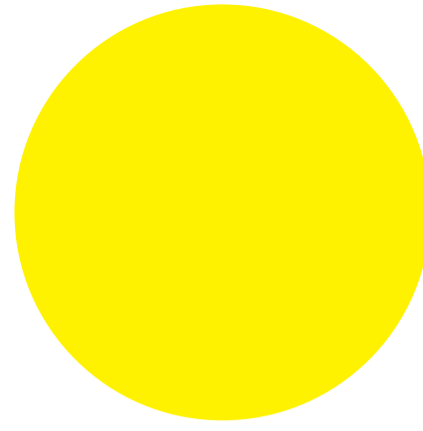




Iran envoy brands Kenya as gateway to East Africa



Uzbeks re-elect Mirziyoyev as president



Iran Daily



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Iranian bas-relief unveiled in Tehran

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Africa, a new opportunity for Iran's private sector

By Morteza Rahimi
Former Iranian ambassador to Nigeria



Days after a visit by the Algerian foreign minister to Tehran, Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi embarks on a three-nation African tour today, which will take him to Kenya, Uganda and Zimbabwe. The trips open up a good opportunity for Iran to strengthen its political and economic cooperation with the African countries.

In general, Iran has always paid attention to Africa and the capacities available in this continent, but during the past decades the necessary hardware and software mechanisms have not been provided to use those capacities. In fact, Iran's relations with Africa have had ups and downs. Sometimes, with the change in governments in Iran, the priorities of the country's foreign policy have also undergone changes – an issue that has damaged development of Iran's cooperation with African countries.

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Iran urges Europe to fulfill JCPOA commitments instead of making allegations

International Desk

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman urged the European signatories to the 2015 nuclear deal to fulfill their commitments under the agreement, instead of making anti-Iran allegations. Remarks by Nasser Kanaani were a response to a recent statement by UK, France, and Germany, in which they claimed that Iran has been in violation of its nuclear deal commitments for more than four years. "Iran has been in violation of its

nuclear commitments under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), endorsed by Resolution 2231, for more than four years and its nuclear program has escalated to dangerous levels. This is of utmost concern for international peace and security," the statement by the three European countries said. Kanaani said Iran does not accept the West's allegations, stressing that such actions are unconstructive and will not lead anywhere.

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Iran a major dairy supplier to Europe



Sadeq Dehqan
Staff Writer

Iran is the largest dairy product exporter in Asia that has successfully established itself as a key player in the European market, said the head of the Association of Dairy Products Industries. In an interview with an Iran Daily, Mir-Eslam Teimouri added that Iran's dairy exports have thrived due to "their high quality and com-



pliance with stringent standards" imposed by developed countries, which form a significant portion of Iran's export destinations.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran's
electricity
use hits
record-high

FARS – Iran on Monday experienced a new peak in electricity consumption, reaching a staggering 72,419 megawatts. The figure is equivalent to the combined output of 72 power plants of the same magnitude as the Bushehr nuclear power plant. In comparison to last year's zenith of 69,951 megawatts, this year's high represents a 3.5% increase in peak load. Energy Minister Ali-Akbar Mehrabian said that although the country's electricity grid remained stable, it was subjected to substantial pressure when the record-breaking surge in electricity consumption occurred.

Lawyer:
Rapper death
sentence
revoked

The lawyer of Iranian rapper, Toomaj Salehi, who had received a primary death sentence for "provoking violence" during protests in Iran last year, said her client has been sentenced to six years and three months in prison for "corruption on earth."

In an interview with Sharq, Roza Etemad Ansari said her client, "who was in solitary confinement, has been transferred to the general ward of the prison."

Tasnim reported last week that Toomaj's court ruling had been commuted to imprisonment. Tasnim said, based on the news received, Salehi's sentence had been commuted because of his "active cooperation" with the authorities.

Iran urges ...

He also emphasized that any new sanctions based on baseless claims are completely rejected and Iran reserves the right to respond to any irresponsible action in a timely manner.

The Foreign Ministry's spokesman also slammed the irresponsibility of the three European signatories to the agreement with Iran, saying they must be held accountable for failing to meet their own obligations under the deal, from which the US unilaterally withdrew in 2018 and left the future of the deal in limbo. After the withdrawal from the agreement – also known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) – Washington re-imposed sanctions against Tehran.

Multilateral diplomatic efforts to revive the JCPOA have been stalled since last August, with Iran blaming the United States for failing to guarantee that it will not leave the deal again.

On the eve of Raeisi's African tour

Iran envoy brands Kenya
as gateway to East Africa

"Iran is pursuing the waiver of visas to facilitate travel between the two countries."

National Desk

The Iranian Ambassador to Kenya emphasized the significance of engaging with the East African country as a prime opportunity for accessing the countries in the region.

On the eve of President Ebrahim Raeisi's visit to Kenya, Jafar Barmaki, in an interview with ISNA, underscored Kenya's strategic position as a gateway to East Africa, alongside Tanzania, presenting favorable prospects for political and economic cooperation.

The Iranian envoy highlighted Kenya's robust economic standing in Central Africa, ranking second after South Africa. The country's well-developed infrastructure makes it an ideal conduit for landlocked nations in the region, offering Iran a valuable avenue to reach other East African markets. The ambassador said that in East African society, countries have established preferential trade among themselves, and Kenya, along with other countries, is a member of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), which consists of 22 members.

Moreover, the African country benefits from preferential trade agreements with countries like the United States and the United King-



fas.usda.gov

dom in certain areas, Barmaki said, adding, "Kenya's position provides us with the opportunity to access other markets in the region."

The ambassador stressed Kenya's diplomatic significance in East Africa, serving as a reference point for some neighboring countries. By expanding bilateral relations in various sectors, Iran aims to bolster its presence in the East Africa region.

Trade volume

Ambassador Barmaki also highlighted that official

statistics indicate the trade volume between Iran and Kenya to be approximately \$100 million. However, unofficial figures suggest a higher amount, such as Iranian "bitumen" exports to this country exceeding \$50 million.

The Iranian ambassador to Kenya discussed his country's policies to encourage Kenyans to expand their trade interactions with Iran, including areas such as importing tea, coffee, lamb, and exporting agricultural machinery, among others.

