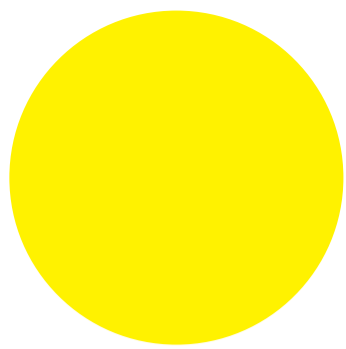


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Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei (R) meets with Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani (C) in a meeting also attended by Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian in Tehran on February 19, 2025. leader.ir

### Trump aims to extort Arab countries

INTERVIEW EXCLUSIVE

Trump's executive plan for the forced relocation of Gaza

residents to Jordan and Egypt has faced widespread international backlash, with opponents viewing it as a clear violation of human rights and international law and an attempt at ethnic cleansing in Gaza.

Trump's plan consists of two parts: the first involves the relocation of Gaza residents to other countries and their permanent settlement in those areas, while the second part entails the transfer of ownership of Gaza to the United States. Before presenting this plan, the US president had sought to shape public opinion by describing Gaza as a wasteland and calling for the clearance of all destruction. Subsequently, Trump and US officials described the rehousing of Gaza residents elsewhere as a humanitarian stance, stating that given the extent of destruction, no other option remains for them. Trump claimed that this way, Gaza residents would be housed in beautiful new homes and spared from war and death. Afterward, the US would take control of the Gaza Strip and transform it into a model tourist and recreational area. [See page 5 >](#)



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Apadana Palace in Susa undergoes restoration to reclaim own glory

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### Artists' dreams come true at Golden Tree exhibition

PERSPECTIVE EXCLUSIVE

The tree is sacred. Anyone who talks to it and listens will

learn about existence. This idea reflects the essence of the 'Golden Tree' section of the 17th Fajr Visual Arts Festival, which kicked off the main exhibition at the Aseman Cultural and Artistic Complex.

Jamshid Haghghatshenas, the curator of the 'Golden Tree' section of this year's festival, invited artists to present works based on the theme of the tree. Artists from various visual arts disciplines, excluding calligraphy, participated, creating works centered around trees.

Haghghatshenas, who has painted tree-themed murals on the exhibition walls, shared his thoughts on the 'Golden Tree' section in an interview with Persian-speaking Iran Newspaper.

He said, "Anything with a political slant is boycotted, but anything related to art is welcomed. People around the world are no longer interested in political tendencies, but artistic expressions resonate because they elevate human experience. People are naturally drawn to participate and connect with art, even without realizing it. The Fajr Visual Arts Festival is not political—it's a celebration of art, offering a platform for global engagement." [See page 8 >](#)



# Leader: Expanding ties with neighbors Iran's 'definitive policy'

## 'Tehran expects Doha to unblock frozen assets'

### International Desk

Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said in a meeting with visiting Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani that expanding relations with neighbors is Tehran's "definitive policy."

The Leader praised the good measures taken by Iran's government in this regard.

The Leader also said that Iran expects Qatar to give back Iran's assets blocked in the Arab country under the US pressure.

"We consider Qatar a friendly and brotherly country, although there are still unclear and unresolved issues, such as the return of Iranian assets that were transferred from South Korea to Qatar, and we know that the main obstacle to the implementation of the agreement that was reached in this regard is the United States," Ayatollah Khamenei told the Qatar's emir.

"If we were in Qatar's place, we would not take heed of American pressure and would reject the other side's demands, and we expect such action from Qatar," the Leader said.

In August 2023, Iran and the United States agreed to a Qatar-brokered deal to secure the release of some \$6 billion of Iranian funds that had remained frozen in two South Korean banks since 2018 under the pretext of US sanctions.

The money was successfully transferred to bank accounts in Doha.

Later, however, American media re-

ported that the US had reached a "quiet understanding" with Qatar to stop the Islamic Republic from accessing its funds after Palestinian groups launched Operation al-Aqsa Storm in October 2023.

### 'Good decisions'

Earlier on Wednesday, Qatar's emir held a separate meeting with Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian.

During the meeting, Pezeshkian said Iran and Qatar have made "good decisions" to deepen their cooperation in various fields, stressing that Qatar enjoys a high standing with the Islamic Republic.

The Iranian president described strengthening relations in political, economic, cultural, military and security fields with neighboring and regional countries as one of the key policies of his government, saying that, "Among friendly and brotherly countries, Qatar maintains a high standing with us."

"In our consultations with my brother, the Emir of the state of Qatar, we discussed bilateral issues and both countries' interests and we made good decisions to develop and deepen relations and open new doors for cooperation."

Pezeshkian said that they also discussed developments in the region, especially situation in Gaza and Syria. He said that Iran believes that regional countries can take steps based on good neighborliness, mutual respect, and constructive interaction to maintain stability and security in the region and pave the way for the establishment of a



Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian (L) walks alongside Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani during a welcoming ceremony in Tehran on February 19, 2025.  
● president.ir

joint cooperation framework. The Iranian president also thanked Qatar for its role in mediating a cease-fire agreement between Palestinian resistance group Hamas and Israel, which has led to the release of hundreds of Palestinians from the Israeli jails. The Qatari emir, for his part, expressed satisfaction with his visit to Iran, and

said such trips can help expand the brotherly and historical relations between the two countries, which are based on good neighborliness.

He said they discussed cooperation in various fields, and underscored the need for creating more opportunities for potential cooperation, especially in the commercial and economic fields.

The Qatari Emir said they also emphasized the importance of following up on the results of the recent Joint Economic Commission meetings and increasing the volume of trade exchanges to achieve stated goals.

Sheikh Tamim said they also discussed the challenging conditions the region is facing.

## Iran upbraids Trump's 'colonial' plan to relocate Gazans

### International Desk

Iran has once again denounced a plan put forward by the US president to relocate Palestinians from the Gaza Strip, calling it a flagrant violation of international law.

Iran's permanent ambassador to the United Nations in an address to an open debate of the Security Council about "Practicing Multilateralism, Reforming and Improving Global Governance" said that the Gaza Strip is the rightful land of the Palestinian people and described the US plan as a blatant disregard for human rights.

Amir Saeid Iravani said the Security Council must resolve conflicts through multilateral cooperation and not coercion.

