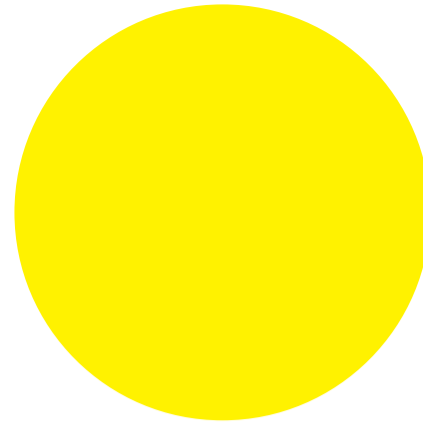




Iran-E3 nuclear talks in progress to overcome misunderstandings: **EM**



39 percent growth in Iran's tourism industry in 2022



Iran Daily

Iran celebrates Eid al-Ghadir



3 >

Foreign patients prefer to receive treatment in Iran than in Europe: **Raeisi**



president.ir

Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi has lauded the Islamic Republic's achievements in the health sector, saying that health tourism in the country has attracted patients from neighboring countries and even Central Asian states who prefer to get medical care in Iran rather than in Europe.

Raeisi made the remarks on Friday as he inaugurated Ghadir Major Hospital in the north of the Iranian capital of Tehran, Press TV reported. He highlighted Iran's status as a hub for health tourism in West Asia, saying that patients from regional countries and even Central Asian states choose to come to the country over Europe for treatment. [Page 2 >](#)

Iran signed \$40b worth of deals in two years: **Minister**

Economy Desk

Iranian oil minister told an international energy meeting that the country has signed some \$40 billion worth of oil and gas contracts with domestic and foreign companies over the past two years. Javad Owji added that Iran has plans to invest some \$250 billion in its massive oil and gas sector until 2031, according to Press TV.

Iran is ready to attract investors in upstream, downstream, and associated petroleum gas (APG) collection projects, he stated.

The minister made the remarks on Wednesday as he was addressing the 8th International Seminar of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in Vienna, Austria.

Owji said Iran's plans to maintain and expand its petroleum facilities have remained unaffected by US sanctions that bar the country's access to foreign investment and technology.

"Today, Iran carries out expansion and repair in its oil and gas refineries without the presence of foreign experts," he said.

Analysts say that US sanctions against Iran, which have been in place since early 2018, have failed to dent the country's ability to expand its massive petroleum industry. [Page 6 >](#)

Historic house in Babol renovated



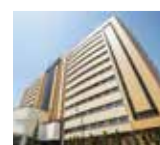
4 >

Volleyball Nations League: Iran beaten by Bulgaria in thrilling five-setter



5 >

Ghadir Hospital: Symbol of Iran's prominent health sector



7 >

Fireworks explode next to Milad Tower on July 6, 2023, on the eve of Eid al-Ghadir which marks the day when Imam Ali (عليه السلام), the first Imam of the Shia, was appointed as the successor to Prophet Muhammad (صلى الله عليه وآله وسلم).

MEHDI BOLOURIAN/IRNA

Iran slams Ukraine at JCPOA meeting



Iran's UN ambassador has denounced the presence of the Ukrainian envoy in a Security Council meeting on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and the implementation of the 2015 Iran deal, lambasting the move as unconstructive and a suspicious attempt to divert attention from the main issue. "We strongly object to the Presidency of the Council extending an invitation to a member state that has no direct or indirect relevance to the agenda item of this meeting. We perceive this action as neither constructive nor in good faith. Instead, it appears to be a cynical attempt to divert attention from the pressing matter at hand – the implementation of the JCPOA – and the failure of certain Western parties to fulfill their obligations under the agreement," Amir Saied Iravani said as he addressed the UNSC session on "Non-Proliferation: Implementation of Security Council Resolution 2231 (2015)," Press TV reported. He underscored that the Security Council meeting and Resolution 2231 have no connection whatsoever to the conflict in Ukraine.

"The invitation extended to the representative of Ukraine [Sergiy Kyslytsya] for this meeting represents an abuse of the process and a misuse of the Council's presidency, serving the political agendas of certain states. Moreover, this action flagrantly contradicts established practices of the Council and its provisional rules of procedure and runs counter to the principles outlined in the UN Charter," the Iranian diplomat said.

Foreign patients ...

This is because of the lower costs and high expertise available in Iran, Raeisi said. A large, modern, and well-equipped center that meets international standards, Ghadir Hospital has an area of 62,000 square meters, divided into five blocks and 13 floors. It can accommodate 821 patients in different departments, such as smart operating rooms, CCU, NICU, ICU, LDR delivery, and emergency. The hospital has been equipped with the latest technologies in the world to provide high-quality care. It has been described as one of the leading hospitals in West Asia. Iran's success in becoming a prominent destination for health tourism can be attributed to its well-established health care infrastructure, highly skilled medical professionals, and advanced medical facilities.

Iran-E3 nuclear talks in progress to overcome misunderstandings: FM



International Desk

Iran and the European troika have launched negotiations since several weeks ago to clear up misunderstandings and move towards cooperation, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said in an interview with China's Phoenix Television in Tehran. "Iran has begun negotia-

tions with Germany, France and the UK for weeks. These negotiations started in Norway and have continued until recently in Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates," Tasnim news agency quoted Amir-Abdollahian as saying. He made the remarks when asked if Iran and the US are involved in indirect negotiations despite the tensions in Tehran's relations with

the West. In an interview with Phoenix China Network, the foreign minister discussed the most important regional and international issues, including Iran's membership in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, relations with China, and sanctions-lifting negotiations. During the interview, Amir-Abdollahian high-

lighted Iran's diplomatic efforts to have the sanctions lifted.

He said the purpose of the talks between Iran and the European troika is to find a way to "overcome the misunderstandings" and enable Iran and the E3 to take the path to "better interaction and cooperation". "However, our relations with the European Union and with the bulk of Europe are normal and progressive," he added. In 2018, the US left the 2015 nuclear deal, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and re-imposed the sanctions that it had lifted. Bowing under American pressure, Washington's Western allies, including the UK, then started toeing the US's sanction line closely and stopped their trade activities with Tehran.

