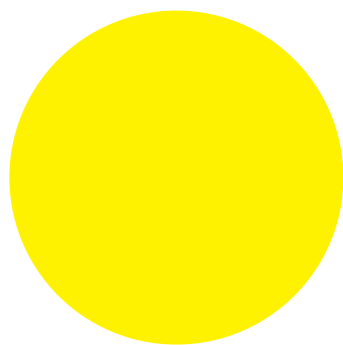


VP calls expansion of Tehran-Riyadh ties 'irreversible path'



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Iran Should Improve Diplomacy to Organize Own Affairs: **Pezeshkian**

Iranian management in the face of Trump's America

By Ebrahim Beheshti
Staff writer

PERSPECTIVE

In the wake of Donald Trump's victory in the US presidential election, various analyses have been penned about the future policies of the United States in West Asia. The fate of the Gaza and Lebanon conflicts, as well as the quality of engagement with Iran, have been two pressing issues that have taken center stage in these analyses. In Iran, different views have been floated regarding how to engage with the Trump administration, ranging from recalling the assassination of General Soleimani, the commander of the Quds Force, on Trump's orders, to calls for a new approach and dialogue with the new US government.

Despite this, by parsing the stances of Iranian government officials, we can glean some insight into what the Rouhani administration has in mind when it comes to dealing with Trump's America. The United States' presence in West Asia and its cordial relations with many regional governments, particularly its strategic ties with the Israeli regime, are realities that Iranian analysts, officials, and decision-makers cannot afford to turn a blind eye to.

Furthermore, Iran and the US have a long and checkered history, which culminated in the signing of the nuclear deal in 2015, along with China, Russia, the UK, France, and Germany. Although Trump unilaterally withdrew from the deal in 2018, the JCPOA remains intact, backed by UN Security Council Resolution 2231. It's no stretch to say that the top priority that could be on the table for both sides is an agreement on Iran's peaceful nuclear program.

During his election campaign, Trump repeatedly flagged his main concern about Iran as preventing it from acquiring nuclear weapons. After the election results were announced, Brian Hook, who served as the US special representative for Iran in Trump's previous administration, stated that Trump has no intention of regime change in Iran.

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First Sunni female governor in Kurdistan Province:

Women's glass ceiling in reaching managerial posts shattered



Iran coach Qalenoee wary of complacency against North Korea, Kyrgyzstan



Aqa Khan Noori House reopens to public

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SPECIAL ISSUE



First Sunni female governor in Kurdistan Province: Women's glass ceiling in reaching managerial posts shattered



By Bitā Mir-Azimi
Staff writer

INTERVIEW

The approach of President Masoud Pezeshkian's government in leveraging the capacities and capabilities of women and local forces at high managerial levels, as well as the appointment of the first Sunni female governor in the history of Kurdistan, conveys a message of equality and justice for women in Iran. These influential actors believe in their abilities and seek to enhance their status within the governmental structure and play a vital role in the development and

prosperity of the country through the revival of gender justice in the national unity government. "Soudabeh Zarghamnejad" is the first woman entrusted with the responsibility of governing the Dehgolan County in Kurdistan.

Her name has been recorded as the first female governor in Kurdistan Province, a region where, after 44 years of demands from the people of Kurdistan, the appointment of a Sunni governor was realized in the Pezeshkian government. The first Sunni female governor of Dehgolan was born in the Chaharbagh neighborhood of Sanandaj. She was in the first grade when her father attained the esteemed status of martyrdom.

"Soudabeh Zarghamnejad" began her career in January 2007 in Kurdistan Province as an agricultural planning expert in the Economic Coordination Office. In 2020, she became the Deputy for Planning and Development at the Sanandaj County Governorate, and three years later, in May 2023, she took on the role of Deputy Director-General for Women's Affairs and Family at the Governorate. A reporter from "Iran" conducted an exclusive interview with the first female governor in the history of Kurdistan, exploring the barriers and challenges to women's participation in managerial positions and high-level decision-making in the country.



Soudabeh Zarghamnejad



IRAN DAILY: Can your appointment as the first Sunni female governor in the history of Kurdistan be interpreted as a shift in gender attitudes in the region? This is an unprecedented occurrence not only in Kurdistan but also in many provinces across the country.

ZARGHAMNEJAD: I believe that being the first in any role shapes perceptions regarding various issues. This is a significant responsibility, and I must fulfill it appropriately. A positive policy must be established for the selection of women in high managerial positions, and this should be accepted by both government officials and public opinion—that a woman can perform just as well as, if not better than, a man in these roles. By achieving this, we can pave the way for other women in my country to enter important managerial positions, fostering a sense of self-belief that if I can succeed, they can as well. Undoubtedly, the trust of the governor is based on a developmental perspective towards the capabilities of women in this land and their appointment to managerial roles, which has fostered social hope and balanced development in political and social spheres. During this short period, I have witnessed the happiness and kindness expressed by my fellow citizens, colleagues, managers, and department heads, especially the Iranian women.

Did you expect this appointment? That a Kurdish woman would take on such an important role for the first time in the province, with people confidently entrusting their problems to her? Please share your feelings about this appointment.

With the national unity government's discourse led by President Pezeshkian, it was not surprising that women would be selected for the position of governor. Reports suggest that a female governor is being appointed in some provinces. The selection of a Sunni Kurdish woman for the governor's position for the first time depends on the perspective of the governor-general, [Arash Zareh Tan] Lohouni, and his trust in the abilities and qualifications of women. I must exert all my efforts to ensure that this trust is not compromised. I am not only happy for myself but also for the women of the country, as they have come to real-

ize that their experiences are as valuable as those of men and that they can hold high government positions in a county. I hope this justice-oriented perspective on women persists across the country, enabling us to see the greatest representation of capable women in other key government roles.

What is the public opinion in Dehgolan County regarding this appointment? Will traditional gender structures pose obstacles to your goals? How will you overcome these challenges and address issues one by one? I hold public meetings with the honorable people of Dehgolan every Monday. Since my appointment, I have held two consecutive public meetings where everyone, both men and women, expressed their happiness regarding this selection. Kurdish women are actively engaged in all professions alongside men. Fortunately, this appoint-

ment has received no negative feedback, and during this time, managers and heads of departments and executive bodies who have come to congratulate me have shown a heartfelt belief in the presence of women in managerial roles, irrespective of any gender bias. Therefore, I do not anticipate any significant issues in advancing the objectives of Dehgolan County.

What are your priorities as the first female governor in Dehgolan County? As you know, the people of this county have been struggling with water shortages in their farms and gardens for years. How will this issue be addressed during your term? Do you have specific solutions in mind?