Visa waiver

In another part of the interview, the Iranian envoy said that his country is pursuing the waiver of visas to facilitate travel between the two countries. This matter will probably be discussed in the upcoming joint commission meeting of the two countries, and if it reaches a conclusion, it will provide good facilities for the travel of citizens of both countries, he said.

Highlighting the considerable interest of Kenya's Muslim population, including Shia Muslims, in

visiting Iran, Barmaki emphasized there are considerable capacities in Iran in relation to health and pilgrimage tourism, and the launch of direct flights connecting the two countries would play a pivotal role in strengthening these ties by reducing travel distance and costs.

According to Barmaki, approximately 120 Iranians reside in Kenya, including individuals engaged in economic activities in technical and engineering fields, as well as those contributing to specialized UN agencies operating in the country.



TIMES OF OMAN

International desk

In a recent strategic meeting between Russia and the [Persian] Gulf Coop-

Oman sees positive impact of
Tehran-Riyadh agreement on region

eration Council countries held in Moscow on Monday, Oman's Foreign Minister Sayyid Badr Albusaidi expressed optimism about the positive outcomes of the recent agreement between Iran and Saudi Arabia for the region.

Addressing the strategic dialogue session be-

tween Russia and the Persian Gulf Arab countries, Albusaidi said that the Iran-Saudi Arabia agreement would bring about positive changes in the region, IRNA reported.

He highlighted the significant development of the resumption of diplomatic relations between the two

states, adding that "We have shared a long history of coexistence with the Iranian people."

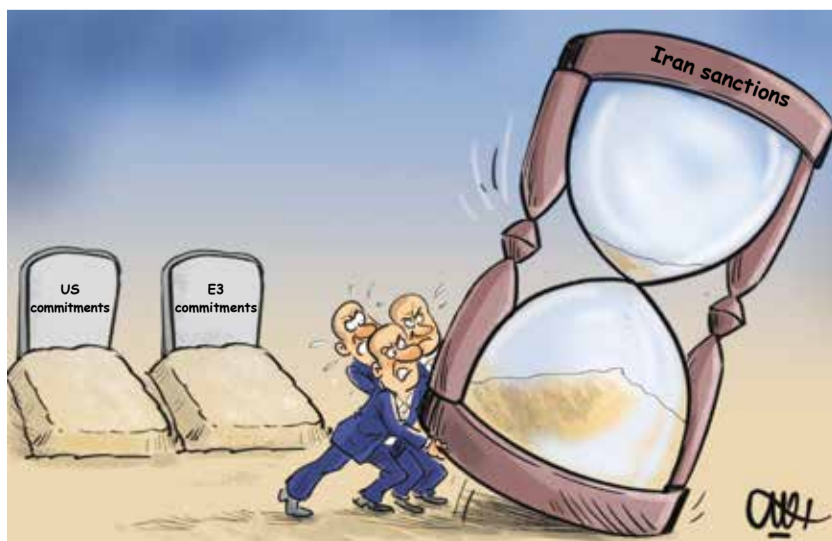
"While short-term political differences may impede collaboration, the recent agreement between Iran and Saudi Arabia demonstrates that we can overcome obstacles and restore a path that

contributes to enhancing security, stability, and enduring coexistence," he affirmed.

The official expressed hope that such positive developments would bolster the capacity to establish comprehensive regional cooperation based on mutual trust and common interests.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Africa, a new opportunity ...

However, we are witnessing a new approach adopted by the current Iranian government towards relations with African countries, which we hope would open up new opportunities to expand relations and economic cooperation between Iran and African countries.

During the last Iranian year, 20 ministers from African countries visited Tehran, which indicates their attention to Iran. Last year, the volume of Iran's trade with Nigeria saw a significant increase, reaching about \$200 million, and is expected to reach more than \$300 mil-

lion this year.

At the same time, Iran's Foreign Ministry is also taking special heed to the political and economic potential in the African Continent, and has encouraged Iran's businessmen and private sector to promote their cooperation with African countries as a new market. However, due to the long distance and short-term view of the private sector, economic cooperation has not reached its potential so far.

President Raeisi's visit to Kenya, Uganda and Zimbabwe will definitely pave the way for improving relations. In addition to

commodities, the African countries can also import technology from Iran.

In fact, the change in relations between Iran and the African Continent has occurred in the shadow of the policies and programs introduced by the current administration; however, measures should be taken to expand relations and reach bilateral and multilateral agreements with the African countries.

Raeisi's trip to the African countries will be a good opportunity to speed up this development. Iran's private sector should also take advantage of this great opportunity and prepare itself to enter new markets.

Biden criticizes 'most extreme' ministers in Israeli cabinet

US President Joe Biden said the cabinet of Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu contains "some of the most extreme" members he had ever seen. Joe Biden told CNN that Netanyahu had "problems in terms of his coalition" when asked why he had yet to visit the White House. Netanyahu's nationalist-religious coalition includes far-right parties. Biden's remarks have been criticized by some Israeli ministers. The leader of one of them, National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, denied that he was an extremist. Ben-Gvir, who has convictions for racist incitement and supporting a terrorist organization, also warned Biden that he "needs to realize that we [Israel] are no longer a star on the American flag". Energy Minister Israel Katz, a member of Netanyahu's Likud party, said the US president "knows the rules of democracy". He also noted a decision by Netanyahu's security cabinet on Sunday to "act to prevent the collapse

of the Palestinian Authority". Ben-Gvir voted against the move, while another far-right minister abstained. Biden also said in the CNN interview that the Palestinian Authority, which governs parts of the occupied West Bank that are not under full Israeli control, had "lost its credibility". "So, it is not all Israel now in the West Bank, all Israel's problem. But they are a part of the problem, particularly those individuals in the cabinet who say: 'We can settle anywhere we want; they have no right to be here, etc.'" "We are talking with them regularly, trying to tamp down what is going on. Hopefully, Bibi will continue move toward moderation and change," he added, using the Israeli prime minister's nickname. Netanyahu returned to power at the end of December, leading the most right-wing cabinet in Israel's history. Since then, the cabinet has advanced plans for 13,000 new housing units at settlements across the West



Bank, according to the Israeli anti-settlement group Peace Now. That is three times as many as in the whole of last year. Most countries deem the settlements, which are built on land captured by Israel

in 1967 in the Middle East War, to be illegal under international law, although Israel disagrees. The Biden administration warned last month that the settlement expansion was undermining the viability

of the two-state solution to the Israel-Palestinian conflict - the long-standing international formula for peace - as well as exacerbating tensions and harming trust between the two parties.



