

Iran will maintain a significant presence at the China International Import Expo (CIIE) with two national pavilions covering a total area of 140 square meters and a commercial pavilion covering approximately 1,700 square meters, aiming to develop exports of Iranian-made goods and services.

Invited by the Chinese Minister of Commerce, Mohammadali Dehqan Dehnavi, the head of the Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) will visit the exhibition which will be held during November 5-10 to discuss trade and investment opportunities with China, IRNA reported. Dehqan Dehnavi is also expected to meet with Chinese officials and companies to discuss the obstacles Iranian companies face in exporting to China, and explore ways to overcome them. The CIIE is a trade fair that



has annually been held in Shanghai, China, since 2018. The event is the first expo in the world at the national level with the sub-joint of imports. Various exhibitors from different businesses and countries participate in the expo. The formation of the China International Import Expo was personally proposed, promoted and directed by the current Chinese President Xi Jinping.

The exhibition is jointly organized by the Ministry of Commerce of China and the Shanghai Municipal

People's Government. The partners of the CIIE include the World Trade Organization, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization. The purpose of the CIIE is to introduce China's domestic market to foreign companies and strengthen domestic consumption. The exhibition has provided a platform for the cooperation of rich and poor countries as well as small and large economies in the form of win-win cooperation.

Iranian islands being ...

The most important objective of the plan was to create two independent countries, with Iran being the most significant opponent. As Iran seriously opposed it, the UAE became more hostile toward Iran.

However, it was significant that the UAE was able to gain support from China and Russia for its claims just after April 14, 2024 – when Iran launched missiles and drones in its first direct attack on Israel – but this was the first time it received support from the EU. It seems that because the EU was disappointed with

the cessation of military conflict against Israel by Iran, it decided to design a new scenario. Since the world witnessed huge support for the Palestinian people in the streets of Europe, creating a new psychological conflict for Iran by raising illusory questions in the minds of the masses became the focus of the mission. The goal was clear: they tried to send the message to the world that despite confronting the occupying regime of Israel in Palestine, Iran itself is an occupying country and behaves with hypocrisy and double standards in inter-

national relations. The scenario has another key element that is Benjamin Netanyahu. The Israeli prime minister has changed his strategy from gaining the support of nations to gaining the support of governments. It seems that Netanyahu's attempts for a direct military conflict with Iran require the withdrawal of the Europeans from the scene where the level of support for Israel has greatly decreased and has even led to criticism of its performance in the one-year war in the Gaza Strip. In order to prove that they are still with Israel and

not with Netanyahu, the Europeans have opened a new front against Israel's archenemy, Iran. This plan has supporters even within the Biden administration. For further explanation, here is Michael Doran's opinion from the Hudson Institute panel. "It's really quite striking what we haven't seen from the administration, which is a global attempt to hold Iran accountable in any way for this multi-theater war that it has orchestrated, or to isolate Iran in any way. But there is an effort by the administration going on to isolate the Isra-

li right, which we see in a number of different ways, including the sanctions that they're putting on the Israeli right, but also just the public messaging. They're doing with this policy, they would say, 'We are preserving the two-state solution. The war is endangering the possibility of a two-state solution.'" In summation, Iran leads the axis of resistance in the region against a two-state solution to the Palestinian issue. Consequently, the dangerous situation in the region created a good opportunity for the UAE to raise its territorial griev-

ances with Iran to higher levels and to attract more support from international powers. However, while the EU positions itself as a key actor in the Middle East's geopolitical landscape, it is looking for a loophole to prevent further support for Israel due to the condemnation of the masses in its own nation. While Netanyahu is trying to expand the military conflict in the region, on the other hand, the EU is creating of a new political front with Iran as a solution to control the support demands made by Netanyahu.

Echoes of tradition in Kurmanj weddings

Among the mountains and plains of North Khorasan Province, the *sorna* and *dohol* duet echoes, bringing hearts closer. This authentic music, with its lively rhythms, embodies joy and love. The air is filled with the aroma of *espan* (Iranian wild rue), while red apples and pomegranates bring smiles to faces. Young and old alike join hands, delighting in catching pomegranates amidst laughter and joy. This scene is part of the Kurmanj wedding traditions in the province, a celebration that preserves ancient customs and local traditions.



IRNA



Guardians of Kurmanji culture

Traditional weddings and Kurmanj music are vital to preserving the cultural identity of the Kurmanj people. These ceremonies do more than maintain the Kurmanji language; they are a display of cultural authenticity. Weddings are an opportunity for the Kurmanj community to strengthen their cultural ties. Though today, weddings are typically a one-day event, in the past, they would last up to three days and nights. Below, we explore the engagement and wedding traditions among the Kurmanj of Khorasan, as wrote by surfiran.com.

Engagement rituals

Nomadic life by the mountains and rivers has given the Kurmanj people a pure and simple intimacy. In this nature-bound life, two young Kurmanj often develop a profound love for each other. Marriages are usually within the tribe, and emotions are expressed with simplicity yet passion. The formal engagement proposal involves the elders of both families. Women from the groom's family visit the bride's home to seek the family's approval. Following this, a family dinner is arranged where the elders discuss the wedding ceremony details, including the dowry.



Shirini khoran

Once the families agree, the *Shirini Khoran* Ceremony takes place. This is when the woman's family accepts the proposal and provides an engagement sweet tray to the groom's family. It's a joyful event where sweets are shared with relatives, similar to *bonbonniere* traditions. Sweets and chocolates are placed in a red cloth and delivered to invite the guests. During this event, the *sorna* and *dohol* are played. The groom's family, carrying gifts, visits the bride's home, continuing the celebration together.

Wedding ceremony

Weddings usually take place after the harvest season or when the nomadic tribes return. The bride's dowry and traditional Kurmanji attire are meticulously prepared. On the wedding

day, men and women gather in vibrant clothing. Local musicians and singers perform joyful songs, creating a spectacle with the synchronized movements of the dancers.

Bringing the bride

Taking the bride to the groom's home marks a key moment in the wedding. The groom, riding a horse, heads towards the bride's house, joined by a crowd dancing to the rhythm of the *sorna*. The bride, wearing a beautiful dress with a red cloth covering her head, leaves her family home.



Arrival at the groom's house

Upon arrival at the groom's home, the bride stays on horseback until the groom's father offers a gift. This gift often includes several sheep. After this ritual, the bride takes on her role in the household, symbolized by holding a ladle, marking the start of a simple life together. This ceremony, rich in details, reflects the values and deep be-

liefs of the Kurmanj people. From their nomadic warmth to their respect for ancient traditions, each aspect of this ceremony is deeply intertwined with the cultural identity of this community. Kurmanj weddings are a reflection of life amidst nature and the unity that arises from living close to the mountains and plains.

