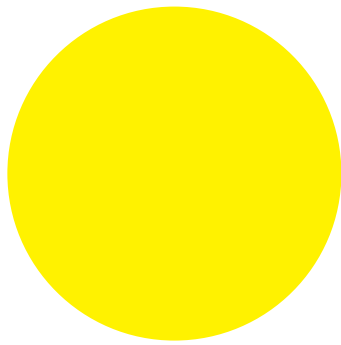


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Implications of Trump's victory for Mideast

By Ali
Nazifpour
US affairs expert

**OPINION
EXCLUSIVE**

The 2024 election is over and Kamala Harris, the Democratic nominee and vice president, has conceded defeat to Donald Trump, the 45th and now the 47th president of the United States. Trump's victory was somehow unexpected. While polls were very close and showed a toss-up race, Trump's victory was rather decisive as he carried all

swing states and also won the popular vote thanks to the collapse of Democratic support in liberal states such as California, New York, and New Jersey. So it would be natural to ask why Trump won? And what will victory mean for our region, the Middle East, and our country, Iran?

Why Trump won?
Harris's defeat came at the end of a year when incumbent political parties in almost all democracies suffered defeats or disappointing results at the ballot box.

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Iranian students shine at Indonesia's ISIF, winning 5 golds, 2 special awards

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Social reform requires collective agreement

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Iran FM, Sudan finance minister discuss shared interests, boost in ties

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and Sudan's Minister of Finance and Economic Planning Gibril Ibrahim Mohamed held talks in Tehran, the capital of Iran.

In the meeting on Saturday, Araghchi and Ibrahim Mohamed engaged in discussions about shared interests as well as the economic and trade relations between the two countries, IRNA reported.

The Sudanese minister was on a visit to Iran at the head of an economic delegation. Earlier on Wednesday evening, he held talks with his Iranian counterpart Abdolnaser Hemmati.

Both sides expressed their satisfaction with the re-establishment of political relations between the two countries and hoped that this new phase of relations would lead to the development and flourishing of economic and trade ties.

EU bans directly impact Iran's medicine imports: IFDA

The deputy head of Iran's Food and Drug Administration (IFDA) said the European Union's sanctions have directly affected the country's pharmaceutical imports, pointing out that the country is seeking alternative paths to meet its needs.

Last month, the EU imposed sanctions on three Iranian airlines, citing allegations of Iran's involvement in the Russia-Ukraine war. The bloc claimed that the sanctions targeted specific policies, without intending to disrupt overall air traffic or people-to-people exchanges between the EU and Iran, Press TV wrote.

However, the restrictions have hindered the transport of essential medications, particularly for patients with critical needs, confirmed Health Minister Mohammadreza Zafarghandi in early October. During a visit to a nursing equipment exhibition in Tehran, IFDA deputy head Fereshteh Mirzazadeh detailed efforts to mitigate the impact of sanctions. She said new air channels and agreements with foreign airlines are being pursued to facilitate the import of critical medical supplies. "We are implementing strategies such as utilizing special air corridors, partnering with international firms, and bolstering domestic production to overcome these challenges," she stated.

Pezeshkian urges removal of barriers for energy investors

Economy Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on Saturday urged the removal of barriers to the advancement of investors in producing clean energy and using new technologies in the realm of power generation.

In a meeting, titled 'Reviewing Solutions to Address Power Shortages and Developing Renewable Power Plants', he noted that all necessary permits should be issued and made available to the active private sector in energy field before upcoming peak days for electricity, IRNA reported.

The meeting was held under the chairmanship of Pezeshkian, with the presence of Minister of Energy Abbas Aliabadi, Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance Abdolnaser Hemmati, Head of the Plan and Budget Organization Hamid Pourmohammadi, and a number of active managers in the private sector and investors in the field of construction of power plants.

The president, appreciating the efforts of the minister of energy, added that it is necessary to first

address the problems of private companies that need loans and supports to complete their projects in the field.

Pezeshkian also emphasized that for the permits issued, an appropriate time limit should be set and if no activity takes place within the specified time, the issued permits should be revoked. "It has been observed that some investors obtain permits in certain economic sectors, but after a few years, they do not do any work," he added.

The president called on the private sector to present their proposals for the implementation of energy production projects, especially clean energy projects, as soon as possible. "Due to the importance of resolving shortages in the energy sector, in the coming days we will hold another session to follow up on these issues, and the proposals presented in that session will be reviewed," Pezeshkian stated.

In the meeting, Aliabadi presented a report on the current level of electricity production in Iran compared to the years after the Islamic Revolution in 1979. He

Iranian Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi (R) briefs President Masoud Pezeshkian on the current level of electricity production in Iran on November 9, 2024. president.ir



added, "In 1979, our electricity production was 7,000 MW, and now it has reached 93,000 MW. The length of electricity transmission lines has also increased from 81,000 kilometers at the time to 980,000 kilometers at present." Several private sector execu-

tives and active investors in the manufacturing of solar and wind power plants were also present at the session and discussed the problems and the solutions for the electricity production and construction of solar and wind power plants.

The key issues they raised were "problems occurred due to the determination of electricity fee by the Ministry of Energy, barriers to the issuance of electricity export permits during off-peak hours," and "the acceleration of granting credits."

VP highlights Iran's keenness to implement undersea project with Qatar

Economy Desk

First Vice President Mohammadreza Aref highlighted the importance of building the longest undersea tunnel in the world between Iran and Qatar and said both countries are pursuing this giant project, as Iran has tasked a specialized group for preliminary studies that will be deployed in the coming weeks to Doha for negotiations.

During a meeting on Saturday with Saad bin Abdullah Al Mahmoud Al-Sharif, the newly-appointed Ambassador of Qatar to Tehran, Aref emphasized that the views of the two sides are very close on regional and international issues, especially political ones, ISNA reported. "There is no ceiling for the development of the appropriate level of relations and interactions in all areas, and it is necessary to emphasize the joint commissions for cooperation between the two countries to

go beyond the current level of relations," he said.

Aref went on to say that the strengthening of relations between Tehran and Doha is not only beneficial for the two nations, but also for all Islamic countries, the region and the world, adding that, "The long-term cultural, historical, and political relations between the two countries create the opportunity to elevate economic relations to the high political level."