UK diplomat summoned
On Thursday, UK's ambassador to the UN, Barbara Woodward, accused Iran of violating the UNSC Resolution 2231, which endorses the JCPOA. Iran summoned the UK's chargé d'affaires to Tehran to the Foreign Ministry

over the British ambassador's "destructive and interventionist" remarks about the Islamic Republic. Isabelle Marsh was summoned by the Foreign Ministry's director-general for Western Europe hours after Woodward addressed the United Nations Security Council faulting Iran's peaceful nuclear energy work.

Woodward faulted a set of retaliatory steps that the Islamic Republic has been taking, without mentioning the Western countries' violations of the deal that have prompted the Islamic Republic's reprisal. Iran has said it would only reverse its reprisal if the US and the E3 resumed their commitments to the JCPOA.

Informing the British chargé d'affaires about Iran's protest at the envoy's remarks, the Iranian Foreign Ministry official strongly denounced them as meddlesome accusations.

He advised the British authorities "to refrain from walking into traps that are laid by the Zionist regime [of Israel] and terrorist groups."

Iran, Sudan look to restore diplomatic ties after seven years

Iran and Sudan said on Thursday they were planning to restore ties after the Iranian foreign minister met his acting Sudanese counterpart for the first time since diplomatic relations between the two countries were severed seven years ago.

Sudan's Foreign Ministry said in a statement that the meeting, on the sidelines of a Non-Aligned Movement meeting in Azerbaijan's capital Baku, had discussed restoring relations "as soon as possible," according to Reuters.

Sudan's Acting Foreign Minister, Ali Sadeq, also thanked Iran for supplying humanitarian aid through the Iranian Crescent during the conflict between Sudan's Army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, which, according to the UN has displaced nearly three million people internally and across borders in less than three months. In addition to the more than 2.2 million internally displaced persons, nearly 700,000 others have fled into neighboring coun-

tries. Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian tweeted: "Our delegation met with the Sudanese foreign minister and discussed how to imminently resume diplomatic ties between Khartoum and Tehran." "In this meeting, talks were directed at resolving misunderstandings between the two countries and strengthening the political and economic relations between Tehran and Khartoum." Sudan followed Saudi Ara-



bia's decision by severing diplomatic relations with Iran on January 4, 2016, after Iranian protesters, enraged by the execution of prominent Shia cleric Sheikh Nimr Baqir al-Nimr by the Saudi government, stormed its diplomatic mission in Iran. Saudi Arabia and Iran agreed to resume ties in

March under a deal negotiated by China, raising expectations that Tehran and other Arab countries would fully re-establish diplomatic relations. Sudan's Sadeq was quoted as saying the deal between Saudi Arabia and Iran would enhance security and stability in the region and the Islamic world.

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian (R) shakes hands with Sudan's Acting Foreign Minister Ali Sadeq on the sidelines of a Non-Aligned Movement meeting in Azerbaijan's capital Baku, on July 6, 2023.
mfa.gov.ir



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Iran says it had court order to seize Chevron tanker

Iran said a tanker owned by US energy company Chevron damaged an Iranian vessel in the Persian Gulf. Iran's maritime authority says it is seeking to confiscate a tanker owned by US energy company Chevron that damaged an Iranian vessel in the Persian Gulf on July 5 before illegally re-routing to territorial waters of Oman, Press TV reported. Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) said in a Thursday statement that the Richmond Voyager had ignored basic international maritime laws by escaping

the scene of collision with an Iranian vessel after an incident that occurred in international waters in southern Iran. The statement said five people had been seriously injured in the collision between the Bahamas-flagged tanker and the Iranian ship, which was carrying seven crew members when the incident took place. It added that the incident had caused flooding on board the Iranian vessel. The PMO said the Iranian Navy forces then sought to seize the ship based on a

court order and upon a request by the owner of the damaged ship. "The ship rerouted and entered the territorial waters of Oman without heeding warnings and alarms issued by the Iranian Navy," it said, adding that Iran has informed Omani authorities of the case and will continue efforts to confiscate the ship because of its violation of international maritime laws. The statement came a day after the US Navy said it had sent its guided-missile destroyer USS McFaul to prevent Iran from seizing the Richmond Voyager. The PMO did not mention the involvement of US Navy forces in the incident.

39 percent growth in Iran's tourism industry in 2022

Foreign tourists bring in \$6.2 billion in revenue

Arts & Culture Desk

The World Travel and Tourism Council has reported a 39.2 percent growth in Iran's tourism industry in 2022, with the industry's value reaching 454 trillion Iranian rials (one billion dollars).

It has also announced that foreign tourists spent \$6.2 billion in Iran during the same year.

According to IRNA, the World Travel and Tourism Council has revealed a 22 percent growth in the tourism industry's share of global GDP in 2022. This industry managed to capture 7.6 percent of the world's GDP in the same year. In 2020, due to COVID-19 restrictions, the global tourism industry faced a significant decline of 50.4 percent in its share of the global economy, resulting in a reduction of \$4.9 trillion in its value. However, in 2021, with the easing of COVID-19 restrictions, the industry experienced a growth of 21.7 percent, and in 2022, it witnessed a 22 percent growth in its contribution to the global economy, reaching an increased val-

ue of \$7.7 trillion.

During the previous calendar year, the tourism industry created 22 million new jobs worldwide, reflecting a 7.9 percent growth compared to the previous year. The number of people employed in this industry reached 295 million, accounting for 9 percent of global employment.

Domestic tourists' expenditures had a growth rate of 20.4 percent, while foreign tourists spent 81.9 percent more compared to the previous year.

Based on this report, we have witnessed the revival of Iran's tourism industry in the past two years. While in 2020, Iran's tourism industry faced a 45 percent decline in its contribution to the country's GDP, in 2021, it experienced a 40 percent growth in its share. According to the latest statistics from the World Travel and Tourism Council, the share of the tourism industry in Iran's overall economy also increased by 39.2 percent in 2022, reaching 4.6 percent of Iran's total GDP.