Discover Torqabeh; a scenic retreat near Mashhad

Torqabeh is a picturesque district located approximately 15 kilometers southwest of Mashhad, Khorasan Razavi Province. Nestled among the beautiful Binalood Mountains, it is known for its serene landscapes, fresh air, and cooler climate, making it a popular escape for residents and tourists seeking respite from the urban hustle and pollution of Mashhad. The district features a rich natural environment with parks, recreational areas, and scenic views, while its proximity to Mashhad ensures easy access for visitors.

Location and accessibility

The Torqabeh-Shandiz district is conveniently located merely 16 kilometers from Mashhad. Travelers can reach Torqabeh from the western end of Vakilabad Boulevard, making it an easily accessible destination for both locals and tourists. The straightforward drive or public transport options connect the two areas seamlessly.

Natural attractions and scenic parks

Torqabeh features many scenic areas and unique climatic conditions that make it a desirable destination for relaxation and recreation. The parks in the region create a calming atmosphere, particularly during the hot summer season. Notable attractions include Torqabeh Public Park, or Pooneh Park, crossed by a gently flowing river, where visitors can unwind and enjoy the tranquility. Bah-

man Forest Park is another popular spot, known for its lush, towering trees that provide ample shade — ideal for family outings, leisurely strolls, and picnics.

Nearby attractions

While Torqabeh itself is rich in adventure and relaxation, visitors are encouraged to explore nearby attractions in Mashhad. Notable sites include Vakil-Abad Park, Proma Shopping Complex and Goharshad Mosque. Each of these destinations adds depth to your experience, allowing for engagement with the cultural heritage of the region. In addition, the charming villages of Jagharq, Hesar, and Golestan are also worth visiting. Celebrated for their cooler climates and stunning natural landscapes, these villages provide visitors with a glimpse into the rural life of the area and opportunities to enjoy authentic local experiences.

Seasonal recommendations

Due to its highland location, winters in Torqabeh can be quite bitterly cold, with snowfall blanketing the region.

As such, spring and summer are generally considered the ideal seasons for outdoor exploration and leisure activities. The refreshing cool air during these months enhances experiences like hiking and picnicking, while autumn transforms the area into a vibrant display of colors as the leaves change, creating picturesque scenes that are not to be missed.

Culinary delights

Culinary experiences in Torqabeh are diverse and delightful, with a variety of restaurants serving a wealth of delectable dishes that appeal to discerning palates. Following the area's touristic development, these establishments have improved significantly, showcasing creativity and flair in their menus. Whether you

crave traditional Persian cuisine or international flavors, the restaurants in Torqabeh offer numerous mouth-watering options, from hearty kebabs to fresh salads and exquisite desserts, making dining out an integral part of the Torqabeh experience.

Conclusion

In summary, Torqabeh stands out as a perfect getaway that combines the beauty of nature, rich cultural experiences, and culinary delights. With easy access from Mashhad and a plethora of attractions to explore, it offers something for everyone, making it an ideal destination for families, nature lovers, and food enthusiasts alike. Enjoy your visit to this picturesque area and immerse yourself in all that Torqabeh has to offer!



Trump's playbook to win regardless of election night results

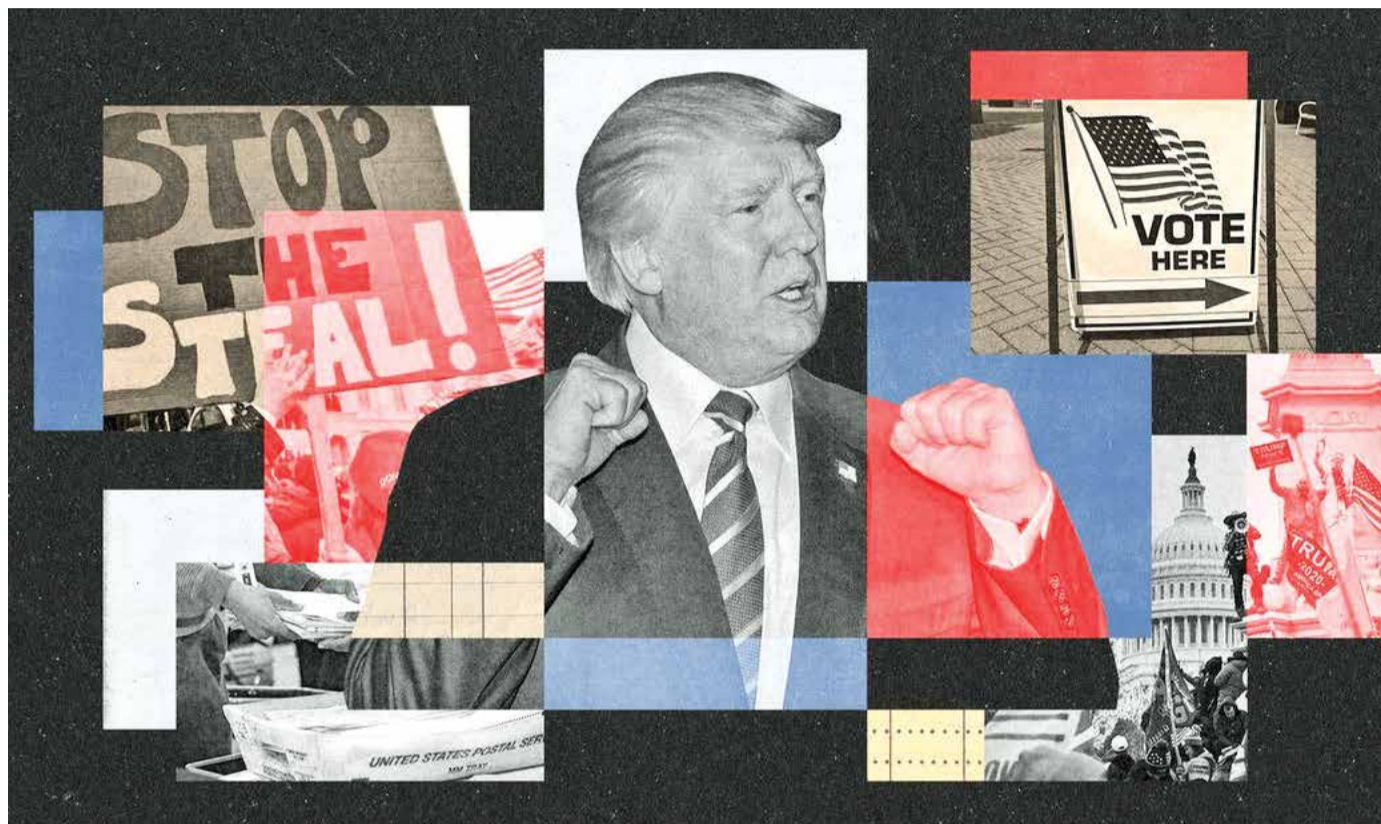


By Nick Licata
Former Seattle City
Council member

OPINION

Election deniers (defined by *USA Today* as those who have publicly denied the legitimacy of the 2020 election) are positioned as election officials to scan the ballots to challenge their validity.