"The Security Council must uphold its mandate to resolve conflicts through multilateral cooperation. However, its current structure fails to reflect global power shifts and the legitimate aspirations of the Global South. To restore its credibility, the Council must become more representative, democratic, and accountable," the envoy said.

The Iranian diplomat censured the United States for abusing its veto power to shield Israel from accountability for its systematic violations of international law during its decades-long crimes against Palestinians.

"Regrettably, certain permanent members have repeatedly exploited the Council to advance ... own political interests. A glaring example is the United States' persistent use of its veto to



Amir Saeid Iravani  
● AFP

shield Israel from accountability for its systematic violations of international law and the UN Charter, particularly its genocidal crimes against the Palestinian people and acts of aggression against other nations in the region," Iravani said.

"Gaza is the rightful land of the Palestinian people and Iran strongly condemns the US colonial plan to forcibly displace and uproot Palestinians from their own land, a flagrant violation of international law and a grave assault on fundamental human rights," he added.

At a joint press conference with prime minister of Israel Benjamin Netanyahu earlier in the month, US President Donald Trump said Washington would take over control of the Gaza Strip—possibly with the help of American troops—to create a "Riviera of the Middle East."

Trump had previously suggested that displaced Palestinians could be resettled elsewhere.

The US president's proposal caught huge flak from the international community, rights groups and activists as well as Washington's allies.

## Qalibaf: Iran-Pakistan border insecurity imperils economic ties

### International Desk

Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf called insecurity along the Iran-Pakistan common border one of the important issues that can create challenges for economic and cultural relations between the two countries.

The Parliament speaker made the remarks in a meeting with the Chairman of the Senate of Pakistan Yusuf Raza Gilani on the sidelines of the 15th General Assembly of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) in Tehran on Wednesday.

Qalibaf praised the level of security and military cooperation between the two countries, which have been formed alongside the political and economic activities, stressing that Tehran and Islamabad should pay special heed to the issue.

Iran and Pakistan share a long border and have often cooperated on security issues, particularly in combating terrorism and cross-border militancy. Iran has consistently voiced its support for Pakistan's stability and security, underscoring the need for joint efforts to tackle terrorism and protect innocent lives in the region.

In recent years, the border between the two countries have seen many terrorist attacks.



Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf (L) shakes hands with Chairman of the Senate of Pakistan Yusuf Raza Gilani on the sidelines of the 15th General Assembly of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) in Tehran on February 19, 2025.  
● icana.ir

### Banking relations

Given the US sanctions imposed on Iran, Qalibaf said that the two countries should take measures to facilitate non-dollar trade in their banking systems in order to improve economic relations between the two countries.

He also referred to the developments in the region, saying that the most important issue in the Muslim world is now the issue of Palestine, Lebanon, and Syria.

He described the Israeli regime as a cancerous tumor which has set the entire region on fire and endangered the security of all Muslims.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist





# Iran, Russia sign 2025 transit roadmap, annex on Rasht-Astara railway

## Economy Desk

In a major step toward strengthening transport ties, Iran and Russia signed the 2025 joint transit roadmap, as well as an annex of the supplementary studies of the Engineering Contract for the Rasht-Astara Railway Project, emphasizing the rapid completion of the railway. Iran's Minister of Roads and Urban Development Farzaneh Sadeq and Minister of Transport of the Russian Federation Vladimir Starovoyt signed the 2025 Joint Transport and Transit Cooperation Roadmap along with an annex on engineering studies for the Rasht-Astara railway project, marking a milestone in their strategic partnership. Sadeq expressed optimism that

the final construction contract for the railway would be signed by March 2025, once financial and technical details are finalized.

She confirmed that land acquisition for the Rasht-Astara railway is progressing rapidly, with completion expected within a year.

The minister welcomed the announcement by Russian President Vladimir Putin, who authorized the start of engineering studies even before finalizing the land acquisition timeline. "This decision by President Putin will significantly accelerate the Rasht-Astara railway project," she noted.

This key project will enhance the International North-South Transport Corridor, boosting trade and connectivity across



Iran's Minister of Roads and Urban Development Farzaneh Sadeq and Minister of Transport of the Russian Federation Vladimir Starovoyt sign the 2025 Joint Transport and Transit Cooperation Roadmap along with an annex on engineering studies for the Rasht-Astara railway project in Tehran on February 18, 2025.

● MEHR

Eurasia.

Starovoyt, for his part, endorsed Iran's proposals and suggested forming a Caspian transport consortium.

Iran's Minister welcomed the idea, stating that Iran and Russia should take the lead in implementing this initiative. She stated that regular meetings between the two nations are essential to accelerating the shared goals in completing the North-South Corridor.



## Iran, Armenia highlight interactions in AI, traffic transit, space industry

### Economy Desk

In a meeting with the Armenian ambassador in Tehran, Iranian Minister of Information and Communications Technology (ICT), Sattar Hashemi, highlighted Artificial Intelligence (AI), traffic transit and space industry as suitable fields for cooperation with Yerevan, stressing that both countries are committed to enhancing relations across all sectors.

During the meeting with Grigor Hakobian on Wednesday, Hashemi pointed to technology diplomacy as a key initiative of his ministry, underlining that neighboring countries surrounding Iran are prioritized in the plan.

"In this regard, we have a special focus on the relations between Iran and Armenia, which share common civilizational and historical roots," he added.

Referring to the country's plan for developing communication infrastructure and traffic transit from west to east and north to south, he mentioned the "Iran Corridor 2025" conference held in Dubai on February 4 on this topic. The minister added that the conference would present opportunities for traffic transit services at any point along the border, which has been greatly welcomed by regional countries, and expressed hope for similar interactions with Armenia.

Hashemi touched on several cooperation opportunities



between the two countries, including the establishment of data centers, collaboration in IT and communications technology parks, cybersecurity, smart government initiatives, the space industry, postal services, and e-commerce, as well as leveraging the capabilities of Payam Airport in Alborz Province.

He also pointed out the limited time window for progress in the global field of Artificial Intelligence and stated, "We will specifically pursue joint interactions in this area."

The minister said that 25% of startup companies in Iran operate within the ICT sector and emphasized that the presence of these companies in the region is a priority for this administration.

The Armenian ambassador in Tehran, for his part, remarked on the high-level cooperation between the two countries, describing it as an excellent



Iranian Minister of Information and Communications Technology Sattar Hashemi (R) shakes hands with Armenian Ambassador in Tehran Grigor Hakobian on February 19, 2025.