With the flourishing of tourism, the employment rate in this industry in



Iran witnessed an 11.2 percent growth in 2022, and the number of people employed in this sector increased to 1.44 million. Consequently, the tourism industry's share of total employment in Iran reached 6.1 percent in 2022.

The statistics show that foreign tourists spent \$6.2 billion in Iran during 2022,

reflecting a growth rate of 73.5 percent compared to the previous year. Domestic tourists in Iran also spent over 316 trillion Iranian rials (632 million dollars) in 2022, showing a growth rate of 40.1 percent compared to the previous year. According to this report, out of all the tourist visits to Iran in 2022, 97.9 percent were for recreational

purposes, while 2.1 percent were for business purposes.

Among all foreign tourists who entered Iran in 2022, 55 percent were from Iraq, followed by tourists from the Republic of Azerbaijan and Turkey, each accounting for 6 percent, Pakistan with 5 percent, and Kuwait with 2 percent, respectively.

Iran celebrates Eid al-Ghadir



In commemoration of Eid al-Ghadir, a festive celebration spanning a remarkable 10 kilometers took place on Friday, encompassing Imam Hussein Square and Azadi Square. The Tehran Municipality took the initiative to adorn the streets by illuminating the squares, adorning them with decorative elements, and casting a vibrant glow on the alleyways and thoroughfares. The event was designed to captivate the senses and create a lively atmosphere for all attendees.

A diverse array of cultural, artistic, and entertaining programs were organized to enrich the festivities. As a gesture of hospitality, food and drinks were generously distributed among the guests, all of whom were ordinary citizens. The organizers aimed to ensure that every member of the community could participate and indulge in the festivities.

The event featured a wide range of enjoyable activities suitable for all age groups, fostering a joyous atmosphere that allowed families to spend quality time together on the bustling streets. One particularly enticing attraction was the construction of an extensive amusement park that stretched along the carnival route. Remarkably, the dedicated lane of the Bus Rapid Transit system along this 10-kilometer path was transformed into a playground, creating the longest amusement park experience for children on Eid al-Ghadir. This innovative concept aimed to provide Iranian families with an enticing and unforgettable adventure.

However, the 10-kilometer amusement park was not the sole source of entertainment for children during this event. Along the way, numerous booths and stations were set up to offer children their favorite activities, including painting and group play.

Between the two main squares of the Iranian capital, approximately 300 tents and special stands, known as Moukebs in Arabic, were erected. These designated areas added to the festive ambiance, providing spaces for various cultural and religious activities.

Eid al-Ghadir holds significant importance as a unifying event for the Islamic nation. It marks the day when Imam Ali (PBUH), the first Imam of the Shia, was appointed as the successor to Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). This celebration serves as a reminder of the spiritual heritage and unity within the Islamic community.

Iran's music gets kudos in Russia



Arts & Culture Desk

The Iran's National Orchestra and the Russian National Youth Symphony Orchestra performed their second joint concert as part of the Iran Culture Week program in St. Petersburg, Russia, which was met with a passionate reception and applause from culture and art enthusiasts in the city.

According to IRNA, the ceremony took place on Thursday at the Kapella Hall in St. Petersburg, in the presence of Mohammad-Mehdi Esmaeili, the Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance, and his accompanying delegation. During the ceremony, Iranian minister expressed his gratitude for the hospitality extended by the federal government and the Ministry of Culture of Russia, appreciating the days dedicated to Iranian

culture in Moscow and St. Petersburg.

He stated, "We, as representatives of a 7,000-old culture and civilization, have come to Russia, a culture and civilization of great significance that its artists and intellectuals have made significant contributions to humanity."

In this ceremony, Iranian and Russian artists performed authentic pieces of music from Iran. The program was carried out in collaboration between the National Orchestra of Iran and the Russian National Youth Symphony Orchestra, which was well-received by the audience in attendance.

During this concert, 19 Iranian musicians and 16 Russian musicians performed authentic Iranian music using traditional instruments such as the *qanun*, *tar*, *ney*, and *tombak*. Arash Amini, the conduc-

tor of the orchestra, and Amirhossein Samei, a vocalist, also performed some pieces during the concert.

The event was attended by the Vice Chairman of the Cultural Commission of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Russia, two deputies, as well as the advisor to the Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance.

Prior to this, the group had performed music in the presence of the Ministers of Culture of both countries on Wednesday at the Mali Theater in Moscow.

Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance, on July 3, traveled to Moscow with the aim of developing bilateral relations and participating in the cultural ceremonies of Iran Culture Week in Russia.



Iran section is the "jewel" of Hermitage Museum: Director

Arts & Culture Desk

The director of the renowned Hermitage Museum in Saint Petersburg, Russia, has bestowed high praise upon the Iran section, referring to it as "the jewel" of the museum.

Mohammad Mehdi Esmaeili, the Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance of Iran, paid a visit to the State Hermitage Museum as part of the programs of Iran Culture Week in Russia, with a particular focus on exploring the Iran section housed within the museum's grand halls.

Accompanied by officials such as the vice-chairman of the cultural committee of the Iranian parliament, Iran's ambassador to Russia, and the cultural attaché, Minister Esmaeili had the opportunity to tour various sections of the museum. During this visit, an enlightening meeting took place between the minister and the director of the State Hermitage Museum, Mikhail Piotrovsky.

Director Piotrovsky emphasized that the Hermitage Museum proudly showcases a vast collection of artifacts representing different historical periods of Iran. He went on to bestow the title of "jewel" upon the Iran section, highlighting its significance and magnificence within the museum's overall collection. Additionally, he expressed his satisfaction with the flourishing cultural exchanges and collaborations between the Hermitage Museum and its counterparts in Iran, emphasizing the positive trajectory of relations between the two nations.