If Donald Trump loses to Kamala Harris, the election denier's objections will become material for lawyers filing lawsuits to challenge state or county results. Judges on various levels, including the Supreme Court, can toss the decision of who the next president is to the state legislature or directly to the House of Representatives.



Results put plan in motion

Multiple polls show that the presidential race between Vice President Kamala Harris and former president Donald Trump is too close to call. However, after the initial votes are released, Trump will likely again ignore the results if he loses.

I will not explore how he will respond or what actions he could take if he wins; that is a different problem. I also am not addressing the issue of intentional violence to overturn the results, as happened with the mob attacking Congress in 2020. Instead, I'm examining how Trump can legally play the political system.

Trump's election-night statements will dominate the media and the public's minds more than Harris's because his personality makes a sport of breaking the norms of presidential conduct. Trump and his vice president candidate partner, J.D. Vance, have already gone there, refusing to acknowledge that they would concede should Harris win the 2024 election. They condition any concession upon the election being honest and fair. However, Trump has repeatedly said the election will not be fair if he loses. Most recently, in Juneau, Wisconsin, Trump declared at his campaign rally, "They're going to cheat. It's the only way they're going to win. And we can't let that happen, and we can't let it happen again." Throughout our nation's history, every presidential candidate assisted in transferring presidential authority to the opponent — until Trump refused to accept defeat in 2020.

The first vote tallies on election night will determine what political disruptions Trump may ignite in the six weeks before December 17, 2024, when the electors meet in their respective states to cast their votes and have them tabulated.

Swing state vote tallies will be incomplete

All six swing states will report an initial vote count by 8:30 p.m. Eastern Time on the evening of election day. The count will show who is ahead, but in tight races, a

winner will not be confirmed until days later, when all legitimate votes are included.

North Carolina election officials estimate that 80 percent of the total vote could be announced right after polls close at 7:30 p.m. However, absentee ballots that arrive as late as November 12 will be counted and could determine the outcome.

While Georgia polls close at 7 p.m., the secretary of state told WSB-TV, "For the races that are very, very close, we believe that we'll have them by Wednesday or Thursday at the latest." Michigan's secretary of state estimates that it could take until Friday, November 8, for all ballots to be counted and a winner to be declared.

The final count in Pennsylvania, the state with the most electoral votes, will be delayed the longest. Around half of the absentee ballots can't be processed until two days before the polls close. Since absentee ballots account for the majority of votes, the count will take days for many counties.

These four swing states have a total of 66 electoral votes. Arizona and Wisconsin, the last two swing states to release their ballots, have a total of 21. The soonest they could confirm the presidential

tallies would be Wednesday at the end of the day.

Except for North Carolina, Joe Biden won the other five swing states, which gave him 77 electoral votes, putting him over the top to win the election. The media and the candidates will be razor-focused on the first vote count in these six swing states. The candidate leading in all swing states will likely be our next president.

First count to signal storm

Suppose Harris leads in all the swing states. In that case, Trump will declare massive fraud and repeat the accusation he made during his Republican National 2020 Convention acceptance speech, "The only way they can take this election away from us is if this is a rigged election." If he splits the leads with Harris, it's a bit trickier for him. Trump doesn't want to jeopardize losing states he won with a recount. So, he will focus on the swing states he lost.

Election denier officials are Trump's Fifth Column. They are ready to save him from defeat by attempting to stop the certification of ballot tallies based on possible fraud. Trump will defend them as patriotic citizens, keeping our country safe from an invasion

of illegal immigrant voters.

With 69% of Republicans and Republican leaners saying Biden's win was not legitimate, there is a good chance many of them will be counting and certifying the election results on the county level. Most are not occupying elected positions; they may be appointed or, most likely, be volunteers. Naturally, they are prepared to see a 2024 Trump election loss as a repeat of 2020's "corrupt" process. They can object to validating votes that they consider to be illegally cast for any number of reasons. But let's be clear: election deniers are working within the legal process until they break explicit regulations or violate constitutional rights defined by the courts.

In a war analogy, they are Trump's foot soldiers. But to be successful, they need heavy arterial cover. And that is expensive and highly technical power. In the political world, it's the law firms.

Handoff to lawyers

Trump's playbook moves to winning the election through his law firms defending the election-denier officials questioning the validity or just tossing out ballots. Their objective was made very reachable in 2024.

● ANDREI COJOCARU/ECONOMIST



Trump's playbook moves to winning the election through his law firms defending the election-denier officials questioning the validity or just tossing out ballots. Their objective was made very reachable in 2024. That's because the Republican-controlled state legislatures in the swing states established voting procedures that are easy to accidentally violate because of their specificity in the ballot instructions for the vote to be validated. Those errors will be the most straightforward targets for lawsuits.



Pro-Trump demonstrators gather for a "Stop the Steal" rally at the Georgia State Capitol in Atlanta in 2020.
● DUSTIN CHAMBERS/
BLOOMBERG



That's because the Republican-controlled state legislatures in the swing states established voting procedures that are easy to accidentally violate because of their specificity in the ballot instructions for the vote to be validated. Those errors will be the most straightforward targets for lawsuits.

According to Reuters, in the last presidential election, Trump unleashed a barrage of over 50 lawsuits alleging election fraud and other irregularities, claiming that he lost due to massive fraud.

This year, the Republican National Committee has already filed over a hundred pre-election lawsuits. The Trump campaign will continue with a legal onslaught to eliminate ballots where errors are found, betting that more Democratic than Republican votes will be tossed out.

Trump hopes to overturn tallies in courts

The best protection for receiving honest election results rests with nonpartisan judges who follow the letter of the law. However, all laws are subject to interpretation. Trump appointed many federal judges because they were members of the Federalist Society.

State courts are not part of the federal system and, therefore, are not appointed by the president. While the Federalist Society has supported the election of its members or sympathizers to elected judicial seats, most state judges lean either conservative or liberal. At this time, few are committed to a particular political dogma and will follow the law's letter.