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (L) and US then-vice president Joe Biden talk prior to a meeting on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, on Jan. 21, 2016. MICHEL EULER/AP

Uzbeks re-elect Mirziyoyev as president

Iran's Raeisi extends congratulations



By Reza Abesh Ahmadlou
Staff writer

Uzbek incumbent President Shavkat Mirziyoyev was re-elected with over 87% of the vote on Sunday, the Central Election Commission announced on Monday. Reported by the Chairman of the Central Election Commission Nizomiddin

Zaynidinov, the candidate from the Movement of Entrepreneurs and Businesspeople - the Liberal Democratic Party (UzLiDeP), Mirziyoyev received 87.05% of the votes. Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi, in a message on Monday, congratulated his Uzbek counterpart on his victory in the election, hoping for the expansion of relations between Tehran and Tashkent.

The 65-year-old president has opened up the country of 35 million people to foreign trade and investment. At the same time, the candidate from the Social Democratic Party (SDPU) "Adolat," Robahon Mahmudova, received 4.43%, the candidate from the Ecological Party of Uzbekistan, Abdukshukur Khamzaev, 3.74%, and the candidate from the People's Democratic Party (NDPU), Ulugbek Inoyatov, received 4.02%. The turnout in the early presidential election held on Sunday was 79.8%, or 15.6 million voters, according to the CEC. According to the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan, 19.66 million voters registered in the presidential elections in the country. The decision on early

voting was announced by Mirziyoyev on May 8, following the results of a referendum on a new version of the Constitution (in accordance with Articles 110 and 128 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, as well as Article 66 of the Electoral

Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan). This was the first election after the amendments to the Constitution came into force, as the president is elected for seven years on the basis of universal, equal and direct suffrage by secret ballot.



IRAN DAILY

NEWS IN BRIEF

North Korea warns US over spy planes violating its airspace

REUTERS - North Korea accused the United States on Monday of violating its airspace by conducting surveillance flights and warned that, while Pyongyang was exercising restraint, such flights may be shot down. Provocative military actions by the United States were bringing the Korean peninsula closer to a nuclear conflict, said an unnamed spokesperson of North Korea's Ministry of National Defence in a statement carried by the official KCNA news agency. The report also cited the use of US reconnaissance planes and drones and said Washington was escalating tensions by sending a nuclear submarine near the peninsula.

Putin met with Wagner chief in Moscow: Kremlin

AFP - The Kremlin said Monday that President Vladimir Putin had met with Wagner chief Yevgeny Prigozhin days after the mercenary group attempted to topple Russia's military leadership. The meeting in the Kremlin took place on June 29, several days after the short-lived rebellion. "Indeed, the president had such a meeting," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said, adding 35 people had taken part including Wagner's top leaders and Prigozhin himself.

Study: Heat killed 61,000 in Europe's 2022 summer



AFP - More than 61,000 people died due to the heat during Europe's record-breaking summer last year, a study said on Monday which called for more to be done to protect against even deadlier heatwaves expected in the coming years. The world's fastest warming continent experienced its hottest summer on record in 2022, as countries were hit by blistering heatwaves, crop-withering droughts and devastating wildfires.

Erdogan links Sweden's NATO membership to Turkey's EU accession

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, in an unexpected move, said on Monday the European Union should open the way for Ankara's accession to the bloc before Turkey's Parliament approves Sweden's bid to join the NATO military alliance. Turkey's bid to join the EU

has been frozen for years after membership talks were launched in 2005 under Erdogan's first term as prime minister, Reuters reported. The ties between Ankara and members of the bloc soured several years ago, especially after a 2016 failed coup attempt in Turkey, but have since im-

proved. The bloc depends on the help of NATO ally Ankara, particularly on migration. In a surprise change of tack, Erdogan on Monday linked Ankara's approval of Sweden's NATO bid to Turkey finally joining the EU. "I am calling from here on these countries that

are making Turkey wait at the door of the European Union for more than 50 years," Erdogan said, speaking ahead of his departure for the NATO summit in Vilnius. "First, come and open the way for Turkey at the European Union and then we will open the way for Sweden, just as we did for

Finland," he said, adding that he would repeat his call during the summit. A European Commission spokesperson said NATO and EU enlargement were "separate processes." "The accession process for each candidate country is based on the merits of each country," the spokesperson said, adding that

the two processes cannot be linked. Asked about Erdogan's comments, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said while he backs Ankara's membership of the EU, as far as he was concerned Sweden had already met the conditions required to join NATO.

Kerman Province: A tourism heaven in the heart of the desert



Delfard Resort
eghamat24.com

Jazmurian lagoon
IRNA



Bab Zangi village
alef.ir



Meymand village
IRNA

Iranica Desk

Kerman Province, a four-season land, with deserts, mountains, forests, rivers and a variety of other historical and natural sites, is highly attractive for a large number of tourists throughout the year.

The name Kerman Province is associated with heat, aridity and desert; however, there are places in this region where the resident have to use heaters and wear warm clothes in the hot season of the year.

Imagine that you are driving on a desert road with a temperature of over 40°C, and suddenly you come across a green land with a pleasant climate, a river full of water, a forest and numerous springs. This is what you can see in several parts of Kerman Province at distances of less than 100km from each other, according to IRNA.

For example, moving from Kerman to Bam, if you change your direction towards Jiroft, at an intersection called Darzin, you will

encounter such a scene at less than 20 kilometers away.

Lush gardens, bubbling springs, and roaring rivers can all be seen up close. Dehbekri and Jebalbarez villages are among those in this region that lies on the southern mountains of Kerman Province.

Moreover, just when you can't put your hand out of the car window in Jiroft because of the heat, less than 20 kilometers away, in Delfard Resort, you will be amazed with its pleasant climate, beautiful roaring river, and green trees.

The rivers originating from the mountains in the area are the main resources of Halil Roud (River), supplying water to the Jazmurian lagoon; however, due to excessive construction of dams, the rivers have gradually dried up in the last two decades.

Bab Zangi village of Kerman Province, with an elevation of 3,025m, is the highest village in the country. Thus, although this village, in which 10 households live, is located in the heart of the desert, it is

blessed with a good and pleasant weather. The fabulous architecture of its stone houses is another tourism attraction.