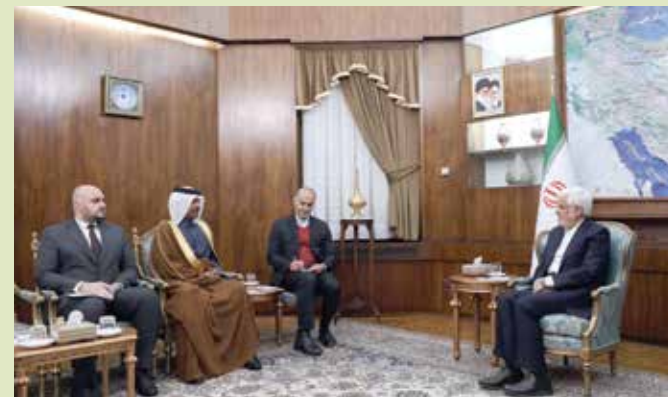
The vice president expressed gratitude to the Emir of Qatar for appointing one of the experienced diplomats as the new envoy to Iran, emphasizing that this decision sends a strong message of Doha's commitment to expanding political and economic relations with Tehran. I am sure that during your tenure in Iran and with a greater understanding of the potentials of Iran, you will be able to pave the way for cooperation in all areas, he said.

Aref also condemned recent

acts of aggression by the Zionist regime in Gaza and Lebanon, reaffirming a shared stance with Qatar in the face of the "child killings and aggression" of the Zionist regime in the region.

"Iran values Qatar's prominent role as a mediator in regional issues," he noted. The vice president further announced that the head of Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization would soon visit Doha to finalize Qatar's participation in the development of the Dayyer port in southern Iran, signaling Iran's commitment to deepening trade and maritime cooperation.

The Qatari ambassador for his part pointed to the most important areas of cooperation between the two countries, including Qatar's participation in the development of the Dayyer Port, energy sector collaboration, particularly in electricity, the establishment of the undersea tunnel between Iran



and Qatar, and the reopening of Qatar's consular office in Shiraz and said, "We need to enhance the activity of the joint commission for cooperation between the two countries more than before."

Emphasizing that the people of Iran and Qatar have lived together for hundreds of years and the two countries share abundant historical, social, and cultural ties, the diplomat stated, "The Emir of Qatar and the

president of Iran have agreed to elevate economic cooperation between the two countries to the highest level."

"During my recent meeting with the minister of energy of Iran who is the Iranian head of the joint commission for cooperation between the two countries, we emphasized that all cooperation agreements between our countries should be implemented as soon as possible," the ambassador noted.

Implications of Trump's ...

This is evident in the UK, France, South Korea, Senegal, India, Turkey, the Netherlands, and many more. The reality was the starkest in Japan and Botswana, where the ruling parties suffered defeats despite having ruled their respective countries in almost all elections (in case of Japan) or the entirety of their history (in case of Botswana). Germany and Canada haven't had their elections yet but it seems that in both countries the ruling party is expected to lose as well. The only democracy bucking this anti-incumbent trend was Mexico. So, in a way, the Democrats' failure to keep the White House and the Senate should be understood as a part of this global trend.

In this regard, it's obvious that the two trends which explain this phenomenon are (1) the backlash to rising inflation and (2) the further normalization of far-right ideologies and political parties and groups. Now in the US, inflation was under control by the end of Joe Biden's presidency, without recession or a rise in unemployment (what economists call a soft landing). While the economic recovery under Biden was successful by objective measures, it's clear that the voters could not believe this good news and punished the Democrats accordingly. Also, it's evident while the American public do not approve of many aspects of Trump's ideology, they do not consider them deal-breakers.

What does this mean for Iran?

Benjamin Netanyahu was apparently the happiest person when he heard the news of Trump's victory. We must accept the situation in Palestine to become much worse. Netanyahu is going to see Trump as an opportunity to not only completely demolish and possibly reoccupy the Gaza Strip, but to annex the West Bank. Miriam Adelson, Trump's second largest donor, had, according to credible reports, conditioned her support for Trump on him greenlighting the annexation of the West Bank by Israel, and Trump had accepted the condition. Netanyahu will probably also attempt to wipe out Hezbollah to the north.

There is also no doubt that the American foreign policy is going to be much worse regarding Iran. Brian Hook, one of the biggest enemies of Iran in the US, will take over as acting Secretary of State, and he will have a pivotal role in the next administration. All rumored and reported officials for relevant positions are people who are staunchly anti-Iran (including Mike Pompeo for Secretary of Defense).

More importantly, Iran must be very wary of war. While it is true that Trump himself has no desire for war with Iran, one must keep in mind that he is

prone to very rash and reckless acts (who can forget the assassination of General Soleimani?). Netanyahu will also aim to drag the US and Iran into war with each other despite both actors being unwilling, knowing that Israel cannot defeat Iran without US support. Netanyahu can bank on the US acting irrationally and without regards to consequences, while Iran's pride making it unable to ease tensions and de-escalate at the critical moment, thus dragging both into an unwanted war. This is why Iran must really prioritize prudence and carefulness at this critical moment and try to engage Trump diplomatically as much, though we might find it an unsavory prospect.

Architectural reflections of Mazandaran Province's cultural diversity

Iranica Desk

Mazandaran Province, located in northern Iran, boasts a wealth of valuable characteristics, including a cultured populace that resides in the mountains, plains, and forests, each group with its unique customs and distinct way of life. This diversity in clothing, language, traditions, and social practices, alongside the architectural styles of their homes, gives the region an undeniable charm that is reflective of its rich cultural heritage.

The architectural style of rural houses, representing one of many traditional designs, remains highly favored even as urbanization becomes more prevalent. These homes continue to hold a special place in the hearts of people, constructed using materials that are well-suited to the ecological environment of the area. The coastal strip along the Caspian Sea particularly showcases some of the most beautiful examples of rural housing, found in villages nestled among the sloping lands of the mountains and alongside picturesque forests.

However, it is important to recognize that these dreamlike houses, with their enchanting architecture, have increasingly been overshadowed by modern villas, influenced by foreign cultures and a trend towards extravagance. Modern materials such as metal and concrete have largely replaced traditional resources like wood, adobe, and clay. Additionally, vibrant roofs inspired by Swiss architecture have taken the place of traditional thatching and tiles.

Despite the ongoing changes in architectural styles and the growing popularity of modern designs, there remains a quest for a lost identity — one that offers tranquility and intimacy. In this context, eco-tourism has emerged as a means to revitalize traditional houses, although the allure of Swiss chalets has gained significant traction. These luxurious villas are predominantly owned by the affluent residents of western Mazandaran Province.

Despite advancements in architectural science, modern human life faces numerous challenges, particularly in terms of heating and cooling systems. In contrast, the traditional houses of Mazandaran Province have effectively addressed these needs through well-thought-out architectural designs, leading to a resurgence in demand for wooden cabins.

