

MoU signed on increasing ethane extraction from SP





Isfahan's historical, cultural heritage require global registration







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Israel launches deadly attack on heart of resistance in West Bank



Iran's full SCO membership expected to be approved today

International Desk

Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi is

scheduled to address the 23rd summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) on Tuesday, which is expected to approve Iran's full membership in the Asian organization.

For the first time, the Iranian president will attend the summit as a member of the organization, according to IRNA.

India, which holds the rotating chair of the organization, will host the eight-member SCO virtual summit on Tuesday.

Chinese state media reported that President Xi Jinping will attend the summit of the SCO alongside the leaders of Central Asian countries.

The Kremlin on Monday said President Vladimir Putin would also attend and address the summit. Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani said on Monday, "This membership is beneficial both for Iran and for the organization." He added that it

would have "positive effects on economic development" between member nations.

Saudi Arabia, Russia deepen oil cuts, sending prices higher

Saudi Arabia and Russia, the world's biggest oil exporters, deepened oil cuts on Monday, sending prices higher despite concerns over a global economic slowdown and possible further interest rate hikes from the US Federal Reserve.

Saudi Arabia said it would extend its voluntary oil output cut of one million barrels per day (bpd) for another month to include August, adding that the cut could be extended beyond that month, according to Reuters. Shortly after the Saudi announcement, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak said Moscow would cut its oil exports by 500,000 barrels per day in August. The cuts amount to 1.5% of global supply and bring the total pledged by OPEC+ to 5.16 million bpd. OPEC+ already has in place cuts of 3.66 million

bpd, amounting to 3.6% of global demand, including 2 million bpd agreed last year and voluntary cuts of 1.66 million bpd agreed in April and extended to December 2024.

Oil prices rose on news of the cuts, with Brent up 89 cents to \$76.30 a barrel by 0950 GMT.

OPEC+, which groups the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and allies led by Russia, pumps around 40% of the world's crude. The alliance has been cutting supply to lift up prices since November last year due to weaker Chinese demand and rising US supply but so far has failed to move them much from the range of \$70-\$80 a barrel.



Iran acquires MKO's digital data





Golestan Palace hosting Amir Kabir Memorial Hall





Iran taking one last shot at quarterfinal spot against Olympic champion



NEWS IN BRIEF

IRGC develops new missile training system



TASNIM - Iran's Islamic **Revolution Guards Corps** (IRGC) Ground Force successfully tested a homegrown system that trains crew members to fire the Fath 360 missiles.

The training system, designed and manufactured by the IRGC Ground Force's experts, simulates all the stages, from loading and preparation to the launch of the Fath 360 missile, for the officers. The training system uses the airframe of a real Fath 360 missile, but its engine and warhead have been replaced by an Arash 122-mm rocket.

Kuwait urges Iran border talks



AFP - Kuwait reinvited Iran on Monday to talks on their sea borders after Tehran said it was ready to start drilling in a disputed gas field in the resource-rich Persian Gulf.

The field, known as Arash in Iran and Dorra in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, is also claimed by Riyadh and Kuwait in a dispute which dates back several decades. "The State of Kuwait and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia... alone have exclusive rights to the natural wealth in the Al-Dorra field," a Kuwaiti foreign ministry statement said.

Navy to install hvpersonic missile on destroyer



PRESS TV - Iranian Navy Commander Rear Admiral Shahram Irani said a hypersonic missile will be installed on Iran's homegrown Damavand-2 destroyer, which will join the

Navy in the near future. On Monday, Irani said the Damavand-2 destroyer will be equipped with "defensive and offensive missiles". "All defensive equipment installed on Damavand-2 destrover is completely upto-date," he stated.

Iran acquires MKO's digital data

International Desk

An Iranian official said a number of electronic and storage devices captured during the Albanian police's recent raid on a base of the terrorist Mujahedeen Khalq Organization (MKO) have arrived in Iran. The head of the Iranian government's Information Council said on Monday that a consignment of hard drives and computer cases confiscated during the recent raid on the MKO camp near Tirana have reached Iran, according to Tasnim news agency.

Sepehr Khalaji announced in a post on his Twitter account that Iranian experts are retrieving data from the devices and detecting the MKO's "links, sabotage cells, and blind spots". The results so far are promising, he added.

In late June, the Albanian police forces raided a camp hosting the MKO over its engagement in "terror and cyberattacks" against foreign institu-

Authorities seized 150 computer devices linked to terrorist activities. At least one MKO terrorist was killed and dozens of others were injured during the clashes at the camp, known as Ashraf-3, in the northwest of the capital Tirana.

An informed source has

said that the computer servers captured in the raid contain important information including data about the terrorist group's links and elements inside

Tehran slams France

for hosting MKO rally Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani said on Sunday that hosting the terrorist cult's recent gathering — which coincided with widespread political and social unrest in France — proves the French government's disregard for the demands of its own citizens and its continued political support for terror groups, Press TV reported.

"Instead of repeating their past brazen mistakes in supporting the killers of the Iranian people and [instead of] focusing on [finding a] radical solution for their country's profound problems and crises, and [instead of] correcting their biased and racist treatment of French citizens, the French authorities paved the way for a meeting of terrorists who have been recently put to shame in Albania," the spokesman said.

Kanaani then warned the French government against the political and legal consequences of its support for and hosting of terrorists and murderers of Iranian citizens and officials.





The undated photo shows members of the terrorist Mujahedeen Khalq ation at a base in Albania mashreghnews.ir

"Those terrorists, who have betrayed their own country and nation by committing shocking and horrible crimes, will certainly not hesitate to betray their foreign supporters as well. Therefore, those who support terrorists will not only fail to benefit from them but will also be eventually harmed by the moves of these evildoers," he said.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman's remarks came after the Iranian Intelligence Ministry said earlier on Sunday that it is seriously pursuing terrorists bevond the country's borders, citing successful operations that led to the arrest of individuals affiliated with the MKO terror cult.

The ministry also commended the Albanian government for its recent action against MKO terrorists during a raid on their camp in the northwestern region of the capital, Tirana, describing the operation conducted by the Albanian police as a "step forward."