In response, Minister Esmaeili warmly welcomed Director Piotrovsky's proposal for further expanding cooperation. The discussions encompassed various pertinent matters, reflecting the mutual commitment to strengthening ties and fostering cultural dialogue between Iran and Russia.

Historic house in Babol renovated



IRNA



IRNA



google.com

Iranica Desk

The Historic House of Aghajan Nasab in northern Iran has been renovated through the efforts of

President Ebrahim Raeisi's government.

The mansion is located in the city of Babol, in Mazandaran Province. The late Qajar-era (1789-1925) building is among the greatest monuments of the province and was inscribed on the National Heritage List in June 2000.

The Organization of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts purchased the house in 1999. This house has 13 rooms and four courtyards. It is now being used as a cultural and tourism center.

The renovated house displays the style of art and architecture of the Qajar era with special splendor and elegance.

The beautiful ponds in the courtyards of this historic building and its Qajar-era architecture have created a relaxing environment.

The statues of Mazandaran's famous people in the fields of politics, culture and art have been installed in the house, which adds to its glory.

The investor of the Aghajan Nasab House is Komeil Barari, who said that nearly \$700,000 have been spent on restoring the historic mansion.

Barari said he has been granted a 25-year lease in return for his investment in renovating and restoring the historic building.

He added that the renovation of the house has generated 40 direct jobs and 120 indirect jobs.

Preserving historical monuments

An author and researcher in the field of historic buildings hailed the renovation of Aghajan Nasab House as valuable.

Samad Saleh told IRNA about the private sector's role in preserving such monuments.

"Presently, investment by the private sector is the best option for preserving historic sites," he said. The researcher called for encouraging and supporting investors to invest in restoring historic sites.

Babol has more than 200 historical and cultural heritage sites in Mazandaran Province, which has the largest number of such monuments. These include historic houses, bridges, baths and burial sites.

Babol is located approximately 20 kilometers south of the Caspian Sea. It borders the cities of Babol-sar and Fereydunkenar to the north, Qaemshahr and Shirgah to the east, Savadkooch to the south-east, Firuzkooch to the South, and Amol to the west.

Literary return

The idea of 'literary return' was given its name, and most prominently formulated, by the poet and literary historian Muhammad Taqi Bahar (died in 1951) in the early part of the twentieth century. Starting in the 1930s, Bahar began articulating some of the characteristics of 'literary return' and, alongside it, developed his criteria for evaluating 'good' poetry. But it was most notably in his groundbreaking work 'Stylistics or the History of Evolution of Persian Writing' that Bahar devised a schematic for understanding Persian literary history by dividing its evolution into four distinct categories, which included 'literary return'. About a decade prior to the appearance of 'Stylistics' in the 1940s, Reza-Zadah Shafaq began articulating an idea of 'literary return' as well, but had not yet narrativised and periodised the movement in any orderly fashion as his contemporary Bahar would. While Bahar built upon the earlier work of biographical anthologists in this endeavor, he is nonetheless the first individual to give a concrete historiographical voice to the idea of 'literary return' as a distinct period and movement in Persian literary history. Like any good literary historian, Bahar leveraged the messier details of poets'

lives, relationships and verse from earlier texts to create a macroscopic vision of the evolution of Persian literature. It was as much an effort to shape a narrative of Persian literature's development as it was indicative of a break from the older model of biographical anthologies, which had dominated Persian literary history writing for several centuries.

Bahar's work was emblematic of the more en vogue form of temporalising literary history into distinct periods, rather than simply recording the work and lives of individual poets.

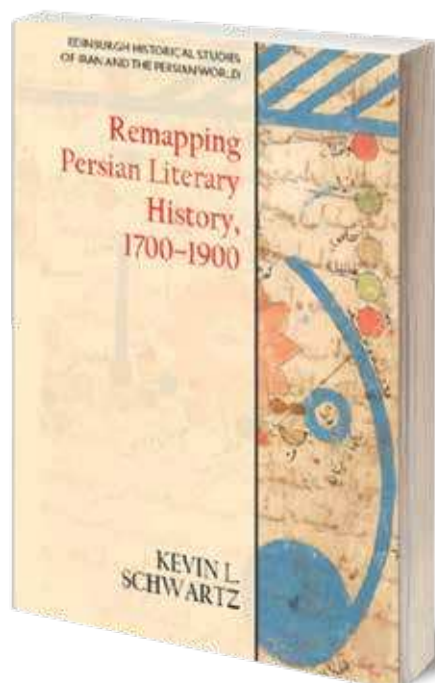
Bahar understood the evolution of Persian literature as unfolding according to four distinct categories. Each category constituted a different school or style of poetry, maintained its own special characteristics and roughly corresponded to a different period in history. The Khorasani style, dominant from the ninth to the thirteenth century, was primarily defined by the ode (*qasideh*) performed for patrons in a courtly setting. The theme of naturalism, battlefield triumphs, grand feasts, hunting and royal merry-making predominated. The 'Iraqi style, which prevailed from the thirteenth to the fifteenth century,



Muhammad Taqi Bahar

marked a shift from a gaze dedicated to recording worldly splendour to one more inward-looking and mystically inclined. This shift in the zeitgeist of Persian poetic practice is seen as resulting from the chaos and destruction wrought by the Mongol invasions and the desire to explain an existence impacted by cataclysmic tumult. The dominant form of this period was no longer the ode but the lyric (*ghazal*), which served as a more suitable means of expressing the period's themes. The lyric continued its domi-

nance during the heyday of the so-called 'Indian Style' (*sabk-e Hindi*) from the fifteenth to the eighteenth century. Challenging metaphors, literary acrobatics, wordplays, puzzles and all types of mannerisms defined its highly intellectualised style. The final category is 'literary return', which was active in Iran in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The essence of the style and movement, according to Bahar, was that it sought a 'return' to the simpler models of the Khorasani ode and 'Iraqi lyric of centuries past.