A wood industry expert and historical building restoration specialist explained to ISNA that in the southern shores of the Caspian Sea — particularly in Mazandaran Province — the most critical factor influencing roof architecture is rainfall. Roofs are designed with a specific slope to efficiently manage rainwater runoff, and the materials used in their construction are primarily natural. Commonly, roofs are made from reeds or other locally sourced materials.

Ali Jahaniyan further elaborated that in this region, the humidity and the need for natural ventilation have led to the widespread use of balconies. Adobe, readily available in the area, is another commonly used building material in rural architecture due to its unique thermal properties.

He emphasized the advantages of wooden ma-

terials, particularly those sourced from local trees, which are characterized by their technical properties such as lightness, ease of accessibility, workability, and resistance to tension and bending. Generally, wood and clay have been the traditional materials of choice for constructing wooden houses with earthen walls in Mazandaran Province.

Moreover, Jahaniyan noted that due to the rainfall and snowfall prevalent in mountainous areas, the roofs of Mazandarani houses were traditionally covered with slate tiles, affixed with the help of wooden supports. In the lower regions and plains, such as the forested areas and Firuzjah in Babol, roofs were predominantly made of wood, owing to the abundance of Hyrcanian forests and the easy availability of timber. Most of these traditional houses featured gabled roofs, a common design trait evident across the region.

He added that the roofs of homes for ordinary people in towns were often made of thatch, referred to as *kamle basar*, while those belonging to urban landlords typically featured gabled wooden roofs, which were later built using fired tiles.

Jahaniyan also commented on the design of staircases in the houses of Mazandaran Province. He noted that during the Qajar period, staircases were primarily spiral and circular in design. However, during the Pahlavi era, they shifted to a more direct, European style, and currently, a trend toward spiral staircases is re-emerging in architectural design. He further mentioned that older houses featured large terraces, which normally had expansive windows on the north and south sides, enabling effective circulation of air and wind. In the summer, these architectural features created a corridor effect that intensified the breeze.

Jahaniyan continued by explaining that rooms were often named based on the number of doors in their rooms — for instance, a room with six doors would be referred to as the "six-door room."

He clarified that for winter living, lower-level rooms with fewer windows and doors were utilized.

He pointed out that the kitchen, known as *matbakh*, was typically built a short distance outside the main house, while the restroom and bathroom were usually situated farther away from the primary structure to promote hygiene.

Moreover, he highlighted that balconies or verandas were notable features of Mazandarani houses, serving as gathering places for family and dining during the milder days of the year. He specified that wood, being a warm raw material, contributed significantly to the warmth and closeness of family relationships within these homes. In contrast, the incorporation of metal and stone in modern housing has negatively influenced the character and interpersonal dynamics of contemporary households. In addition, he discussed another distinctive feature of these houses — the excavation of a one-meter-deep pit in the larger room, known as *zoghal chal*. In affluent homes during the Pahlavi era, this design was often integrated as a wall-mounted stove equipped with a ventilation pipe to the outside, effectively serving the purpose of a fireplace.



Jaame Mosque of Tiss and its historical significance

Jaame Mosque of Tiss, a village in Chabahar Free Zone, Hormozgan Province, is a significant attraction in the area, showcasing a unique façade and design reminiscent of Indian architecture. The mosque's vibrant and colorful forms echo the handwoven crafts found in the nearby regions.

This mosque serves as a reminder of Tiss village's rich history, particularly during the early centuries of the Islamic era when it was a crucial port on Iran's southeast coast. Today, although Chabahar stands as Iran's only oceanic port, the village of Tiss remains an important settlement near the Indian Ocean. Historically, Tiss village was vital for the transfer of goods, facilitating trade routes to the Middle East, Central Asia, and the Caucasus.

Situated five kilometers northwest of Chabahar, Tiss is nestled at the foothills. Archae-

ological relics found in the area span from the Achaemenid Empire to later periods, highlighting its significance throughout history. The mosque stands as a testament to the village's historical importance, while the remnants of Tiss Castle, overlooking the sea, further emphasize the strategic role of Chabahar.

Prominently visible from the village, the mosque's architecture is strikingly similar to that of mosques in Pakistan and India. Notable features include the minaret and dome adorned in shades of red and green, along with colorful glass windows that add distinct charm.

The mosque's doors, embellished with an array of colorful, regular, and irregular glass pieces, enhance its beauty. The original prayer hall was once inadequate for the local community, leading to expansion efforts on the mosque's eastern side.

Social reform requires collective agreement

National Desk

"We need your guidance. You can help outline pathways for the country to overcome its challenges and difficulties." These are the words of President Masoud Pezeshkian, addressing a group of sociology experts on Tuesday. The Iranian president emphasized that social and cultural changes require time, often measured in decades. Therefore, expecting substantial changes within the short period since he assumed office, especially given the complexity and diversity of issues, is unrealistic.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian
● president.ir

Pezeshkian urged the experts present, as well as specialists across the country, to provide the government with actionable recommendations and support in problem-solving. He added, "I firmly believe that without consensus, societal progress is unattainable. Our goal is to achieve change through unity, inclusive participation, and the establishment of justice and fairness. When we uphold people's rights, they will join us in mutual understanding." He emphasized the significance of concepts like organizational unity, teamwork, and justice, which are fundamental in today's companies and institutions. He explained that for achieving consensus, change is necessary, but it is not a simple matter. This process must begin with clear communication. When inequality arises, the government must present these issues transparently to the public and explain the necessity of change. Referring to criticisms from some faculty members regarding universities, Pezeshkian noted that reforms are indeed being pursued and that some ideas are already in place. However, these must be examined with experts like those present. Universities should equip students with skills that will be valuable in addressing societal issues, as knowledge should evolve based on societal needs. Implementing changes in universities requires a common language for dialogue among all parties involved, and after establishing this common language, we must define the path for change. The government follows "the same path in selecting governors and ministers, which is, of course, a challenging process".