A serious pursuit for the allocation of water for the development of agricultural lands and the existing dams in the county is on the agenda. It is essential to note that the agricultural lands in the region are classified as prohibited plains, and excessive extraction of groundwater will lead to environmental damage, such as land subsidence, in the near future. Consequently, reducing the use of groundwater is crucial for Dehgolan County. Additionally, since Dehgolan is considered an agricultural hub, developing agricultural processing industries, expanding greenhouses, and cultivat-

ing greenhouse products to increase efficiency and optimize water consumption are prioritized. This includes replacing some water-intensive crops like potatoes with less water-consuming crops such as corn, canola, and saffron, in collaboration with the Agricultural Jihad Organization.

Do you have specific plans for reviving inactive production units?

Given that Dehgolan houses the largest industrial park in Kurdistan, addressing the issues of production and industri-

holds and those without support, as well as their home-based businesses?

In Dehgolan County, establishing markets for showcasing home-produced products, increasing sports and cultural facilities, organizing festivals and cultural events suited to the local ecosystem, promoting awareness to reduce social harms, supporting women who are heads of households or lack support, prioritizing them for self-employment training, and utilizing banking facilities for home-based businesses and sustainable rural

efforts on the assigned responsibilities. I do not spend hours aimlessly browsing social media without gaining anything new; I am not one for unnecessary shopping trips. If I need to shop, I do so efficiently and return home promptly. Therefore, I must emphasize that taking on administrative roles and accepting social responsibilities does not create limitations for women in fulfilling their other responsibilities and interests when priorities are set correctly, planning is appropriate, and time



I hope this justice-oriented perspective on women persists across the country, enabling us to see the greatest representation of capable women in other key government roles.

al units, securing and attracting banking credits to create jobs, reviving inactive production units, and reintegrating them into the production cycle are all on the agenda.

What measures have you considered to address youth unemployment in the county and support female heads of house-

employment credits are all being pursued diligently. Additionally, we are focused on developing rural infrastructure, expediting the implementation of rural development plans, and strengthening rural housing to achieve balanced and sustainable development in underprivileged areas.

Does taking on social responsibilities limit women in their other responsibilities and interests? Has this been a challenge in your life so far?

I believe that with proper time management, it is possible to effectively address social responsibilities while fulfilling the primary duties of a woman, such as being a mother and a wife. I have long understood the true meaning of the proverb "time is gold" and live by it. In the workplace, I focus all my thoughts and

is managed efficiently. Fortunately, this has not posed any challenges in my professional or personal life. Of course, mutual understanding with my husband and child has been helpful, and some challenges have been alleviated by their supportive presence. Over the years, in addition to taking on social responsibilities outside the home, I have continued my education and worked on personal development. I am interested in reading and I closely monitor current political and economic news. I have a passion for arts and crafts, engaging professionally in embroidery, crochet, jewelry making, carpet weaving, and crafting accessories. I also have a keen interest in cultivating flowers and plants, especially cacti, and I enjoy household management and cooking with love.

What impact will your appointment as the first Sunni Kurdish female governor have on women's participation in significant political and executive roles? Can this presence herald a greater involvement of women in managerial positions and the utilization of their rich capacities in other key roles?

I believe this appointment will pave the way for the maximum involvement of women in key and high-level managerial positions. The reality is that the glass ceiling that has historically hindered women's advancement in the workplace is slowly but surely being shattered, and I hope to see more managerial positions at the provincial level allocated to women in the coming years. In this regard, I am also striving to leverage the experience and capabilities



of deserving and experienced women in managerial roles in Dehgolan County and facilitate their professional advancement.

Aqa Khan Noori House reopens to public



● baamar.com

Iranica Desk

The doors of the Mirza Aqa Khan Noori house, formerly the residence of the Prime Minister of Nasereddin Shah, have reopened to the public in district 12 of Tehran after five years and the successful completion of the first phase of renovations. Shahab Talayi, head of the Fund for the Preservation and Revival of Historical Monuments, remarked at the reopening ceremony that the restoration

initiative launched in Tehran serves as a model for municipalities across the country. He emphasized that efforts are underway to revive historical buildings through thoughtful planning during the current government's tenure. Talayi noted that approximately 10,000 historical buildings are privately owned, stating, "Our goal in this government is to draft regulations that will protect and revitalize these structures, facilitating their

renovation and establishing appropriate guidelines." Vahid Reza Anarki Mohammadi, the mayor of district 12, emphasized the importance of renovating and reopening historical buildings, declaring that efforts are underway to open ten historical houses to the public by mid-March. He explained that urban management has worked diligently to eliminate barriers to the development of these historical sites and ensure their accessibility.

In recent months, 15 historical houses have reopened, including the Kashaf al-Saltaneh Bathhouse and the House of Mirza Aqa Khan Noori. Furthermore, the old building of Tehran Municipality is set to be reopened to the public within 65 days. Additional sites, including the house of Houshang Moradi Kermani, an Iranian writer known for children's and young adult fiction, are expected to be inaugurated in the coming months.

Mohammadi also noted that the renovation incentive package enacted by the Tehran Islamic City Council requires enhanced collaboration among executive institutions. He highlighted that 73% of the area in district 12 comprises historical houses and sites, making their restoration and reconstruction a priority for urban management. The house belonged to Mirza Aqa Khan Noori, known as Etemad al-Dowleh, for 40 years. It

was later purchased by Seyyed Abulqasem, the son-in-law of Mozafareddin Shah, who took up residence there. The building showcases Qajar-era architecture, featuring mirror work, plaster painting, and orsi windows, which designate it as one of the most valuable and exquisite historical houses in Tehran. In the 1970s, the house came under the management of the Ministry of Culture and Art and was handed over to a private investor in 2019.

Enchanting Dreamland Amusement Park in Ramsar

Nestled in the picturesque city of Ramsar, there exists a truly unique and enchanting amusement park known as Dreamland. This delightful amusement park is strategically located in the southern part of the Ramsar Green City complex, a vibrant area that attracts visitors from near and far. One of the key features of this complex is the Ramsar cable car, which offers breathtaking views and seamless access to the amusement park, leading to its affectionate nickname: the Cable Car Amusement Park. Dreamland Amusement Park spans an impressive four hectares, making it one of the most expansive and modern amusement parks in the northern region of Iran. Its commitment to safety and innovation is evident, as the park boasts 11 thrilling rides that have been carefully designed and supervised by international experts. Importantly, the rides cater to a wide range of ages, ensuring that families can enjoy their time together in this exhilarating environment. The park has earned the nickname "Land of Adrenaline" due to the excitement and joy it brings to its visitors. Stepping into Dreamland is like entering a whimsical world where the childhood memories of thrilling animations and cartoons come to life. The park is adorned with giant trees, whimsical sculptures of large dinosaurs, and a plethora of animated characters that create a magical atmosphere. The entryway is graced by the beloved character Flik the Ant, instantly evoking a sense of nostalgia and excitement