Bab Zangi village is located near the city of Rayen, hosting Rayen Citadel, the second largest adobe structure in the world, after the spectacular UNESCO World Heritage Site, Arg-e Bam.

Ordikan village, in which a 12m-tall waterfall with the same name is flowing, is known as a beautiful resort, situated 2km from east of Bab Zangi village. The waterfall is fed by snow melting on Hezar Mountain, with an elevation of 4,501m. The beautiful landscapes of the area have helped make it a desirable destination for people to spend leisure time as well as a subject for professional photography.

Due to its unique architectural feature, Meymand village, extending in an area of 420 sq. km, was registered on UNESCO's World Heritage List. The village, located 38km from Shahr-e Babak, is one of the most important and largest

hand-carved villages of Iran.

Entering Kerman Province from Yazd Province, you can choose one of two separate routes, starting from Anar. If you move towards the south, the Javazam village, with numerous almond gardens will be on your way. From there you can also go to Dehaj village, hosting the country's largest cave, with a length of 60 meters, and a width of 80 meters. The city of Sirjan, with its specific wind towers, is another attraction on this route.

And if you choose another route linking to Rafsanjan, the green pistachio gardens in the heart of the desert will fascinate you.

The provincial capital city of Kerman, with countless historical and cultural attractions, is also known as a tourist magnet of the province. The city of Jupar, with a beautiful waterfall, Shazdeh Mahan Garden, Palvar Mountain, with an elevation of 4,200 meters, Shahdad Desert and Arg-e Bam are among the tourism spots to be put on your must-see list.

Saeb burial site should be renovated

Iranica Desk

Mohammad Ali ibn Mirza Abdul Rahim Tabrizi, known as Saeb Tabrizi, is a 17th century Iranian poet. He is regarded as one of the greatest masters of a form of classical Arabic and Persian lyric poetry characterized by rhymed couplets known as *ghazal*.

Saeb was a poet from the northwestern Iranian city of Tabriz, who traveled to Isfahan where he passed away. His mausoleum is located in his own private garden, called "Tekyeh Garden," on Saeb Street in Isfahan. The building, which was built in 1967, is home to a collection of Saeb's poems, containing

around 120,000 couplets. His burial site was registered on the National Heritage List in 1980. Unfortunately, the tomb of the famous poet is now exposed to damage due to lack of proper protection and care. Mostafa Hadavi, a contemporary poet, told ISNA that the renovation operations of his

tomb began in 1966. He added that the burial site is now in dire need of renovation. He also touched upon Saeb's skills, adding that Saeb could be called the "hero" of single-couplet poems, which are very complex but rich in content. Mehdi Najjar A'arabi, an author, also said the decorations of

Saeb's tomb are inspired by the architecture of the Safavid era. He added that Saeb's tombstone is one of the most exquisite in Isfahan. A'arabi warned that the tombstone is in danger of destruction due to lack of care. Isfahan Mayor Ali Qassemzadeh talked about the necessity of taking care of the poet's tomb.

He said Isfahan's Municipality is seeking to turn Saeb's burial site into a tourism and cultural center.

The mayor said enclosing the burial site will help prevent the destruction of the tomb.

Qassemzadeh said Saeb is among Isfahan's assets whose tomb should be protected.



Persian Gulf Pro League: Persepolis to begin title defense against Iralco; Sepahan, Tractor facing off on Matchday One



● perspolisnews.com

Sports Desk

Reigning domestic double champion Persepolis will kick off the quest for a seventh Persian Gulf Pro League crown in eight years against Aluminium Arak – Iralco – on August 3 at Tehran's Azadi Stadium.

In one of the tightest Iranian top-flight races in recent years, Yahya Golmohammadi's side won the last seven matches to pip Sepahan to the title by a single point in May – before defeating Esteghlal in the Hazfi Cup final.

Sepahan will be looking to lift a first league trophy since 2015 when starting the new season at home against Tractor, which finished fourth last term, thanks to an impressive run in the second half of the campaign under Spanish manager Paco Jémez.

Having massively bolstered their squads in the ongoing transfer window, both sides will again be among the favorites for the ultimate prize.

Former Iranian skipper Javad Nekounam will embark on a new chapter of his managerial career as the head coach of Esteghlal when his team visits the scorching city of Abadan to take on San'at Naft.

Abdollah Veisi took charge of San'at

Naft's bench with eight games remaining last season to inspire the southern Iranian club to pick up 13 points and avoid relegation on the final day.

The last time these two met a 1-1 draw in Tehran effectively knocked Esteghlal out of the three-horse title race with two games to spare.

Elsewhere on Matchday One, Esteghlal Khuzestan – champion in 2016 – will mark its top-flight return after four years with a home fixture against other promoted side Shams Azar Qazvin, which won the second-tier league for a maiden Pro League participation.

Nassaji Mazandaran, which will represent the country in the upcoming AFC Champions League season as the 2022 Hazfi Cup champion, will host Paykan.

Both teams will have new managers at the helm as ex-Iralco boss Seyyed Mehdi Rahmati will be in charge of the home side, while Rasoul Khatibi has replaced Mojtaba Hosseini on Paykan bench.

Saket Elhami will take his new team Mes Rafsanjan to Tehran for a game against his last season's club Havadar, with Malavan and Zob Ahan squaring off in Bandar-e Anzali.

Alireza Mansourian's Foolad Khuzestan will get its new campaign underway at Golgohar Sirjan, which has hired Marinos Ouzounidis – a former coach at Greek giants AEK Athens and Panathinaikos – for the start of the season.

Derby day

The first big test of the season for Persepolis will come on Matchday Two when Golmohammadi's men fly to northwest Iran to meet Tractor against a feverish crowd at Tabriz's Yadegar-e Imam Stadium.

Sepahan will play away to Zob Ahan in the Isfahan derby, with Esteghlal facing Malavan at the Azadi Stadium for the first home game of the season.

The date of the fixtures is yet to be confirmed by the Iranian League Organization.

Nekounam will then lead the Blues in the away game against Sepahan in the Naqsh-e Jahan Stadium in the third round of fixtures.

Persepolis, meanwhile, will play Zob Ahan (h) and Foolad Khuzestan (a) before the most iconic fixture in the Iranian club football's calendar sees the Reds square off against Esteghlal in the Tehran derby on Matchday Five.