The above is a lightly edited version of part of a chapter, 'Persian Literary Historiography of the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries', from a book entitled, 'Remapping Persian Literary History, 1700-1900', written by Kevin L. Schwartz, published by Edinburgh University Press.

Volleyball Nations League: Iran beaten by Bulgaria in thrilling five-setter



◀ Bulgarian outside-hitter Asparuh Asparuhov (8) hits a spike during a 3-2 victory over Iran in Week 3 of the Volleyball Nations League in Anaheim, CA, US, on July 6, 2023.
● FIVB

Sports Desk

Bulgaria came from behind twice to beat Iran in a five-set thriller (21-25, 25-21, 22-25, 25-22, 15-11) in Week 3 of the Volleyball Nations League in Anaheim, California, on Thursday. An eighth defeat in 10 outings means Iran will surely miss out on a place in the

VNL Finals, having progressed to the quarterfinals last year. Bulgarian Asparuh Asparuhov stole the show for the European side with a game-high 23 points, while his fellow outside-hitter Martin Atanasov chipped in 18 – including a couple of aces. Opposite spiker Ali Hajipour topped the scoring

for Iran with 17 points – three aces – followed by team captain Seyyed Mohammad Mousavi, (13 points, seven blocks), and Morteza Sharifi, who finished on 10 points. Iran was again without head coach Behrouz Ataei as well as prolific opposite Amin Esmailnejad, first-choice setter Mohammad-Taher

Vadi, and Arman Salehi – after all four were denied an entry visa by the US Embassy in Ankara. The FIVB Board of Administration's official announcement on Thursday – in the face of the United States' controversial decision – confirmed that "no ranking points will be applied to Iran nor their op-

ponents" during the final week of the preliminary round. Teams' status in the FIVB Men's World Ranking will play a decisive part in the qualification process for next year's Paris Olympics. Having suffered a straight-set defeat against reigning Olympic champion France in the final-week opener,

Iran will take on Argentina tonight before finishing its VNL campaign against Cuba a day later. Iran got off to a disappointing start in this year's event, falling to a 3-0 defeat against Asian rival Japan on the first day of Week 1 in Nagoya, before giving away a two-set lead to leave the court empty-handed against Poland. Ataei's men then bounced back to beat China in four sets but finished the visit to Japan with a straight-set loss to Slovenia. The second week started with a 3-0 victory over Germany for Iran, before straight-set defeats against reigning world champion Italy and USA – last year's VNL runner-up – were followed by a 3-2 loss to the Netherlands in Rotterdam. Elsewhere in Pool 5, Argentina eased to victory over Germany in three sets (25-23, 25-18, 25-17), while Serbia rallied past Cuba in five sets (19-25, 25-23, 25-21, 22-25, 15-11). The top seven of the 16-team table will join host Poland in the VNL Finals – starting with the last-eight round on July 19 in Gdansk.

Iran's men, women into Asian para volleyball finals



● MNA

Sports Desk

Iranian men's and women's team will be looking to secure double titles for the country in the ParaVolley Asia Oceania Zone Championships when playing in today's final showdowns in Astana, Kazakhstan. Iranian men's team came out on top in straight sets (25-10, 25-7, 25-15) against Iraq on Thursday and will be chasing a ninth Asian crown against the host today. The winner of the competition will be handed a berth in next year's Paralympic Games in Paris, though Hadi Rezaei's men – a record eight-time Paralympic gold medalist – have already booked their tickets for the French capital as the reigning world champions, meaning Kazakhstan will join the sitting volleyball powerhouse in the Games, no matter what the outcome of today's contest. In the women's event, Iran also eased to victory in three sets (25-16, 25-7, 25-12) against Japan and will square off against China for the ultimate prize.

Joshua-Whyte rematch agreed for 12 August in London

Heavyweight Anthony Joshua will face fellow Briton Dillian Whyte at London's O2 Arena on 12 August in a rematch of their 2015 bout. Joshua, 33, knocked out Whyte in the seventh round of their heated British title fight eight years ago, which also took place at the O2, avenging a loss to his rival in the amateurs. Olympic gold medallist Joshua went on to become a two-time world champion. Whyte, 36, lost his only world title challenge to Tyson Fury in 2022. "I've been clear that my plan is to be active this

year," said Joshua. "August 12 is the date – I'll be ready to fight. I look forward to dealing with business." Whyte beat Joshua by decision as an amateur in 2009, forming the basis of their bitter rivalry. Joshua gained revenge when the pair met again as professionals in December 2015. 'AJ' was rocked in the second round but recovered to force a stoppage in the seventh. "I'm looking forward to returning to the London O2 on August 12 and going to war," said Whyte. "It's 1-1, so this is the decider." Joshua beat American Jer-



● PA

maine Franklin on points in April, his first win in more than two years, having lost consecutive bouts to WBA (Super), IBF and

WBO world champion Oleksandr Usyk. The Londoner – who has won 25 fights and lost three – turned profession-

al after winning gold at London 2012. He won a world title in his 16th fight, but suffered his first professional loss in a shock stoppage defeat by Andy Ruiz Jr at Madison Square Garden in June 2019, before reclaiming his unified titles on points in the rematch six months later. Joshua is expected to face former world champion Deontay Wilder in December in Saudi Arabia, with a deal reportedly close to being agreed. It is understood he wanted a second fight under the tutelage of trainer Der-

rick James before taking on hard-hitting American Wilder. After weeks of negotiations, and Joshua and promoter Eddie Hearn accepting Whyte's request to remove a rematch clause, the fight has been agreed. "I can't quite believe this fight is happening and there was absolutely no stopping either man," Hearn said. "The rivalry runs deep and there is something about these two where they will never back down from each other. "It is an absolute must-win for both. Get ready for fireworks."