Dialogue versus revolutionary change

On the topic of rapid government reforms, the president observed, "Immediate and revolutionary changes can create conflicts, while dialogue can resolve many issues. I believe that those on the opposite side of the spectrum are also seeking justice and fairness, and we need to speak their language to get through to them. In a state of polarization and conflict, the only outcome is destruction for nations, and the net result is zero, which is why even taking one step forward with understanding and unity is preferable to a polarized environment". Referring to the theme of unity, Pezeshkian stated, "I have adopted the slogan of unity based on my beliefs and convictions. I am confident that by respecting each group's rights and acting justly, we can achieve consen-

sus. If we reach a fair resolution for each segment of society, differences in ethnicity, party, or background should no longer be a source of division." The president then addressed concerns raised by sociologists regarding the national education system. He noted that weekly discussions are held to address the educational challenges, especially the issue of inequality. "What kind of justice is it that students from a province with the bare minimum of educational resources are expected to compete on an equal footing with students from, say, Tehran, who have access to the best facilities? Why shouldn't we create an environment where our talented individuals can grow and thrive, regardless of where they are in the country? Solving these problems is no easy feat, but we're working to address them, and we've already had discussions on this topic at the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution." Pezeshkian further emphasized the importance of equitable job opportunities and criticized workforce excess in certain government sectors and ineffective personnel management. "In a fair system, compensation is based on effort and work. It is unjust that some work hard in society while others in certain offices receive equal pay with minimal effort." He pointed out the issue of [energy] deficits in the country, urging economists to provide practical solutions to resolve these issues without harming vulnerable populations. "It's irrational for some people to receive the lion's share of subsidies and resources, while others are excluded. I ask economists to propose actionable steps to address this problem." Pezeshkian turned to the different perspectives on the issue of the Islamic dress codes and the criticisms expressed by some of the attendees regarding the current policies in this area, saying,

"In terms of hijab, consider the other side of the story as well; development requires respect for the culture of society. If we mock the culture of society, there will be no possibility for change and understanding. Those who advocate for reform and change must also respect other cultural perspectives; otherwise, conflict arises. We must honor the culture of our society." At the start of the meeting, several sociology professors shared their perspectives. Rafiei, a sociologist, presented the latest survey data on various political, social, economic, and international issues, stating that contrary to popular belief, Iranians are not inherently political. He emphasized that citizens evaluate governments based on their performance rather than political affiliations, and called for reducing political confrontation and avoiding creating divisions between the public and the authorities.

Challenges of development and need to restore social trust

Taqi Azad Armaki, another sociologist, identified a fundamental issue in the lack of emphasis on development. He noted that although most governments prioritize development, they do not make it a central focus of their operations. He argued that genuine development requires cohesion, social belonging, and trust, and that the current critical issue facing Iranian society is a lack of these cohesive forces, which are essential drivers of development. Azad Armaki observed that Iran is built around three pillars: politics, religion, and family. He suggested that progress in the political system requires an accountable bureaucracy, as effective development is unattainable without a well-structured bureaucratic system. He also



A group of sociology professors and experts meet with President Masoud Pezeshkian at the Presidential Office on November 5, 2024 for a discussion on social issues.
● president.ir

noted that the separation of religious and intellectual figures has left a void in the country's spiritual domain, causing a sense of meaninglessness among the people. He urged collaboration between religious and intellectual leaders to restore values, ethics, and culture to society, with the family as its focal point. Jabar Rahmani remarked, "Despite its potential, our society suffers from a type of exhaustion due to the excessive demands placed on it by politics and economics. At the same time, the state faces immediate social challenges, yet the country's infrastructure has become worn and deficient. Education is severely depleted, and civil institutions have systematically weakened. The government must address these issues urgently." The sociologist continued by addressing the deteriorating relationship between people and the environment, noting that neglect and exploitation of natural resources have endangered societal infrastructure, calling for prompt action in this area.

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Immediate and revolutionary changes can create conflicts, while dialogue can resolve many issues.

Self-awareness and societal solidarity

Mo'ayedfar commented on the critical importance of self-awareness in current circumstances. "The country faces multiple crises, and fostering solidarity between the government and society is essential to overcome them. Since our entry into the modern world, idealism has persisted due to our historical background, but gradually we have moved toward self-awareness. However, certain elites remain entrenched in idealistic thinking, distancing themselves from society." This sociologist added that "some elites seek to play a role in society by preserving the historical identity foundations, but the governance limits their influence, though their participation remains essential for society". He called on the government to help enable these elites "to become active and provide opportunities for them to make a meaningful contribution in various institutions." During the meeting, Shahli-Bar emphasized that ideas like "giving a voice to the voiceless" need to become social movements within society. He highlighted the critical issue of housing, explaining that the high cost of housing is straining family budgets and has led to structural poverty in many households. He warned that if left unaddressed, the situation would worsen. The sociologist added that the dominant discourse for addressing the housing crisis has so far been the production of private housing, which has proven ineffective. Despite having 27 million housing units for 24 million households, many people still live in rental properties. He suggested extending rental contracts from a minimum of one





● AHMAD RIYABI DEHKORDI/IRNA



● VAHID KHADEMI/IRNA

to two years and implementing large-scale projects to build affordable or free public housing. The sociology professor further recommended incorporating social perspectives into housing projects, observing a lack of sociologists' presence in national planning. He proposed establishing specialized social sciences organizations for this purpose.

Inclusive unity and addressing social inequities

Janadeleh, a socialist, expressed hope that the government's approach to unity would be inclusive, not limited to specific political groups. He suggested that one way to achieve this inclusivity is by listening to the voices of marginalized groups, advocating for mechanisms to enable these voices to be heard, including democratizing the selection process for appointments. Janadeleh also advised that the social impacts of each government decision should be assessed in advance to avoid disruptions and negative consequences. Concluding his remarks, he urged the president to focus on educational equity and address the detrimental impact of the "entrance exam mafia" on the education system. Zhaleh Shaditalab emphasized the importance of engaging all members of society, particularly those who did not participate in the presidential election, and reiterated that the government's most important responsibility is to ensure public satisfaction. She stressed the need for economic and social stability to provide citizens with a positive outlook for the future. The socialist highlighted the role of civil institutions in national development and called for the Ministry of Interior to streamline and expedite the licensing process for such activities. She also noted the importance of realism and addressing current social and cultural needs, especially in matters concerning women and families. Mousavi also shared concerns about whether these issues would receive adequate attention and preventive action. She pointed out that sociologists have warned about social fragmentation since the last decade, and such warnings have previously been communicated to presidents. She stressed that governance must foster mutual trust and reduce restrictions, particularly for scientific and student associations. Mousavi continued by emphasizing that attention to the rights of neglected groups is reflected in your slogans, and people are waiting to see what developments will occur in this regard.