VNL 2023: Cuba defeat wraps up below-par run for Iran



● Cuba's Miguel Angel Lopez (18) hits a spike during a 3-2 victory over Iran in the Volleyball Nations League in Anaheim, CA, US, on July 9, 2023.

● FIVB

Sports Desk

The 2023 Volleyball Nations League will surely be one to forget for Iran, which ended up third from bottom in the 16-team preliminary round table – the lowest finish for the Asian powerhouse in the history of the competition.

Playing again without head coach Behrouz Ataei, prolific opposite Amin Esmaeilnejad and first-choice setter Mohammad-Taher Vadi – who were denied US visa entries – as well as injured Morteza Sharifi, Iran came from behind twice to force a fifth-set decider against Cuba on Sunday in Anaheim, California, before eventually suffering a 22-25, 28-26, 23-25, 30-28, 10-25 defeat in the final outing in Week 3.

Jesus Herrera Jaime contributed a game-high 28 points for the Cubans,

with outside hitter Miguel Angel Lopez finishing on 27 – including three aces. Twenty-year old opposite Bardia Sa'adat topped the scoring for Iran with 17 points, while Amirhossein Esfandiari and team captain Seyyed Mohammad Mousavi chipped in 16 and 14 points respectively.

This was a 10th defeat in 12 games for Iran, which had made it to the VNL Finals under Ataei last year before being knocked out by Poland in a thrilling five-setter in the quarter-finals.

Iran's two wins at the this year's event came in against China (3-1) in Week 1 and Germany (3-0) in the opening game of Week 2 in Rotterdam, the Netherlands.

An under-par campaign saw Ataei's men being beaten in straight sets by Japan, Slovenia, Italy, USA, and France, while leaving

the court with minimum point in five-set losses to Poland, the Netherlands, Bulgaria, and Argentina in the buildup to Sunday's game.

The United States topped the table with 10 wins and will take on Tokyo Olympic gold medalist France in the last-eight round – starting July 19 in Gdansk, Poland.

VNL's surprise package Japan, which also won 10 games for a place in the VNL Finals, will go head-to-head with Slovenia, with third-placed Poland squaring off against volleyball giant Brazil for a last-four spot on home soil.

Reigning world champion Italy and Argentina will meet for the second time in the ongoing tournament, with the Italians hoping to make amends after being stunned in straight sets by the South Americans in their opening contest.

FIVB U21 World Championship: Iran eases past Bahrain, marches into quarterfinals



● FIVB

Amir-Mohammad Golzadeh scored a game-high 16 points – including six aces – to inspire Iran to a straight-set (25-11, 25-19, 25-19) victory over host Bahrain in the 2023 FIVB Volleyball Men's U21 World Championship on Sunday.

Outside hitters Mobin Nasri and Younes Javan contributed 10 points apiece as a third successive victory in Manama saw Gholamreza Mome-

ni-Moqaddam's side ease to a top-spot finish in Pool A of the competition – also featuring Thailand and Tunisia – and book a place in the last-eight group phase.

Iran opened its campaign with a 3-0 victory over Thailand before coming from two sets down to beat Tunisia in a five-set thriller.

Iran and Thailand are pitted against Bulgaria and Poland in Pool E, with

the top two of the group progressing to the semi-finals.

Chasing a second world title after lifting the trophy in 2019, Iran will begin the second round today against Poland which finished second to Bulgaria in Pool C.

Argentina, Brazil, Belgium, and Italy will battle it out for the other two last-four places in Pool F, with the final showdown taking place on July 16.

Second Announcement

Tender invitation

Invitation to public tender
for Ethylene Bis Stearamide(S40)

Tabriz petrochemical company intends to procure its required quantity of Ethylene Bis Stearamide for Acrylonitrile Butadiene Styrene (ABS) production plant from reputable & reliable producer and supplier of said product.

Interested suppliers should send their request to the following email to receive the tender documents within 7 days after the second announcement.

Email: n.ahmadian@tpco.ir **Phone No.:** +98-41-34217426

Tender	No	Quantity
Ethylene Bis Stearamide(S40)	PVS-0241023	180000 kg

Public Relations of Tabriz Petrochemical Company (Public Stock)

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran's exports to Africa up 100%



MEHR

TASNIM – The vice president of the Iran and Africa Business Club said that trade exchanges between Iran and African countries have registered a 100% growth since the current administration assumed office in August 2021. Rouhollah Latifi made the remarks on Monday ahead of a visit by Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi to the three African countries of Kenya, Uganda, and Zimbabwe. The vice president reported that Iran exported more than 128 tons of goods, valued at \$73,781,000, to these three African countries in 2022.

Baghdad: Tehran halted gas exports



MEHR – Speaking on television, the spokesman of Iraq's Ministry of Electricity Ahmed Musa announced that Iran has cut gas exports to this country due to overdue debts. Musa added that the move has caused the gas distribution stations in Al-Mansouriyeh, Baghdad, Sadr, and some other regions to be limited or completely stopped. According to a report from the UK-based Energy Institute, Iran exported 9.4 billion cubic meters of gas to Iraq in 2022.

Oil refinery fire injures eight in southern Iran



ISNA

AP – Fire erupted at an oil refinery in southern Iran and injured eight firefighters Monday. The cause of the fire has not been announced, but evidently, the firefighters were hurt while trying to put out the blaze burning in two of the five tanks at an oil depot near Iran's port of Banda Abbas.