The European Union, Canada, the United States, and Japan had previously listed the MKO as a "terrorist organization." In 2012, however, the group was taken off of the US list of terrorist organizations. The EU followed suit, removing the group from its list of terrorist organizations.

The MKO has carried out numerous terrorist attacks against Iranian civilians and government officials since the victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979. Out of the nearly 17,000 Iranians killed in terrorist attacks over the past four decades, about 12,000 have fallen victim to the MKO's acts of terror.

Iran's full SCO ...



Earlier on Friday, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Page 1 > Lavrov said, "The full membership of Iran" summit, which will be

chaired by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Secretary General of the organization, Zhang Ming, had also said that Iran's membership would be officially announced at Tuesday's meeting.

"From July 4th, Iran will enjoy all the rights related to the member countries of the organization," he told Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian in a phone conversation on Friday.

Amir-Abdollahian said that he is confident Iran's membership in the organization will provide the SCO with a growing capacity.

He said the Iranian Parliament and administration, particularly the Foreign Ministry, have made substantial efforts to prepare and approve all the documents pertaining to the country's full membership.

Iran first applied for membership in the alliance 15 years ago, but it took until 2021 for the request to be approved. Iran and the organization started a formal process for Tehran's accession in March 2022. In September of the same year, Iran signed a memorandum of commitment to join the SCO. A month later, the Iranian Parliament approved the country's accession.

The SCO is a diplomatic organization with eight members, namely, Russia, China, India, Pakistan, and Central Asian countries of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. Set up in 2001, the organization's members work to tackle joint security issues, cooperate militarily and promote internal

SCO membership was already in the cards, and Iran is also hoping to be quickly accepted into another grouping that excludes Western countries - the BRICS group with Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

Iran can economically play an important role in the organization due to having a suitable infrastructure in transportation, including railways, roads, airports and ports, especially the Chabahar port in southeastern Iran.

On the other hand, the two largest energy importers in the world, namely, China and India, are members of the organization, and Iran, as one of the largest energy exporters, will have good opportunities to strengthen its energy cooperation with these countries within the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.





Iran marks US downing of passenger flight

Iran commemorated the 35th anniversary of the downing of its passenger plane by a US Navy guided-missile cruiser over the country's territorial waters in the Persian Gulf, which killed all 290 people on

During a memorial ceremony on Monday, local officials and the families of the tragedy's victims tossed flowers into the waters near the site of the crash, wrote Press TV. Chanting slogans such as "Down with the US" and "Down with Israel," the participants condemned the inhumane US crime and expressed their utter disgust at the criminal act.

Reacting to the occasion, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani noted that the Iranian nation will never forget this horrible crime committed by the US.

'We are commemorating the anniversary of the tragic incident of the Iranian passenger plane being hit by the US, which gave the commander of this terrible operation a





site of the 1988 US downing of a civilian aircraft, near the Strait of Hormuz and ım Island, on July 3, 2023. TASNIM

medal of courage," he said. On July 3, 1988, the USS Vincennes fired missiles at an Iran Air Airbus A300B2 which was flying over the Hormuz Strait from the port city of Bandar Abbas to Dubai, carrying 274 passengers and 16 crew members.

Israel's deadly raid on Jenin draws int'l condemnation



International Desk

Israeli aircraft and ground forces conducted a massive raid on Ienin in the occupied West Bank with drones early Monday, killing at least eight Palestinians and injuring dozens, some of them in critical condition.

The Palestinians and neighboring Jordan and Egypt and the 57-nation Organization of Islamic Cooperation condemned the violence.

The regime deployed hundreds of troops in the area, in an incursion that resembled the wide-scale military operations carried out during the second Palestinian uprising two decades

Palestinian health officials said at least eight Palestinians were killed and dozens wounded, AP reported. Troops remained inside the

Jenin refugee camp at midday Monday, pushing ahead with the largest operation in the area during more

than a year of fighting.

Black smoke rose from the crowded streets of the camp, exchanges of fire rang out and the buzzing of drones could be heard overhead as the military pressed on. Residents said electricity was cut off in some parts and military bulldozers plowed through narrow streets, damaging buildings as they cleared

the way for Israeli forces.

Vow of retaliation

Palestinian resistance factions have pledged to retaliate against the deadly act of aggression by the occupying regime against the northern West Bank city, Press TV reported.

In a statement released on Monday, the Joint Chamber of Palestinian Resistance Groups urged all resistance fighters in Jenin and its ref-

Palestinian man runs for cover amid clashes during an Israeli military attack on Jenin city in the occupied JAAFAR ASHTIYEH/AFP

ugee camp to stand by each other and fight the enemy in a unified manner.

The Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) also said in a statement that Israel will not achieve its goals and that Jenin will not surrender.

The aggression against Jenin will not achieve its goals, and we will remain [in] Jenin as a symbol of steadfastness," the statement said. "Our fighters are determined to confront and fight no matter the sacrific-

It added that all options are on the table, including striking the enemy in response to its aggression in Jenin.

Hamas Spokesperson Hazem Qassem also said that the aggression will not achieve its goals adding that the Zionist enemy will fail. Ismail Haniyeh, the head of the political bureau of Hamas, also called on the Palestinian people across the occupied West Bank to stand by Jenin and defend its people to thwart the en-

Fatah political party also said the Israeli occupation is delusional about its ability to kill the resistance

emy's plan.

spirit through its terror and incursions into the Palestinian camps.

Call for intl. action

The Palestinian Foreign Ministry strongly condemned "the barbaric aggression" and called for urgent international intervention.

The carnage, it added, is part of the official Israeli policy of using military force in dealing with the defenseless Palestinian people instead of political solutions.

The ministry also called on The Hague-based International Criminal Court (ICC) to "end its silence and start holding Israeli war criminals accountable."

Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman al-Safadi condemned the Jenin attack. calling on the international community to pressure Tel Aviv to stop its strikes before the situation "explodes.'

In a telephone conversation with Palestinian Authority Civil Affairs Minister Hussein al-Sheikh, Safadi said, "The repeated Israeli attacks on Palestinian cities will only contribute to increasing tension, which is also fueled by illegal Israeli measures that undermine the two-state solution and kill hope in the chances of achieving a just and comprehensive peace."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Riots in France ease after massive police deployment



BLOOMBERG - Street unrest eased in France overnight after nearly a week of riots and looting touched off by a police officer's killing of a teenager that underscored serious tensions in the country's ethnically mixed suburban neighborhoods.