The non-profit Brennan Center concluded that voter certification is not a discretionary act. Unless state judges use some of the Federalist Society's questionable theories, they will rule, as they have always done, that election officials are legally obligated to count all the votes. This is how the state judges in Arizona and Georgia ruled.

Georgia state Judge Robert McBurney ruled, just three weeks before this November's election, that county election officials "have a mandatory fixed obligation" to count all votes despite any perceived fraud. They can bring their concerns to the appropriate district attorney, who will determine the course of future actions. In 2022, Arizona county officials broke tradition and voted against certifying the election results based on vague doubts about voting machines. A state judge subsequently ordered them to certify. A year before, Trump unsuccessfully lobbied the Detroit County election board members to reject votes based on his claims that the election was stolen from him.

As a proactive protective procedure, the Brennan Center published a series of state-by-state guides laying out the legal protections for election certification in each battleground state and the process to ensure that officials carry out that duty.

Trump's law firms don't need to win their lawsuits; they only need the court to kick the final decision over to the state legislature.

During the 2020 presidential election, conservative politicians and justices argued that the "independent state legislature"

theory (ISL) would allow the state legislature to nullify popular votes and assign electors to the losing candidate in an election. It was never attempted in 2020. Afterward, the theory was rejected by North Carolina's Supreme Court state's high court. When the US Supreme Court became involved, it also rejected the ISL theory in the Moore v. Harper decision by a 6 to 3 vote. With that decision, many liberals have assumed that Trump's lawsuits

would be worthless even if the election results were referred to the state legislatures. However, like many SCOTUS rulings, Moore v. Harper allows the losing party to take a second bite at the apple. In this instance, conservative Justices Roberts and Kavanaugh cautioned that the courts must remain within "the ordinary bounds of judicial review" when overruling state legislature decisions regarding federal laws. In his dissenting opinion, Justice

Thomas insightfully observed that federal dockets will "swell" with state constitutional claims. He noted that SCOTUS did not define the "ordinary bounds" threshold for upholding courts' rulings. That slim opening is all that Trump's lawyers need to win in court. If they get a favorable ruling, the state legislature will decide who receives that state's electoral votes. This could give Trump enough electoral votes to win the election.

State Legislatures may have enough election-deniers
Election deniers represent a third of the Arizona legislature and nearly half of the Pennsylvania Senate. In Georgia, Republicans control both chambers. In the House, an election denier is a committee chair, and in the Senate, four election deniers hold party leadership roles, and three are committee vice-chairs in election-related committees. Although election deniers rep-

resent a smaller share in the other swing states, they hold leadership positions or are on committees that can introduce, suppress, or kill election-related legislation. The Constitution requires the House of Representatives to select the winner if the various lawsuits result in a tie in electoral votes or an unresolved conflict in assigning them. Each state has just one vote, and the District of Columbia has no vote since it is

not a state. As of 2020, Republicans control 26 delegations, and Democrats control 23, with one tie (Pennsylvania). The last time the House chose a president was 200 years ago. In 1824, they chose John Quincy Adams over Andrew Jackson even though Jackson originally received more popular and electoral votes. History could repeat itself.

The article first appeared on CounterPunch.

Trump's campaign lies to contest Nov. results if he loses



By Jill Colvin
Reporter

PERSPECTIVE

Donald Trump has spent months laying the groundwork to challenge the results of the 2024 election if he loses — just as he did four years ago.

At rally after rally, he urges his supporters to deliver a victory "too big to rig," telling them the only way he can lose is if Democrats cheat. He has refused to say, repeatedly, whether he will accept the results regardless of the outcome. And he's claimed cheating is already underway, citing debunked claims or outrageous theories with no basis in reality.

"The only thing that can stop us is the cheating. It's the only thing that can stop us," he said at an event in Arizona late Thursday night.

In 2020, Trump prematurely declared victory from the White House. He launched a legal and political effort to overturn his loss to Democrat Joe Biden that culminated in the storming of the Capitol by his supporters on January 6, 2021.

Democrats fear he may do the same thing this year before the race is called. He wouldn't answer a question Friday in Dearborn, Michigan, about those Democratic concerns, instead pivoting to attacking Vice President Kamala Harris.

Trump has made election lies central to his 2024 campaign, issuing fevered warnings about fraud while promising to take retribution against people he sees as standing in his way.

This year, he is backed by a sophisticated "election integrity" operation built by his campaign and the Republican National Com-

mittee that has filed more than 130 lawsuits already and signed up more than 230,000 volunteers being trained to deploy as poll watchers and poll workers across the country on Election Day.

Here's a look at Trump's strategy to sow doubt in this year's election and the facts behind each claim.

Non-citizen voting

THE CLAIM: Trump has alleged, without evidence, that Democrats have allowed millions of migrants to enter the country illegally so that they can be registered to vote. In an interview with Newsmax in September, Trump alleged such efforts were already underway.

"They are working overtime trying to sign people, illegally, to vote in the election," he claimed. "They're working overtime to sign people and register people — many of the same people that you just see come across the border, which is probably their original thought because why else would they want to destroy our country?"

THE FACTS: It takes years for newcomers to become citizens and only citizens can legally cast ballots in federal elections. Isolated cases of noncitizens being caught trying to vote — like a University of Michigan student from China arrested for allegedly casting an illegal ballot — do not reflect a larger conspiracy. Research has shown noncitizens illegally registering and casting ballots is extremely rare and usually done by mistake.

Overseas ballots

THE CLAIM: Trump has pointed to Democratic efforts to secure the votes of Americans living abroad as another opportunity for fraud. He's alleged that they are "getting ready to cheat!" and "want to dilute the true vote of our beautiful military and their families."

THE FACTS: The former president has himself campaigned for the votes of Americans overseas,

promising to end so-called "double taxation" for people who often pay taxes in the country where they reside as well as to the US government.

Ominous warnings

THE CLAIM: Trump has begun to suggest that Harris might have access to some kind of secret inside information about the outcome of a race that has yet to be decided. Since the vice president took a day off from the trail to sit for interviews with Telemundo and NBC, he has repeatedly suggested, "Maybe she knows something we don't know."

In Michigan last weekend, he suggested there is no way Harris would be campaigning with Beyoncé — one of the biggest stars in the world — if the race were really as close as polls suggest.

"Number one, they cheat like hell. So maybe they know something that we don't, right?" he said. "They might know something that we don't, I don't know. Why the hell would she be celebrating when you're down? Maybe — never thought of that — maybe she knows something we don't. But we're not going to let it happen."