for guests as they embark on their adventure. Even the food stalls throughout the park are creatively themed around popular animations, enhancing the immersive experience. In addition to its stunning visual appeal, Dreamland Amusement Park features an array of exhilarating rides, including the heart-pounding free fall, the exhilarating space pendulum, and the classic chain swing. Each ride provides an opportunity for visitors to experience the thrill of excitement against a backdrop of breathtaking scenery, including the majestic mountains and the

serene shores of the Caspian Sea. Complementing these attractions is the park's state-of-the-art 6D cinema, which is recognized as the largest and widest cinema in Iran, offering a truly immersive viewing experience. Live music

performances further enliven the atmosphere, while the Horror Castle, with its unique and eerie decor, adds an extra layer of excitement for those seeking a thrill. The Ramsar City Complex, which

houses Dreamland Amusement Park, is a treasure trove of recreational activities and attractions. The Ramsar cable car, which takes visitors to the scenic heights of Mount Ilmili, is one of the most picturesque experienc-

es in the complex. Adventurous souls can embark on a Jungle Safari at the mountaintop, explore the enchanting Thousand Stairs Forest Park, or visit the historical ruins of military castles that tell stories of the past. The route through this complex ultimately leads to the Bam-e Ramsar Hotel, a luxurious accommodation option that complements the area's charm. Ramsar itself is renowned for its stunning natural beauty, featuring lush landscapes and a variety of tourist attractions. When visiting Dreamland Amusement Park, guests have the opportunity to explore other recreational attractions throughout the city, including the Ramsar Water Park, which is conveniently located between Ramsar and Chaboksar, just a stone's throw from the cable car and amusement park. To reach Dreamland Amusement Park, visitors must travel to the captivating city of Ramsar, which is situated five kilometers west of the city center. The enchanting natural beauty of northern Iran is on display year-round, but the ideal time to visit Ramsar and fully enjoy the offerings of Dreamland Amusement Park is during the spring months through late September, extending into the beautiful autumn season. This delightful time of year allows guests to experience the park in its full glory, surrounded by the vibrant colors and refreshing air of the region. Dreamland Amusement Park is not just an amusement park; it is a destination where memories are made, laughter is shared, and the spirit of adventure thrives.



Global resistance against Zionism

Strategic roles of Iran, Hamas and Hezbollah



A protester holds up pictures of the Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei (L) and the late leader of Lebanon's Hezbollah resistance movement, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah.
● SHARGH DAILY



A man in a military uniform waves Iranian, Palestinian, Iraqi, Lebanese, Syrian, Hezbollah, Fatemiyoun Brigade, and Hashd al-Shaabi (PMF) flags during a rally in solidarity with Palestinian children in Tehran, Iran, on November 18, 2023.

● HOSSEIN BERIS/AFP

By Mohammad Ali Senobari
Director of New Vision

OPINION
EXCLUSIVE

In studying the course of revolutions throughout history, one finds an undeniable truth: revolutions born from the aspirations and sacrifices of the people leave an indelible mark on history. Such movements produce figures who shape the future, embodying the dreams

and convictions of the masses.

The Iranian Islamic Revolution stands as a profound example. It's a movement that transformed the course of modern history by producing leaders like Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the late founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and his successor, Leader Ali Khamenei. Emerging from society's deepest yearnings for justice, these leaders took on the mantle of supporting oppressed people worldwide, with an unwavering commitment to justice, solidarity, and resistance.

Leader Khamenei's words have become a rallying cry across the globe, resonating with those who see themselves under siege by imperial and colonial powers. His message of resistance against the adversities imposed by the United States and the Zionist entity has been a powerful source of inspiration. He made it clear that the adversaries would face firm consequences for their actions against the Iranian people and those of Palestine, Lebanon, and the broader Resistance Axis. This stance has positioned Ayatollah Khamenei's rhetoric as a guiding beacon for global resistance, marking a historical shift that forecasts the decline of Zionist colonialism and the resurgence of popular resistance as an emblem of dignity and self-determination.

The successes of the Zionist entity and its American and European allies have not been through achieving peace or reconciliation but through the systematic killing and displacement of innocent people. Before the watershed moment of Operation Al-Aqsa Flood, global sympathy for the Palestinian cause was largely symbolic, a distant concern without any impactful intervention. The people of Gaza were besieged for years, yet there was no concerted action to dismantle the Zionist entity's blockade or confront its continued violence.

Operation Al-Aqsa Flood, however, signaled a transformation, elevating the discourse of resistance to an international movement and igniting a global awareness and solidarity that had been previously absent. It has unified voices across Europe, the Americas, and beyond, drawing attention to the enduring plight of Palestine — which many had only just begun to locate on their maps. This new wave of awareness will inevitably shape the future, fostering generations whose understanding of justice aligns with the aspirations of the Palestinian cause.

The Zionist entity's violent campaigns, which include the destruction of entire villages and indiscriminate killings in southern Lebanon, sought to dismantle Hezbollah's popular support base. Yet, the outcome was the opposite. Hezbollah has become not only a symbol but also a guardian of Lebanon, protecting all sects and social groups within the country's borders. Today, the Lebanese people recognize that the Zionist enemy does not discriminate — its violence targets everyone. As a result, Hezbollah has evolved beyond a mere military organization or political party; it has become an intellectual and popular movement, inspiring similar Resistance movements that embrace its cause.

Attempts to weaken Hezbollah through assassinations have proven futile. Each martyr has only strengthened Hezbollah's resolve, empowering it to refine its strategies, expand its capabilities, and sustain a military approach that is both resilient and formidable. Likewise, Hamas has demonstrated remarkable

resilience, maintaining itself as a dynamic, growing force deeply rooted in the Palestinian people. It continues to develop and multiply as a movement of resistance and self-defense, even in the face of sustained violence and defamation. The irony is stark: those who label Hamas as a terrorist organization simultaneously legitimize the security interests of the occupying entity, an entity whose very foundation rests on imposing displacement, historical distortion, and relentless force. Hamas, on the other hand, is defending its ancestral lands — a right rooted in self-preservation and international principles of resistance against occupation.

The question that must be asked is: how can a regime built upon deception, fraud, and occupation assert its right to defend itself while denying that same right to the indigenous people whose land it occupies? This double standard underlines the contradictions of international responses to the conflict. The Zionist entity's legitimacy, which rests on a distorted history and a colonial legacy, stands in stark contrast to the legitimate self-defense of the Palestinian people.