Strengthening social organizations

Addressing the meeting, Maqsood Farastkhah said that Pezeshkian's social behavior is accompanied by a certain type of social narrative, but it alone cannot drive development and other actions must also be taken. He encouraged the president to prioritize both political and social stability, ensuring the resilience of the government. Farastkhah suggested that the president should seek proposals from society on addressing social issues, noting that Iran has significant human capital, which could be an asset. He acknowledged the low quality of social services but suggested leveraging local and even expatriate expertise to improve it through innovation and changes in administrative processes. He concluded by asking Pezeshkian to support the growth of social organizations, arguing that by strengthening these groups, substantial progress could be achieved over two presidential terms. Ghaffari, another socialist, discussed the resilience of Iranian society and the role of the Islamic Republic in national development. He noted that while this strength enables the society to resist unacceptable measures, the importance of social issues has been overlooked. He argued that social challenges cannot be resolved through political and economic decisions alone; addressing social issues is a prerequisite for success in other areas. Ghaffari highlighted the low voter turnout in recent elections and the need to engage various social classes, including those with fewer economic struggles, such as academics and students, who seek involvement in national decision-making. He emphasized that the president's slogan of unity should encompass this group, as they are key to achieving the government's goals.

He also criticized the selection process for university faculty, noting that excessive restrictions hinder academic processes, including hiring and departmental appointments. He urged the president to review these limitations.



● TEHRANPICTURE.IR

Mohammad Taqi Karami argued that the government must protect its political integrity and authority; otherwise, social issues could become problematic. "The government needs to be able to shape its social narrative through mechanisms that foster participation and innovation, and this process requires diverse contributions and creative solutions." He emphasized the importance of university autonomy and the need for the government to strengthen its authority in the organizational processes of universities. Another sociologist, Serajzadeh, noted that one of the president's promises was to seek expert opinions, stressing that this should become an institutional practice, not just a symbolic gesture. He remarked that Iranian society is currently highly polarized, which hampers consensus-building—a serious issue requiring attention. He also highlighted potential areas for success, such as com-

bating corruption in government institutions, which could boost governmental efficiency by gaining the support of other governing bodies. Concluding his remarks, Serajzadeh criticized the three-year delay in approving elections for the Union

of Social Sciences Associations by the Ministry of Science, citing communication issues he hopes will be resolved under the current administration.

Call for engaging specialists

Continuing the discussion, Vahid Shalchi stated, "Contrary to those who claim that our society is polarized, I believe that there are currently three poles in our society." Vahid Shalchi argued against the notion that "our society is merely polarized", he believed that "there are currently three poles in our society." Shalchi identified a third group comprising "specialists that you can tap into for help. Despite their criticisms, they entered the fray and participated in the elections." He suggested that the government's science-centered discourse could involve the scientific community in decision-making processes, including expert advisors without formal positions in the government.



What kind of justice is it that students from a province with the bare minimum of educational resources are expected to compete on an equal footing with students from, say, Tehran, who have access to the best facilities?

Restoring media's credibility

The sociologist stressed the need for the government to provide a vision for the country's economic future to ensure social stability. He also urged that the media's credibility be restored within the country, warning that unresolved issues would persist otherwise. Yaqoub Ahmadi noted that many social and cultural problems stem from government interventions lacking expert insight. He cautioned that in some cases, political interventions exacerbate tensions rather than alleviate them, potentially leading to radical shifts among the affected groups. This Kurdish sociologist expressed concerns over the disadvantaged status of border provinces like Kordestan, Ilam, and Sistan-Baluchestan in poverty metrics, highlighting that Kordestan has consistently ranked low in these indicators for years. Falahati criticized the current governance structures in cultural and social domains, noting the urgent need for broader consultative circles to ensure more inclusive and realistic decisions. She also voiced disappointment over the stalled legislation on women's protection. Kazemi presented five recommendations to the president: prioritize meaningful change, provide more support to middle- and lower-class women as they are the driving force of society, overhaul the education system, address rent-seeking opportunities in the field of employment and ultimately bring job instability to a close. Hadi Khaniki, the final speaker, commended Pezeshkian for taking on responsibility during difficult times. He underscored the importance of paradigm shifts and utilizing the full potential of society through open dialogues to inform the public of societal challenges. Khaniki also stressed the need to improve the government's communication with the public and increase transparency in media policies to reduce tensions, encouraging continued dialogue with experts. In closing, Elias Hazrati, head of the government's Information Council, praised the president's unity slogan. He remarked on the significance of this approach, recalling efforts in the Sixth Parliament to appoint a Sunni representative to the presiding board, which ultimately failed. He contrasted this with today's administration, which includes a female minister, a Sunni deputy, and a Sunni governor.



● MOHSEN VANAIE/IRNA

Iranian weightlifter Yousefi keen to shatter world C&J record

Sports Desk

Iranian weightlifter Alireza Yousefi has set his sights on a massive goal for the next month's IWF World Championships in Manama: Breaking the seniors clean & jerk world record.

Yousefi, 21, has been the dominant force of the juniors' super-heavyweight class for the past two years.

A triple world gold medalist in 2022, Yousefi repeated the achievement to help Iran win the men's title at the World Junior Championships in Guadalajara, Mexico, last year.

However, his most sensational performance perhaps came in the 2023 Asian Seniors Championships in Jinju, South Korea, where the Iranian young gun set a new world junior C&J record of 246kg to win a precious silver medal behind Gor Minasyan of Bahrain.

Having been named in the Iranian provisional 12-man squad for the world event last week, Yousefi is confident of setting yet another benchmark in the Bahraini capital.

"I have been preparing well and improved my personal records in training. I'm sure I will have some decent results [at the World Championships] if I keep going like



● IWF

this," said Yousefi, who is with the rest of team in a training camp on the Kish Island before the final squad is announced for the Manama visit.

"My primary gold will be to win

a medal at the World Championships, but at the same time, I'll be focused on breaking the world clean and jerk record in the seniors age class. I'm confident the feat is within my reach,

given my recent lifts in training sessions," said the Iranian.

Yousefi, however, will face a daunting task in setting a new clean & jerk high as legendary Georgian Lasha Talakhadze is

the current world record holder of the category with a remarkable 267kg – set in the 2021 World Championships in Tashkent.

The good news for Yousefi and

all of the +109kg contenders is that Talakhadze, who won a third successive Olympic gold in August, was absent in the IWF's entry list for the world event on Friday.

The Georgian's absence sets the stage for the tightest race for the superheavyweight crown in years, with Armenian Varazdat Lalayan, and Minasyan – Olympic silver and bronze winners respectively – as well as Iranian Ali Davoudi, who won the silver at the Tokyo Games but missed out on the podium in Paris, all in the mix.

"The World Championships are taking place just a few months after the Paris Games, which means all the Olympic contestants might be far from their peak of fitness, though I'm still going to focus on my own performance in the in Manama," said Sharifi, who has been dealing with a ligament injury for a while and will have to undergo a knee surgery after the upcoming competitions.

