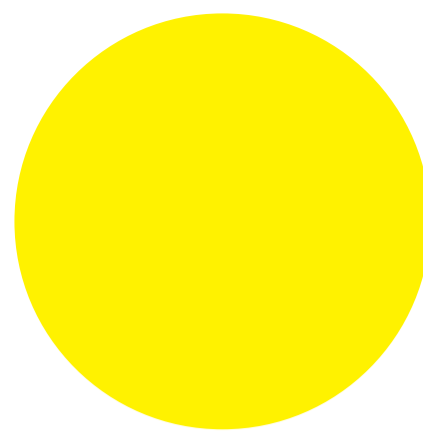




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# Iran Daily



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### Iran expects Russia to 'rectify' stance over three islands

International Desk

Referring to a recent joint statement made by Russia and the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (PGCC), a senior Iranian cleric urged Moscow to rectify its position regarding Iran's three islands in the Persian Gulf.

Giving the Friday prayer sermon held in Tehran, Mohammad-Hasan Abu-Torabi Fard stressed on respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iran, both as the newest member state of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and Moscow's strategic ally.



During the sixth joint ministerial meeting between the PGCC and the Russian Federation that was held in Moscow on Monday, the ministers raised the issue of reaching a peaceful solution to the matter of Iran's three islands of the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb, and Abu Musa. Page 2 >

### Italian ambassador summoned for hosting MKO ringleader

Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has summoned Italy's Ambassador to Tehran Giuseppe Perrone to protest a meeting between members of the Italian Parliament and the ringleader of Mujahedeen Khalq Organization (MKO), an anti-Iran terrorist cult. Director General of Western European Affairs Majid Nili Ahmadabadi emphasized Italy's international obligations in the fight against terrorism, noting that the meeting of several Italian legislators with a terrorist is a clear example of promoting terrorism, IRNA reported. The official emphasized that Iran does not tolerate the promotion of terrorism by anyone in any shape



and categorically censures it. The Italian ambassador replied that he would inform his country's capital of the issue as soon as possible. Senior Iranian MP Ebrahim Azizi also criticized the Italian Parliament for inviting the terrorist MKO, noting that Iran's response to the friendship between the Italian Parliament and MKO will be crushing.

IRNA

## NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran progress  
'eye-catching':  
Pakistan

● president.gov.pk

IRNA – President of Pakistan Arif Alvi underscored that the development of Iran despite sanctions is eye-catching and a source of happiness.

The Pakistani president made the remarks in a ceremony for receiving the credentials of the new Iranian Ambassador to Islamabad Reza Amiri Moghaddam on Thursday, emphasizing the importance of relations between the two neighboring countries. Amiri Moghaddam mentioned his plans for expanding ties between Tehran and Islamabad, particularly the improvement of economic and trade cooperation.

NATO  
allegations  
rejected

● IRNA

TASNIM – Iran has categorically rejected allegations it is providing drones to Russia, raised this time by NATO, urging member states of the military alliance to refrain from leveling such accusations.

Iran's Embassy in Brussels said in a statement on Thursday that Tehran maintains a neutral position in the Ukraine conflict and remains fully committed to the principles of the UN Charter and international law, which includes respecting the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of all countries.

Terrorist  
behind SE  
riots nabbed

PRESS TV – The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps intelligence forces arrested a member of the so-called Jaish ul-Adl terrorist group responsible for instigating violent riots and acts of violence in the southeastern province of Sistan and Baluchestan late last September.

The Salman Base of the IRGC said in a statement that rogue elements, terrorists, separatists and agents of foreign spy agencies incited crowds during last year's September 30 unrest in Zahedan, and played a role in disrupting unity and security in the southeastern part of the country.

Africa tour primarily aimed at Iran's  
'strategic depth' boost: **Raeisi**

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi speaks to reporters at Mehrabad Airport, Tehran, Iran, on July 14, 2023, upon return from his three-nation tour of Africa.

● president.ir

## National Desk

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi said the first objective of the African trip was to boost the Islamic Republic of Iran's "strategic depth."