● IRNA

opportunity to utilize the capacities of both sides in the field of communications and information technology.

He regarded the present time as particularly suitable for increasing mutual collaboration. Hakobian proposed the exchange of delegations from both sides to explore areas of collaboration and facilitate reciprocal meetings between the ministers of communications. The envoy identified cooperation between the two countries' communication operators, traffic transit, postal collaboration, joint research, and artificial intelligence as promising avenues for mutual cooperation in the ICT sector.

## Iran-China oil flows post surge despite US bans: Kpler

### Economy Desk

Oil shipments from Iran to China have significantly increased this month, as traders overcame logistical challenges stemming from tighter US restrictions, enabling a backlog of cargoes to reach the world's largest crude importer.

Iranian crude oil exports to China rebounded in February, reaching an estimated 1.74 million barrels per day, according to preliminary data from intelligence firm Kpler Ltd. This marks an 86% increase from January's daily rate and the highest level since October.

The surge was attributed to an uptick in ship-to-ship transfers and the use of alternative receiving terminals, market traders revealed, speaking anonymously due to the sensitivity of the issue. China, the largest consumer of Iranian oil, primarily channels these imports to independent refiners, often referred to as "teapots." The hotspots in China, including an independently-run berth in Yangshan, south of Shanghai, and a terminal in the southern port of Huizhou, received a shipment of Iranian oil last month.

Bloomberg reported on Tuesday that privately-run terminals in the country



have taken deliveries from US-sanctioned oil tankers, suggesting that a region that is home to the country's largest buyers of Iranian and Russian crude is finding ways to circumvent the reluctance of larger port operators.

Dongying, in the eastern Shandong Province, became a key receiving port after state-run Shandong Port Group sold at least one terminal to a private entity, according to traders familiar with the matter. They asked not to be named as the information is not public. Also, the Si He, a tanker sanctioned on January 10, discharged more than 744,000 barrels of Russian ESPO crude at Dongying last week, according to the traders and commodities-tracking platform Kpler.

Oil trade has faced mounting pressure from successive

rounds of US sanctions, with the incoming Trump administration also tightening curbs earlier this month.

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent underscored the crackdown last week, stating that Washington's goal is to reduce Iran's oil exports to less than 10% of current levels. "Chinese, as well as perhaps Indians, were buying sanctioned oil, and that is unacceptable," Bessent told Fox Business.

Heightened scrutiny began during the latter months of the Biden administration, resulting in sanctions on dozens of tankers, traders, and shipping firms. While this prompted caution among buyers and logistics operators, traders reported that the supply chain adapted swiftly through unsanctioned tankers and newly formed shell companies.

## Iran to raise daily natural gas output by 250 mcm in five years

Iran's natural gas production will increase by a fourth of its existing capacity in the next five years despite US sanctions targeting the country's energy sector, according to an Oil Ministry official.

Touraj Dehqani, who serves as the CEO of the Pars Oil and Gas Company (POGC), said that Iran needs to raise its gas output by 250 million cubic meters (mcm) per day until 2030 to respond to a growing demand for energy in the country's household and in-

dustry sectors, Mehr news agency reported.

Dehqani said his company, which is in charge of operations in South Pars, a vast gas field shared between Iran and Qatar in the Persian Gulf, will be responsible for a major part of the planned increase in gas production.

He said, however, that Iran will definitely meet a target of 150 mcm per day in new gas output in the coming years based on the plans, budgets, and investments

that the government has finalized.

"Relying on the know-how and experience of domestic experts, we are sure that we will materialize at least 150 mcm in new gas production capacity in the next four or five years," said the official in a news conference in Tehran.

Iran's current capacity for production of sour gas is just over 1 billion cubic meters per day of which more than 871 mcm is turned into sweet gas and inject-

ed into the country's nationwide gas pipeline network.

South Pars is responsible for 70% of the output with a current annual production of more than 2.6 billion cubic meters which is worth nearly \$100 billion. Dehqani said that Iran will invest \$17 billion in South Pars in the coming years to prevent a pressure drop that could cause major disruption to nationwide gas supplies.

He said that domestic companies like the POGC have been suc-



cessful in their projects in South Pars despite the sanctions and despite the fact that major inter-

national energy companies are active in the Qatari side of the giant gas field.



## Ukraine, EU excluded from Russia-Ukraine peace talks

# To what end Trump shuns allies?



By Amir  
Mollaee Mozaffari  
Staff writer

### OPINION

at least not enthusiastic, about the prospect of including any country in the high-stakes talks. It still is a bit amusing and very frightening to be reminded that no representatives from Ukraine, as the major party to this war, and the EU, as a major backer of Ukraine, were present at the talks in Riyadh.

This exclusion turned out to be not a slip of the mind to send an invite or anything borne out of goodwill in the context of what happened in Munich on Friday. At the Munich Security Conference, US Vice President JD Vance scolded European leaders so hard that a range of emotions followed. First, immediately after Vance's speech, he was booed off the stage — not by ordinary citizens, mind you, but rather by "450 high-profile and senior decision-makers as well as thought-leaders from around the world, including heads of state and ministers". Second, the outgoing chairman of the conference, Christoph Heusgen, broke down in tears on stage, receiving applause from EU officials. Heusgen specifically mentioned that his concerns were triggered by Vance's harsh attacks on the previously "common values" of the Transatlantic allies when Vance called for a pragmatic, interest-driven approach to global politics. Therefore, it can safely be assumed that the rift between the US and EU is only going to widen for some time while emotions run high on both sides.

The Riyadh talks were admittedly always going to be a small but important step to end the Ukraine war. There are more talks to be had, and it's hard to imagine that Kyiv and Brussels would be absent from those as well. The Ukrainian president has repeatedly stressed that his country would not recognize any peace agreements made without its participation.

Furthermore, it's given that the public would not become privy to what was said at the talks or even before, for example, on Wednesday when Trump and Putin had a "lengthy and highly productive" phone call. So, we are left to speculate on one important question: Why were Ukraine and the EU excluded from the Riyadh talks?

Americans and Russians met Tuesday in Saudi Arabia for their most extensive discussions in years to kickstart the negotiations to end the war in Ukraine. However, for days both prior to and after the event, it was overshadowed by the fact that the Trump administration was unwilling, or



US Secretary of State Marco Rubio (L) meets with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal before holding talks with his Russian counterpart, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on February 18, 2025.