The evolving dynamics of the Middle East call for global powers like Russia and China to align themselves with the just side of history. Independent nations are expected not just to voice support for the oppressed, but to take concrete steps to change the global power structure that enables such injustices. These countries must hold the Zionist entity accountable and prevent further aggression against those standing up for justice and self-determination. For nations witnessing the situation, this is not a matter of passive observance but of taking decisive action that sides with those who have suffered under the colonialist agenda of the Zionist entity. Iran's commitment to the Resistance is not merely rhetorical. Soon, the world will witness the unveiling of Iran's latest military and strategic advancements, developed precisely because of repeated misjudgments and provocations by the illegitimate Zionist entity. Iran has made clear its stance against nuclear weaponization, yet this restraint does not extend to Iran's allies

and strategic partners. The anticipation of Iran's technological advancements adds a critical dimension to the regional balance, sending a clear message: the days of unchecked aggression are numbered.

This message of resistance goes beyond borders; it transcends religions, ethnicities, and languages. It is a message that appeals to universal values of justice, dignity, and liberation from oppression. The resilience and determination seen in the movements across the Middle East signify a new era, one where the peoples of these regions refuse to remain silent in the face of occupation, systemic violence, and colonial ambitions. The emergence of Hezbollah, Hamas, and similar movements highlights the global potential of grassroots resistance to challenge even the most entrenched of powers.

As the Zionist entity's actions grow increasingly exposed, the international community faces a choice: to side with an oppressive regime that prioritizes its expansionist objectives over human rights or to stand with the global move-

The resilience and determination seen in the movements across the Middle East signify a new era, one where the peoples of these regions refuse to remain silent in the face of occupation, systemic violence, and colonial ambitions. The emergence of Hezbollah, Hamas, and similar movements highlights the global potential of grassroots resistance to challenge even the most entrenched of powers.

ment for justice, resistance, and the dignity of all people. The tides of public opinion are shifting, and with each passing day, more people are joining the call for accountability and solidarity with Palestine, Lebanon, and every people under occupation. The endurance of these movements, rooted in popular support and moral clarity, offers hope for a future free from the chains of colonialism and oppression.

This is the legacy of the Iranian Islamic Revolution and the leaders it has produced. It is the legacy of those who championed the cause of the oppressed, who took a stand against formidable adversaries, and who left a roadmap for justice that resonates across borders. In this era of awakening, the Resistance has shown that even the most powerful empires can be confronted by the indomitable will of the people. As the flames of Resistance burn brighter, the message is unmistakable: true justice cannot be silenced, and the fight for liberation will persist until oppression is nothing but a dark chapter in the annals of history.



Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei (front-3rd L) attends a graduation ceremony for armed forces officers at the Imam Ali Academy in Tehran, Iran, on October 10, 2023.
● KHAMENEI.IR

In an attempt to beat Axis of Resistance

Israel trying to dominate regional supply chain

By Ahmed Alqarout
Expert on political economy

OPINION

In a public address on October 4, the Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei highlighted for the first time what he described as US and Israeli plans to control the region's natural resources. He stated that Israel's current war campaign aims to position Israel as a hub for exporting energy to Europe and importing technology to ensure its survival. Ayatollah Khamenei called for resistance against the so-called India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC), a proposed land bridge connecting India, Saudi, the UAE, Jordan, Israel, and Europe. Days after his call, the Iranian parliament discussed introducing a bill for a defensive alliance with the countries belonging to the "Axis of Resistance". Ayatollah Khamenei further elaborated on this vision on October 27, calling for the establishment of "a global political and economic alliance, and if necessary a military one" to confront Israel and stop its ongoing crimes against the peoples of the region. This signals a clash of markets might be the next phase of the war. At the heart of this clash is the conflict over dominance in regional and global supply chains.

Supply chain disruptions have become a recurring global issue since the outbreak of COVID-19, which caused countries to implement stringent controls over imports and exports. The concept of supply chain security swiftly became a central concern. The US government adopted protectionist measures, particularly regarding vaccine exports, while Russia and India imposed restrictions on food imports and exports, and China limited the export of protective equipment and medicines. This experience highlighted the importance of supply chain security for many nations. The emphasis on supply chain security was not solely driven by pandemic-related concerns but also by the escalating geopolitical competition between the West and the BRICS nations. The US, in particular, began wielding supply chains as a strategic tool against China and Russia, especially in light of the semiconductor and Ukraine wars. The US imposed restrictions on Chinese companies' access to critical semiconductors produced using American technology, affecting major firms like Huawei and ZTE. In the aftermath of the Ukraine war, the US led a Western coalition in imposing broad sanctions on Russia's supply chains, attempting to isolate the country from the global economy. In response, Russia and China retaliated by limiting critical exports of rare earth minerals and uranium to the West. The global supply chain conflict extended to the MENA region. In the context of its war on Gaza in 2023, Israel sought to exploit its integration within global and regional supply chains to achieve its military objectives. By weaponizing its position within these supply networks, Israel aimed to further its strategic goals.

Embedding Israel in regional supply chain

Before Israel could weaponize its regional supply chain, it first needed to establish it. While Israel had trade links with other MENA countries for decades, these connections were limited and often conducted in secrecy. However, the signing of the Abraham Accords in 2020, which included Israel, the UAE, Bahrain, and later Sudan and Morocco, allowed Israel to more deeply embed itself in the regional supply chain. Additionally, Israel's recent gas discoveries over the past decade became a tool to draw countries into closer economic relationships, building on earlier agreements like the Camp David Accords (1978) with Egypt and the Wadi Araba Treaty (1994) with Jordan, as well as the region's growing energy needs due to population growth. Israel aimed to further entrench itself in the regional economy by signing numerous free trade agreements and strengthening trade ties with countries that had normalized relations with it. Israel signed its first free trade agreement in the region post-normalization with the UAE. In May 2022, both countries agreed on the UAE-Israel Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement. This agreement, the UAE's second bilateral trade deal following its agreement with India in February 2022, aims to boost trade by reducing or eliminating tariffs, enhancing market access for exporters, attracting new investment, and creating opportunities in key industries such as energy, environment, and digital trade. It is expected to increase bilateral trade beyond \$10 billion. This agreement has facilitated Israeli companies exporting cyber security services to the UAE, contributing to Israel's economy, even amid global calls for boycotts following allegations of genocide.



The UAE became a vital economic lever for Israel to maintain strained global trade relations and establish links with the Indian economy. For instance, Airobotics, an Israeli company, has offices in Dubai, from which it exports Israeli services and drones worldwide. Shipping and energy projects between the two countries are also being discussed and implemented.