Iran eyeing world handball U20 berth against Kazakhstan



● MNA

Sports Desk

A place in next year's World Championships will be up for grabs when Iran takes on Kazakhstan at the Asian Women's Junior (U20) Handball Championship in Hong Kong today. Iranian girls marched to a 45-16 victory over the host on Friday to book a spot in the fifth-place matchup against Kazakhstan, which defeated fellow Central Asian opponent Uzbekistan 34-28 earlier in the day. Iran defeated Uzbekistan (37-36) and India (39-31) and suffered defeats against China (23-29) and the Chinese Taipei (18-28) to finish third to the latter two in Group B of the competition. South Korea progressed to the semifinals – thanks to a clean sweep of four victories in Group A – followed by Japan. The top five of the tournament will qualify for 24th IHF Women's Junior (U20) Handball World Championship, to be held in North Macedonia from June 19-30, 2024.

Hamilton backs peaceful Just Stop Oil protest at British Grand Prix

THE GUARDIAN – Lewis Hamilton has said he would support a peaceful protest by the Just Stop Oil group at this weekend's British Grand Prix. Environmental activists are targeting sporting events and are expected to take action at Silverstone and the seven-time world champion, who has expressed sympathy with their cause in the past, believed they had a valid point to make. On Wednesday, campaigners disrupted two matches

at Wimbledon and also did so on the first day of the Lord's Ashes Test. The organisers of the British Grand Prix have already said they are planning the weekend with the expectation of disruption. However, while Hamilton was unequivocal in stating that protesters should not climb on to the track or endanger lives, he did support their right to make a point about the climate emergency. When asked if he would agree with a protest at the race not involv-

ing invading the track, he said: "Yes. I support peaceful protests." He has expressed concern about the climate emergency in the past and has been working actively with his Mercedes team to address issues of sustainability and attempting to minimise the environmental impact the team makes by participating in F1. At Silverstone, Hamilton was clear he supported the cause Just Stop Oil were promoting but did emphasise they should

make their point without endangering lives by climbing on to the track. "From my perspective, and my team's perspective, we are focused on sustainability and we believe in what people [the protesters] are fighting for and we are making those changes as a sport," he said. "But safety is key. We don't want to put them in harm's way and we don't want to put anyone else in harm's way. If there was to be one [a protest] we hope it is not on track."



● GETTY IMAGES

NEWS IN BRIEF

US denies
'winner-take-all'
race with China

AFP – US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen told Chinese Premier Li Qiang on Friday that the United States is not seeking a “winner-take-all” competition in a visit to Beijing aimed at stabilising freight ties.

“We seek healthy economic competition that is not winner-take-all but that, with a fair set of rules, can benefit both countries over time,” she told Li at Beijing’s Great Hall of the People.

90% of newly
unemployed
US workers
are Black

● GETTY IMAGES

BLOOMBERG – The unemployment rate for African Americans jumped for a second straight month in June as workers left the workforce amid early signs of a cooling labor market.

That cooling has been uneven: The number of unemployed African Americans has increased by 267,000 since April, meaning they account for close to 90% of the 300,000 increase in overall joblessness during that period.

Samsung
flags 96
percent drop
in profit

AL JAZEERA – Samsung Electronics has reported a likely 96 percent plunge in second-quarter operating profit, largely in line with forecasts, as an ongoing chip glut drives large losses in the tech giant’s key business despite a supply cut.

The world’s largest memory chip and smartphone maker on Friday estimated operating profit fell to 600 billion won (\$458m) from April to June, down from 14.1 trillion won (\$10.8bn) a year earlier in a short preliminary earnings statement.

It would be Samsung’s lowest profit for any quarter since a 590 billion won (\$451m) profit in the first quarter of 2009, according to company data.

Iran opens key road
between Tehran, Caspian Sea

Economy Desk

Iran has opened another section of a costly road project that connects the capital Tehran to the Caspian Sea in the north of the country.

President Ebrahim Raeisi and senior government officials were in the mountainous regions in the north of Tehran on Thursday to inaugurate a single traffic line from the second section of the Tehran-Shomal Highway, Press TV reported.

The 15-kilometer road cost 67 trillion rials (\$134 million) and more than three years to finish. It has 17 tunnels and bridges, including the longest road tunnel in the West Asia region with a length of 6.5 kilometers.

The newly-opened highway will shorten the road between Tehran and the city of Chalus on the Caspian Sea coast by 62 kilometers. With its opening, the traffic from the section of the freeway will be directed from the end of the Azadegan Highway in District 22 of Tehran to Zanguleh Bridge in Mazandaran.

Enumerating the bene-



fits and advantages of this freeway project for the people, Raeisi stated that the freeway will address the safety of travel and the health of passengers, which is one of the most important concerns of the people, officials, and various foreign and domestic institutions, according to president.ir. The president emphasized,

“The implementation of the third section of this freeway has started today, and we hope that this phase will be built with the same precision and speed as the second section of the freeway”.

On Thursday, Raeisi ordered the start of construction work for section 3 of the highway, a complicated

project which is estimated to cost 420 trillion rials (\$840 million) and will feature 44 tunnels and 44 bridges along its 54-kilometer route.

The third section of the Tehran-North Freeway is approximately 54km long. The most important feature of this section is that it begins at an altitude of

2,200 meters above sea level and ends at an altitude of about zero above sea level, making this project one of the most special road construction projects in the country.

The total length of the Tehran-North Freeway is 121 km, three out of four sections of which have been put into operation.

Iran signed \$40b worth ...



Iranian Oil Minister Javad Owji (L) addresses a panel during the 8th International Seminar of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in Vienna, Austria, on July 5, 2023. ● SHANA

They believe a major expansion in the Iranian natural gas sector in recent years has compensated for the relatively low levels of production and exports of crude oil in the country.

Iran is currently producing some 3.8 million barrels

per day (bpd) of crude oil and more than one billion cubic meters per day of natural gas. The country has some 10 active oil refineries and 21 natural gas refineries while it also counts on massive hard currency revenues from its petrochemicals sector.

Old and new oil deals
under review

Iranian Oil Minister Javad Owji met with several of his counterparts in the region on the sidelines of the Vienna OPEC conference on Wednesday and Thursday and reviewed oil cooperation.