THE FACTS: There is no evidence to support a Democratic conspiracy. Indeed, Trump fanned fears of his own inside planning at a rally at New York's Madison Square Garden when he looked at House Speaker Mike Johnson and talked about a "little secret" they had.

Johnson, before becoming speaker, took the lead in drafting a widely panned brief seeking to overturn Trump's 2020 loss and echoed some of the wilder conspiracy theories to explain away his loss.

Asked about Trump's reference to a "little secret," Johnson issued a statement that included the following: "By definition, a secret is not to be shared — and I don't intend to share this one." (He later told an audience that it related to "one of our tactics on get-out-the-vote," according to The Hill. Trump's campaign issued a statement noting he had "done countless tele-rallies" to help bolster Republican congressional candidates.)



A supporter holds a "Never Surrender" sign with a mugshot of former president Donald Trump during a campaign rally at the Georgia State University Convocation Center in Atlanta on August 3, 2024.
● CHRISTIAN MONTERROSA/AFP

Turning to Pennsylvania

THE CLAIM: Trump in recent days has turned his ire on Pennsylvania, a state that both campaigns view as critical, and where he's claimed cheating is already underway.

Earlier this week, he claimed York County, Pennsylvania, had "received thousands of potentially fraudulent Voter Registration Forms and Mail-In Ballot Applications from a third party group." He has also pointed to Lancaster County, which he claimed had been "caught with 2600 Fake Ballots and Forms, all written by the same person. Really bad 'stuff'."

During a campaign event in Allentown on Tuesday, the former president said: "They've already started cheating in Lancaster. They've cheated. We caught 'em with 2,600 votes. No, we caught them cold. 2,600 votes. Think of this, think of this. And every vote was written by the same person."

THE FACTS: In Lancaster, County District Attorney Heather Adams, an elected Republican, has said election workers raised concerns about two sets of voter registration applications because of what she described as numerous similarities. Officials are now examining a total of about 2,500 forms.

To be clear, Lancaster is looking into voter registration applications, not "votes". Lancaster officials said some forms contained false names, suspicious handwriting, questionable signatures, incorrect addresses, or other problematic details, but did not say they were all written by the same person.

York County Chief Clerk Greg Monskie confirmed this week that his county was reviewing suspect forms. County Commissioner Julie Wheeler issued a statement saying voter registration forms and mail-in ballot applications were among a "large delivery containing thousands of election-related materials" that the county

elections office received from a third-party organization. Officials in the state say the discovery and investigation into the applications — not votes — is evidence the system is working as it should.

Threats of prosecution

THE CLAIM: Trump has threatened severe consequences for those engaged in what he deems "unscrupulous behavior".

In one social media post that falsely cites "the rampant cheating and skullduggery that has taken place by the Democrats in the 2020 Presidential Election," he has warned that, "when I win, those people that cheated will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the Law, which will include long term prison sentences."

The posts go on to threaten "Those involved in unscrupulous behavior," including election officials, lawyers, and donors, whom he says "will be sought out, caught, and prosecuted at levels, unfortunately, never seen before in our country."

THE FACTS: Judges, election officials, and even Trump's own attorney general, William Barr, have all affirmed that there was no widespread cheating in the 2020 election.

If he's elected again, Trump has vowed to go after rivals he has deemed "enemies from within," including saying he would appoint a special prosecutor to target Biden. That's more than a rhetorical threat given that when he was president, Trump repeatedly pressed for investigations into perceived political adversaries. While the Justice Department does have checks in place meant to ward off political influence, Trump could appoint leaders who would facilitate cases being opened at his behest.

The article first appeared on the Associated Press.



York County officials sort ballots from Jacobus Borough, while York County Office of Voter Registration and Elections Director Bryan Seaffer (standing) waits to hand-count them on November 10, 2022.
● DAWN J. SAGERT/
THE YORK DISPATCH



Trump has alleged, without evidence, that Democrats have allowed millions of migrants to enter the country illegally so that they can be registered to vote. However, it takes years for newcomers to become citizens and only citizens can legally cast ballots in federal elections.

Youth World Boxing Championships: Iran's Malek-Khatabi wins historic silver



Sports Desk

Amirreza Malek-Khatabi bagged a precious silver medal at the IBA Youth World Boxing Championships in Budva, Montenegro, etching his name into the history books of the sport in Iran. Malek-Khatabi settled for a runner-up finish behind Khalimjon Mamasoliev after a defeat by split decision (3:2) against the Uzbek boxer in the final showpiece of the men's 86-92kg contests. The result was still enough to see the Iranian become the first boxer to win a world silver medal for the country across any age class. Daniah Shabbakhsh notched up a maiden world boxing medal for Iran when he won a lightweight bronze at the seniors championships in Belgrade in 2021. An Asian youth bronze winner in May, Malek-Khatabi began his historic campaign with a victory over Taha Turgut Tarhan – after the referee deemed the Turkish boxer unfit to continue – and then defeated Russian

Oleg Kliuchagin (4:1) in the quarterfinals.

The Iranian went on to beat Tynystan Alybaev of Kyrgyzstan for a place in Sunday's showdown.

There was further glory of the Iranians in the competitions as Mahdi Kazemi and Amir Esmaili grabbed a couple of bronze medals following last-four setbacks in their respective weight classes.

Representing the country in the 48-51kg contests, Kazemi fell to a 5:0 loss to Kazakhstan's Bexultan Boranbek, while reigning Asian champion Esmaili came short against Irish opponent Adam Olanayan in the +92kg event.

Iran's Amirreza Malek-Khatabi (blue) lands a punch on Tynystan Alybaev of Turkey during a men's 86-92kg bout at the IBA Youth World Boxing Championships in Budva, Montenegro, on Oct. 28, 2024.

IBA

Iranian saber set for fresh start under new coach Rahbari

Sports Desk

Iranian saber national team will embark on a new chapter under head coach Mohammad Rahbari when taking part at the upcoming FIE Coupe du Monde – starting Thursday in Oran, Algeria. Rahbari, 32, was only appointed to job on Saturday, replacing Payman Fakhri, who stepped down following the Paris Olympics in July.

The new head coach was part of the country's four-man squad – alongside Ali Pakdaman, Farzad Baher, and Mohammad Fotouhi – that defeated the United States in the team event in the French

capital but fell to a last-four defeat against fencing powerhouse Hungary and then missed out on the Olympic podium after a 45-25 loss to the host.

Rahbari's teammates in Paris will be joined by Ahmadreza Shahmiri and Nima Zahedi in representing the country across the individual and team competitions at the four-day event in Oran.