Following the normalization of relations with Bahrain in September 2020, Israel sought a free trade agreement with the country. The agreement is expected to allow Israel to leverage Bahrain's strategic position in the global shipping, finance, and energy sectors. Already, Cox Logistics, which manages the land bridge linking India, the Persian Gulf, and Israel via Bahrain, has signed an MoU with Israeli firm Trucknet to use a cloud-based platform to facilitate exports to Israel via the US military supply chain in the MENA region. Cox Logistics provides logistics services to US military vehicles across the Middle East. With Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and the US as Bahrain's key trading partners, this highlights Israel's integration into regional trade links under the US security umbrella. While the volume of trade through this route is not large, it has bolstered Israel's resilience in the face of war, especially after Yemen imposed a blockade on the Red Sea, significantly reducing maritime imports and causing inflation. Similarly, after joining the Abraham Accords, Israel accelerated its integration into the Moroccan market, using Morocco as a stepping stone to gain greater access to Africa. Morocco's free trade agreements with African nations, such as Tunisia, helped make Morocco a hub for Israeli exports to the continent. In February 2022, Morocco and Israel signed a trade and investment cooperation agreement that created a framework for bilateral economic and trade relations. The deal targeted high-potential sec-

tors, such as automotive, agribusiness, Industry 4.0, aerospace, renewable energy, and water technologies. It also established qualified industrial zones in Morocco that would allow direct access to the US market, thanks to a tripartite agreement between Morocco, Israel, and the United States. As a result, Israel signed an offshore natural gas exploration and production deal

with Morocco in December 2022. In May 2023, Israel and Morocco signed three additional agreements, including a maritime agreement to encourage direct trade links and an agreement to develop drones and self-driving cars. Military and security cooperation has also expanded. After being the first country to sign the US-led Artemis Accords in 2022, Israel Aerospace Industries signed a \$1 billion military equipment deal with Morocco in July 2023, supplying satellites used for communication, radar, and espionage purposes. Beyond offering an economic lever, Morocco enabled the sale of technologies used in the Gaza genocide following their testing in the field such as drones. Israel also aimed to strengthen its energy ties with Egypt, building on a 2018 agreement to buy \$15 billion worth of Israeli natural gas over ten years. In June 2022, Israel and Egypt signed an MoU to increase natural gas exports to Europe. Under this agreement, the EU would encourage European companies to participate in Israeli and Egyptian exploration tenders, facilitating Israeli gas exports to Egypt via existing pipelines and Egypt's LNG exports to Europe. This agreement followed Israel's unsuccessful attempts to create its own pipeline directly to Europe. Effectively, Egypt became dependent on Israeli energy for local consumption and to gain foreign currency to fund its budget from the sales of liquefied Israeli gas. In Jordan, Israel sought to deepen the country's reliance on its energy and wa-

ter resources. After signing a \$15 billion gas deal in 2014 to meet 40% of Jordan's electricity needs with Israeli gas, Israel, Jordan, and the UAE signed an MoU in November 2022 to swap Jordanian solar energy for Israeli desalinated water. In 2021, Israel had already agreed to double its water exports to Jordan, increasing Jordan's dependence on Israel. Israel even worked to integrate itself into

After meeting for the Naqab Summit, from left to right, then-foreign ministers of Bahrain, Egypt, Israel, the United States, Morocco, and the United Arab Emirates pose for a photograph on March 28, 2022.
● JACQUELYN MARTIN/AP

hostile environments. In October 2022, Israel and Lebanon finalized an agreement defining their maritime borders in the Mediterranean. The agreement allowed for Kraish and Qana fields to be exploited under a revenue-sharing understanding. Shortly thereafter, in June 2023, Israel quietly approved the development of Gaza Marine, a small offshore gas field near Gaza. This project was intended to benefit both the Palestinian Authority and Hamas through increased revenue and energy independence. Both agreements were designed to secure Israel's energy supplies and deter Hezbollah and Hamas from targeting Israeli energy infrastructure during any military escalation creating a strong dependency relationship. In its war against Gaza, Israel sought to leverage its new regional economic ties to discourage countries from opposing it and to incentivize those who remained complacent to continue their support.

Israel's weaponized interdependence

At the outset of the Gaza war, Israel granted 12 licenses to six companies to explore natural gas off its Mediterranean coast, with one beneficiary being Azerbaijan's national oil company, Socar. Azerbaijan

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu holds signs envisioning a logistical bridge from India through the Middle East and Israel as he addresses the 79th session of the UN General Assembly on September 27, 2024.
● PAMELA SMITH/AP

has played a crucial role in supplying Israel with energy via Turkey. Despite Turkey suspending trade links with Israel in the aftermath of the Gaza conflict, Israel continued receiving Azeri gas through Turkish ports. This agreement with Socar ensured that Azeri fuel continued to support Israel's blockaded economy via Turkish transport routes. Israel also utilized its water agreements with Jordan to mute growing criticism of its economic ties and the land bridge connecting it with Persian Gulf countries. In exchange for Jordan's silence on the war and continued support for Israel's regional integration efforts through the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC), Israel extended its existing water export agreement. Jordan further benefited from increased Israeli imports via the land bridge with the Persian Gulf, which served as an incentive for its continued support of the war. Israel increased its gas exports to Egypt during the war to incentivize Egypt's neutral stance despite some disruptions. Egypt also benefited from new trade maritime routes linking Turkey, Greece, and Cyprus with Israel. Israel also used its influence in the global financial system to restrict funding to the UNRWA, an organization on which both Jordan and Lebanon heavily rely to support millions of Palestinian refugees. By designating UNRWA as a terrorist organization, Israel aimed to sever its access to international funding, thereby exerting additional pressure on Jordan and Lebanon to shift their positions on the war. Moreover, Israel capitalized on its close ties with Germany to secure Saudi Arabia access to advanced military technology. Saudi Arabia contributed to intercepting aerial attacks on Israel via its airspace, and as a result, Germany approved the sale of Eurofighter Typhoon fighter jets to Saudi Arabia, relaxing its previous restrictions on arms sales to the kingdom. This further incentivized Saudi Arabia to remain silent on the Gaza conflict and it made it remain interested in normalization with Israel. A month before October 7, the US launched the IMEC to link Asia with Europe via the Persian Gulf and Israel, with the aim of enhancing energy, data, and trade links. The project effectively positions Israel as a central hub for regional trade, embedding it irreversibly in the regional supply chain. By integrating Israel into this economic framework, the Arab-Israeli conflict is expected to conclude, regardless of whether a resolution to the Palestinian question is achieved. While Hamas's attacks have disrupted Israel's plans in the short term, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in recent speeches to Congress and the UN framed the conflict as a zero-sum game. Israel's view is that the war is about securing the Abraham Market Alliance, underpinned by IMEC's vision of Israel as the commercial hub of the region. Consequently, both Israel and the US are attempting to link an end to the Gaza war with a normalization agreement with Saudi Arabia. Israel envisions Gaza becoming part of IMEC, defining victory through its transformation into a regional trade hub — while decimating Gaza in the process.

The article first appeared on Mondoweiss.

Iran coach Qalenoei wary of complacency against North Korea, Kyrgyzstan

Sports Desk

Iran head coach Amir Qalenoei warned his players cannot afford to be carried away by the emphatic victory over Qatar when they face North Korea and Kyrgyzstan in the upcoming World Cup qualifiers.