Raeisi made the remarks at Tehran's Mehrabad Airport early on Friday upon return from his African tour, which took him to

Kenya, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

Seeing the anti-colonialism spirit, faith and courage of the Iranian people following the 1979 Islamic Revolution, African nations were drawn to this revolution and the system that came out of it, Raeisi said. The president stressed the need to promote ties with African nations, describing

the continent as the land of opportunities where its potential should not be overlooked, Press TV reported.

"We value our ties with the African Continent, just as we do with the countries of Asia and other regions, and we should not overlook this continent which is full of opportunities," he said.

'Record' 12 MoUs  
inked

Raeisi wrapped up his three-nation African tour with a visit to Zimbabwe where the two sides signed 12 memoranda of understanding to strengthen bilateral ties.

Raeisi met Thursday with Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa, who urged nations targeted by Western sanctions to band together.

The two presidents signed a "record" 12 agreements on topics ranging from energy to telecommunications, Mnangagwa said. These will help Zimbabwe access innovation and technology from Iran and envisage the creation of a tractor factory to support agricultural mechanization, he added. The two countries also signed cooperation agreements for energy, agriculture, pharmaceuticals, and telecommunications as well as research, science and technology projects.

He said on Friday that his three-nation tour of Africa was also aimed at strengthening economic and trade relations with those countries and entering new markets with knowledge-based

products made by Iranian experts.

The Iranian president mentioned the provision of raw materials as another goal of his African tour, saying that the issue of extra-territorial cultivation was also among the discussed subjects.

According to Raeisi, agreements have been made for barter deals with African countries, where Iran would receive basic goods in return for supplying petrochemical products.

Scientific and technological exchanges were another topic discussed during the trip, he said, adding, "Offices were accordingly established in all the three countries to take an effective step in facilitating and strengthening our communication and cooperation in this area."

Pointing to "good meetings" with entrepreneurs and businessmen who expressed their readiness to expand business ties between Iran and Africa, Raeisi said ways to overcome existing challenges were also explored.

A total of 21 documents on cooperation in different areas were signed during the three-state tour to Africa.

Lavrov: Currently unrealistic to expect new agreement  
on Iran deal

Expectations of any additional agreements to revive the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) on Iran's nuclear program are unrealistic under current circumstances, with little more than a year to go until the 2024 US presidential elections, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov told reporters on Thursday, TASS reported.

"I doubt it would be very realistic to expect this [revival of the JCPOA - TASS] with a new administration potentially coming to power in the United States in a year's time," he said. "Who knows whether that ad-

ministration will be Democratic or Republican? And nobody can guarantee that this new administration would refrain from using the trick of withdrawing from the agreement again," he added.

According to the top Russian diplomat, the JCPOA was simply killed by the US, which, "despite all requirements under the UN Charter, refused to implement the resolution, adopted by the consensus," which finalized this agreement. "When the new administration of [US President Joseph] Biden came to power, they said they were ready to restore the

program ..., but instead of making a decision to fully revive the resolution and the JCPOA itself, they have been bargaining ... for something extra from Tehran," Lavrov lamented. Informal consultations taking place "on the quiet," have been held between Iranian and US officials on how to restore dialogue by means of "unblocking the illegally frozen Iranian assets abroad in exchange for resolving the fate of certain American nationals who face criminal charges in Iran," Lavrov explained. "We would only welcome a scenario wherein this relationship could be normal-

ized, but, as I said, that has little to do with the JCPOA," he said.

The five permanent members of the UN Security Council plus Germany struck a nuclear deal with Iran in 2015 to address the crisis over its nuclear program. Then-US president Donald Trump withdrew from the agreement in 2018, while incumbent President Biden has repeatedly signaled his willingness to bring the US back into the deal.

The US, UK, France, Russia, China, and Germany have been in talks with Iran in Vienna since April 2021, seeking to restore



● REUTERS

the JCPOA in its original form. In November 2022, International Atomic Energy Agency Director General Rafael Grossi said the

latest round of talks with Iranian officials ended in the Austrian capital without achieving any specific results.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist



## Iran expects Russia ...

The statement "affirmed... support for all peaceful efforts,

Page 1 >

including the initiative of the United Arab Emirates and its endeavors to reach a peaceful solution to the issue of the three islands... through bilateral negotiations or the International Court of Justice."

Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi, the commander-in-chief of Iran's Army, also said in response to the statement that Iran is very sensitive to claims made about its three islands in the Persian Gulf, to which the United Arab Emirates

lays claims. At an event with military commanders, Major General Mousavi said, "We are sensitive about every iota of our soil, and we will not for a moment neglect the protection of the Islamic Republic of Iran's borders and interests, from the northernmost to the southernmost points of its sacred land."

A senior adviser to the Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution also said it was naive of Russia to fall into the trap of the PGCC regarding the three islands, which are an integral part of Iran.

Ali Akbar Velayati further cited the historical records that

confirm Iran's sovereignty over the islands, saying the Russians fell into the same trap that the Chinese did several months ago.

Velayati claimed that the Russians think they will have profitable economic ties with the Emirates if they support such irrelevant claims.

Earlier on Tuesday, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani said that issuing such statements is against friendly relations between Iran and its neighbors. The Russian Ambassador to Tehran Alexey Dedov was then summoned to Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Wednesday and informed about Iran's protest over the content of the statement.



High-ranking delegations of Iran and Zimbabwe hold joint meeting on July 13, 2023.



Raeisi (c) prepares to cut the opening ribbon of Iran's Innovation Office in Uganda on July 12, 2023.



Raeisi (R) pays tribute to Zimbabwe Independence Heroes Memorial on July 13, 2023.

# A glimpse into Raeisi's African tour



President of Zimbabwe (front-R) stands in silence beside his Iranian counterpart at Harare airport.



Raeisi plants a tree as a memorial on the sidelines of his visit to the Iran-Uganda Agricultural Technologies Park on July 12, 2023



Women of Zimbabwe wave Iran's flag and hold pictures of martyred General Qassem Soleimani.



Two Zimbabweans little girls welcome Iran's president (2nd-L) to Harare with bouquets of flowers.



Foreign ministers of Iran and Zimbabwe sign cooperation MoUs in presence of their presidents.



A crowd gathers to see President Raeisi address an interfaith meeting in the National Mosque of Uganda.



Women of Zimbabwe wave Iran's flag and hold pictures of martyred General Qassem Soleimani.



# Lar National Park, a magnificent protected area

visitiran.ir



kojaro.com



elgash.com



elgash.com

The magnificent Lar National Park is located at the foot of the Alborz Mountains, near the southwestern foothills of Mount Damavand. It's between Mazandaran and Tehran provinces, about 70km northeast of Tehran, and has an overall area of 73,500 hectares.

This breathtaking Iranian national park includes two different ecosystems: the aquatic and the montane. Being the natural habitat of various animal and plant species, due to its special features and unique wildlife, Lar National Park is protected by the Department of the Environment, cheetah-adventures.com wrote. There are no cities or villages

inside or in the vicinity of this park, giving you the opportunity to admire the beauties of this intact paradise on Earth. The mighty Damavand summit and its western ridge – the most symmetrical face of the mountain – are visible from Lar National Park.

Furthermore, Lar Lake, or the so-called Lar Dam, is one of the best attractions of this national park, located 20km from the city of Lar.

On clear days, Lar Lake can be seen from the Damavand summit; it is a sign pointing to the west. This beautiful lake is also visible from Damavand's southern route, when you reach nearly 4,000m of elevation.

## Wildlife

Lar National Park is the natural habitat of many animal and plant species due to its climate and the existence of several rivers. Almost all animal species found in the central Alborz Mountain region can also be seen in this area. The variety of wildlife in Lar National Park is one of its most interesting features.

## Fauna

Lar National Park is home to a total of one hundred bird species, with the most famous one being the golden eagle, a unique bird found only in Iran. Various bird species such as partridges, Caspian snowcocks,

great egrets, grey herons, cormorants, kestrels, cranes, common buzzards, and eagles can be seen in different seasons. This makes Lar National Park a very attractive destination for birdwatching.

Lar National Park is also the natural habitat of many mammals such as red mouflons, sheep, wild goats, leopards, wolves, bears, foxes, wild boars, and jackals. The population of some of these mammals has grown in the past few years as a result of living in a safe environment. Furthermore, many reptiles and amphibian species, and aquatic animals can be found in Lar area such as Latifi's vipers (Lar Valley viper),

meadow vipers, monitor lizards, frogs, lizards, Montpellier snakes, and brown trout, which is a unique species of fish.