While the violence has ebbed, the shooting of Nahel, a 17-year-old of North African descent, remains a flashpoint in a crisis over racism and inequality in France that's drawing comparisons with America's reaction to the murder of George Floyd in 2020.

Moscow:

700,000 **Ukraine** children now in Russia



REUTERS - Russia has brought some 700,000 children from the conflict zones in Ukraine into Russian territory, Grigory Karasin, head of the international committee in the Federation Council, Russia's upper house of parliament, said late on Sunday.

"In recent years, 700,000 children have found refuge with us, fleeing the bombing and shelling from the conflict areas in Ukraine," Karasin wrote on his Telegram messaging channel.

Flooding displaces 10k around China as sweltering heat hits Beijing





In this photo released by Xinhua people clean up silt and garbage in Caotan Village of Yantouzhai Town Hunan Province, China, on 02 July

Heavy flooding has displaced thousands of people around China as the capital had a relative respite from sweltering

Beijing reported 9.8 straight days when the temperature exceeded 35 C, the National Climate Center said Monday, AP reported.

A lack of rainfall may be contributing to the heat, with the typically dry

capital receiving even less than usual this year. While temperatures have since moderated - Monday's temperature at midday was 33 C - they are expected to rise again this week to as high as 39.6 Celsius in Beijing and other parts of the country, authorities said. Meanwhile, more than 10,000 people were urgently moved to safety due to flooding in the central province of Hunan, the Xiang'xi Emergency Management Bureau on Sunday.

Around 70 houses collapsed, 2,283 were damaged and farm fields were flooded. Losses so far have been estimated at least 575m yuan

To the north in Shaanxi province's Zhenba county, authorities reported the worst flooding in 50 years had washed out roads and damaged homes. No deaths have been reported from the floods thus far.

Blasts in Khartoum amid army's new call for volunteers

Explosions again rocked Sudan's capital Khartoum on Monday as the army rallied civilians to take up arms against a renewed onslaught by its paramilitary foes.

The sound of artillery fire shook the dawn in northwest Khartoum and progressed towards the centre and east of the city, witnesses told AFP.

The fighting "began at 4:00 am and is still going," one resident said. The war-torn capital barely saw a few hours of respite after heavy clashes on Sunday between troops loyal to army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF).

The army announced Monday it was ready to "receive and prepare" volunteer fighters, after Burhan last week urged Sudanese "youth and all those able to defend" to join the

Social class differences stoking riots in France



France has long been a focal point of protests and street unrest in Europe. The recent events following the fatal shooting of a 17-year-old by the police serve as another example of the ongoing trend of street demonstrations and riots. The socioeconomic disparities within the country are particularly noticeable when compared to other European nations. These disparities are particularly

pronounced among immigrant populations. Consequently, immigrants, even those who hold legal French citizenship, often harbor a sense of neglect from the government.

In parallel, right-wing movements have gained significant traction in recent years, particularly in their promotion of stringent immigration policies. Eric Zemmour, the leader of one such right-wing party, has expressed his stance by stating: "If I were in a position of power, I would stop immigration first. I would put an end to granting citizenship based on place of birth and family reunification through citizenship. Additionally, I would drastically reduce the influx of students and deport individuals deemed harmful, including convicted criminals after their sentences have been served, as well as the long-term unemployed exceeding a six-month period."

In recent days, incidents lacking clear organization and leadership, like the one we have witnessed, often escalate swiftly into crises and riots. Unlike labor or union protests, these movements lack avenues for dialogue with the government, further fueling discontent among disaffected French citizens.

Meanwhile, it is predominantly the youth - both immigrants and native French

-who exhibit higher levels of dissatisfaction and are more inclined to take to the streets, often resorting to violent actions. As tensions mount between law enforcement and protesters, the extreme right seizes the opportunity to voice their objections to government policies, highlighting the deeply entrenched divisions within France.

The capitalist system in France has not been as effectively implemented as in the United States, resulting in more conspicuous class differences. This sets France apart from other European countries like Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland, and Iceland, where such disparities are not as obvious. During periods of economic uncertainty caused by factors such as the conflict in Ukraine or the COVID-19 pandemic, there is a noticeable rise in disenchanted individuals taking to the

streets, coinciding with

an increasing lean toward right-wing ideologies. The existence of class disparities and the divergent demands of immigrant communities and the rightwing have presented a challenge in formulating policies that effectively balance French society. The

prospect of initiating political and social structural changes in the country is daunting, as it entails substantial costs and impedes

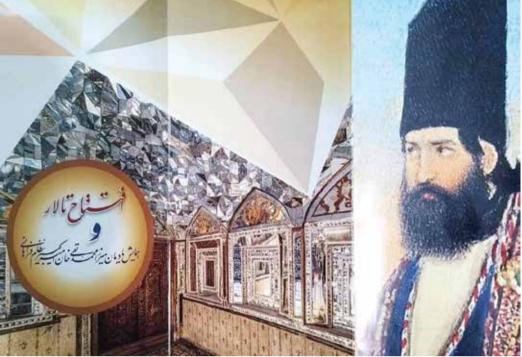


France's ability to compete with other European and global counterparts. Subsequently, while the French government appears poised to weather this recent crisis, pockets of discontent persist, leaving room for potential future outbreaks of dissatisfaction and similar protests in the

Iranica Home

Golestan Palace hosting Amir Kabir Memorial Hall





Iranica Desk

Golestan Palace in Tehran. the historical residence of the Qajar dynasty, was established during the rule of Shah Abbas Safavid (1571-1629 CE).

The government citadel, registered on UNESCO's List in 2013, was in use for 130 years during the rule of the Qajar dynasty.

Mirza Taqi Khan Farahani, better known as Amir Kabir, was Nasereddin Shah's prime minister, and one of the most prominent figures of the Qajar dynasty.

He published Iran's second newspaper and made extensive efforts to make a change in the way of governance and adapt it to the conditions of the times.

The Amir Kabir Memorial Hall was inaugurated in the Talar-e Almas (Di-

amond Hall) of Golestan Palace in May, following a three-day conference held to commemorate this outstanding figure.