Team Melli takes on North Korea in Vientiane, Laos, on Thursday, before playing away to Kyrgyzstan at the Dolen Omurzakov Stadium in Bishkek next Tuesday. Sardar Azmoun and Mohammad Mohebbi scored twice apiece as Iran came from behind to hammer Asian Cup champion Qatar 4-1 in Dubai last time out in the qualifiers in mid-October.

A third win in four outings saw Iran overtake Uzbekistan on top of Group A on goal difference and, more significantly, open a six-point gap on third-place UAE in the six-team table.

With a top-two finish securing direct qualification for the 2026 finals, maximum points against the bottom two sides of the group will help Qalenoei's men edge closer to a place in the showpiece in the United States, Mexico, and Canada.

"We are at a crucial stage [of the Asian qualifiers] with two important games ahead of us. Victory in those two games will all but secure the World Cup qualification for Iran. We can become the first team to qualify for the finals," Qalenoei told the official website of the Iranian Football Federation before his team's visit to Vientiane.

"I've already told my players to forget all about the match against Qatar. It has been nearly a month since that game, but, unfortunately, that is part of the Iranian footballers' mindset as they keep basking in the glory of a triumph for too long," added Qalenoei.

North Korea sits bottom of the group with two points, though Qalenoei believes their results don't reflect the true quality of Thursday's opponent.

"Our analysis of them suggests they are a hard-working team with high level of endurance. They held the UAE to a draw [in Al Ain] but were unlucky to miss a penalty in that game. That's also what happened to them when they were beaten [1-0] at Uzbekistan.

"They will be tough opponents, but we will still deliver an attack-minded football and go all out for the three points," Iran coach said.

Kyrgyzstan, meanwhile, cost Iran all sorts of trouble when the two sides met in their Group A opener in September, with Qalenoei having a Mahdi Taremi's first-half strike to thank for the hard-fought 1-0 win in Isfahan.

Despite a decent run of results, Team Melli has not been immune to criticism from some fans and pundits, but Qalenoei says his players can use this to their advantage.

"I believe the national team belongs to all Iranians, and we should respect every critic's view. Team Melli has found its way, though I'm not saying we're flawless and all scrutiny, as long as it's not personal, can help us stay on track and continue moving in the right direction."



● ALI SHARIFZADEH/IRNA

Cleveland extend NBA winning start to 12 games



BBC – Cleveland Cavaliers became just the eighth team in NBA history to win their first 12 games of a regular season with a 119-113 victory over the Chicago Bulls. It is the best start to an NBA season since the Golden State Warriors in 2015-16, who went on to win a record 24 successive games. Donovan Mitchell top-scored with 36 points and five other players reached double figures as the Cavaliers fought back from nine points down in the third quarter to seal victory. "We dug deep," said Mitchell. "For us to continue to be what we want to be, that's what it's going to take. "It was a complete team win. Every night it's somebody different. We're playing for

each other, being selfless. We've got to keep it going." Zach LaVine scored 26 points while Coby White and Nikola Vucevic added 20 in reply for the Bulls, who slip to 4-7 for the season. Elsewhere, Victor Wembanyama scored 34 points and had 14 rebounds and six assists as the San Antonio Spurs beat the Sacramento Kings 116-96. Julian Champagnie scored 13 points and Chris Paul added 12 as all of the Spurs starters posted double figures. Shai Gilgeous-Alexander starred as the Oklahoma City Thunder bounced back from their weekend defeat by the Golden State Warriors with a 134-128 win over the Los Angeles Clippers.



Cavaliers guard Donovan Mitchell (45) attempts a shot during an NBA win against the Bulls in Chicago, IL, US, on Nov. 11, 2024.
● MATT MARTON/IMAGN IMAGES

Gilgeous-Alexander scored a career-high 45 points, with Jalen Williams adding 28 and Luguentz Dort 19. The Thunder announced before the game that centre Chet Holmgren will be assessed in eight to 10 weeks after suffering a pelvic fracture against the Warriors. Cam Thomas scored 17 points as the Brooklyn Nets beat the New Orleans Pelicans 107-105, while the Houston Rockets eased to a 107-92 win over the Washington Wizards.

Alcaraz given Ruud awakening with defeat in ATP Finals opener

REUTERS – An off-colour Carlos Alcaraz suffered a shock 6-1 7-5 defeat against Norway's Casper Ruud in his opening match at the ATP Finals as the Spaniard's hopes of winning the year-end title for the first time suffered a blow on Monday. The round-robin format of the eight-man event means he could still crown a standout year in style, but the third seed has left himself with little margin for error in his remaining group matches and will need to find a higher level. "I think he did a really good job today. But I talk about myself, I could just be better. I could play better. Obviously I could feel better on court," world number three Alcaraz, who has been under the weather in the build-up, told reporters. Ruud, who had lost all four of his previous meetings against Alcaraz, saved

break points in the opening game but dominated the first set from then on as surprising errors flowed from his opponent's racket. Alcaraz responded positively to move 5-2 ahead in the second set, breaking serve with a deft volley, and was two points from levelling the match, only to capitulate. He dropped serve at 5-3 and looked forlorn as world number seven Ruud surged to victory, winning the last five games. Alcaraz, who won the French Open and Wimbledon titles this year, is hoping to become the first Spaniard to win the prestigious year-ending title since Alex Corretja in 1998. Ruud failed to convert his first two match points but closed it out at the third attempt to put himself in a strong position in the John Newcombe group in which Germany's Alexander

Zverev beat Russian Andrey Rublev 6-4 6-4 in the evening match. "This is one of the best wins of the season for me," Ruud said in a court-side interview. "I've seen Carlos play better tennis than he played today but I still had to take my chances." While Alcaraz did claim the Beijing title in October, his form since winning Wimbledon has been patchy including a second round exit at the U.S. Open. The 21-year-old made 34 unforced errors against Ruud with his usually destructive forehand misfiring and most of the drop shots he attempted either finding the net or being dispatched easily by the grateful Norwegian.