Having collected three medals – including Davoudi's C&J bronze – in last year's World Championships, Iran will be looking for a fresh start after a below-par Olympic campaign in the French capital, where the country failed to win a weightlifting medal in the Games for the first time since Beijing 2008.

Jahanbakhsh set for new chapter in Dutch Eredivisie

Sports Desk

Iranian midfielder Alireza Jahanbakhsh will be looking to make his debut for SC Heerenveen when the Dutch club takes on Go Ahead Eagles at home in the Eredivisie today.

Having parted ways with Feyenoord in the summer Jahanbakhsh, 31, joined Heerenveen as a free agent for the rest of the season last Wednesday – marking a fourth chapter in the Dutch top flight for the Iranian.

First introduced to the European club football with NEC Nijmegen in 2013, Jahanbakhsh enjoyed his most prolific spell with AZ Alkmaar between 2015 and 2018, contributing with 37 goals and 31 assists in 111 outings. The Iranian enjoyed a most successful campaign in the 2017/18 season, finishing as the league's leading marksman with 21 strikes, which convinced Brighton & Hove Albion pay a then-club

record €22.5 million to sign him. His contribution for the Premier League outfit, however, was limited to four goals and two assists in 61 games, with 31 of those appearances coming in the starting XI.

On his return to the Netherlands, Jahanbakhsh won the Eredivisie title with Feyenoord in 2023 before lifting the KNVB Cup trophy last season, while finishing runner-up to AS Roma in the inaugural UEFA Europa Conference League in 2022.

"I can add experience, but, of course, also creativity, goals and assists. I promise the supporters that I will always work hard and do everything I can to make them happy," Jahanbakhsh – involved in 91 goals as a provider or finisher in 183 Eredivisie appearances – said in a first interview with Heerenveen official website.

Jahanbakhsh is the second Iranian to wear the Heerenveen shirt over the past decade, following

former international teammate Reza Zouhanchnejad, who scored 32 goals in 77 games for the club between 2016 and 2018.

"I used to watch a lot of Heerenveen games when Reza played here. He is one of the best players we have ever had in our national team. He has scored a lot of goals here and done well. I hope I can do that too," Jahanbakhsh said.

Heerenveen head coach Robin van Persie, who worked with Jahanbakhsh as an assistant to Arne Slot in Feyenoord, will hope the Iranian's addition will turn his side's fortunes around after a slow start to season, which has seen the club sit 14th in the 18-team table with 11 points in as many games – just a couple of points clear of the relegation play-off spot.

"I know Robin van Persie from my time at Feyenoord. He was with us once or twice a week to work with the wingers and the strikers. I had a really good relationship

with him at the time. He called me a couple of weeks ago to ask me about my situation. He explained the project and told me what he expected from me tactically, and I then decided to come here," the Iranian said of his previous collaboration with the former Arsenal and Manchester United striker.

The ex-Dutch international was full of praise for his new signing in a press conference on Friday. "He's a great guy," RvP said. "But of course he's here because he can play football well. Ali brings positivity, quality and hopefully goals and assists. He's also a real leader, on and off the pitch."

The Dutchman, however, believes today's game may come a bit too soon for the Iranian.

"He has played 90 minutes once in the past five months, so we have to build it up slowly. We all want to see him, but he needs time. He has trained twice so far and that went well. We will see tomorrow whether he is there."



● SC Heerenveen.nl



Aliakbari suffers first-round submission against Brazilian Almeida

Sports Desk

Iranian mixed martial artist Amir Aliakbari fell to a first ONE Championship loss in three years, suffering a first-round submission against 17-time BJJ world champion Marcus 'Buche-cha' Almeida of Brazil in Friday's ONE 169 event in Bangkok, Thailand.

The Brazilian landed a take-down in the bout's opening minutes, and once he had his Iranian foe's back flat on the canvas, he turned in a clinical performance. Almeida patiently passed the

former world Greco-Roman wrestling champion's guard, and then he took his back and sunk in the fight-ending rear-naked choke in the blink of an eye at the 3:15 mark of the opening frame.

The victory improved the Brazilian's career slate to 5-1 and kept his 100-percent finishing rate intact, while boosting his chances of a shot at the coveted ONE heavyweight MMA world title, currently held by three-division world champion Anatoly Malykhin.

Aliakbari (14-4), meanwhile, saw

his run of four successive victories in the organization come to an end, with his last win coming in the fourth round against Indian Arjan Bhullar in ONE 166: Qatar in March.

◀ MMA fighter Amir Aliakbari (L) is seen in action against Marcus Almeida at the ONE 169 event in Bangkok, Thailand, on Nov. 8, 2024.

● ONE CHAMPIONSHIP

Zarif: US, Israel not to experience peace until Palestinian rights respected

International Desk

Iranian Vice President for Strategic Affairs Mohammad Javad Zarif said on Saturday that Israel and the United States should know that they will not experience peace and tranquility in the region as long as the rights of the Palestinian people are not respected and the Palestinian refugees do not return to their land.

Zarif was speaking at an international summit, titled 'Nasrallah's School of Thought', which was held in commemoration of the 40th day of the assassination of Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah by the Israeli regime in Lebanon in September.

He said that resistance against the Israeli regime began before the victory of the 1979 Islamic Revolution in Iran and will continue until the full liberation of the Palestinian lands. He asked whether the Israeli regime had been able to taste

peace for a moment after the killing of tens of thousands of children, men and women in the Gaza Strip.

Zarif also underlined that the end of apartheid in South Africa can and should be repeated in the West Asia region.

Several international rights organizations have repeatedly accused Israel of pursuing policies of apartheid and persecution against Palestinians over the past decades, that amount to crimes against humanity.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi also addressed the conference and warned that the drastic consequences of Israel's brutal aggression on the Gaza Strip and southern Lebanon would not be confined to West Asia and could spill over far beyond the strategic region. "The usurping, apartheid and child-killing Zionist regime, rejecting all plans and proposals to establish a cease-fire in Gaza and Lebanon, presses ahead with its crimes in

Palestine and Lebanon, and regrettably, the international community has been unable to stop the Zionist genocide or is only watching Zionist war-mongering and their efforts to make the entire region unsafe," Araghchi said.

"The world should know that if the war expands, its harmful effects will not be limited only to the West Asia region; insecurity and instability is something that can spread to other areas, even far away."

Araghchi also praised Nasrallah as a symbol of resistance, courage and standing against oppression and aggression not only for Lebanon but also for the Muslim world and all freedom-seeking nations.

Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf also said the assassination of Nasrallah has revealed the futility of compromise in the face of the regime.