The US top-ranking delegation (L) holds a high-stake negotiation with the Russian delegation (R) while the Saudis moderate the meeting in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on February 18, 2025. The bilateral talks lasted about 4.5 hours.

There are a few possible scenarios that come to mind as an answer to that question, and frankly, none of them look good for Washington's allies.

#### Scenario one: Trump gets credit

Normally, for any other leader, this scenario would not be this high up the list, but after four years of Trump's presidency and more years of watching him on the campaign trail and on TV, we have to put real weight on this scenario. It is quite possible that Donald Trump, being the borderline narcissistic character that he is, is more concerned with getting the credit for ending the Ukraine war than anything else. He showed the same disposition a month ago when the Gaza cease-fire was achieved. Even though it was a cease-fire between two other countries and the US president at the time was Joe Biden, President-elect Trump was quick to claim victory over social media. We're not denying that he didn't

play a role, but many presidents, if not most, care more about the result than one-upmanship.

It is quite possibly the only reason why Trump has pulled out of so many deals, including the JCPOA. He seems to be fine with the end goal and the result of them, but he just wants his name to be on that piece of paper. Officials of countries like Iran already understand this about Trump with every fiber of their being. The cries and boos of EU officials show that since it had not happened to them with such intensity, they failed to put two and two together.

To be sure, it feels extremely peculiar that Trump is dealing more nicely with enemies than friends. Longtime allies like Canada, Mexico, Japan, and the EU are not just getting threatened by the Trump administration, they are suddenly being notified that the US has taken severe economic action against them. Meanwhile, the Russians are getting "invited" to "talk". It has to

feel personal, and it probably does. Trump has always admired strongmen who take what they want and now no longer dreams of being one; He is living his dream this time around.

#### Scenario two: backroom deals

This would be the greatest fear of Ukraine, to a greater extent, and the EU, to a lesser extent: to consider the possibility that a hand had been shaken warmly and they are left with lies and ultimately, a raw deal. It feels much more probable than the first scenario, too, because, after all, Trump could have gotten the credit for ending the war while other parties were present at the table as well — maybe not as much but enough. Now, this scenario could go two ways: either the Americans get something extra juicy from that backroom deal they are discussing with Russians, or they don't. Again, none are favorable to the Ukrainians, but the former has got to sting that much more. Let's not forget that NATO, led by

the US, knew full well that Ukraine joining the bloc would result in Russia's severe countermeasures and pushed them into the cross-fire of Moscow regardless. Now, with the chances of becoming a member getting slimmer as the war prolongs and Ukrainian towns turn into wastelands, it has to feel like a betrayal if the US manages to carve out something for itself behind closed doors and then pulls the plug on military aid to Ukraine to force it to agree to that deal.

When you deal with Trump, you cannot predict the specific goals he has set for himself in any negotiation with foreign countries. Usually, the US president would care deeply about not losing or

his base. The Trump team may eventually land on those goals, but it's quite possible that the US president may have prioritized his own image in the initial offers. After all, he lives and dies by his bragging.

#### Scenario three: shuttle diplomacy

This scenario would be the more benign one out of the three, which makes it more unlikely; again, if the objective was to make the deal happen, there were bound to be better ways of doing it than antagonizing both Ukraine and the EU. Nevertheless, according to this scenario, the US proposed to have a two-way talk with Russia to engage in shuttle diplomacy. The benefit of

signs point to the opposite. The Ukrainian president is understandably furious with the US for bypassing him and putting him in the limbo of mulling over the first two scenarios. However, he doesn't have much leverage with the US to do anything about it other than make for a break, which seems highly unlikely, given that the Trump administration has stated time and again that Ukraine eventually has to pay off its ever-increasing massive debt. That leaves Trump with his go-to move: threatening. He could moderate Russia's offers, but if Ukraine seemed hard to work with, he would pull out his numerous levers to force Zelenskyy to settle. I would argue against those



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy (L), British Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer (2nd-R), French President Emmanuel Macron (R) and then-German chancellor Olaf Scholz consult at a summit in Paris, France, on November 10, 2024.

building more military bases around the world, securing their position or edge against their competitors, and getting a better deal on energy, vital resources, and markets. As a rule of thumb, offers that align more closely with the policy of "America First" and bring in heaps of cash for the US are more likely to resonate with Trump and

this would be that any Russian offers that would be offensive to the Ukrainians could be tempered by the Americans through negotiation so that the chances of a better reception by the Ukrainians would increase. This scenario assumes that the US has significant capital or influence with both Putin and Zelenskyy, but all

who may claim that the exclusion of Ukraine and the EU from Riyadh talks was not as foreboding as I just made them to be. High on the euphoria of bending allies to his will, Trump will surely want to maintain momentum. And few things could be as big as ending the war in Ukraine. So, no step is one too far.



The Ukrainian president is understandably furious with the US for bypassing him and putting him in the limbo of mulling over other scenarios. However, he doesn't have much leverage with the US to do anything about it other than make for a break, which seems highly unlikely, given that the Trump administration has stated time and again that Ukraine eventually has to pay off its ever-increasing massive debt. That leaves Trump with his go-to move: threatening.



# Trump aims to ...

By **Sedeq Dehqan**  
Staff writer

## INTERVIEW

**Page 1** > However, according to international law, forced population transfer and the forcible acquisition of territory are strictly prohibited and violate the UN Charter. Notably, the dual behavior of some Arab countries regarding the Gaza issue is a point of interest. While Arab countries remained largely silent during the Gaza crisis and even some took steps to support the interests of Israel, they now oppose Trump's plan for the complete evacuation of the Gaza Strip and the resettlement of Palestinians in neighboring Arab countries. Iran Daily has conducted an interview with Emad Abshenas, an expert on Middle Eastern and Arab countries, about the objectives of Trump's plan for the forced relocation and complete evacuation of the Gaza Strip, as well as the relocation of its residents to neighboring Arab countries and the stance of Arab states on issues related to Gaza. The details are provided below:



Emad Abshenas



Jordan's King Abdullah II (L) meets US President Donald Trump in the White House on February 11, 2025, in Washington D.C., the United States.  
ALEX BRANDON/AP

### IRAN DAILY: How feasible is Donald Trump's proposed plan to forcibly relocate Gaza residents, and what specific objectives does he intend to accomplish through this strategy?