The hall is located in the southern section of Golestan Palace, next to the wind tower building. It is called Diamond Hall because of the exceptional mirror works which resemble diamonds.

Afarin Emami, head of Golestan Palace's World Heritage Site, said that based on the strategies adopted by the Cultural Heritage, Organization, museums should not be just a place to display cultural and historical objects anymore.

Tourism and Handicrafts

"Efforts should be made to convey to visitors the stories behind the artifacts and increase their knowledge about them,"



She said that studies conducted on various sections of the palace indicate that no perfect place is available for narrating the tales of the Qajar period. Thus, setting up a museum for

the purpose is seen as a necessity.

Emami noted that the establishment of a museum is no easy task; it requires a set of actions.

"We decided to create a museum that deals with pre-museum for the purpose, and named it after Amir Kabir.' Before the main museum

is launched, various events will be held in the hall. Emami observed that Al-

Almas Hall to serve as a

mas Hall is among the oldest sections of Golestan Palace, which was used during the tenure of Amir Kabir and the nearest one to his office.

The stucco and mirror works of Almas Hall. which is to keep its original name, were restored during a renovation project to prepare it for hosting the museum.

Some antiques, which were previously collected and displayed in Almas Hall, were transferred to other parts of the palace to make it an exclusive place for an Amir Kabir memo-

Emami noted, "A number of scholars, university professors and history experts participated in the three-day conference held on the occasion of the opening of the memorial hall. The results of their research will help us complete the museum in the near future."

In addition to the photos of some documents, a page from a book entitled, 'One Thousand and One Nights,' is among the most important objects showcased in the hall. In this book, which is not directly related to the Qajar period, Sani al-Molk, an Iranian painter, book illustrator, miniature and lacquer artist, has used the images of the famous characters of the Qajar era, including Amir Kabir and Nasereddin Shah.

Choqa, a symbol of Bakhtiari culture



patterns are inspired by the Choqa Zanbil Ziggurats, an ancient Elamite complex in Khuzestan Province. Others believe that it is inspired by the battlements of Persepolis. Such battlements are also seen on the crowns of Iranian kings.

To make a medium-sized *choqa*, about one kilogram of cotton yarn and one kilogram of raw wool is used. Bakhtiari men attend weddings and other important ceremonies in their choaa

The hand-woven garment is an important part of Bakhtiari culture and tradition.

In an interview with ISNA, Deputy Head of Lorestan Province's Cultural Heritage Tourism and Handicrafts Organization Abbas Hamzei said that efforts are underway to register *choqa* on Iran's National Heritage List. Traditional skills of weav-



ing the choqa was registered on Iran's National Intangible Cultural Heritage List in 2015.

the cultural, political, so-

cial and artistic aspects

of the Qajar period," she

said. "However, since it is

a time-consuming process,

requiring a comprehensive

work plan and an ade-

quate budget, we selected

He said that 2,000 people are working in the handicraft workshops of the province, adding that woven fabrics constitute a major part of the artworks produced in the province.

The official said that siah chador-bafi (black tent-weaving), sabad-bafi (basket-weaving) and qalamzani (engraving) of Lorestan Province have been registered nationally.

He said that 90 handicrafts are being manufactured in Lorestan Province, 50 of which are indigenous. Hamzei said that the organization will support the establishment of handicraft markets in the province, pointing out that this will not only help attract tourists but also generate job opportunities in the region.

"Sustainable jobs can be created in the handicraft sector with the lowest cost," he concluded.



Volleyball Nations League:

Iran taking one last shot at quarterfinal spot against Olympic champion



Siting 11th in the 16-team, Behrouz Ataei's men step into the final week of the preliminary round on the back of only a couple of wins in eight outings and can't afford further slips in the remaining four matches if they are to progress to the VNL Finals for a second year running.

Sports Desk

Iran will make a last-ditch effort to secure a last-eight place when kicking off Week 3 of the Volleyball Nations League against reigning Olympic gold medalist France in Anaheim, California, tonight.

Siting 11th in the 16-team, Behrouz Ataei's men step into the final week of the preliminary round on the back of only a couple of wins in eightoutings and can't afford further slips in the remaining four matches if they are to progress to the VNL Finals for a second year running. Iran will also take on Bulgaria and Argentina before con-

ia and Argentina before concluding its campaign against Cuba at the Anaheim Convention Center next Sunday. Top seven of the table will join host Poland in the Finals – starting July 19 in Gdansk. The bad news for the Asian powerhouse is that it will have to do without two key players in the final week after prolific opposite Amin Esmaeilnejad and starting setter Mohammad-Taher Vadi – as well as Arman Salehi – were denied entry visas by the US Embassy in Ankara

The controversial decision convinced the international governing body of the sport,

the FIVB, to announce that Iran's results in Anaheim will not affect the team's points in World Men's Ranking – a decisive factor in the qualification process for next year's Paris Olympics – regardless of the results in Anaheim.

Defending champion France, meanwhile, has also had a below-par run, managing only three wins – against minnow sides China, Cuba, and Canada – so far, and sits justabove Iran in the table. Japan has stolen the show at this year's event, firmly topping the table thanks to a remarkable 8-0 record – including impressive victories against volleyball giants France and Brazil.

Having suffered a single defeat against Brazil, USA is second with Brazil, Slovenia, Poland, Argentina, Italy, and the Netherlands following the Americans in the table.

Persepolis stunned by Beiranvand departure



IRN

Sports Desk

Persepolis fans woke up to shocking news on Monday as international goalkeeper Alireza Beiranvand terminated his contract with the club over a financial dispute with the Iranian league and cup champion. On his return to the Persian Gulf Pro League giant after an unimpressive two-year spell in Europe, the 30-year-old keeper played an integral part to the Reds' glittering campaign last season.

Beiranvand kept a remarkable 17 clean sheets – a best tally in the Iranian top flight – in 34 appearances across all competitions as Persepolis lifted the league trophy for a sixth time in seven years – celebrating a second domestic double in four seasons.

With the start of the new

season less than a month away, Persepolis manager Yahya Golmohammadi will now have a daunting task on his hands to find a top-class number one, while there could be further misery for the Reds' faithful as several reports in recent days suggested that Beiranvand could be on his way to archrival Esteghlal after being offered a lucrative two-year deal by the Blues.