Gachsaran petchem project to sell \$300m by March

Economy Desk

An official with the Persian Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (PGPIC) in southwestern Iran said the Gachsaran Petrochemical Complex was tasked with using up to half its current capacity, from October 23, 2023, to March 20, 2024, to produce Ethylene and C3+, the sale of which would net the company approximately \$300 million. Hassan Neshanzadeh Moghaddam, the PGPIC deputy CEO for planning and business development, noted that the complex can produce a million tons of Ethylene and 83,000 tons of C3+ annually. The output is achieved by getting the required water from the Kosar Dam in Gachsaran County and receiving 1.25 billion tons of feedstock from the Persian Gulf Bidboland Gas Refinery through a 90-kilometer-long pipe. Making the remarks at a press conference on Monday, he announced that the Olefin project of the Gachsaran Petrochemical Company is set to go on stream and expressed readiness to hold the launch ceremony after 19 years. Gachsaran Petrochemi-

cal Complex was one of the half-finished projects whose implementation has accelerated over the past two years. The project's implementation started in 2013, and its completion has always been one of the concerns of PGPIC. Neshanzadeh Moghaddam cited frequent changes in the compositions of shareholders and board members, occasional shortages of funds, and sanctions as challenges that haunted the project in the last five years and delayed its launch. The official said the Gachsaran Petrochemical Project was developed to complete the value chain from associated petroleum gases in the petrochemical industry, prevent the sale of raw natural resources, and feed its downstream complexes such as those in Mamasani, Dehdasht, Borujen, Kazerun, and Gachsaran polymer plant. Dubbing the project the supplier of the "Most Iranian Olefin," he highlighted that 83 percent of the project's needs in various areas of mechanics, power, catalyst supply, chemical materials, and equipment were met domestically. "This is also the first olefin unit, the furnace burner of



which has been constructed in Iran," he added. Furthermore, Neshanzadeh Moghaddam pointed out, the project will employ approximately a thousand people directly, and up to three thousand people indirectly after it goes online. He announced that a deal has also been signed to ex-

port the ethylene produced by the Gachsaran Petrochemical Complex. The PGPIC deputy CEO reported a one-million-ton increase year-on-year in the output of the company in the previous Iranian calendar year (to March 20, 2023), reaching \$920 million. He mentioned the Persian

Gulf Hoveyze Gas Refinery as another half-finished project of the PGPIC that was finally inaugurated earlier this Iranian year and, now, supplies the C5+ of Ilam Petrochemical Company as well as 25-30 tons of feedstock to Bandar Imam Petrochemical Company.



Gachsaran Petrochemical Complex on July 10, 2023.
● MOJTABA MOHAMMADGHOLI/SHANA

Iran commercializes hybrid seeds of cantaloupe, melon

Economy Desk

Iran on Monday introduced a new hybrid variety of cantaloupe and melon seeds developed by the Faculties of Agriculture and Natural Resources at Tehran University that have now been made available for commercial use. During the unveiling ceremony, Forouzandeh Soltani, a key member of the project, highlighted the various benefits of the product derived from these hybrid seeds which include superior flesh quality, resistance to certain diseases, being high-yield,

extended shelf life, and tolerance of low temperatures, ISNA reported. Soltani further explained that the project was initiated after consulting with farmers and addressing their concerns. "Experts recognized the need to genetically modify and enhance certain valuable resources. Consequently, the Horticulture Department at Tehran University embarked on this endeavor and successfully executed the project." She added that in order to accomplish the goal, the research team drew upon the expertise of two renowned

research institutes in Spain and Germany. The new hybrid seeds have progressed to the commercialization phase and they will be mass produced in the near future.

Ensuring food security

During the same event, President of Tehran University Mohammad Moqimi emphasized the significance of producing hybrid seeds tailored to the country's climatic conditions. He asserted that such production not only ensures food security but also enhances agricultural

productivity, according to IRNA. Moqimi added that research projects of this nature require substantial time and comprehensive support and called for permanent programs and mechanisms to be established to facilitate the success of such projects. He acknowledged that in comparison to global advances in agriculture, there is still much work to be done in Iran. "The role of agriculture in contributing to the GDP, promoting business development, and achieving self-sufficiency in terms of



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agricultural products has not met expectations," Moqimi said. Furthermore, he highlighted the country's favorable conditions, such as its four-season climate, and the presence of academ-

ic experts specializing in agricultural productivity. Despite these advantages, agricultural productivity remains at an unsatisfactory level, and food security has not been adequately ensured.

Iran a major dairy ...



ISNA

The latest report from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) reveals that last year, the to-

tal milk and dairy product exports from Asian countries reached nine million tons, with Iran holding a substantial share. Specifically, Iran accounted for 17 percent of Asia's dairy exports, firmly establishing its position as the largest dairy product exporter in the continent. In 2022, Iran imported 86,000 tons of milk and dairy products, while simultaneously exporting a substantial 1.58 million tons, making up 13 percent of its total dairy production. The FAO report predicts that Iran's milk and dairy production will reach 7.82 million tons this year, with exports ex-

pected to increase to 1.59 million tons. Teimouri pointed to the sustained growth in production and exports, urging the government and policymakers to implement structural and supportive measures to stabilize and expand export markets. "Key areas of focus include developing the necessary logistical infrastructure to facilitate dairy product exports, supporting efforts to enhance the quality of raw milk to meet export standards, setting consistent export policies, and implementing health protocols for target countries. Additionally, stricter monitoring of export product standards is crucial to safeguard Iran's reputation

and the integrity of Iranian brands," he pointed out. Teimouri emphasized that the development of the dairy industry hinges on the growth of both domestic and foreign markets and neglecting either aspect would lead to adverse consequences. "Solely focusing on exports would result in a disregard for the domestic food supply, while overlooking exports would mean missing out on the benefits and revenue generated from international trade, ultimately slowing down the growth of the dairy industry within the country," the businessman said. Teimouri explained that one crucial factor influencing dairy product exports is the perception among

policymakers that exports primarily serve as a means to regulate the domestic market by addressing excess production. Consequently, whenever there is a shortage of domestic dairy products, or an increase in their prices, exports are immediately halted. He also criticized the frequent interruption and discontinuation of exports as a detrimental practice that aims to prevent price spikes in the domestic market. Teimouri described it as a "deadly poison" for exports, explaining that the continuous start-stop approach erodes foreign customers' trust in Iranian producers as stable and reliable suppliers.

Iran's portfolio of vaccines growing

Social Desk

The head of the Food and Drug Administration of Iran announced that the country is on the verge of producing and introducing pneumococcal and rotavirus vaccines into the market.

The official also stated that some vaccines, including HPV and influenza, have been successfully manufactured within the country, IRNA reported.

Heydar Mohammadi disclosed during a meeting with the Iraqi Minister of Health that six vaccine production platforms have been established in Iran. Moreover, the country boasts 180 factories focused on the production of final drugs, along with 65 factories dedicated to

the manufacturing of raw and effective ingredients essential for drug production. The drug distribution system seamlessly connects 14,000 pharmacies nationwide through 62 distribution companies.