Qalibaf highlighted Nasrallah's unwavering support for



The photo shows a general view of a ceremony dubbed 'Nasrallah's school of Thought' held in Tehran on November 9, 2024 in commemoration of former Hezbollah Secretary General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah.
● IQNA

the fighters of the Gaza-based resistance movement Hamas since the onset of Operation Al-Aqsa Flood.

The speaker said Hezbollah's leader used his wisdom to build a power that served hu-

manity.

More than 43,000 Palestinians, mostly women and children, have been killed in the Gaza Strip as a result of Israeli military action since the beginning of its devastating war on

the Palestinian territory in last October.

The regime has also launched an aggression against Lebanon on the pretext of fighting Hezbollah and has killed more than 3,000 people there.

Araghchi calls on Europe to engage in dialogue, avoid sanctions

International Desk

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi called on the European countries to engage in dialogue with Iran and avoid sanctions, saying that sanctions only complicate the problems. The Iranian foreign minister in an interview with the German news website Der Spiegel warned of major challenges the world would face after the 2015 Iran nuclear deal expires on October 25, 2025.

"Sanctions only complicate the problems. They have never helped to solve a problem, at least not in Iran. My message is: Forget the sanctions! They didn't work in the past, they aren't working now and they won't work in the future," Araghchi said. "My question to the Germans is why have you suddenly taken a confrontational approach toward Iran despite your positive experiences with negotiations? If the Europeans, if the Germans want to take a confrontational approach, that is of course

their decision, not ours," Araghchi said.

US president-elect Donald Trump pulled Washington out of the UNSC-endorsed agreement in May 2018, and imposed severe economic sanctions against Tehran while Iran was adhering to its commitments under the deal and even continued to do so for a year after the US withdrawal.

Tehran scaled back its commitments to the JCPOA in a series of pre-announced and clear steps after witnessing the other parties' failure, especially the European ones, to secure its interest under the agreement.

Pointing to Israel's genocidal war on Gaza which has claimed the lives of more than 34,000 Palestinians since October 2023, the Iranian foreign minister urged the European countries, especially the Germany, to stop supporting the regime.

He denounced the German government for refusing to condemn Israel's crimes in the Gaza Strip



Abbas Araghchi

and to impose sanctions on the regime for the crimes it has been committing in the Palestinian territory as well as Lebanon over the past year.

"The Israeli embassy and Israeli consulates have not been closed. The murder of the Palestinian people by Israel is not important to you. It is this arrogance of Europe that has led to the current conflict. Set aside your double standards for once, and then maybe we will have a chance for understanding," Araghchi told Der Spiegel.

Referring to Hamas' operation against Israel in 2023, the Iranian top diplomat said, "That was a

decision made by Hamas. They didn't include us. Only history will tell if this decision was appropriate. In any case, this operation is the result of 80 years of occupation of the land of the Palestinian people, their expulsion and murder. Two million people were robbed of their self-determination and put in a big prison called 'Gaza'."

He also said that the Palestinian people should not be punished for what the Germans did to the Jews decades ago.

He was referring to the six million Jews who were murdered by the by the Germany's Nazi regime between 1933 and 1945.

Dozens dead as bombing rips through Pakistan's railway station



A bombing claimed by the Baloch Liberation Army's terrorist group killed 26 people including 14 soldiers at a railway station in Pakistan's southwestern Balochistan Province, a hospital spokesman said Saturday. The blast hit as passengers waited on a platform at the main railway station in the provincial capital Quetta.

"Fourteen members of the army and 12 civilians were killed," said Wasim Baig, spokesman for Quetta's Sandeman Provincial Hospital, rais-

ing an earlier toll of 25 provided by police, AFP reported.

Forty-six members of the security forces and 14 civilians were wounded, the spokesman added. Despite frequent attacks in Balochistan the toll of Saturday's blast was particularly high for the southwestern province, which borders Afghanistan and Iran.

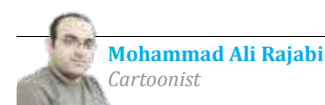
Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said the attackers "will pay a heavy price", according to a statement from his office.

The BLA frequently

claims deadly attacks against security forces or Pakistanis from other provinces, notably Punjab.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei in a statement on Saturday condemned the terrorist attack, reiterating Tehran's readiness for bilateral cooperation to counter terrorism.

He said such terrorist attacks are in violation of all legal and human rights principles and rules and are "not acceptable at all."



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

Iran rebuts claim of Trump assassination plot as 'totally unfounded'

International Desk

Iran's Foreign Ministry on Saturday described as "totally unfounded" US accusations of a plot by Tehran to assassinate US president-elect Donald Trump. The Foreign Ministry "rejects allegations that Iran is implicated in an assassination attempt targeting former or current American officials," spokesman Esmail Baghaei said in a statement, after US prosecutors announced charges

over the alleged plot.

A criminal complaint filed in federal court in New York City alleges that an unnamed official in Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) instructed a contact to develop a plan to surveil and ultimately kill the businessman-turned-politician.

Baghaei said the repetition of such claims at this juncture is "a malicious conspiracy by Zionist and anti-Iranian circles aimed at further complicating the is-

sues between the United States and Iran."

It came after Trump was declared the winner of the presidential election on Wednesday. On July 13, Trump survived an assassination attempt, suffering only minor injury to his ear.

In August, Iran dismissed having any connection with a Pakistani individual allegedly arrested in the United States and charged with being behind a foiled plot to assassinate US pol-

iticians.

The US, under then-president Trump, unilaterally withdrew in 2018 from a nuclear accord signed in 2015 with Iran and imposed a series of draconian sanctions on the Islamic Republic.

Trump also admitted to having ordered the assassination of Iran's legendary anti-terror commander Gen. Qassem Soleimani in a US drone strike near Baghdad airport on January 3, 2020.