Rahbari was to participate in the Algerian tournament as an athlete before Alireza Poursalman, the chairman of the Iranian Fencing Federation, decided to name him as the men's head coach.

The decision drew criticism from

many, who questioned Rahbari's lack of coaching experience for the job. However, the 32-year-old will be looking to draw upon a distinguished career to succeed in the new role, having won three successive team medals as well as an individual bronze at the Asian Games.

"I had already made up my mind to retire after the Olympic Games due to family reasons. I had negotiations with China to work there as coach, before Poursalman came up with the offer and I decided to stay here and serve my home country," said Rahbari, a winner of a team silver and an individual

bronze in June's Asian Championships in Kuwait.

Asked about his ambitions in the new role, Rahbari said he would be aiming to "prepare a decent and competitive team for the Los Angeles Olympics" in four-years' time.

ALI SHARIFZADEH/IRNA

Determined Palestine continue to battle the odds in World Cup quest

REUTERS – Palestine's quest to qualify for the World Cup finals for the first time underlines the determination to overcome the devastation caused by the Gaza conflict, the president of the Palestinian Football Association (PFA) has told Reuters.

The PFA faced obstacles to on-field success few other national teams have come up against even before Israel launched its military offensive on Gaza last year in response to an attack by militant group Hamas on its southern border.

Coach Makram Daboub and his squad, however, have confounded the odds and retain a chance of representing Palestine at the 2026 finals in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

"The restrictions on our movement, the suffocating policies by the Israelis have paralysed everything," Jibril Rajoub, the PFA president, said in an interview with Reuters last week.



AFC

"We suspended everything, including the national league, but in spite of this we have insisted on continuing our participation in competitions, and that includes the World Cup qualification.

"We have a real problem be-

cause we could not bring any athletes from Gaza, and tens of them have lost their lives. In Gaza all sport facilities have been destroyed, including most of the clubs, the stadiums and everything are destroyed.

"In the West Bank, they are suf-

focating us, we cannot do anything. But this is our determination, our commitment."

Violence has surged in the West Bank since the start of the war in Gaza, with almost daily sweeps by Israeli forces that have involved thousands of arrests and regular gunbattles between security forces and Palestinian fighters.

'Motivation'

While the expanded 48-team format for the 2026 finals offered a golden opportunity for the likes of Palestine to play in the showpiece tournament, plenty of work remains to be done if they are to secure a spot. Bottom of Group B with two points from four matches, Palestine renew their campaign against Oman in Muscat on Nov. 14 before "hosting" South Korea five days later.

It has been five years since Palestine have been able to play an

international at home and their clash with the group-leading Koreans will take place in Jordan's capital Amman.

"It will never be like home," Rajoub said. "We like Jordan, we like Amman but we like to play in Jerusalem, we like to play in our home but this is what we have."

"We cannot play at home and this is financially (difficult). For the first time we will play in Jordan, which is close. I hope some of our fans from Palestine can come."

"We have the right to host. We have to overcome with our determination, our people's resilience, our commitment. We have no other choice."

A trip to the World Cup would help ease those financial pressures – each team in Qatar two years ago went home with at least \$9 million – and Palestine have already had some encouraging results in the third phase

of Asian qualifying.

A surprise 0-0 draw with the South Koreans in Seoul in their group opener in September was followed by a draw against Kuwait last month.

While securing a direct ticket to the finals is unlikely, Palestine could advance to another round of playoffs with a third or fourth placed finish in the group and are currently only a point behind fourth-placed Oman.

"I think they are doing well," Rajoub said. "This is the first time in our history we have qualified for the third phase in spite of the situation."

"We don't have a national league so it's not easy. Some athletes have lost their lives or their colleagues or mentors or coaches. This also, psychologically, will have an effect but despite this we are trying and playing well."

"It could also be a source of motivation for the athletes."

Iran's missiles meant for defense not aggression: *Pezeshkian*

International Desk

President Masoud Pezeshkian asserted that Iran's missiles are aimed at deterring those seeking to potentially target the country, and are not meant to be used towards waging acts of aggression against other nations. "We have [our] missiles [at our disposal] so they would not dare attack us. Our missiles are not meant [to be used] for carrying out attacks against anyone or [contributing to] expansionism," the chief executive said during a ceremony on Monday,

Press TV reported.

He said the country has developed the defensive projectiles so parties such as the Israeli regime would not be able to target the Islamic Republic as they have been targeting the Gaza Strip or bomb any place or any person that they would desire.

Pezeshkian, meanwhile, hailed Gaza-based Palestinians for their "esteem and greatness" that has forbidden the Israeli regime from forcing them into surrender, despite targeting the coastal sliver with all that is at its

disposal for more than a year now.

In the same context, the president slammed the regime for laying claim to respecting human rights and the international law, while its authorities perpetrate "violence, genocide, crime, and murder behind their neat and tie-wearing appearances." The remarks came amid the regime's October 2023-present war of genocide against Gaza that has so far claimed the lives of more than 43,300 Palestinians, mostly women and children.

The contradiction between the regime's claims and actions points to the regime's "indecent and lack of identity," he noted.

Pezeshkian berated those accusing Iran of failure to observe human rights, saying the parties that have leveled the accusations against the country were the same ones that have staged deadly attacks against the Iranian nation, including women and children, with chemical weapons and targeted the people's sources of sustenance with sanctions.



IRNA

Iran rebukes US deployment of B-52 bombers as 'destabilizing'

International Desk

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei on Monday criticized the US's "destabilizing presence" after the deployment of B-52 bombers in the region.

"We have always believed that the presence of the US in the region is a destabilizing presence," Baghaei told a news conference in response to a question about the deployment, adding that it "will not deter [Iran's] resolve to defend itself." B-52 Stratofortress strategic bombers from Minot Air Force Base's 5th Bomb Wing arrived in the Middle East, United States Central Command (CENTCOM) CENTCOM said early Sunday, without elaborating.

Pentagon officials earlier said the deployment

of B-52 bombers to the Middle East as a warning to Iran, which has vowed to respond to Israeli strikes on its military sites on October 26 as the aggression killed four soldiers and a civilian.

Israel's attack was in retaliation for an October 1 Iranian missile barrage, itself retaliation for the assassinations of leaders of Hamas and Hezbollah as well as an Iranian IRGC commander. Baghaei also said Iran's response would be "definite and decisive."

He added that Iran supported "all initiatives and efforts" to push for a ceasefire in Gaza and Lebanon.