Verstappen's F1 dominance continues with Austrian GP victory

REUTERS – Red Bull's Formula One leader Max Verstappen took his fifth win in a row on Sunday in an extraordinary Austrian Grand Prix that ended up with nearly half the 20-car field punished for failing to stay

The Dutch driver won from pole position and with the fastest lap as the reigning champions celebrated a 10th successive victory and

ninth in as many races this season.

Verstappen, who also won Saturday's 100km sprint race and leaves Spielberg's Red Bull Ring with a maximum haul, stretched his lead over third-placed Mexican team mate Sergio Perez to 81 points.

It was also the Dutch driver's seventh win of a dominant campaign, accelerating him ever closer to a third Formula One crown.

Charles Leclerc was second, 5.155 adrift, for Ferrari's milestone 800th podium while Perez battled back from 15th at the start.

"Amazing race, the car was on fire today," said Verstappen after his 42nd career win took him above the tally of late Brazilian great Ayrton Senna.

Behind the top three, the outcome was thrown into

confusion after stewards upheld a protest by Aston Martin and reviewed more than 1,200 potential track limits breaches before applying retrospective penalties. The final results saw Ferrari's Carlos Sainz drop from fourth to sixth with McLaren's Lando Norris and Aston Martin's Fernando Alonso moving in the other direction to fourth and fifth respectively.

Mercedes seven-times world champion Lewis Hamilton slid from seventh to eighth, behind team mate George Russell, while Aston Martin's Lance Stroll moved up to ninth and Alpine's Pierre Gasly fell to 10th.

Pierre Gasly fell to 10th.
Sainz, Hamilton, Gasly, Williams' Alex Albon and Logan
Sargeant, Alpine's Esteban
Ocon, AlphaTauri's Nyck de
Vries and Yuki Tsunoda and
Haas's Kevin Magnussen
were all handed penalties,
some twice. The drivers had
made sure stewards were
kept busy by pointing out
over the radio during the
race whenever they saw a

rival exceeding the limits.

GOAL – Bayern Munich are reportedly planning a second bid for Tottenham striker Harry Kane after

second bid for Tottenham striker Harry Kane after seeing an initial €70 million (£60m/\$76m) offer rejected. The Spurs frontman has

seen a move speculated on for some time, with major silverware still proving elusive for the England captain.

Having been heavily linked with Manchester giants City and United in the recent past, a move to mainland Europe is now being discussed.

Bundesliga champions
Bayern remain in the market for a proven No.9 after
seeing Robert Lewandowski leave for Barcelona
in 2022. Kane has emerged
as their top target, with
one approach for Tottenham and England's alltime leading scorer being
knocked back.

According to Fabrizio Romano, an improved offer is in the pipeline. He has told his YouTube channel: "During the week



AFP

Bayern for the very first time submitted a bid for Harry Kane, €70m plus add-ons, absolutely not enough to convince Tottenham. It was not even a negotiation. Tottenham immediately said no to that kind of possibility, and they didn't consider that bid as something concrete or serious. Now they want to try again for Harry Kane, so they will take some time, then they will submit a new proposal, let's see if it is going to be verbal or official, but Bayern will try again for Harry

Bayern to make second bid

for Tottenham striker Kane

Kane. It's not going to be easy because Tottenham want to fight to keep the player and Levy will make it more than complicated, but Bayern want to try again."

Kane is approaching the final year of his contract in north London, with there no indication that an extension will be signed, so Spurs are being forced to consider a sale while they can still a demand a fee with the Premier League outfit said to be holding out for a nine-figure asking price.



NEWS IN BRIEF

UAE plans to invest \$54b in renewables



BLOOMBERG – The United Arab Emirates plans to invest as much as \$54 billion on renewables over the next seven years as part of efforts to reach net zero emissions by 2050.

The nation is targeting a threefold increase in the share of energy produced from renewable sources over the period and will focus on hydrogen as a source for clean power, UAE Prime Minister and Dubai Ruler Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid said in a tweet.

First step of monetarytightening era in Turkey



CNBC – Turkey's central bank said last month's interest-rate raise was the "first step" of a monetary tightening cycle, as the administration of newly-reelected President Recep Tayyip Erdogan tries

to slow inflation of almost

Last month's decision to increase the benchmark to 15% from 8.5% was meant to "establish the disinflation course as soon as possible," the bank said in a summary, published on Monday, of its June 22 Monetary Policy Committee meeting.

Pakistan inflation eases



AFP – Pakistan's headline inflation eased for the first time in seven months in June, figures released Monday showed, a bright spot for the government that must call an election this year.

Year-on-year inflation was 29.4 percent last month, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics data showed, compared with a record 38 percent in May.

MoU signed on increasing ethane extraction from SP

Economy Desk

The National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on increasing ethane extraction from the nine refineries of the South Pars Gas Field.

Speaking in the signing ceremony on Monday, Iranian Oil Minister Javad Owji said ethane extraction from the nine refineries will generate a \$250-\$300 million profit per annum, Shana reported.

The executive operations of the project will start within the next two months, he said, saying the project will create added value and job opportunities when it comes on stream.

More than 700 million cubic meters of gas are extracted from the South Pars field, said the minister, adding the output will increase when the development project of



SP Phase 11 becomes operational.

According to Owji, 66 percent of ethane produced in SP refineries is currently extracted and the remainder is injected to the countrywide pipeline and burnt.

The country's first ethane extraction project was implemented by the Executive Headquarters of Imam's Directive in Parsian Gas Refinery and its affiliated companies have valuable experience in this field, he continued.

The annual ethane extraction from the nine refineries will be 1.1 million tons, said the minister,



explaining the profit will be invested in the headquarters' projects or value chain of the same project or public utility projects. Meanwhile, the NIGC head announced that the country's annual ethane production is expected to reach five million tons in the near future.

"With the implementation of this project, in addition to increasing production, part of the possible shortage of this valuable product will be compensated for in the coming years,"

said Majid Chegeni. He put the country's current annual ethane

current annual ethane production at 4.2 million tons, saying that the country has the capacity to produce more than 7.2 million tons of ethane each year.