Iranian students shine at Indonesia's ISIF, winning 5 golds, 2 special awards

Social Desk

Iranian students clinched five gold medals and two special awards at the International Science and Invention Fair (ISIF) 2024, being held in Indonesia from November 5 to 10. According to Mehdi Rashidi Jahan, head of the Iranian team, the country's student inventors have made a significant impact at the prestigious event, which drew 1,098 teams from 24 countries competing across eight fields, including technical and engineering, chemistry and nanotechnology, biotechnology and environment, energy engineering, physics and astronomy, artificial intelligence and technology, social sciences, and education and educational technologies. Iran participated in the competitions

with three teams in person and two teams online, with the country's students ultimately emerging victorious in several categories, IRNA wrote. The team consisting of Ilia Majidzadeh and Parsa Karimi took home a gold medal and a special award in the field of technical and engineering, while the team comprising Amir Abbas Kavooosi Amin and Artin Salari also received a gold medal in the same field. Nima Sohrabi, meanwhile, won a gold medal and a special award for Romania in the field of artificial intelligence technology. Furthermore, the Valeh team, consisting of Artin Radmatin, Niki Abtahi, Baran Bahman, Sarina Nosrati, and Mohammad Hossein Ezzati, clinched a gold medal in the field of environment, while the team comprising Baran Derakhshan-

deh Daryasari, Paniz Khalajifar, Golshid Shirvani, and Yasaman Saeedi received a gold medal in the field of biotechnology, bringing two more gold medals to Iran. The ISIF 2024 featured a diverse range of countries, including Indonesia, Malaysia, Romania, Czech Republic, Russia, Turkmenistan, Thailand, Vietnam, South Africa, United Arab Emirates, India, Hong Kong, and China. The Iranian students' impressive performance at the event is a testament to their creativity, hard work, and dedication to innovation. As Rashidi Jahan noted, "This achievement is a result of the students' tireless efforts and the support of their teachers and mentors. We are proud of our students' accomplishments and look forward to seeing their inventions make a positive impact in the world."



● IRNA

Iran's rich cultural heritage can attract more Kazakh tourists: *Envoy*



Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian Ambassador to Kazakhstan Ali-Akbar Jokar said on Friday that Iran's rich cultural heritage and historical sites can attract more Kazakh tourists, as he met with Kazakh Minister of Tourism and Sports Yerbol Myrzabosynov to discuss ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation in tourism. Referring to the extensive sports cooperation between the two countries, Jokar stressed the importance of developing bilateral ties in the tourism

sector as well. Myrzabosynov, for his part, expressed his satisfaction with the constructive relations between the two countries in the sports arena and appreciated Iran's active participation in the 5th World Nomad Games held in Astana. The Kazakh minister also invited Iranian tourists and those active in the tourism industry to visit his country to get familiar with its rich cultural and historical heritage, and to participate in tourism exhibitions. In a separate meeting, Jokar briefed Myrzabosynov on Iran's tourism ca-

pacities, highlighting the country's potential in health tourism as one of the key areas of cooperation. Meanwhile, Jokar also met with Aigul Kuspan, chairwoman of the International Affairs, Defense and Security Committee and member of the Iran-Kazakhstan parliamentary friendship group. Kuspan stated that the president of Kazakhstan attaches great importance to strengthening and expanding relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. She emphasized that the bilateral interactions between the two countries in various fields are a result of the two sides' approach to expand relations. Jokar described the relations between Iran and Kazakhstan as strategic and emphasized that the two countries should strengthen their trade cooperation in line with their excellent political ties. He also highlighted the importance of mutual investment between the two countries, citing Iran's southern ports in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman as a significant opportunity for Kazakh investment.

'Lines Without Borders', bilingual exhibition of Khayyam's poems underway in Tehran

Arts & Culture Desk

An exhibition of Omar Khayyam's famous Rubaiyat (quatrains), written in both Persian and Latin scripts, opened in Tehran, showcasing the artistic talents of two Iranian calligraphers. The exhibition, titled 'Lines Without Borders', features the works of Parisa Eftekhari and Niloufar Fattahi, who have brought the 11th-century poet's verses to life with their beautiful handwriting. According to ISNA, the exhibition will run from November 8 to 14 and will be held at the Iranian Art Museum Garden. The Persian section of

the exhibition has been penned by Eftekhari, a skilled calligrapher who specializes in writing with pen and pencil, while the Latin section, which features the translation of Khayyam's Rubaiyat by Edward FitzGerald, has been written by Fattahi, a renowned Latin calligraphy artist. The two artists have taken a novel approach to calligraphy, focusing on the capabilities of writing with a pen. As Fattahi noted, "We wanted to push the boundaries of traditional calligraphy and experiment with new techniques and tools." Eftekhari added, "We hope that our exhibition will inspire a new generation of calligraphers to explore the art form."



Indian Diwali celebrations light up in Tehran

Arts & Culture Desk

The Indian Embassy in Tehran, at the residence of Indian Ambassador to Tehran, Rudra Gaurav Shresth, hosted a festive celebration of Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights, on Friday evening. The event drew in a large crowd of Iranian guests and diplomats from various countries, who gathered to experience the rich traditions of India. The annual festival tends to fall between October and November, but the exact

date varies each year as the Hindu calendar is based on the Moon.

Tea festival

As part of the festivities, a tea festival was also organized, showcasing the diverse and high-quality teas of India. The event aimed to introduce Iranian tea enthusiasts to the world-renowned Indian tea varieties, with a focus on the country's reputation as the second-largest tea exporter globally. The event was a huge success, with visi-

tors enjoying the various flavors of Indian tea, including Darjeeling, Masala, and Nilgiri. In Hindu mythology, tea is believed to have originated from the story of Daruma, the founder of Zen Buddhism, who would meditate and eventually pluck out his eyelids to stay awake. The tea plant is said to have grown from the spot where his eyelids were discarded, bearing magical properties that could dispel fatigue. India is renowned for its diverse tea varieties, with three main flavors – Darjeeling, Assam, and Nilgiri – having gained international recognition. The embassy's efforts to promote these teas in Iran are part of a broader initiative to strengthen cultural ties between the two nations. In addition, the Mandala Artists Association in Iran, founded by Maryam Houri, showcased its artistic creations, which were also on display at the festival. Mandala, a Sanskrit word meaning "circle," represents the universe and is often used in meditation and art therapy.

Houri emphasized the historical artistic exchange between Iran and India, highlighting the mutual influence of both cultures. "We established the association in 2019, and we're thrilled to see its growth and the interest it has generated across the country," Houri said. "We're hopeful for the embassy's support and hope to see further collaboration and cooperation in the future." Nazanin Mohammadi, a member of the association, whose artwork was well-received by the guests, explained the principles of Mandala art. "Mandala is about respecting the earth and the universe, using natural colors and shapes to create harmony and balance. It's a form of meditation that has also found its way into medical science." The festival featured works by various Iranian artists, including Maryam Houri, Pouneh Moghimi, Raha Khoshons, Nazanin Mohammadi, Atena Rezaei, Shima Saei, Mina Shahroudi, and Maryam Behbahani.



Indian Ambassador to Tehran, Rudra Gaurav Shresth, lights candles during a Diwali celebration at his residence in Tehran on November 8, 2024.
● IRAN DAILY