'Unjustifiable' closure

The spokesman also dismissed reports about



MARZIEH SOLEIMANI/IRNA

the expulsion of Iranian diplomats from Germany and said Tehran has informed Berlin that its move to close three Iranian consulates in the European countries was not justifiable at all.

He noted that Germany's move was a reaction to an issue that is related to Iran's jurisdiction and is about an Iranian citizen who has committed a terrorist act.

In an announcement on Thursday, German For-

eign Minister Annalena Baerbock said that the Iranian consulates in the cities of Frankfurt, Hamburg and Munich are to be closed over the execution of convicted terrorist Jamshid Sharmahd.

In a post on his X account on Friday, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi slammed the decision which has been taken in support of a terrorist and amounts to sanctions against thousands of Iranians.

Russia to launch Kowsar, Hodhod satellites into space today

Iran's ambassador to Moscow said on Monday that Russia would launch two Iranian satellites into space onboard a Soyuz launch vehicle within the next few hours.

"In continuation of the development of scientific and technological cooperation between Iran and Russia, two domestically-developed satellites, Kowsar and Hodhod, will be launched into a 500-kilometer orbit of the Earth on Tuesday by a Soyuz launch vehicle," Kazem Jalali wrote on X on Monday, Press TV reported.

He expressed hope that a firm and decisive step towards the entry of Iran's private sector into the space sector would be taken by the satellite launch. Jalali further noted that the two satellites have been designed and manufactured by young Iranian scientists, with the support of the Vice Presidency for Science, Technology and Knowledge-Based Economy, the Iranian Space Agency (ISA), and the Iranian embassy in Moscow.

Kowsar is a high-resolution imaging satellite, whose design process started back in 2019.



Weighing 30 kilograms, the home-grown Iranian satellite has an estimated orbital lifespan of more than three years. It has a color imaging range of 15km and an imaging rate of 6 frames per second.

Kowsar satellite is suitable for agricultural, land survey and cadaster services.

Hodhod satellite is a small communications satellite, which weighs 4km and has an orbital height of 500km.

Its orbital lifespan is four years and has a variety of uses, including agriculture, land survey, transport and environmental protection.

IRGC general, pilot killed in light aircraft crash in southeast

A gyroplane flown by the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Ground Force crashed during a military exercise in southeastern Iran on Monday, killing the pilot and a general. According to a statement released by the IRGC Ground Force, the ultralight aircraft was conducting a combat operation during a military drill when it crashed in Sirkan border area in Sistan and Baluchestan Province, Tasnim reported.

General Hamid Mazandarani, the commander of Naynava Brigade from Iran's Golestan Province, along with the aircraft pilot, Hamed Jandaqi, a member of the IRGC Ground Force, were killed in the incident.

The IRGC Ground Force has staged a counterterrorism exercise, codenamed "Martyrs of Security", in Sistan and Baluchestan province since November 1.

US election just around the corner

International Desk

With only a few hours before polls close in the US election on November 5 and more than 77.6m votes already cast, preliminary results show Republican candidate Donald Trump and her Democratic rival Kamala Harris separated by less than 3 percentage points in each of the seven battleground states likely to determine Tuesday's winner. Polls going into election week showed a toss-up race, shifting to the possibility that the contest could prove to be a photo finish.

An NBC News poll released Sunday showed Trump and Harris tied nationally at 49 percent each. The poll found 48 percent of respondents approved of how Trump handled his presidency, compared to just 41 percent who said they approved of President Joe Biden's time in office, a sign Harris may face some headwinds.

A New York Times/Siena College poll of battleground states published Sunday similarly showed a tight race.

In their final hours of campaigning, the two candidates were seeking to mobilize their bases and appeal to any remaining undecided voters, with Harris spending the entire day in Pennsylvania — a critical swing state that is regarded as a must-win if either candidate wants to capture the White House — and Trump hitting three battleground states of Pennsylvania, North Carolina, and Michigan.

The two candidates have offered diverging closing messages. Trump tried to make the case that voters are not better off than they were four years ago when he left the White House and that he can "fix" the economy and the southern border. Harris pledged in Michigan to do everything in her power to "end



People stand in line during the last day of early voting, on Nov. 2, 2024, in Charlotte, N.C.

MIKE STEWART/AP

the war in Gaza," as she attempted to appeal to the state's large Arab American and Muslim American population. In an outlandish move on Monday, US authorities installed security fences in Washington D.C. as they braced for potential violent protests following the presidential election.

The Secret Service erected new 2.5-meter metal fences around the White House and Treasury Department complex, as well as Harris's residence.

The measures come amid concerns of violence breaking out in the days after the election similar to the January 6, 2021 attack on the US Capitol by Trump's supporters following his refusal to accept the outcome of the 2020 presidential election.

The former US president claimed that he won the 2020 presidential election and that there was "massive" voter fraud. The attack on the Capitol led to several deaths and Trump was indicted for his efforts to overturn the results of the 2020 election in both Washington and Georgia.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



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- Editorial Dept. Tel
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+98 21 84711226
208, Khorramshahr Ave., Tehran, Iran
+98 21 88548892-5
+98 21 88500601/irandaily@iranagahiha.com
www.irandaily.ir/newspaperirandaily.ir
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Iran Cultural & Press Institute



Iran Daily cartoonist awarded at 6th Int'l Book Cartoon Biennial



Iranian cartoonist Mohammad Ali Rajabi stands by his work during an award ceremony for the 6th International Book Cartoon Biennial in Tehran on November 4, 2024. ● IRAN DAILY

By Sadeq Dehqan
Staff writer

Mohammad Ali Rajabi, a renowned cartoonist for

Iran Daily, clinched the top prize in the "Book, Palestine, and Gaza Resistance" category at the 6th International Book Cartoon Biennial, thanks to his striking illustration of a Zionist worm attempting to ravage a book bound in the shape of the Gaza map, only to be thwarted by its unbreakable spirit.

The closing ceremony of the biennial was held on November 4 at Central Library of Tehran's City Park, attended by art enthusiasts and officials, where the winners of the competition were announced.

The biennial, organized by Iran Public Libraries Foundation, focuses on the role of books in today's world and the universal language of arts and cartoons in promoting book reading.

Massoud Shojai Tabatabai, the secretary of the biennial, said at the ceremony, "This year's festival has seen significant growth in terms of quantity and quality, and more than 2,000 works from 74 countries participated in the festival, with Iran having the largest share of submitted works with 300 participants." He added, "The special event of this year's biennial is related to the section of Book, Palestine, and Gaza Resistance, which, considering the conflicts that have taken place in Gaza over the past year, the Public Libraries Foundation considered it its duty to dedicate a part of the biennial to this topic, and we hope we have been able to fulfill our mission in this regard."