## Flora

A total of 400 plant species, belonging to 48 plant families, exist in Lar National Park. Among these various species, 338 live in the area permanently and 35 are found only in Iran.

The variety of plants found in Lar National Park is one of its unique and interesting features. Some of these plants are edible and have medicinal properties. In addition, Lar National Park is covered with beautiful flowers such as iris, woolly buttercup, and Lar

poppy, turning it into a stunning scenery. This region is also used for beekeeping due to the existence of meadows and a variety of plants. The beekeeping season in Lar National Park is usually from June to September.

Lar National Park and its surrounding area is a popular ecotourism destination because of its breathtaking landscapes, amazing natural attractions, and wildlife. This region is also used for research projects. If you have some time after climbing mount Damavand, or on your way to Mazandaran Province, don't overlook the astonishing beauty of Lar National Park and Lar Lake.

## Art of pottery of Mazandaran Province in danger of oblivion

### Iranica Desk

Not much time has passed since the time when pottery made by the artists of Kelagar Mahalleh, the hub of pottery production in Mazandaran Province, were considered the main items of brides' dowries. This is while, presently, these valuable handicrafts remain unnoticed behind the windows of luxury shops.

Not so long ago, a number of pottery workshops, with numerous kilns, were working places of some top local craftsmen including Gholamali Chinisaz, Azizulah Fakuri, Azim Bakhshi, Yousef Talebi and Sobhan Najafi.

The ceramic items made in Kelagar Mahalleh of Juybar had conquered the markets of that time, IRNA wrote.

Today the situation has changed; handicrafts made by local artists, including Ramazanali Chinisaz, have lost



IRNA

the competition to new colorful dishes and don't have many customers anymore. But, he hopes, the profession inherited from his ancestors will flourish again.

The earthenware made by him are popular in the world in such a way that, according to

him, a French female tourist tried to find his workshop to come and visit him.

However, what is going on in his workshop makes you wonder. All that is visible is a 50 sq. m. space in the corner of a house's yard, where there is a pottery wheel and a kiln.



IRNA

He is a famous craftsman; generations of his family have been involved in this profession for 300 years. He can be considered the last survivor of the skilled potters of Mazandaran Province.

He said that the oldest pottery items of Iran which were dis-

covered in Hotu and Kamarband Caves of Behshahr, a city in Mazandaran Province, date back to 8,000 years ago.

He noted that the motifs of the artworks were inspired by the surrounding nature and landscapes.

The earthenware was carried

on animals to be sold in local markets. The clay used for making the vessels has special properties of removing salt from the water and cooling it. Touching a piece of pottery gives you a wonderful feeling, perhaps because it is a product of the combination of the four elements: earth, water, air and fire. Since all these elements have been found across the world from the beginning of creation, humans have practiced this art since ancient times.

The ancient pottery items that witnessed the development of life and human civilization throughout history tell countless stories of people who have never been heroes, but lived.

Considering Iran's special geographic location, at the crossroads of ancient civilizations, people of almost every part of the country have been engaged in pottery-making throughout history.

## FIVB Men's U21 World Championship: Unbeaten Iran to face Argentina for final berth



Iranian middle blocker Shayan Sepehrifard (10) hits a spike during a 3-1 victory over Bulgaria in the FIVB Men's U21 World Championship in Manama, Bahrain, on July 13, 2023.

● FIVB

defending champion Italy in the other last-four clash today.

This was the six successive victory at the event for Iran, which is chasing a second world title in Manama after a maiden triumph in 2019.

The reigning Asian champion opened the competition with a straight-set win against Thailand before coming from two sets down to beat Tunisia.

Momeni-Moqaddam's side then outclassed the host in three sets to win Pool A and progress into the quarterfinals alongside Thailand.

Iranian boys picked up in the last eight where they had left off in the preliminary round, easing past Poland – bronze medalist in 2021 – in straight sets, and repeated the 3-0 victory over Thailand before Bulgaria showdown.

Elsewhere on Thursday, Italy, also yet to concede a defeat in Manama, rallied from behind to beat Belgium 3-2 (23-25, 25-18, 25-19, 16-25, 15-9) for a top finish in Pool F, while in the second-place decider Argentina defeated South American foe Brazil 3-0 (25-23, 25-23, 25-18).