The most important bilateral meeting of Owji was with his Saudi counterpart Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman, with the aim of discussing the future outlook for crude oil prices

and the possibility of joint investments in the oil and gas industry, IRNA reported.

The two ministers held intense discussions on Wednesday, the first day of the conference. Owji and Bin Salman also discussed the development of shared fields.

The two major oil-producing countries agreed in March to restore their relations after seven years. On Wednesday, the Emirati Minister of Energy Suhail Al Mazrouei also stressed the need for Iran and the UAE to improve their oil and gas cooperation on various issues such as crude oil, natural gas, petroleum products, and petrochemicals.

Javad Owji and his Iraqi counterpart Hayan Abdulghani reviewed oil co-

operation, as well as oil and gas exchanges. They also explored joint investments and the development of shared oil fields and held talks on the exports of Iran’s techno-engineering services to Iraq. In another Thursday meeting in Vienna, Iran’s Oil Minister Javad Owji and Egyptian Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Tarek El Molla exchanged views on the energy market and trade, as well as bilateral cooperation in energy, oil, and petrochemical sectors.

Export of technical and engineering services, particularly gas technology and the know-how to manufacture bi-fuel vehicles, was the other subject that Owji and his Egyptian counterpart discussed, Shana news agency reported.

The meeting was held as Iran and Egypt are rebuilding their diplomatic relations after decades-long severance, and the political rapprochement is paving the way for Tehran-Cairo cooperation in the oil and gas sectors. The terms and conditions of Iran’s new oil contracts are aimed at attracting investors, said the minister, adding that based on new oil contracts, investors use revenues earned by selling products of hydrocarbon fields. “Some countries, including Russia, and even oil companies of neighboring states have welcomed such contracts.” New oil contracts have been drawn up in a way to give a return on investment (ROI) in the shortest amount of time possible, he said.

MP: Iran won’t back down on Arash gas field

An Iranian lawmaker says the country will not back down on pursuing its right in the Arash natural gas field, which is shared with Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, amid a dispute between Tehran and its two Persian Gulf neighbors over the case.

Mostafa Nakhaei, who chairs the Iranian Parliament’s Energy Committee, said no Iranian official has the right to compromise on Iran’s national rights

in the Arash gas field, IFP wrote.

“The field belongs to the entire nation, this generation and the next ones,” he said.

“We have differences [with Saudi Arabia and Kuwait] over the Arash gas field, which we have to resolve through negotiations in a diplomatic framework in the first step. If the negotiations do not reach a conclusion for any reason, we will

pursue it in a specific legal framework with the presence of international institutions,” he added.

The comments came days after Kuwait and Saudi Arabia rejected Iran’s partial ownership of the gas field.

Saudi media cited an informed source in the Saudi Ministry of Foreign Affairs as saying that the field, known as “Al-Durra” in Riyadh and Kuwait City, is jointly owned by Saudi



Arabia and Kuwait “only, and they alone have full sovereign rights to exploit the wealth in that region.” The Arash natural gas field

is located in the waters of the Persian Gulf off the coast of Kuwait and holds an estimated 20 trillion cubic feet of gas reserves.

Ghadir Hospital: Symbol of Iran's prominent health sector

Social Desk

The newly inaugurated Ghadir Hospital, equipped with state-of-the-art medical facilities and specializing in trauma and neurology, is poised to become a regional health leader, according to its director, Pouria Shojaei.

The hospital aims to cater to the medical needs of patients across the country and attract foreign patients for medical tourism, IRNA reported.

The hospital's inauguration comes as part of the current administration's initiative to complete half-finished projects, with the president emphasizing the importance of this endeavor.

The project, supported by the authorities and executed with relentless diligence, cost nearly \$50 million and was inaugurated in the presence of the President and the Minister of Health, Treatment, and Medical Education.

Shojaei stated that Ghadir Hospital is a significant addition to the Shohada-e Tajrish Medical Center.

The hospital was completed and equipped to increase patient acceptance and service provision, given the daily influx of thousands of people from different regions seeking medical services.

The 821-bed Ghadir Hospital boasts smart operating rooms, specialized departments such as ICU, NICU, CCU, a delivery department, an advanced emergency department equipped with an aerial heliport, brain angiography, imaging, dialysis, physiotherapy, specialized clinics, and inpatient departments for women, men, and children. The hospital also performs live surgeries through organ donation and has the capacity to accept accident victims via the air heliport, a unique feature in the region.

Shojaei noted that Ghadir Hospital could admit patients from neighboring provinces of Tehran Province in the fields of neurosurgery, vascular surgery, and trauma. The hospital is equipped to compensate for deficiencies in Tehran,

especially in the northeast of the capital, and serve patients nationwide.

Ghadir Hospital, the trauma center in the north of the country, has one of the largest emergency rooms in the country with 68 beds. It is staffed by hundreds of internal professors, specialists, subspecialists, and university staff members, enabling it to accept and treat elective and non-emergency surgeries from all over the country.

Shojaei emphasized that the new hospital, equipped with the facilities of a large hospital, serves the people with government tariffs. The hospital has contracts with insurance companies and, due to its advanced facilities, can provide excellent services at the level of large regional hospitals.

The hospital's unique heliport is designed to solve the problem of transferring transplant patients to the north of Tehran between this center and Tehran's Masih Deneshvari Hospital. The hospital also features intelligent control systems for ventilation, air



IRNA

conditioners, fan coils, engine rooms, chillers, diesel generators, transformers, and CCTV cameras. Reza Zandi, Vice President

of Medicine at Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, stated that Ghadir Hospital is a complete and well-equipped

hospital complex for the whole country. He emphasized that patients from all over the country will be admitted in this center.

Iran inaugurates first air emergency base



Social Desk

Iran's Minister of Health, Treatment and Medical Education, Bahram Einollahi, announced Friday that 500 new vehicles will be added to the nation's emergency fleet within the next month.

The announcement was made during the inauguration of Tehran province's first specialized air emergency base, according to IRNA.