Spain's Carlos Alcaraz is dejected during a match against Norway's Casper Ruud in the ATP Finals in Turin, Italy, on Nov. 11, 2024.
● GUGLIELMO MANGIAPANE/REUTERS



Iran should improve diplomacy to organize own affairs: *Pezeshkian*

International Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said “in order to organize the country’s affairs, we should improve our international relations, ease tensions and pave the way for further integration with countries in the region and other parts of the world.” Pezeshkian made the remarks in a meeting with former Iranian foreign ministers on Tuesday. He said that his government has tried to solve some problems in the country’s foreign policy, noting that relations with the neighboring countries are currently good. Regarding relations with the United States, the Iranian president said, “Whether we like it or not, we will eventually come face to face with this country in the regional and international arenas, and it is better to man-

age this issue ourselves.” He also pointed to negotiations and consultations with China and Russia in line with implementation of agreements reached between Iran and the two countries, saying that the exchange of delegations between Iran, China and Russia is underway and the government is trying to remove the obstacles facing the implementation of the agreements. On India, Pezeshkian said New Delhi has expressed its desire to speed up the implementation of the Chabahar port development plan. He added that the Persian Gulf Arab states are also seeking to expand relations with Iran. The president also pointed to the relations with the European countries, saying that negotiations with the European countries are underway. Also on Tuesday, Iran’s government spokesperson Fatemeh

Mohajerani pointed to possible direct talks with the US administration under president-elect Donald Trump, saying that Iran will pursue whatever secures its interest. “Whatever secures the country’s interest and values of the [1979] Revolution will be pursued by the government,” Mohajerani said on Tuesday. Trump unilaterally pulled the US out of Iran’s 2015 nuclear deal with world powers during his last term of office in 2018 and reinstated sanctions which severely impacted the Iranian economy. “The maximum pressure campaign of Trump has failed, even if people have been burdened by it. What is important will be actions and not words, but we recommend that Trump take into account the failure of his past policies,” Mohajerani added.



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian speaks in a meeting with former Iranian foreign ministers in Tehran, Iran, on November 12, 2024. [president.ir](#)

VP calls expansion of Tehran-Riyadh ties ‘irreversible path’

International Desk

Iranian Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref praised the expansion of relations between Tehran and Riyadh in recent months, calling it an “irreversible path.” Aref made the remarks in a meeting with the Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman on the sidelines of an extraordinary meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the Arab League on Gaza and Lebanon, which was held in the Saudi capital on Monday. “In recent months, a new path has been opened for the development of relations and interaction between the two countries, which is an irreversible path,” Aref told the Saudi crown prince. Considering the importance of the two countries in the region, regional and Islamic countries will also benefit from the expansion of relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia, Aref said. During the meeting, they also discussed bilateral relations and several topics of mutual interest. Aref said the relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia is on the right



track, expressing hope that a good political relationship will be followed by expansions in the fields of economy, culture, science, and technology. The Iranian official also appreciated Saudi Arabia’s positions on the Israeli attack on Iran and the issue of Gaza. During the Monday summit of Arab and Islamic leaders in Riyadh, the Saudi crown prince called on the

Iranian Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref (L) shakes hands with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman on the sidelines of an extraordinary meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the Arab League in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on November 11, 2024. [IRNA](#)

Israeli regime to respect Iran’s sovereignty and refrain from attacking Iranian soil.

Interior minister: Iran lacks capacity to host more migrants



IRNA

International Desk

Iran’s Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni placed a premium on the necessity of organizing foreign nationals in the country, saying that Iran has no capacity to host more foreign nationals. Addressing a ceremony in the southeastern province of Kerman on Tuesday, Momeni said, “We have said multiple times that we are not anti-immigrant, but we do not have the capacity to take in more foreign nationals.” He underlined that organizing foreign nationals is one of the country’s crucial issues. Under the international laws, the country which hosts migrants from other countries should receive international aid while the international aid given to Iran with several million immigrants is close to zero. The minister noted that closing borders is necessary to prevent recurring influx of migrants from neighboring countries. Shahbaz Hosseinpour, a member of Iran’s Parliament, said that the presence of migrants in Kerman Province has reached a

critical level. He added, “At one school I visited, nearly 100% of the students were foreign nationals.” He stressed that the public is demanding urgent decisions to organize the immigrants. Approximately 38,000 illegal Afghan nationals have been deported from Iran’s southeastern Kerman Province to their home country in recent months. The recent expulsions are part of the ongoing efforts to meet the target set by the government to repatriate two million illegal migrants by the end of the Iranian calendar year on March 20. Kerman Province is facing significant challenges with illegal immigration from neighboring Afghanistan, which has led to population imbalances and increased unemployment. The number of illegal immigrants in Iran is unofficially estimated to be around 10 million, with many seeking better economic opportunities or fleeing conflict in their home country, especially since the 2021 takeover of Afghanistan by the Taliban.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

Iran to import high-octane gasoline at unsubsidized rates

National Desk

The Iranian government has given the green light for the import of high-octane (premium) gasoline at unsubsidized prices. The government said the companies which have the license from the country’s Oil Ministry are authorized to import the high-octane gasoline. The premium gasoline price is estimated at 600,000-800,000 rials (\$0.9-\$1.2) while heavily subsidized regular gasoline is sold at 15,000 rials

(\$0.022) under rationing system. The Iranian government offers one of the cheapest gasoline fuels in the world, at less than 10 US cents per gallon, according to a policy of subsidizing essential commodities for the public. The new directive comes as Iran is facing a daily shortage of around 15 million liters in gasoline supplies. Since 2021, the government has been forced to import vehicle fuel to make up for the deficit. So far this year, Iran has re-



IRNA

portedly spent \$3 billion to bring in gasoline. Iran’s government has re-

peatedly said that it has no plans to increase the fuel prices next year.



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Iranian perspectives on display in China



Arts & Culture Desk

The 19th China International Photographic Art Exhibition kicked off in the city of Zhuhai, Guangdong Province, featuring 640 photographs submitted by Iranian photographers for the Competition Section.

The exhibition, which will run until February 16, 2025 at the Gu Yuan Art Museum, is organized by the China Photographers Association and the China Federation of Literary and Art Circles, IRNA wrote. In the public section of the exhibition, 276 photographs are on display, including 112 from foreign photographers and 164 from Chinese photographers.

The international jury panel consists of renowned photographers, including Alain Sayag from the Centre Pompidou, and Jan van der Walt, former President of the South African Photographers Association.

The 19th China International Photographic Art Exhibition features two special sections, one dedicated to France, the host country of the Olympics, curated by the Centre Pompidou, and another featuring Iran as the guest country of honor. Titled 'Iran: Borderless, Land of

Sun and Poetry', the Iranian section, curated by Neda Reyhani, showcases 40 photographs of Iran's nature and culture. This section, spanning over 1,000 square meters, offers a glimpse into Iran's diverse cultural heritage and untouched natural beauty.

Vice Chairman of the China Federation of Literary and Art Circles, inaugurated the Iranian section, expressing his gratitude for Iran's participation and noting that this is the first time an exhibition of this scale has been held in China, showcasing the "amazing" images of Iran.

6,000-year-old skeleton unearthed in ancient hill in Rey

Arts & Culture Desk

Archaeologists announced the discovery of a burial site and skeleton in the 7,000-year-old Cheshmeh Ali hill in Rey, southern Tehran. Based on evidence,



it is believed that the skeleton belongs to a 16-year-old girl and dates back to the Sialk 3 period (approximately 4,300 BC). According to Hamidreza Valipour, head of the excavation team, further excavations in the next seasons will shed more light on the architectural spaces of the ancient village, ISNA reported. Archaeologists hope that the Cultural Heritage Research Institute will provide the necessary cooperation to obtain the required permit for the skeleton to be taken out for dating tests, which will determine the exact time of the burial.