### Sports Desk

A place in Sunday's final showpiece will be up for grabs when Iran and Argentina square off in the FIVB Men's U21 World Championship in Manama, Bahrain, today.

Days after a disappointing Volleyball Nations League campaign concluded for the Iranian seniors' team in Anaheim, California, volleyball fans in the country took some consolation in watching their under-21 side continue its perfect run

in the Bahraini capital with a victory over Bulgaria on Thursday.

Amir-Mohammad Golzadeh chipped in 21 points as Gholamreza Momeni-Moqaddam's boys came out on top in four sets (25-17, 23-25, 25-22, 25-23) to finish atop Pool E in

the last-eight group phase. Mobin Nasri contributed with 16 points – including a remarkable five aces – for Iran with middle blocker Shayan Sepehrifard finishing on 13 points.

"The tournament has just begun for Iran. We are here

to win the title," said Iranian outside hitter Nasri, who hailed the team's "mental strength" in recovering from a second-set setback.

Aleksander Nikolov, meanwhile, scored a game-high 23 points – six aces – for the Bulgarians, who will play

## Iran's Motaqian bags world javelin bronze, secures Paralympic quota

### Sports Desk

Iranian javelin thrower Hashemiyeh Motaqian will be chasing a second successive Paralympic gold medal after securing a berth in next year's Games in Paris – courtesy of a bronze medal at the World Para Athletics Championships in the French capital.

Representing the country in the women's F56 class on Thursday, the 37-year-old Iranian registered a best throw of 22.95m to finish behind Latvian Diana Krutina, who tallied 25.81m for the ultimate prize, and Brazil's Raíssa Rocha Machado (23.05m). This was a third world medal for Motaqian following

double silvers in 2017 and 2019 and saw her join fellow Iranians Mehdi Olad, Elnaz Darabian, Amir Khosravani, Elham Salehi, Amanollah Papi, Rashid Masjedi, and Alireza Mokhtari in booking their tickets for the Paris 2024 Paralympics.

Olad and Masjedi had walked away with a couple of shot put golds earlier in

Paris, while Khosravani settled for a long jump silver. Olad's 13.79m throw sealed a second world gold for the Tokyo Olympic champion in the F11 event, with Masjedi topping the F53 table thanks to a successful 8.49m attempt.

Khosravani – also a reigning Paralympic champion – came second in the T12

contest with a 7.26m jump as Uzbekistan's Doniyor Saliev (7.47m) won a third world gold and Azerbaijani Said Najafzade – bronze winner in Tokyo – finished third with 7.11m.

● paralympic.ir



## IOC warns over political interference in Olympics

BBC – Allowing governments to decide which athletes can take part in competitions "would be the end of international sport as we know it", the International Olympic Committee (IOC) has warned.

The organisation says it "has found middle ground" for athletes from Ukraine, Russia and Belarus.

But the Russian and Ukrainian authorities have opposed its plans.

"It cannot be up to the governments to decide which athletes can take part," the IOC said.

The body updated its stance on Russian and Belarusian athletes in a document released on Thursday.

The IOC has been under pressure to ban Russian and Belarusian athletes from competing, even under a neutral flag, following the



● ASSOCIATED PRESS

invasion of Ukraine.

In March it told sporting federations they should allow athletes from those countries to compete as neutrals. With the 2024 Paris Olympics due to start in just over a year, the IOC is still

fine tuning its stance on Russian and Belarusian athletes and said it has not made a final decision on their participation in next year's Games. However, it said the National Organising Committees of Russia

and Belarus would play no part in the Games.

It stressed that allowing participation "works", highlighting several sports in which athletes from the warring nations had competed without problems – though

some athletes have questioned this.

It also highlighted a ruling by the United Nations Human Rights Council, which advised that a blanket ban on Russian and Belarusian athletes would be discriminatory and a flagrant violation of human rights.

Wimbledon has also allowed athletes from those two nations to compete over the past few weeks, although Victoria Azarenka, who holds a Belarusian passport, was booed off court by fans after losing to Ukraine's Elena Svitolina.