Einollahi, speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the opening ceremony, lauded Iran's standing in the health sector, asserting that the country is a regional leader and has a significant global presence. He emphasized the trust and recognition garnered by Iran's health sector and its national achievements.

The minister underscored the robust condition of

the emergency department, an integral part of the country's health and medical service chain. He hailed the department's response to the COVID-19 pandemic as a significant achievement and a testament to the heroism of the medical staff.

However, Einollahi stressed the need for continuous development of medical services. He outlined the Ministry's primary objective of dealing with emergencies and patients swiftly and with the highest quality of care.

The procurement of 500 emergency vehicles, for which financial resources have been secured, is part of this objective. The minister also highlighted the importance of air emergency services, particularly in major cities grappling with road traffic. He assured that the renovation and develop-

ment of these services are underway.

Einollahi arrived at the ceremony in an emergency helicopter, a gesture aimed at assuring the public of the vehicle's safety. He promised an increase in the number of air ambulances, equipped with advanced medical equipment, particularly for resuscitation.

The top health official expressed hope for the complete domestic production of helicopters in the near future, noting that parts of the air emergency equipment are already being produced locally.

Ja'far Mi'aadfar, the head of the country's emergency organization, confirmed that the emergency helicopters are fully equipped with all the necessary emergency services. He revealed that last year, over 4,000 emergency flights were made, including more than 400 involving pregnant women.

Mi'aadfar highlighted the challenge of finding suitable hospitals for landing but expressed optimism with the opening of Ghadir Hospital, which he said is a significant step towards addressing this concern. He emphasized that the cost of transporting each patient, which exceeds \$35,000 is provided free of charge by the air ambulance service.

Parts of Dowshan Tappeh to become a public park

Social Desk

In a recent announcement, a member of Tehran's council revealed plans to convert a portion of the land occupied by the Dowshan Tappeh barracks in districts 13 and 14 into a public park, thereby expanding the capital's green space.

The transformation will take place once the municipality determines its share of the project, IRNA reported.

Nasser Amani, during a discussion on the evaluation of last year's municipality budget, highlighted that the budget had achieved the highest realization rate in the history of Tehran Municipality. However, Amani cautioned that it is premature

to comment on the matter until the presentation of last year's budget report later in March.

Emphasizing the importance of transparency, Amani stated that the annual report of the municipal budget will be presented to the public at the end of the year in the city council's public hall. He further emphasized the need to verify the figures and data before making any comments.

Addressing the agreement between the municipal real estate organization and the Dowshan Tappeh barracks to vacate the capital, Amani explained that the organization has successfully reached an agreement with the barracks in districts 13 and 14.

According to the memorandum, a portion of the land will be transformed into green space and a park, with the municipality's share yet to be determined.

Amani underscored that the municipality has received definitive regulations regarding the project, and approximately 30 percent of the work has already been completed. However, the full realization and finalization of the project depend on the diligent efforts and follow-up of the municipality. The Dowshan Tappeh Air Base, also known as the 11th Shekari Air Base of Tehran, is an air base and airport situated on Pirouzi Street in Tehran. Previously serving as an air force flight training base, the airport

has now ceased all flights. However, the runway remains operational for emergency purposes during potential earthquakes or other incidents in eastern Tehran. The presence of this airport and other air force facilities has significantly occupied urban areas in the eastern part of Tehran, leading to high traffic congestion on Pirouzi Street and Damavand Street, among other major consequences. With the transformation of the Dowshan Tappeh barracks into a public park, Tehran aims to alleviate some of the urban challenges while enhancing the city's green space, providing its residents with a much-needed recreational area.





Minister visits Iranian manuscript treasury in St. Petersburg

Arts & Culture Desk

Continuing his trip to St. Petersburg as part of the second section of Iran Culture Week activities in Russia, the Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance visited the remarkable collection of Iranian manuscripts and artworks at the Institute of Oriental Manuscripts of the Russian Academy of Sciences on Thursday. According to IRNA, upon his arrival at the center in the city of St. Petersburg, Mohammad-Mehdi Esmaeili was warmly welcomed by distinguished Russian experts in the field of manuscript preservation, many of whom conversed in Persian.

The Iranian minister proceeded to visit various sections of the exquisite manuscript collection at the institute and signed the guestbook of this valuable treasury.

In a meeting with Iranian scholars and experts in manuscripts at the institute, Esmaeili acknowledged the significant efforts made by the center over the past two centuries, stating: "If it were not for the endeavors of this center, we would have been deprived of a significant portion of manuscripts and, in essence, an understanding of our past."

Continuing his remarks, Esmaeili lauded the dedicated guardians of manuscripts as the spiritual protectors of the world today and remarked: "It is truly commendable that this center, with its 200-year history, continues to shine and operate despite the challenges it has faced."

Esmaeili further referred to the preservation efforts taking place in Iran and said: "One of the personalities who played a vital role was the vigilant jurist, Ayatollah Mar'ashi-Najafi. With great determination, he rescued around 60,000 historical books in Iraq from looting and their sale to the English. Today, thanks to the efforts of that jurist, the largest manuscript library in the city of Qom remains active."

Irina Fedorovna Popova, head of the Institute of Oriental Manuscripts of the Russian Academy of Sciences, also highlighted the achievements of this center during the session, accompanied by some Iranian scholars.

The first section of Iran Culture Week activities in Russia was inaugurated on Tuesday with the presence of the culture ministers of both countries in Moscow, while the second section continued as of Thursday in St. Petersburg.

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Visitors explore the exhibition of Iranian art.



A participant shows her skills during the exhibition of Iranian art.



A young woman poses at the exhibition of Iranian art.

Iran Culture Week in Russia



Minister of Culture visits the treasure of Iranian manuscripts in St. Petersburg.



Visitors explore the exhibition of Iranian art.



Visitors explore the exhibition of Iranian art.



A participant shows her skills during the exhibition of Iranian art.



9. Conductor of Iranian National Orchestra Arash Amini directs the orchestra and the national youth orchestra of Russia during a joint performance of traditional Iranian music