Renewables can improve Iran's electricity industry:

UNDP official

Economy Desk

Iran's electricity industry will enjoy high capacities as special attention to renewable energies will help its development, said Claudio Providas, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Resident Representative in Iran on Monday.

tative in Iran on Monday.
Speaking in a meeting to review ways of cooperation and attracting technical and financial support

of the UNDP for the electrification plans of Tehran, Providas announced preparedness for cooperation with the Iranian Ministry of Energy on joint projects, IRNA reported.

Referring to the successful experiences of collaboration with Iran in joint projects in the field of energy, he pointed to the significant progress of Iran's power industry in the past years despite sanctions.

Iran's global share of stone trade below 1%

Economy Desk

Despite being ranked fourth in stone reserves worldwide, Iran's share in international stone market transactions remains surprisingly low, at less than one percent, the international vice president of the Iranian Stone Association said Monday.

Mohammad Hallajian said the unmatched diversity of stones found in Iran is a factor that positions the country as a global leader in this sector. However, he expressed concern over Iran's meager participation, benefiting from less than one percent of the \$35 billion global stone market, IRNA reported.

Hallajian added that Iran currently operates 2,000 stone mines, 6,000 processing units, and 3,000 equipment production units, rivaling the capacities of industry giants, Turkey and China.

He underscored the importance of mineral reserves



ing with Iran's strategy to diversify its export portfolio. Hallajian urged authorities to focus on developing this export opportunity, as mineral reserves represent a significant component of Iran's export potential. "The country exported

"The country exported stone products worth \$200 million in the previous year, a testament to the high quality and demand for Iranian stone products worldwide," he said.

Hallajian made the comments at a briefing in Mashhad, the capital of Khorasan Razavi Province, on the eve of the second specialized and international stone exhibition that is set to open today in the northeastern city for a du-

The exhibition will feature the participation of 65 domestic companies, alongside representatives from Italy, Spain, Pakistan, China, Kazakhstan, and Lebanon. Speaking at the same event, Gholamreza Nazparvar, the head of Khorasan Razavi Mining House, expressed his concerns about the challenges faced in the import and export of mineral deposits, attributing them to both government barriers and self-imposed sanctions. Nazparvar highlighted a specific example, noting that the import of building stones, such as marble, from Afghanistan is not permitted, even though there is no official ban im-

IranAir says seven grounded planes to resume services soon



Iran's flag carrier IranAir said seven of its planes that have remained grounded in recent years because of US sanctions will resume services within the next six months.

IranAir CEO Shamseddin Farzadipour said the planes will be restored to the airline's fleet as part of a comprehensive domestic repair program.

"Our priority is domestic repair and seven planes will become airworthy in the next six months," Farzadi was quoted as saying by ILNA.

He said IranAir plans to use the planes in busy travel routes to Iraq which mostly accommodates Iranian pilgrims visiting holy shrines in the Arab country.

Iran has supported a home-grown aircraft repair program in response to US sanctions that have barred the country from accessing spare parts and maintenance services by foreign companies.

The program has expanded

to cover planes operated by foreign companies that have suffered because of Western sanctions.

Reports in September showed that nine Russian passenger planes were in Iran to receive mainte-

Several Iranian airlines have already added repaired aircraft to their active fleet.

Qeshm Air announced in February that it had restored an Airbus A320 after 11 years of grounding. A Boeing 737 returned to the fleet of Iran's third largest carrier Aseman Airlines later that month after a successful test flight. Aseman had earlier restored a Fokker 100 by replacing its engine.

The Iranian government says it has earmarked proper funding to support domestic airlines in their efforts to restore some 100 jetliners that have remained grounded because of parts shortages as a result of US sanctions.

Social

Miankaleh petchem never had environmental permit: Official

Social Desk

In a recent statement, the Director General of the Environmental Assessment Office of Iran's Department of the Environment (DoE), Saeed Karimi, categorically denied the issuance of any environmental permit to Miankaleh petrochemical. He challenged any claimants to produce such a permit, which he said must

Karimi was addressing the the organization's envi-

Despite the convening of the environmental assessment committee three times, the DoE ultimately did not approve the project's implementation. Karimi dismissed any claims of permit issuance as false.

In response, the DoE corre-



come with a signature, hologram, and an embossed seal, IRNA reported.

status of the Miankaleh petrochemical project, which has been under scrutiny since March 2021. The project's environmental assessment report was submitted to the DoE and subsequently reviewed by ronmental assessment office. The project manager was notified of necessary amendments on several occasions.

He further revealed that

the Miankaleh petrochemical project was removed from the agenda after relevant institutions intervened. He reported recent developments indicating the commencement of the project's execution, including fencing around the project area and possible concrete pouring opera-

sponded with the Director



Karimi also referenced a 2020 government resolution on the construction of a propylene park, which may have influenced the investor's decision to launch the project. The DoE has corresponded with the presidency to cancel articles 4 and 5 of this resolu-

project manager and rele-

vant institutions.

The DoE's opposition to the petrochemical project in the Miankaleh area is rooted in the region's ecological sensitivity, which includes a wildlife sanctuary and a wetland. Karimi emphasized that land exploitation should align with a region's ecological potential, as stipulated in the sixth paragraph of the policies announced by the Leader in the field of the environment

Karimi also noted that the project contradicts the province's land development program and the integrated beach management plan. He stressed that the



Regarding the land allocated for the project, Karimi stated that the Land Affairs Organization of Iran provided the land to the investor, but sought to reclaim it after the environmental permit was not issued.

Karimi dismissed claims that the petrochemical plant's construction would create 300 jobs in the region, arguing that other projects, such as tourism, could generate more employment. He also questioned the project's economic justification, given that its product is intended to be transported to Damghan, Semnan Province, by pipeline.

Finally, Karimi warned of the potential environmental damage if the project's required desalination sludge enters the Caspian Sea, a closed ecosystem.

Why Miankaleh petchem should not proceed?

Mehdi Esmaeili Bidhendi, an environmental expert, expressed his concerns about new constructions at Miankaleh petrochemical project, saying, "These projects are primarily caused by a flawed perception of development and progress, rather than a lack of supervision," IMNA

The expert went on to say, "Considering the sensitivity of the environment and the fact that this area is a wildlife sanctuary, Miankaleh petrochemical should not proceed with this project, as it lacks both an environmental permit and violates regulations."