Ukraine's sports minister Vadym Guttsait has accused the IOC of "double standards" for suggesting Russian and Belarusian athletes could compete in Paris, while government minister Oleh Nemchinov announced in April that

Ukrainian athletes should not be allowed to compete in qualifying events for the 2024 Paris Olympics if Russians are taking part.

The IOC criticised Ukraine for "depriving its own athletes of their chance to qualify for the Olympic Games Paris 2024 and to make the Ukrainian people proud", and reiterated that point in its updated document.

"In such politicised sport, universal Olympic Games will no longer be possible," the IOC said.

It also criticised nations which supported the Ukrainian or Russian stances. The United Kingdom is among countries to have supported a ban on Russian athletes.

"The overwhelming majority of the world's athletes respect or support the IOC's approach," it added.

## Jabeur ready to make it third time lucky in Wimbledon final



Tunisia's Ons Jabeur celebrates winning her Wimbledon semi-final match against Belarus' Aryna Sabalenka in London, Britain, on July 13, 2023.

● DYLAN MARTINEZ/REUTERS

REUTERS – Tunisia's Ons Jabeur believes the lessons she learned in two Grand Slam final defeats will stand her in good stead for today's Wimbledon showdown with unseeded Czech Marketa Vondrousova.

Jabeur showed incredible endurance on Thursday to absorb the brutal power of second seed Aryna Sabalenka to claim a 6-7(5) 6-4 6-3 victory after trailing by a set and 4-2.

She is now back in a position she found herself in at last year's Wimbledon and the U.S. Open, requiring one win to become the first African woman as well as first Arab to win a major.

"Last year was my first final of a Grand Slam. Definitely getting closer to winning the Grand Slam that I always wished," North African trailblazer Jabeur, who had a photo of Wimbledon's Venus Rosewater Dish on her phone last year but never got her hands on the real thing, told reporters.

"I would say I always believed. But sometimes you would question and doubt if it's going to happen, if it's ever going to happen. I'm going to learn a lot from not only Wimbledon's final but also the U.S. Open final and give it my best.

"Maybe this year was all about trying two times and getting it right the third time."

The 28-year-old sixth seed has lost twice this year to left-handed Vondrousova, who was French Open runner-up in 2019, and said she wanted revenge today after working "like crazy" to improve.

"I didn't win against her this year. She has good hands. She plays very good," Jabeur said. "Honestly, I will try to focus on myself a lot. I'm not sure how she's going to play her second Grand Slam final. We're both hungry to win."

Jabeur, who will have the Arab world rooting for her, has certainly earned her place in the final. She beat twice Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova in round four, 2022 winner Elena Rybakina in the last eight and Australian Open champion Sabalenka in the semis.

"I think this year the draw is much tougher. Playing against amazing players that not only play good on any surface, but they play amazing on grass. That was very challenging," she said. "That gives me more confidence to be ready for the final. Also getting that rhythm of playing great tennis to be ready for the next match."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

Dollar  
at 15-month  
low

**CNBC** – The dollar hovered near a 15-month low on Friday and was set for its biggest weekly decline since November after softening U.S. inflation data fuelled investors' bets that the Federal Reserve was close to the end of its rate hike cycle.

U.S. producer prices barely rose in June and the annual increase in producer inflation was the smallest in nearly three years, data showed on Thursday, a day after data showed consumer prices rose modestly last month.

IMF loan  
helps  
Pakistan  
unlock  
another \$5.6b

**BLOOMBERG** – Pakistan is set to draw in \$5.6 billion in additional financing after securing a loan from the International Monetary Fund, a move seen as helping the South Asian nation avoid a default and boosting its foreign-exchange reserves. The new funding includes \$3.7 billion of commitments from bilateral, the IMF's mission chief for Pakistan said.

IEA trims  
oil demand  
forecast

**AFP** – The IEA trimmed its forecast for 2023 oil demand for the first time this year as macroeconomic headwinds including higher interest rates bite, but still sees it reaching a record level thanks to China's thirst for fuel. The International Energy Agency now sees oil demand rising by 2.2 million barrels per days (mbd) this year, down from its previous forecast of an increase of 2.4 mbd. Nevertheless, the Paris-based organisation which unites energy consuming nations, expects global demand to hit a record 102.1 mbd this year.