Highlighting the significant value of Iran's pharmaceutical market, which exceeded \$3 billion last year, Mohammadi revealed that the pharmaceutical sector's imports in Iran costs \$2 billion. Remarkably, a staggering 99 percent of the required drugs in the country are domestically produced. Mohammadi emphasized the feasibility of transferring technology for drug and medical equipment manufacturing from Iranian producers to Iraq. He sought the Iraqi Minister of Health's cooperation in

selling drugs registered in Iran, provided they are not domestically produced in Iraq or there is insufficient production to meet market demand. The proposal urged these drugs to be registered in Iraq accordingly.

Furthermore, Mohammadi clarified that one of the strengths of Iran's pharmaceutical industry lies in its capacity to manufacture necessary equipment within the country. In the field of medical equipment, domestic manufacturers supply 40 percent of the market, a purposeful and strategic approach that encompasses the production, supply, and even export of essential items such as electroshock devices, ventilators, hemodialysis machines, accelerators, and



IRNA

more.

Drawing attention to Iran's position as a notable producer of high-tech drugs globally, Mohammadi highlighted the scarcity of producers in this specific domain. With respect to such medicines, Iran ranks among the top 10

countries capable of manufacturing them, including biosimilars and biotech medicines.

Concluding his remarks, the head of the Food and Drug Administration unveiled plans for the launch of Iran's second blood refinery this year. He noted

the successful inauguration of the first blood factor production refinery in the previous year. Additionally, he proudly acknowledged notable achievements in cell and tissue therapy, further underscoring Iran's progress in the field of medical advancements.

Update on Miankaleh petchem: Fencing goes on, land to be reclaimed



Social Desk

In a recent update on the Miankaleh petrochemical project, vice president of Human Environment of the Department of the Environment (DoE), Iraj Heshmati, revealed that legal proceedings have been initiated at the Behshahr City prosecutor's office and the Mazandaran Province prosecutor's office. The move comes in response to concerns over potential irreversible environmental damage, with hopes that the project's execution will be halted promptly, ISNA reported.

Heshmati referred to the DoE's records dated May 21, 2022, which contained a letter to the CEO of Amirabad Petrochemical Company. The letter expressed the DoE's opposition to the project's proposed location, known as option A. The DoE had also issued several letters to the project's executive, urging them to refrain from any enforcement operations until an environmental assessment permit was obtained.

"Any executive operation before and after the notification mentioned is contrary to Paragraph A of Article 38 of the Law of the Sixth Development Plan of the country," Heshmati added.

Despite these warnings, field reports indicate that fencing of the project site has

continued, signaling the commencement of implementation operations.

Heshmati further clarified that the order for judicial and legal follow-up has been communicated to the General Department of Environmental Protection of Mazandaran Province. He expressed hope that the environmental sensitivities will be addressed promptly, preventing any further and irreparable damage while halting the executive operations.

In a recent conversation with the head of the country's land affairs organization, Heshmati was informed that the proceedings for the restitution of the acquired land are on the provincial supervision committee's agenda.

Vice president of Human Environment of the DoE noted, "It seems that the recent executive operation of the constructors is only due to the increase in the cost of reclaiming the land and the creation of acquired rights, which is contrary to the rules and laws."

Heshmati, citing the information base of the DoE, stated that they will continue their legal and judicial pursuit until the final result. He also advised the project manager to respect the laws and halt the project's implementation as soon as possible.

ISNA

Tehran Municipality launches 30 talent centers for labor children

Social Desk

The CEO of the Welfare, Services, and Social Partnerships Organization of Tehran Municipality articulated the organization's stance on labor children, highlighting a focus on identifying their talents rather than merely collecting them. In order to facilitate this approach, the establishment of 30 talent centers has been undertaken, aiming to connect these children with specialized schools such as mathematics, art, and sports, according to IRIB News.

Seyyed Ahmad Ahmadi Sadr further elaborated that the plan encompasses all children facing deprivation of resources, engaging in work, living without proper shelter or supervision, and unable to attend school.

Additionally, Ahmadi Sadr revealed that the presidential office has issued a directive, appointing the Mayor of Tehran as the representative of the presidency in matters concerning beggars, working children, and drug addicts. This directive has received full approval.

Expanding on the matter, Ahmadi Sadr expressed that following confirmation and communication of the details, Tehran Municipality will assume the role of a special representative of the presidency in these three sectors.

Furthermore, he emphasized that while 14 institutions were previously responsible to their respective ministries, this new ruling will enhance synergy. While the designated institutions retain their assigned responsibilities, the municipality has been granted the authority to supervise, inquire, and report to the presidency.

This move is, by all measures, a happy incidence, for very child possesses unique talents and abilities that deserve to be discovered and nurtured. Talent finding is crucial, as it enables us

to identify and develop these skills, allowing children to reach their full potential and lead fulfilling lives.

Regarding labor children specifically, talent finding becomes even more critical. Labor children are often engaged in physically demanding or strenuous work at a young age, which may limit their exposure to various opportunities. By recognizing their talents, we can create pathways for these children to explore alternative avenues beyond their current labor-intensive roles.



SOBH-E ROUYESH

14th FIA wraps up in Iran



IRNA – The winners of the 14th Farabi International Award (FIA) were honored in both national and international sections on Monday. The closing ceremony was held in Tehran with the presence of Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad-Baqer Qalibaf and Minister of Science, Research, and Technology, Mohammad-Ali Zolfigol and prominent professors and researchers. In a speech Zolfigol delivered at the ceremony, he said: "By studying history, we understand the strengths and weaknesses of the past. We can also improve the strengths and do not repeat the weaknesses and mistakes. We must strengthen our national identity."

Foreign students to attend int'l cultural training course in Iran



IRNA – The second cultural training course for international students of universities and higher education centers across the country will begin with the participation of 500 students from more than 15 nationalities hosted by Iran University of Science and Technology. The second cultural training course is aimed at empowering international students as cultural ambassadors and deepening, consolidating, and getting to know more about the basics of Islamic thought. Over 500 international students from more than 15 nationalities will attend in the event, which will run on July 14-18.

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Iranian bas-relief unveiled in Tehran

Arts & Culture Desk

The ancient Iranian bas-relief carving, believed to be over two millennia old, which was illicitly taken out of the country almost seven years ago, was repatriated to its country and unveiled at the National Museum of Iran on Monday. During the ceremony, Jebrael Nokandeh, the director of the National Museum of Iran, said that the bas-relief belongs to the Sassanian era, and is made of limestone.