**ABSHENAS:** Trump, from the moment he returned to the White House as the president of the United States for a second term, has consistently tried to shake up the world by proposing plans and ideas that lack logical and rational foundations. He aims to always be at the center of media attention. Apparently, he intends to detonate a news bomb every day during his four-year presidency, each time proposing a plan that will impact the entire world.

Trump's executive plan for the forced relocation of Gaza residents to Jordan and Egypt is another such project that has no practical feasibility. The solution to the Palestinian issue and the Zionist regime is to grant the rights of the Palestinian people. All countries are aware of this, but since the United States

has always been under the influence and control of the Zionist lobby, and Congress representatives are essentially paid by the Zionist lobby, and the president of the country is also a puppet of the Zionist lobby, such plans are proposed to benefit the Zionists. The forced relocation plan for Gaza residents is based on Israel's desire to displace the people of Gaza.

As we saw after the events of October 7th, the Israelis made significant efforts to force Gaza residents to migrate to Egypt, but Egypt resisted, and the people of Gaza themselves refused to leave their homes. Seventy years ago, Palestinians made a major mistake by being forced to leave their homes due to Israeli pressure, hoping their departure would be temporary and they would return after the conflicts ended. However, seventy years have passed, and they have not been able to return to their land. They did not take their furniture and even still hold the keys to their homes, but their homes are now gone.

Clearly, neither the Palestinians are willing to leave their land nor are other Arab countries willing to accept them. It appears that Trump's goal in proposing this plan is to extort Arab countries. Over the past year and a half, Arab countries have remained silent in the face of events in Gaza and Lebanon, and some have even supported Israel against Iranian missile and drone attacks. These countries now must face the consequences of their actions and should not be surprised by the expectations and plans of the US president.

### How do you view the Arab countries' stance on this plan? During the press conference with Trump, it seemed that King Abdullah acted passively and weakly in the face of the US president's demands and, despite his inner dissatisfaction, refrained from openly opposing Trump's plan.

I reiterate that the Arab countries are now paying the price for their silence in the face of Israel's crimes

against the people of Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, and others. If the Arab countries had previously stood up against Israel's crimes in Gaza and Lebanon and taken a stronger position, they could have stopped Israel and the US a year and a half ago. But they didn't, and now they are forced to bow to the US' demands. As we all witnessed, King Abdullah showed a very weak stance during the press conference with Trump. Trump deliberately tried to humiliate King Abdullah by suddenly putting him in a press conference setting, where he made his demands. King Abdullah was caught off guard and didn't know how to respond, which put him in a very difficult position.

After this conference, we saw that Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, the president of Egypt, canceled his trip to the US when he saw these circumstances. No reason was given for the cancellation. Some media outlets even reported rumors about a potential trip by Mohamed bin Salman, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister

of Saudi Arabia, to the US, but this was also left unaddressed after the press conference.

### It is illogical for Trump to suddenly assert that the residents of a territory should abandon their land and that another country should assume their permanent settlement and provide them with land. What do you think is the reason behind Trump's statements?

Indeed, many of Trump's statements are baseless and should not be taken too seriously. He often makes numerous threats and promises to countries, attempting to achieve his goals through bullying tactics. Trump has a particular strategy in negotiations; he raises the ceiling of his demands so that the other party eventually agrees to a lower amount. He has employed this tactic in the past regarding the acquisition of the Panama Canal, the annexation of Canada, and making it the 51st state of the US, among other things. In es-

sence, Trump's negotiation behavior aligns with the Persian proverb, "Threaten with death so they'll accept a fever."

Trump's intention in bringing up the issue of Gaza is the same. He has raised his demands to such a high level that he can gain concessions. To achieve this, Trump has even changed his statements several times. Initially, he proposed buying Gaza, saying they wanted to invest there. Then he declared that they, along with other countries, would take control of Gaza, only to later reject this and claim that they would take Gaza from Israel. No one has pointed out that if Israel could have kept Gaza, they wouldn't have given it up and would have maintained control. Even if American forces go to Gaza now, the people of Gaza will certainly not roll out the red carpet for them. The youth of Gaza, who have resisted the Zionists with empty hands until now, will undoubtedly stand up against the Americans and refuse to submit to force.



Clearly, neither the Palestinians are willing to leave their land nor are other Arab countries willing to accept them. It appears that Trump's goal in proposing this plan is to extort Arab countries.



People ride in the back of tricycles transporting them from Nuseirat to Gaza City on February 10, 2025 as displaced people return home amid the current cease-fire in the Israeli war on Gaza.  
AFP



US President Donald Trump (R) and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu hold a joint press conference at the White House in Washington D.C., the United States, on February 4, 2025.  
HU YOUSONG/XINHUA



## AFC Champions League Elite:

## Esteghlal beats Al Rayyan to advance, lands Al Nassr in last 16

## Sports Desk

Mohammadreza Azadi and substitute Alireza Koushki were on the scoresheet as Esteghlal walked away with a 2-0 win at Al Rayyan to progress to the round of 16 at the AFC Champions League Elite.

The Tehran Blues, who needed a draw in their final game in the league phase to secure a top-eight spot in the west zone's 12-team table, finished sixth with nine points and will face third-placed Saudi heavyweight Al Nassr in the two-legged knockout tie.

Esteghlal will welcome Cristiano Ronaldo and co. to Tehran's Azadi Stadium on March 3, before the two sides meet at Al-Awwal Park in Riyadh a week later. Koushki, who replaced injured Masoud Juma in the first half, was the star of the show at the Ahmad bin Ali Stadium, setting up Azadi's opener right after the break before doubling the scoreline on the counter-attack in the 69th minute.

As if Esteghlal fans needed more reason to celebrate only a second victory in eight outings at the competition, Tuesday's result saw their city rival Persepolis – eighth in the table prior to the game – drop to ninth and miss out on the knockout stage, joining Al Gharafa, Al Shorta and defending champion Al Ain in crashing out at the league phase.

Having managed a single victory across seven



Esteghlal players celebrate their second goal during a 2-0 victory over Al Rayyan in the AFC Champions League Elite in Al Rayyan, Qatar, on February 18, 2025. ● FFIRI

rounds of fixtures, Persepolis had the opportunity to seal a last-16 place with a win against a depleted Al Nassr side at home on the preceding night, but ultimately settled for a goalless stalemate in front of 70,000 supporters at the Azadi Stadium to finish on seven points, standing behind eight-placed Pakhtakor on goal difference.