In this festival, which was held with the participation of 650 artists from 74 countries, the cartoonists' works were judged in the categories of "Book, Child, and Family", "Book, Leisure, Happiness,

and Peace", "Book, Digital Age, and Artificial Intelligence", "Book, Library, and Business", "Book, Library, and Cultural and Social Hub", and "Book, Library, and Important Social Events". The special category of the biennial was dedicated to the topic "Book, Palestine, and Gaza Resistance".

All the works were judged in two sections, professional and beginner (Iranian artists who have not participated in domestic and international competitions), by three foreign and four Iranian jurors, and finally, the top works were selected.

In an exclusive interview with Iran Daily, Rajabi noted, "Given the diverse array of international submissions this year, the festival is poised to make a significant impact on promoting a culture of reading and resistance."

Regarding the role of cartoons in media advertising and cultural discourse, he elaborated, "Cartoons possess a univer-

sal language that transcends linguistic and cultural barriers, communicating complex ideas through visual storytelling. By conveying messages without relying on written or spoken language, cartoons can resonate with audiences of all languages and nationalities, thereby exerting considerable influence on disseminating ideas, including the promotion of reading and the concept of resistance."

Regarding his work in the category of Book and Gaza, he explained, "I depicted the topic of Palestine as a large book, parts of which have been eaten away by the Zionist worm, and the book binding I drew in the shape of a map of Gaza, which the worm, as a symbol of the Zionist regime, was unable to destroy the book binding and was left with a broken tooth and helpless."

Regarding his background, he said, "As a press cartoonist, I have 26 years of

cooperation with various newspapers and news agencies, including Iran Daily, Al-Vefagh, Fars News Agency, Tasnim, and several news websites, and since most of my cartoons, especially those published in Iran Daily, are related to Palestine and the Resistance Front, I am known as the cartoonist of the Resistance Front."

Elena Rostamian, a 10-year-old winner from Fars Province, Jahrom said, "I have been active in cartooning for two years, and I participated in this festival with a cartoon about protecting children from the virtual space. In my work, I drew a boy protecting his book from online stickers."

She also shared that six months earlier, she had competed in an Egyptian cartoon contest with a piece focused on protecting children from the impact of war, and her work was singled out for recognition with an award.

Artists from 11 countries to join Iranian cultural heritage festival for first time

Arts & Culture Desk

The third International Multimedia Festival of Cultural Heritage will welcome artists from 11 countries for the first time. The festival's secretary, Alireza Tabesh, said that these artists will showcase their works in a non-competitive section. Tabesh explained that the foreign artworks will be displayed in three sections: Film, documentary, and photography. He said that the documentary 'Stones

and Bricks', a joint production between Iran and Italy, will be screened on November 6. Another film, 'Melody', a joint production between Iran and Tajikistan, will be shown on November 7. Tabesh also announced that a restored classic foreign film will be screened on November 6. In addition, several documentaries about Iranian culture made by foreign filmmakers will be shown on November 7. These documentaries include "Travel

to Iran' from Serbia, 'Introducing Tabriz' from Turkey, 'Hafez Shirazi' from Bosnia, and two documentaries about Iran from Russia and China.

In the photography section, works by artists from Armenia, Spain, Russia, Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan, and China have been accepted and will be exhibited from November 5 to 8. Tabesh also mentioned that this year's festival has a special section for the Shiraz Prize. The festival has 13 national sections, including radio, television, music, and poetry, as well as sections for cinema, digital heritage, ideas and experiences, performing arts, photography, film script, documentary, short film, and heritage preservation.

The secretary announced that a total of 4,451 works have been submitted to the festival, and 40 winners will be announced in the national sections. The festival will take place in Shiraz from November 5 to 8, after being held in Yazd and Qazvin in previous years.



'Melody' wins Best Music Award at Turkish festival

The Iranian-Tajik film 'Melody', directed by Behrouz Sebt Rasoul, won the Best Music Award at the İzmir International Film and Music Festival in Turkey. According to ISNA, Fuad Samaei received the award for his music composition for 'Melody' at the festival, IRNA reported.

'Melody', a joint production between Iran and Tajikistan, has been selected to represent Tajik cinema in the Best International Film category at the 97th Academy Awards.

The film, released in 2023, has been internationally distributed by Dreamlab Films France, managed by Nasrin Mirshab. Prior to this award, it has been screened at several international film festivals, including the 54th Goa Film Festival, the 21st Chennai Film Festival, the 24th Keswick Film Festival in the UK, the 42nd Fajr International Film Festival, and the Zurich Iranian Film Festival.

The film, written by Behrouz Sebt Ra-

soul, tells a poetic story about a young composer who wants to create a song for children using the sounds of birds. The İzmir International Film and Music Festival is a specialized festival that focuses on the relationship between film and music. The festival includes an international competition (10-12 films) and a national competition, as well as several non-competitive sections.

The 4th Izmir International Film and Music Festival was held in Turkey from October 30 to November 3.



US election and ...

The Islamic Republic of Iran is a strategic issue for the American political system, and if there is a difference between Republicans and Democrats, it is one of tactics. These tactical differences are significant and can create problems or opportunities for Iran. For instance, Democrats generally tend to form coalitions and seek global consensus to exert political and economic pressure when faced with a challenge, while

Republicans often resort to tougher methods and are more impatient in achieving their goals. However, the more important reality is that the Islamic Republic is not a major player in the US election and is not considered a major issue. American society is more concerned with economic issues, welfare, immigration, and other domestic concerns. In US national security documents, China is considered a potential threat,

while Russia is seen as an actual threat. Therefore, whichever candidate becomes president, they will likely focus on managing or containing China and try to eliminate or weaken Russia's influence in international relations. Notably, the US uses its national security documents, think tanks, and media to create a narrative around certain issues. For example, there has been talk of an "anti-American axis" comprising

China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea. While this axis does not exist in reality, the US deliberately highlights such narratives to serve its interests. Iran occupies a unique geopolitical position, with rich resources, particularly in the energy sector. It has a diverse society and is a key player in West Asia, and it is also an archenemy of the Israeli regime. The country has faced accusations of terrorism and human rights abuses from Western countries.

As a result, Iran is a complex issue with various dimensions, and American policymakers may adopt different policies toward Iran depending on the importance they assign to each of these aspects. Therefore, the nature of the relationship between the US and Iran will be defined by the next US president's stance on issues like Israel, energy resources, human rights, terrorism, and developments in West Asia.