Iran's Deputy Tourism Minister Ali Darabi said that according to the 1970 convention, the Islamic Republic of Iran is seriously pursuing the repatriation of historical objects, and in the recent meeting with China, the cooperation of member states was proposed, and the extensive effort of international countries to return historical objects was raised.

He noted that a total of 30 historical works were returned to the country with the cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Iran's Judiciary, Iran's Culture and Relations Organization, and Interpol; and today the Sassanian bas-relief, which is one of these important works, is on display at the museum. According to Darabi, pre-

viously, brick carvings were returned to Iran from France, and all these works will be exhibited in the near future.

Darabi added, "We have 30 Sassanian bas-reliefs in Iran; this relief was brought to the United Arab Emirates during the war and then received at the London airport, and since it was damaged during transportation, it was restored and displayed in the British Museum for three months. These important antiquities had to be quarantined, and 12 experts had the mission to verify the authenticity of the pieces."

Director General of Museums and Historical-Cultural Property of Iran Morteza Adibzadeh also confirmed the historical authenticity of this work and said that it is very likely that this relief was taken from southern Iran.

Adibzadeh added that according to preliminary studies, the stone of this relief is made of limestone and Sasanid signs can be seen on it. It is highly likely that this relief is from southern Fars Province, although research is still ongoing and we hope to find the exact location of this petroglyph.

Repatriation of antiquities is one of the inherent du-



ties of the Tourism Ministry, and cases related to repatriation are followed up with seriousness, he noted. Adibzadeh added, "If we have database resources, we can do this by taking a sample from the back of this stone in order to conduct interdisciplinary tests

and elemental analysis." "Since the work was broken and in bad condition, we have requested the preliminary reports, based on which we will publish research results and reports," he concluded. The chargé d'affaires of the Iranian Embassy in London

announced that the ancient Iranian bas-relief carving was successfully delivered to the Iranian Embassy in London on June 24.

Approximately seven years ago, authorities apprehended the coveted 2,000-year-old Iranian carving during a smuggling attempt at a British airport.

Estimated at a staggering value of over £30 million (\$37 million), this remarkable artifact holds great historical and cultural significance for Iran.

Dr. St. John Simpson, a senior curator and archaeologist in the British Museum's department of the Middle East, said, "We almost never come across a case of something being cut out of the 'living rock.' That's a level of brutality that surpasses anything. 'You've even got felt-tip marks on the back before they've used an angle grinder to slice diagonally behind it and across the top. It was then packed in an incredibly bad manner, in a small, almost unpadded crate held together with nails."

"If it had been a state-of-the-art art-handling type crate, that would have attracted a different sort of attention because it required all sorts of paperwork." He has identified it as a unique rock relief sculpture dating to the period of the Sassanian Empire, 224-651 AD.

"It belongs to a period when Iran was the center of a powerful empire stretching from Syria to the Caucasus and Central Asia, and with its capital at Ctesiphon, south of present-day Baghdad," he said. "The Sasanians were powerful rivals of Rome and famous today for their fine silverware and cut glass."

Time to boost Iran-Africa tourism



By Hamideh Hosseini
Staff writer

Africa, the second-largest continent, after Asia, is home to 54 countries, with a population of approximately 1.5 billion. The continent boasts an abundance of captivating attractions and pristine natural wonders, making it a key destination for tourism. With its diverse landscapes of forests, plains, deserts, stunning waterfalls and beaches, Africa provides exciting and adventurous experiences, teeming with unique wildlife and plant species.

Africa's significance extends beyond its natural wonders. As the birthplace of humanity, particularly East Africa, it

holds historical and cultural importance. Ancient civilizations like Egypt and Carthage emerged in North Africa, showcasing the continent's early human civilizations. Africa's rich history, migrations, and trade have fostered a wide array of ethnicities, cultures, and languages, attracting those fascinated by cultural diversity and tribal life. This cultural appeal serves as a substantial source of income for African countries.

Against this backdrop, Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi embarks on a landmark visit to Africa today, marking the first such trip in eleven years. His itinerary includes Kenya, Uganda, and Zimbabwe. Iran recognizes the economic potential of Africa, which boasts a \$600



MICATO SAFARIS

billion economy. Tourism holds particular significance as a potential avenue for cooperation between Iran and African nations. This visit presents an opportunity for tourism experts and officials in Iran to carefully examine and consider the successful African model of promoting peaceful coexistence between humans and wildlife, which

has resulted in economic benefits for the continent.

The key to boosting tourism between Iran and African countries lies in their shared cultural, historical, and religious affinities. Iran and African nations share a common culture that values hospitality, rituals, and traditional arts. The challenge is to introduce these

similarities to the people and tourists in these lands, fostering cultural exchanges and tourism. African countries are not only commercially and economically appealing but also offer natural and cultural tourism. Investments in African nations have generated enthusiasm among tourism and business professionals, who aim to develop relations with other countries.

To fully unlock Africa's potential, long-term investments and capacity building are crucial, requiring involvement from the private sector and government negotiations. Iran's cultural and historical ties make it an attractive destination for Africans, and promoting tourist attractions in both regions can increase

the number of visitors. Marketing efforts should focus on Iran's traditional arts to foster handicraft exports and create a common market between Iran and African nations. African countries possess tourism capacities that attract global visitors. To expand the market, negotiations and careful planning are necessary. Inbound tours from Africa and outbound tours from Iran can be facilitated, benefiting both regions. The current focus on Africa by policymakers and politicians presents an opportune moment to strengthen tourism relations alongside political, economic, and commercial ties.

Considering indirect flights via the UAE, Turkey, and Oman can overcome the challenge of travel-

ing to African countries. Establishing flight routes with these companies can improve access to Africa. While Europe and Asia traditionally attract more tourists, targeted advertising can increase Africa's appeal to Iranian travelers. Evaluating and modifying the perception and image of Africa among Iranians is essential to tap into the target market.

Similar to successful marketing efforts for Chinese tourists in Iran, strategic promotion and outreach can attract African tourists. Even capturing a small fraction of the Chinese tourist market could significantly boost the Iranian tourism industry. Smart planning and effective advertising strategies are crucial to attract tourists from Africa.