Elsewhere on Tuesday,

Al Hilal defeated Emirati club Al Wasl in Dubai to overtake fellow-Saudi club Al Ahli on top of the west standings with a superior goal difference.

Marcos Leonardo scored from close range in the 13th minute and Saudi skipper Salem Al-Dawsari added the second four minutes into the second half after a return pass from Abdullah Al-Hamddan to lead Jorge Jesus' star-studded

side to a seventh win in the competition.

One of the two unbeaten sides in the league phase alongside Al Ahli, Al Hilal will take on Pakhtakor in the next round, with the two sides going head-to-head in Tashkent in the first leg.

Three points at home would have helped Al Rayyan avoid a last-16 date with the three Saudi giants, but the Qatari club will

now have to host Al Ahli in the first leg after finishing seventh in table.

Fourth-placed Al Sadd will visit Dubai for the first-leg encounter with fifth-placed Al Wasl.

The quarterfinals, semis and the final showpiece of the revamped competition will be played in a centralized format featuring clubs from west and east Asia in Saudi Arabia in late April and early May.

## Blues up for 'big things'

Esteghlal interim coach Sohrab Bakhtiarizadeh tipped his side to build on the brave performance against Al Rayyan when facing Al Nassr next.

Bakhtiarizadeh, who took over on the Blues bench for a second time this season when South African Pitso Mosimane walked away from his job in January, also hoped the club hierarchy

would unveil the new head coach ahead of the hectic fixtures' list – also featuring a Tehran Derby against Persepolis next Thursday.

"I'm really thrilled by the players' effort in such a massive game. We truly deserved the victory," said the Iranian, adding: "Esteghlal's future is most important to me and I think now is the right time for the club to bring in a decent manager and coaching staff."

Esteghlal has reportedly been in talks with former Napoli boss Walter Mazzarri for the club's permanent role in recent weeks.

Asked about the prospect of Esteghlal's success in the next round, Bakhtiarizadeh said: "We were only thinking about Al Rayyan up until today. Al Nassr is a formidable side with world-class players in the squad, but that doesn't mean we won't fancy our chances against them."

"Star players and proper infrastructure definitely contribute to a team's success, but, in football, what ultimately makes the difference is dedication and determination, and that is what Esteghlal players showed today. I'm sure they are capable of doing big things against Al Nassr," added Bakhtiarizadeh.

## AFC Champions League Two:

## Tractor holds off Al Khaldiya fightback to head into quarters



Tractor players celebrate a goal during a 3-3 draw against Al Khaldiya of Bahrain in the AFC Champions League Two at the Yadegar-e Imam Stadium, Tabriz, Iran, on February 18, 2025. ● MOJTABA SALEH/AFC

## Sports Desk

Persian Gulf Pro League club Tractor FC survived a late surge by Al Khaldiya to beat the Bahraini top-flight champion 5-4 on aggregate and advance to the AFC Champions League Two quarterfinals.

Stepping into the game on the back of a first-leg 2-1 away win, Tractor looked to be marching through after a two-goal lead at the break in a jam-packed Yadegar-e Imam Stadium in Tabriz. However, a shaky performance by Iranian international keeper Alireza Beiranvand helped the visitors come from behind twice late in the game as it finished in a 3-3 stalemate.

Al Khaldiya had to endure pressure from the start with Tractor's Ricardo Alves threatening with a header in the fourth minute following Danial Esmailifar's cross into the box.

The Bahraini side continued to repel Tractor's ad-

vances following attempts from Igor Postonjski and Tomislav Strkalj.

However, Tractor found a way through in the 15th minute after Mahdi Torabi released Amirhossein Hosseinzadeh, who muscled his way past his marker before slotting home the opener to take his tally to eight goals in the competition this season. Al Khaldiya had its first sight on goal in the 19th minute after Jovan Marinkovic angled his headed attempt just wide off the left post following Dhurgham Ismail's corner. The home side doubled its advantage in the 32nd minute with Strkalj volleying home on the rebound after Hosseinzadeh's close-range attempt had been kept out by Al Khaldiya keeper Mohammad Al Gharably.

Al Khaldiya made a triple substitution just before the half-time break, bringing on Nizar Al Rashdan, Saalah Al Yahyaei, and Mahdi Abduljabbar.

The decision paid off handsomely, as Abduljabbar reduced the deficit in the 57th minute, converting Al Yahyaei's cutback, before the striker drew the visiting side level with a simple tap-in in the six-yard box, capitalizing on a blunder by Beiranvand, who failed to control a goal-kick pass from Tractor captain Shoja Khalilzadeh.

Tractor came back fighting and retook the lead in the 71st minute after Al Gharably blocked Strkalj's shot from inside the box, only for Torabi to convert the rebound.

Al Khaldiya, however, equalized for the second time after Mohamed Al Romaihi headed in Al Yahyaei's cross in the third minute of added time.

The Bahraini club came close to forcing the game into extra time, but Beiranvand produced a double save to deny Al Romaihi and Abduljabbar on a corner kick.



# Apadana Palace in Susa undergoes restoration to reclaim own glory



iranontour.com

## Iranica Desk

Apadana Palace, located within the vicinity of the ancient city of Susa, has been restored and preserved, announced the director of the Susa World Heritage Site. Ali Boveyri Monji stated that significant actions have been taken in the Persian Achaemenid palace area this season to continue the management, restoration, and protection plan for Susa.

He noted that there has been continuous removal of wild vegetation in the area and added that fortifying the walls of the trenches in the eastern, middle, and western courtyards of the palace, grading to direct surface water, and applying mud plaster are among the most important protective actions carried out this season according to chn.ir. He continued by stating that the installation of lighting and CCTV cameras has

made it possible to monitor the Apadana Palace electronically. Boveyri Monji emphasized that improving and organizing the visitor pathways is another activity conducted at the Apadana Palace. The remains of Darius's Apadana Palace in Susa are among the valuable and significant monuments dating back to the Achaemenid era in ancient Iran. This palace was constructed around 521 BCE to 526 BCE under

the orders of Darius I, at a time when Susa was one of the capitals of the ancient Persian Empire. The palace served as the winter residence of the Achaemenid kings and featured various sections, including the Great Hall, the gateway, the reception palace, and three central courtyards. Opinions on the Apadana Palace vary; some believe its construction was influenced by the religious sig-