The archaeological excavation in the 7,000-year-old hill in Rey was resumed after a three-decade hiatus, coinciding with the opening of the Shahid Beheshti University's Field Archaeological Research Center. The excavation is led by Hamidreza Valipour, accompanied by Iman Mostafapour, deputy head of the excavation team, Kourosh Mohammadkhani, Negar Miri, Kamyar Abdi, Amir Sadegh Naghshineh, and Ali Bahadori from the Department of Archaeology at Shahid Beheshti University, as well as students of archaeology who started their studies in 2020.

Historic coins unveiled in southern Iran

Four historic coins minted in Jahrom, Fars Province, Iran, were unveiled on Tuesday in a ceremony attended by local officials. The coins, which date back to the Sassanid era and are over 700 years old, were showcased as part of Jahrom Week celebrations. The ceremony was held at the Jahrom Museum, with the Governor of Jahrom and the Head of the Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Department of Fars Province in attendance, IRNA reported. The coins are part of a personal collection donated by Reza Ghanatpisheh Jahromi, a renowned coin collector who has gifted several historic coins to

the Jahrom Museum. The event also featured a music performance and the unveiling of a book of poetry, "Divan-e Arash", by the late Ahmad Shahamat. According to historical records, Jahrom was a significant city during the Buyid era, with the city's tax revenue allocated to the crown prince. The Jahrom Museum houses 40 coins minted during the Islamic period, including coins from the Seljuk, Mongol, Timurid, Ilkhanid, Safavid, and Qajar dynasties. Research suggests that during each period, mints were established in various cities to pay soldiers' salaries, and the coins

minted in Jahrom were a result of these mints. Jahrom Week is celebrated annually from November 10 to 16.



Iranian team wins silver at Turkey's Eurasia Open 2024

Social Desk

A student team from Iran's southern Fars province, specializing in artificial intelligence, innovation, and inventions, won the silver medal at the Eurasia Open 2024 competition held in Turkey. The team, consisting of five students from different schools in Fars, including four boys and one girl from grades 8, 9, and 10, was welcomed back home at Shiraz International Airport by local officials, IRNA reported. According to Fars Education Department General Manager, Farshid Qasemi, the team members are: Arnika Allamehzadeh, an 8th-grade student; Alireza Zare, a 9th-grade student; Amir Kian Hedayat, an 8th-grade student; Amir Ali Abbasi, an 8th-grade student; and Mahya Farhadpour, a 10th-grade student. The Eurasia Open 2024 competition was held in Turkey from November 6 to 9.

Pakistan Embassy in Tehran celebrates Iqbal Day

Arts & Culture Desk

The Embassy of Pakistan in Tehran, in collaboration with the Department of Urdu at the University of Tehran, organized a ceremony to commemorate the 147th birth anniversary of Allama Muhammad Iqbal, popularly



● IRAN DAILY

known as Iqbal Lahori, on November 12. The ceremony was presided over by Abdolreza Seif, Head of the Faculty of Literature and Humanities, who welcomed the guests and highlighted Iqbal's work and Islamic thoughts. The chief guest, H.E. Muhammad Mudassir Tipu, Ambassador of Pakistan in Tehran, expressed his appreciation for the love and admiration of the people of Iran for Iqbal Lahori. Ambassador Tipu emphasized that Iqbal is a poet for all ages, and his work in Persian language has ignited the flame of independence in the hearts of Muslims in the sub-continent. He also highlighted the significance of Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei's words about Iqbal, which are highly respected in literary circles.

The ambassador noted that Iqbal's thoughts are universal and metaphysical in nature, and his concepts of *Khudi* (self), *Shaheen* (Falcon), and devotion to Muhammad are unparalleled. He added that in the era of globalization, where cultures are diminishing, Iqbal's thoughts serve as a beacon to stay connected to our roots, cultural values, and civilization. A documentary titled 'Poet of the East' was screened, highlighting the life of Iqbal Lahori. Students also recited Urdu and Farsi verses of Iqbal to pay homage to the poet, philosopher, and thinker. An exhibition of rare pictures depicting Iqbal's life and career was also organized at the University of Tehran. The ceremony was attended by a large number of students, scholars, and members of the Pakistani diaspora.

Iranian management in ...

On the other hand, Iran has suffered significant economic damage due to US sanctions in recent years, and the new government is keen to lift these sanctions to implement its development plans. The recent developments in West Asia, including the Gaza and Lebanon conflicts and escalating tensions between Iran and Israel, given Tehran's role as a regional power, have also imposed themselves as another crucial issue on the Iran-US agenda. Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian seemed to be alluding to these realities in his remarks yesterday, saying: "When it comes to the US, whether we like it or not,

we will inevitably have to deal with this country in the regional and international arena." Earlier, Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, had recognized the outcome of the US presidential election as the American people's decision and stated that Iran would "show respect" for this choice. He also described the future trajectory of relations between the two countries as a choice that would start with respect. Araghchi emphasized that Tehran was not seeking nuclear arms and that building trust was a two-way street, not a one-way deal. Mohammad Javad Zarif, the president's strategic deputy, also highlighted the concept of "respect" in his first reaction to the US election and the quality of the future encounter between the two countries, writing: "Iran has shown that it has the will and ability to counter any aggression and is not intimidated by threats, but it does pay attention to respect."

Government spokesperson Fatemeh Mohajerani said yesterday at a press conference that in dealing with the incoming US administration, the government had "drawn up different scenarios and would pursue national interests under any circumstances." In his remarks, the president also touched on a noteworthy point, namely that Iran and the US would inevitably cross paths

in the regional and international spheres, saying: "It's better if we take the reins ourselves; of course, the government will ultimately pursue the overall foreign policy within the framework of the system's strategy and grand approaches." The government officials' comments can be boiled down to the following: The Iranian government respects the US election and its outcome as the American people's decision. As a regional power, the Iranian government acknowledges the reality of its encounter with the US in the region and on the international stage and is keen to ensure a suitable quality of engagement (active diplomacy will replace reactive policy).

The Iranian government views respect, trust-building, and addressing concerns as a two-way street, not a one-way deal. The Iranian government, as emphasized by the president, prefers to take the helm in managing its new encounter with the US (this may be a reference to the unsuccessful experience of indirect talks and mediation in the past three years). Managing the encounter with the US will be done within the framework of the president's declared approach of "constructive engagement with the world" and balancing foreign policy, under the umbrella of the Supreme National Security Council's general policies and decisions, with a view to securing greater national interests.