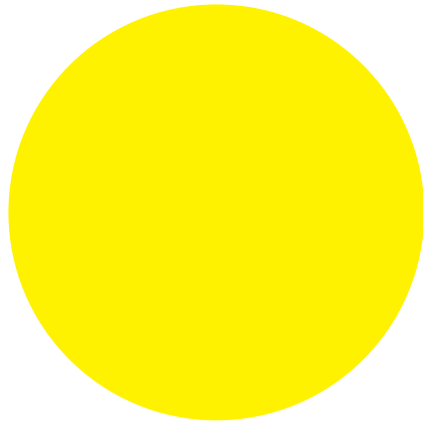




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Persepolis nudges ahead by winning crucial derby

Sports Desk

The exciting 100th derby in Iran's Premier League (IPL) ended in a 1-0 victory for Persepolis, as it won over Esteghlal F.C. As exciting as the pre-match expectations were, neither team succeed in creating several chances, and the Reds used one of the few chances they created in the most perfect manner. Isa Al Kasir grabbed Mehdi Torabi's through pass, dribbling past Esteghlal's defender Aref Gholami and making a shot towards the goal. The shot was deflected by another Esteghlal defender Saleh Hardani, hit the post and rested in the Blues net. Both teams appealed for a penalty in the first half, as Esteghlal's players and coaching staff were on the belief that the referee did not see a clear handball in the box in the sixth minute, and Persepolis players screamed for a penalty in the 44th minute as Esteghlal's Kevin Yamga carelessly hit the Reds striker Mehdi Abdi. Persepolis moved to first place in the IPL table with the crucial win, earning 57 points from 27 games. Sepahan and Esteghlal are in the second and third place, with 55 points. Sepahan has played 26 matches and will play against Malavan on Monday. The Reds are now close to winning the IPL race. Many pundits had predicted the winner of Tehran derby as the potential title winner, yet the quest for the title will go on for another three games and all three teams are planning to show their best form in the upcoming matches.

Persepolis' midfielder Soroush Rafiei (L) controls the ball as Esteghlal's striker Mehdi Ghaedi tries to recover it during the Tehran derby between the two clubs on April 23, 2023. **NAEIM AHMADI/IRAN DAILY**

Russian ambassador to Tehran: More nations to reject dollar in global trade

Moscow has peace plan to end Ukraine war

Tehran-Moscow relations are developing. The two neighbors are working together in multiple fields, facilitating bilateral trade and business, and expediting the completion of transit routes. The visits and talks of the officials of the two countries have also increased and taken a more serious turn. Relations between Iran and Russia, both in bilateral dimensions and in the shadow of regional and international developments,



are worthy of attention. Iran Daily had a discussion with the new ambassador of the Russian Federation to Iran, Alexey Dedov, on the above issues. **Page 2 >**

US seeks to sell more arms through fueling 'Iranophobia': Tehran



AP

Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Nasser Kanaani dismissed hostile remarks by the US secretary of state about Iran's military program, arguing that the "provocative comments" were made with the sole purpose of marketing US-built ammunition through "the failed project of Iranophobia and creating divisions among regional countries." Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in a press release on Thursday that the

US is "firmly committed to disrupting Iran's military procurement activities," adding that Washington was designating entities from Iran and China for what he called involvement in destabilizing behavior, Press TV reported. In a statement on Sunday, Kanaani said the country's defense power is merely intended for deterrence and defense purposes and is not against any country. "In contrast to the ill-advised remarks by the US secretary of state, the Islamic Republic of Iran has always placed emphasis on regional dialogue, collaboration, and cooperation in order to ensure the security and common interests of regional countries without foreign interference," he maintained.

Riyadh seeks three weekly flights between Saudi Arabia, Iran



IRNA

Iran's Minister of Roads and Urban Development Mehrdad Bazrpash announced that the Saudi Civil Aviation Authority officially called on its Iranian counterpart to establish three weekly flights aside from the hajj pilgrimage airlifts between the Saudi Arabia and Iran. The minister pointed to the restoration of diplomatic ties between Riyadh

and Tehran on the basis of regional diplomacy and the good neighborliness policy, saying that the Civil Aviation of Iran received the official request from the Saudi Civil Aviation Authority in recent days concerning the establishment of three weekly flights in addition to the flights of the hajj pilgrimage, IRNA reported. **Page 6 >**

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Governments race to rescue diplomats, citizens from Sudan

The U.S. military airlifted embassy officials out of Sudan on Sunday and international governments raced to evacuate their diplomatic staff and citizens trapped in the capital as rival generals battled for control of Africa's third-largest country. Fighting raged in Omdurman, the city across the Nile from Sudan's capital, Khartoum, residents reported. The violence came despite a declared truce that was to coincide with the three-day Muslim holiday of Eid al-Fitr. After a week of bloody battles that hindered rescue efforts, U.S. special forces swiftly evacuated 70 U.S. Embassy staffers from Khartoum to an undisclosed location in Ethiopia early Sunday. France, Greece and other European nations were organizing a mass exodus Sunday. The fighting between the Sudanese armed forces and the powerful paramilitary group, known as the Rapid Support Forces, has targeted and paralyzed the country's main international airport, reducing a number of civilian aircraft to ruins and gutting at least one runway. Other airports across the country have also been knocked out of operation. Some countries have pressed ahead with the journey. Saudi Arabia on Saturday said the kingdom successfully evacuated 157 people, including 91 Saudi nationals and citizens of other countries.