nificance of the city of Susa. In ancient civilization, all structures comprising halls with multiple columns were referred to as Apadana, which essentially describes a type of columned hall in ancient Iran. During archaeological excavations at the Apadana Palace, a notable inscription was discovered that refers to the reign of Darius and contains a text attributed to Darius the Great, outlining the construction of the

palace. According to this inscription, the palace was set on fire in the years following Darius's death and during the reign of Artaxerxes I (Darius's grandson), after which it was restored and renovated by Artaxerxes II. Roman Ghirshman, a Ukrainian-born French archaeologist, suggests that the architects of the Achaemenid palaces in Susa drew inspiration from Elamite structures. Darius himself explicitly mentions the col-

laboration of architects and artists from the subject lands in the commemorative inscription of the Apadana. Additionally, it should be recognized that the principles and culture of the Achaemenid era represented a synthesis of the arts and culture of all the fine arts from the inhabitants of these subject lands. Ghirshman argues that Darius established Susa as his capital following a brief stay in Babylon.

## Luxurious charm of Shapuri House in Shiraz

### Iranica Desk

For every Iranian, the name Shiraz evokes beautiful gardens, historical buildings, and numerous attractions that reflect the city's rich cultural heritage. Known as the city of poets and literature, Shiraz has been a center of Persian culture for centuries, with a history that dates back to ancient times. It is home to iconic sites such as the stunning Nasir al-Mulk Mosque, renowned for its breathtaking stained glass windows, and the historic Arg

of Karim Khan, a citadel that showcases the architectural brilliance of the Zand dynasty. Additionally, the nearby Persepolis, the ceremonial capital of the Achaemenid Empire, further emphasizes Shiraz's significance in Iran's history. Among the tourist attractions in Shiraz, the capital city of Fars Province, the Shapouri House stands out as one of the most fascinating. This luxurious mansion, which dates back to the Pahlavi era, exemplifies the city's architectural diversity.

In the mansion, a blend of Iranian and European architecture can be observed, creating a unique landscape where the natural beauty of the garden complements the stunning architecture of the building. The Shapouri House, which belonged to Abdolsaheb Shapuri, one of the most famous merchants in Shiraz, was constructed from 1931 to 1936 under the supervision of the renowned architect Abolqasem Mohandesi. Until the early 1970s, the Shapouri family resided in this

mansion; however, a few years after the beginning of that decade, the house became abandoned. In 1999, the Cultural Heritage Organization of Fars Province purchased this luxurious building from the Shapouri family and registered it as part of Iran's cultural heritage, ensuring its preservation for future generations. The Shapouri House has two floors, with a built area of 840 square meters and a total land area of 4,635 square meters. It was constructed in the Qajar architectural style

and is among the first buildings designed and constructed with a free approach to architecture, showcasing the innovative spirit of its time. The main entrance of the building is not aligned with the main axis, requiring visitors to make a 90-degree turn at the northern facade to enter. The pathways of the garden follow a completely symmetrical pattern, although the trees are not planted symmetrically. Additionally, the inclusion of a balcony was an unconventional feature in

Iranian architecture, yet this building prominently features one. The overall layout and design of this mansion are distinctive and unparalleled for its time; for instance, it incorporates a staircase that is not found in any other buildings of that era. Furthermore, there are many rooms inside the mansion, each serving a specific function. The innovations utilized in the Shapouri House's garden have created a harmonious blend of Iranian and European garden styles.

In the western facade of the mansion, one can see round and ornate plaster columns adorned with Achaemenid-style tile work on the top of the upper porch. In the center of the garden, a beautiful large pentagonal pool adds charm and tranquility to the landscape. Among the trees planted in the Shapouri garden are cedar, maple, plane tree, fig, pomegranate, orange, and date, which, along with vibrant rose and geranium flowers, beautifully adorn the garden, making it a serene oasis in the heart of Shiraz.



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# Iran's legendary dubbing icon Manoochehr Valizadeh dies at 84

## Arts & Culture Desk

Manoochehr Valizadeh, a legendary figure in Iranian dubbing, died at the age of 84 after a prolonged illness. He succumbed to his health issues while receiving treatment in the intensive care unit of a hospital. Valizadeh was not only a voice actor but also a dubbing manager, director, actor, television, and radio announcer. Valizadeh regarded the late Hossein Latifpoor as his mentor, praising him as one of the finest figures in the dubbing industry. He said, "He was among the best. From Manoochehr Esmaeili to myself, we all learned from him to get where we are." He was born on June 25, 1940, coinciding with the launch of Iran's first radio transmitter along the old Shemiran road. His legacy in the dubbing industry remains unmatched. He began his acting career in 1957 after participating in several amateur theater productions. He made his professional

debut in a play directed by Mrs. Maureen and, following work on a few short films, was introduced to Ali Kasmaei, with whom he trained for several years. His breakthrough came when he played the lead role in 'Daughter of the Violet Seller' (1963), followed by a key role in 'Hell Ferrer'. In 1961, through Taji Ahmadi, he was introduced to Amin Amini at the Golden Age Studio, marking his film debut in 'Khodadad' (1962). He appeared in nearly 18 films between 1962 and 1978. Farshid Shakiba, a dubbing director at the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB), confirmed the news, expressing deep sorrow over Valizadeh's passing. "I am very saddened and can hardly bring myself to say that Manoochehr Valizadeh is no longer with us. He was a pioneer in ethics, voice, and skill," Shakiba stated. Throughout his illustrious career, Valizadeh lent his voice to numerous iconic characters.

Iranian people know him well for dubbing famous actors such as Robert DeNiro in 'Godfather 2' and 'Taxi Driver,' Keanu Reeves in 'Matrix' trilogy, Tom Hanks in 'Forrest Gump,' 'Green Mile,' 'Saving Private Ryan,' 'Sally,' and 'Captain Phillips,' Adam Sandler in '50 First Dates' and 'Click,' Toshiro Mifune in 'Seven Samurai,' Nicholas Cage in 'The Rock,' John Travolta in 'Pulp Fiction' and 'Killing Season,' Jim Carrey in 'Dumb and Dumber,' 'Fun with Dick and Jane,' and 'Sonic the Hedgehog,' Will Smith in 'Enemy of the State,' 'Pursuit of Happiness,' 'I Am Legend,' and 'I, Robot,' and Tom Cruise in 'Magnolia,' 'Collateral,' 'Edge of Tomorrow,' and ... as well as famous characters in children's animations and series including 'Lucky Luke,' 'Woody,' 'Puss in Boots,' and 'Garfield'. His last recorded appearance was during the opening of the 43rd Fajr Film Festival, in which he could not attend the ceremony due to health conditions.