He further added, "The investor's insistence on this petrochemical project is based on the argument of creating employment in this province. However, it is important to note that Mazandaran currently bears the 21st highest unemployment rate in the country. In the province of Mazandaran, 52 percent of the workforce is engaged in the service sector, while 30 percent work in the industry sector. This data underscores the vast potential of this province in the service

Responding to the General Inspection Office of Iran's endorsement of the Miankaleh petrochemical project, the environmental expert raised a valid concern, stating, "If the DoE, which is responsible for this area opposes the implementation of this project, how can the inspection organization claim that there are no issues

NEWS IN BRIEF

There's a link between climate change and shrinking human brain

Science Alert - A new study suggests a link between past climate changes and a drop in the size of the human brain - an adaptive response that emerges in an analysis of climate records and human remains over a 50,000-year period.

The research by cognitive scientist Jeff Morgan Stibel from the Natural History Museum in California adds to our understanding of how humans develop and adapt in response to environmental stress.

"Given recent global warming trends, it is critical to understand the impact of climate change, if any, on human brain size and ultimately human behavior." Stibel writes in his published paper.

The study looked at how the brain size of 298 Homo specimens changed over the last 50,000 years in relation to natural records of global temperature, humidity, and rainfall. When the climate got warmer, the average brain size grew significantly smaller than when it was cooler.

Activists plug holes on 10 Spanish golf courses in water protest



The Guardian - Climate activists in Spain have filled in holes on 10 golf courses to draw attention to the huge amounts of water the "elitist leisure pursuit" uses as a nationwide drought continues in the first heatwave of the

Members of Extinction Rebellion (XR) revealed their latest direct-action campaign in a video released on Sunday, saying they had targeted courses in locations including Madrid, Barcelona, Valencia, the Basque country, Navarra and Ibiza. Footage showed activists plugging holes with soil and planting seedlings alongside signs reading: "Drought alert. Golf course closed for climate justice." In a statement, XR said it had carried out the action to "denounce the wasting of water by golf in the midst of one of the worst droughts in history". It said golf courses in Spain used more water than the cities of Madrid and Barcelona combined, with each hole requiring more than 100,000 liters of water a day to maintain the greens.

Iran to inaugurate second mega-hospital later this week



Social Desk

In a significant stride towards bolstering the nation's healthcare infrastructure, the Minister of Health, Bahram Einollahi, announced the inauguration of the state-of-the-art Ghadir mega-hospital later this week on Friday.

The grand opening, scheduled to coincide with Eid al-Ghadir, will be graced by the presence of the president at the Shohada-e Tairish hospital complex, ISNA

Einollahi elucidated that the establishment of me-

ga-hospitals is a cornerstone of the Ministry of Health's strategic policies. The objective behind these colossal healthcare facilities is to offer patients a comprehensive suite of specialized and sub-specialized medical services under one roof, thereby eliminating the need for multiple visits to different centers.

In line with this approach, the country's second largescale hospital, named Ghadir, will be unveiled by the president at the Shohada-e Tairish hospital complex on the auspicious day of Eid al-Ghadir Kham.

Einollahi, citing the Ministry of Health's announcement, revealed that Ghadir mega-hospital boasts an impressive capacity of 821 beds, 68 emergency beds, and 24 operating rooms. The hospital is fully equipped with all requisite medical apparatuses, ensuring a high standard of patient care. The Minister of Health fur-

ther highlighted that Ghadir mega-hospital is outfitted with a cutting-edge emergency heliport, capable of coordinating with the Civil Aviation Organization and the country's emergency services. This facility will enable swift aerial transportation of patients to the hospital, significantly reducing response times in critical situations.

In a symbolic gesture, the inaugural flight from Ghadir mega-hospital's heliport will take place on the opening day, in collaboration with Tehran medical emergency organization.

Official update on the state of Iran's drought



Social Desk

The Director of Iran's National Center for Climate and Drought Crisis Management, Ahad Vazifeh, has issued a stark warning about the country's escalating drought crisis, citing land subsidence and desertification as key concerns.

Vazifeh revealed that a decade-long analysis of rainfall patterns indicates that Iran has been grappling with a persistent drought, with precipitation levels falling significantly short of the country's requirements, ISNA

The official noted that the majority of the coun-

try's regions failed to receive their expected share of rainfall over the past year. Repercussions of this shortfall, he explained, are still evident in the environment.

Historically, adequate rainfall has facilitated the replenishment of underground water reserves. a process that has been severely disrupted over the past three years due to the ongoing drought. Vazifeh also provided an overview of the country's rainfall patterns over the past year, comparing them to the 30-year average. He highlighted that several provinces,

including northern Fars.

Bushehr, Yazd, western

Isfahan, Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari, Khuzestan, Ilam, Kermanshah, Kordestan, Western Azarbaijan, and Lorestan, have received their long-term average rainfall to a significant extent.

Karimi dismissed

claims that the

petrochemical

construction

would create 300

jobs in the region,

arguing that other

projects, such as

tourism, could

generate more

employment.

plant's

However, he emphasized that some provinces, such as Kohgiluyeh and Bover Ahmad and Bushehr have recorded even more rainfall than the annual average over the past one to three years. The southern region of Sistan and Baluchestan and the eastern part of Hormozgan have also experienced favorable conditions, largely due to torrential rains in July and August.

Iran Culture Week to strengthen cultural bonds with Russia



MEHR - A high-level cultural delegation, led by Iranian Culture Minister Mohammad-Mehdi Esmaeili, arrived in Moscow on Monday, with the aim of developing bilateral cultural relations and participating in the much-anticipated "Iran Culture Week in Russia".

Upon their arrival at Vnukovo International Airport, Minister Esmaeili and his delegation were warmly greeted by Andrei Vladimirovich Malyshev, the **Deputy Minister of Culture** of the Russian Federation, as well as Iran's Ambassador to Russia Kazem Ialali. Iran Culture Week in Russia, set to commence today (July 4), will witness the opening of an exhibition showcasing Iranian art at the prestigious VDNKh exhibition complex in Moscow.