## Artists' dreams come true at Golden Tree exhibition



FOAD VAKILI/IRAN DAILY



By Saeideh Ehsani Rad  
Staff writer

### PERSPECTIVE EXCLUSIVE

The tree is sacred. Anyone who talks to it and listens will learn about existence. This idea reflects the essence of the 'Golden Tree' section of the 17th Fajr Visual Arts Festival, which kicked off the main exhibition at the Aseman Cultural and Artistic Complex. Jamshid Haghghatshenas, the curator of the 'Golden Tree' section of this year's festival, invited artists to present works based on the theme of the tree. Artists from various visual arts disciplines, excluding calligraphy, participated, creating works centered around trees. Haghghatshenas, who has painted tree-themed murals on the exhibition walls, shared his thoughts on the 'Golden Tree' section in an interview with Persian-speaking Iran Newspaper. He said, "Anything with a polit-

ical slant is boycotted, but anything related to art is welcomed. People around the world are no longer interested in political tendencies, but artistic expressions resonate because they elevate human experience. People are naturally drawn to participate and connect with art, even without realizing it. The Fajr Visual Arts Festival is not political—it's a celebration of art, offering a platform for global engagement." He continued, "The focus of this festival is on cultural growth, which is the essence of our revolution. Over time, we've shifted focus, but it's important to bring culture back into the conversation. The artworks in this festival emphasize the elevation of humanity through art. If a piece features a tree, a mask, or a rug with a tree motif, the aim is to uplift people's spirits as they leave the exhibition, reminding them that the tree is part of our heritage." Explaining how the exhibition's theme of trees emerged, Haghghatshenas mentioned that, despite a short prepara-

tion time, he proposed the idea of a 'Golden Tree' as the central theme, similar to the "Crystal Simorgh" of the Fajr Film Festival. The idea resonated, and for several years, the theme shaped the festival's artworks. He elaborated, "The 'Golden Tree' trophy is a living symbol, representing longevity, transcendence, and sanctity, and it became the focal point of the exhibition. This symbol is essential to the festival, and we encouraged artists to explore it in their work." Incorporating the history and significance of trees into art, the exhibition featured various representations of trees, from ancient ceramic depictions to modern sculptures and visual games. He highlighted the use of images and sculptures related to tree planting and migration, including a sculpture of a "migrating tree" at the entrance. Films like "The Stone Garden" by Parviz Kimiavi were also included, reflecting the theme of trees and growth. Haghghatshenas emphasized the exhibition's intent to focus

on quality rather than quantity. "We didn't aim for an overwhelming number of works. Instead, we focused on providing an immersive space for reflection. This is not about simply filling a venue with art; it's about offering meaningful, thoughtful works that invite viewers to connect deeply." He further explained that the exhibition was not just a one-time event but a precursor to a global movement. "The theme of the tree has the potential to engage people worldwide. Our goal is to create a platform for global participation, with the possibility of publishing a book that circulates globally, capturing the essence of the tree's symbolism." On the state of visual arts in the country, he noted that while funding is essential, effective management is key to achieving artistic growth. "Art requires not only money but also good management. This is what brings quality and participation. I hope that under the 14th government, we continue to see progress in this area." The exhibition will be open until February 28.

### Fajr Visual Arts Festival to be connected to art market

While some believe the policies of the Fajr art festivals need to be reassessed, this year's 17th Fajr Visual Arts Festival presented new perspectives, reflecting the organizers' efforts to move beyond outdated views and introduce fresh ideas. Nadereh Rezaei, Deputy Culture Minister for Artistic Affairs, discussed the changes in this year's festival: "This festival didn't have an open call, and its competitive section was not in the traditional format. Instead,

the selection process will take a different approach. One of the complaints from visual artists has been that government-run festivals, like those organized by the Ministry of Culture, have led to a decline in biennales and triennales, leaving them without a platform in major art events." She added, "To address this, we decided to revitalize the biennales by providing them with a competitive element. This will allow the Fajr festival to maintain its own trajectory while helping to restore the biennales. The support for biennales will address artists' concerns, as they have long requested this. If biennales coexist with the Fajr Visual Arts Festival, it will lead to greater satisfaction among artists." Rezaei added "Our goal for the 'My Homeland' opening exhibition in Shiraz was to connect festivals to the art market and the economy of art. We aim for the Fajr Visual Arts Festival to not just be limited to its exhibition period but to also contribute to the economic vitality of the art sector." She added that this approach had been discussed with managers in the ceramic biennale, where they sought to align their views with the goals of connecting art to the economy.

### Tree-inspired narratives

Several artists who centered their work on trees, a theme in the 'Golden Tree' exhibition, shared insights into their pieces. Mohammad Karimi Nia's digital print, featured in the exhibition, combines symbolic, surreal, and aesthetic elements. He described his work as portraying a "symbolic and dreamlike tree" in a confined, rectangular space that evokes

feelings of isolation, control, and compulsion. At the heart of this space is a majestic antler, which functions as both a remnant of an animal and a substitute for a tree. The tension between the real and symbolic is heightened by the shadow of the tree's leaves cast on the wall, creating a ghostly presence that represents something lost or still existing beyond the rigid boundaries of this enclosed world. Rezvaneh Sadeghzadeh, who contributed a piece featuring the moon and tree, reflected, "I've been working with tree trunks for about five years. After many ups and downs, I've reached a personal space through these tree trunks. The work displayed here is part of a collection and carries no meaning beyond what you see—just a tree and the moon." Mirmola Soraya contributed a rug with a tree design, presenting a piece at the intersection of rug design, textile art, architecture, painting, and graphic design. Her work, which is both local and global, familiar yet foreign, fluid between past, present, and future, includes the "Crowned Tree," inspired by marine plants and African tribal art. Arash Fanaian, whose installation "Tree of Omar Khayyam" was displayed, delved into the historical and philosophical connections between trees and paradise. "The word 'paradise' has long been associated with trees, from ancient texts to modern languages. The relationship between trees and paradise is not only metaphorical but also philosophical. What we call the branches of a tree may in fact be its roots planted in the sky, and vice versa.