Minister Esmaeili will be joined by Olga Lyubimova, the minister of culture of the Russian Federation, in inaugurating the exhibition. Furthermore, attendees will have the privilege of experiencing a joint performance featuring traditional Iranian music, presented by Iran's National Orchestra and the Russian National Youth Symphony Orchestra. During his stay in Moscow, Minister Esmaeili is scheduled to hold an official meeting with his Russian counterpart. The two ministers will also address a joint press conference, underscoring the significance of cultural cooperation between Iran and Russia.

Minister Esmaeili's itinerary includes several other engaging programs in Moscow, such as meetings with the cultural adviser of the president of the Russian Federation, esteemed Iranologists and Islamic scholars in Russia. Additionally, he will deliver a speech at the Russian State University for the Humanities, and participate in the cultural and media council of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

During his visit to St. Petersburg, Esmaeili will meet with the governor and visit the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences, which houses a collection of precious Iranian manuscripts and artworks registered under UNESCO. He will also explore the Iran section of the renowned State Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg, showcasing the rich cultural heritage of Iran.

Iran Culture Week in Russia is scheduled to take place from July 4 to 9, providing a valuable platform to deepen cultural exchanges and foster stronger bonds between Iran and Russia.

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Isfahan's historical, cultural heritage require global registration

Arts & Culture Desk

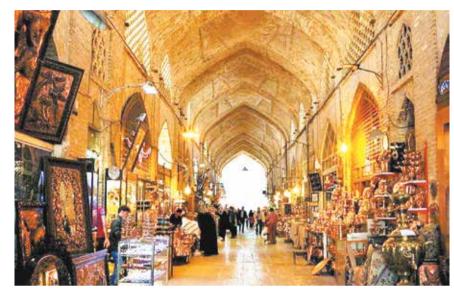
Isfahan Province's Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts, and Tourism Department head emphasized the critical need for global registration of Isfahan's historical and cultural heritage. Highlighting the significance of Isfahan's historical fabric, he stressed that it is the core identity of Iran's oldest city in its modern form. However, attention has predominantly been given to preserving a limited number of historical sites, such as Chehel Sotun and Imam Square.

During a recent ceremony called 'Paternal Heritage,' which honored investors and revitalizers of Isfahan's historical structures and buildings, Alireza Izadi made remarks praising the city's uniqueness.

He expressed admiration for other Iranian cities like Yazd, Shiraz, and Hamedan, but firmly stated that Isfahan stands out, with its exceptionally beautiful and outstanding fabric. Isfahan possesses a distinct artistic quality evident in its structures and monuments.

The provincial official emphasized the philanthropic nature of investors in revitalizing the historical fabric, as they sacrifice their time and efforts to preserve their homeland's cultural and historical values.

However, he questioned



the absence of funding for the restoration and revival of integral parts of Isfahan's identity, such as the Imam Mosque, Jame' Mosque, and Ibn Sina School.

He noted that although some historical sites were previously restored by philanthropists, insufficient education and an economic perspective have deterred today's philanthropists from undertaking such endeavors. Izadi drew attention to the negative impact of road construction in rural areas, leading to the migration of rural residents to cities and urban sprawl. This phenomenon has resulted in the loss of the former charm and

uniqueness of villages. He criticized the prioritization of economic development over cultural cultivation, leading to the neglect of culture and its transformation into a mere commodity. By allowing access to historical fabrics and valuable structures without fostering a proper understanding, ignorance has inadvertently spread among the new generations.

He pointed out that the mention of "culture" is now commonplace in every neighborhood and district when discussing Isfahan's achievements and historical background. However, without acknowledging the grandeur and intricate historical details comprising the city's urban fabric, this word holds no true meaning or significance. Izadi stressed that the current generation is responsible for safeguarding this paternal heritage and must exert efforts to preserve and protect it. He emphasized that Isfahan's integrated fabric, being the sole historically valuable fabric, should serve as the primary model for sustainable cultural development. As narrators of this grand historical city's identity, it is our duty to transmit its history and heritage to future generations. Only through awareness of this legacy can our children defend their own identity.



Iranian film 'Wood' to compete at Russian festival

The short documentary film 'Wood,' helmed by Morteza Payehshenas, has been chosen as a competitor in the ninth edition of the LAMPA Film Festival in Perm, Russia. The festival is scheduled to run from October 3rd to 8th.

Dedicated to the promotion of socially conscious visual content worldwide, the international film festival focuses on themes such as the environment, sustainable development, volunteerism, and charity, with the overarching aim of fostering a better world. Thus far, the festival has received an impressive number of

over 11,000 short films addressing these subjects from 134 countries. Collaboration with the United Nations enables the festival to contribute to the advancement of sustainable development goals.

The international distribution of 'Wood' falls under the purview of the International Unit of the Soureh Cinema Organiztion.

This isn't the first recognition for 'Wood,' as it has already been showcased at the esteemed Très Court International Film Festival in France. Earlier this year. the documentary received an Honorable Mention at the 10th edition of the renowned Best Shorts Competition held in the United States.

Payehshenas has previously worked on notable films such as 'Bullet Rain.' 'An Unfinished Film for My Daughter Somayyeh,' 'One Empty Seat,' and 'Where We Live,' among others.

23 countries set to partake in first Havva Int'l Film Festival

Arts & Culture Desk

The secretariat of the first Havva International Film Festival received submissions from 23 countries.

In total, 350 films have been submitted to the international section of the event, including feature films, documentaries, and short films from the following countries: Italy, Ireland, Kyrgyzstan, Belgium, China, Taiwan, Lebanon, India, Argentina, Turkey, Syria, Macedonia, Russia, Serbia, Denmark, Hungary, Armenia, Lithuania, Austria, Spain, Tajikistan, and others.

Furthermore, the international guests include a group of filmmakers, producers, and cultural and artistic figures from 14 countries, including Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Armenia, Iraq, Switzerland, Bosnia and Herzegovina,



Bangladesh, Tajikistan, China, Mongolia, Italy, Kazakhstan, Russia, and India, who will participate in the film event. Organized by the Goharshad International Foundation and led by Mahdieh Sadaat-Mehvar, the event will be held from July 7 to 14 at the national level and from July 11 to 14 in Tehran this year.

This event focuses on the themes of women and family and collaborates with various cultural centers and organizations in pursuing its activities.