Iran expands shipping activity  
in North Africa

A ship operated by the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines (IRISL) docked and unloaded at a port in Libya amid Iran's efforts to increase its export activity in Africa.

IRISL's deputy for marketing Amir Bayat said on Thursday that the Iranian ship that left Libya earlier in the day was the second to dock in the North African country in less than two months, reported Press TV.

Bayat said the IRISL currently sends container and dry bulk ships to ports in East Africa every two weeks, adding that Iranian ships also dock at North African ports at least once per month.

He said Iran's shipping activity in Libya is expected to increase with a return of calm to the North African



country. The official said the IRISL is seeking to launch a regional office in Africa amid a surge in exports from Iran to the region.

The announcement came as Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi was in Africa on a three-day tour that took

him to Kenya, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

The trip that ended late on Thursday has been viewed as a major step by Iran to boost its trade ties with African countries as Tehran seeks to capture a larger share of the export markets in the region.

Iran has increasingly relied on non-oil trade in recent years amid sanctions imposed by the United States which restrict its access to oil revenues.

IRISL's increased shipping activity in Africa comes as figures by the Iranian customs office show that trade

with African countries more than doubled in the calendar year to March 20. Iranian Foreign Ministry figures also show that Iran signed nearly 50 economic and trade cooperation agreements with African countries in the year to late March.

CIT minister says cooperation  
among ECO members needed  
for development

## Economy Desk

Iran's Minister of Communications and Information Technology (CIT) Issa Zarepour stressed the need for utmost collaboration among the member states of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) in the field of communications and information technology.

According to IRNA, Zarepour made the remarks in the opening ceremony of the third meeting of the communications ministers of ECO member countries on Thursday.

Pointing to the situation of the ECO member states, he noted that they achieve significant developments in the field of communications and information technology at the international level and that they can make utmost usage of state-of-the-art technologies to improve welfare. Iran attaches importance to the ECO, he said, noting that the Islamic Republic made efforts in past years to utilize its capabilities to boost cooperation with the ECO member states.



Experts active in communications and information technology have reached appropriate decisions, he said, expressing hope that the ministerial meeting would endorse them to pave the way for more progress in ECO countries. The minister also said that today [Thursday] is the birth anniversary of great Iranian scholar Khwarizmi, who lived in the Islamic Golden Age and played an important role in modern mathematics, which is the basis of computer science; therefore, the occasion has been designated as the National Day of IT in Iran.

Speaking on the sidelines of the ceremony, Zarepour announced that he is looking to create a legal basis for Starlink satellite internet activity in Iran.

"We welcome the activity of foreign platforms and satellite internet providers in the country. But this is subject to compliance with the laws of the Islamic Republic of Iran," he added.

"Last week, in a meeting held under ITU, which is the highest decision-making body in the field of radio communications in the world, SpaceX has been required to obtain a license to operate in Iran," said the Iranian minister.

Iran's annual tourism  
revenues top \$6b: Official

A deputy head of the Iranian Tourism Ministry said Iran's annual tourism revenues have reached \$6.2 billion, adding that tourism is becoming a major source of earning hard currency for the country.

Citing figures from the World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC) on Thursday, Ali-Asghar Shalbafian did not elaborate if the annual revenue figure was related to 2022 or to the calendar year to late March 2023, reported Press TV.

Speaking at a ceremony in the tourist hub of Tabriz in northwest Iran, Shalbafian said tourism revenues had reached levels to equal more than

10% of Iran's annual non-oil export revenues.

He said, however, that Iran had invested some 3,650 trillion rials (\$7.3 billion) in recent years to boost its tourism infrastructure, adding that some 360 trillion rials had been spent in Tabriz and cities around it which are normally frequented by tourists from the Republic of Azerbaijan and countries in the Caucasus region.

Official figures show tourists arrivals to Iran reached a record of 4.23 million in the six months to September 2022 when a spell of unrest in the country caused a drop in the number of arrivals.

Tourism activity rebounded in Iran in the quarter to late June as the country received 1.4 million foreign visitors over the period, according to the statistics.

Tourism has become a focus of Iran's efforts to diversify its economy away from crude revenues in recent years.

The policy is meant to offset the impacts of US sanctions on the Iranian oil sector while it is also aimed at creating more jobs for the country's youth.

Recent reports show that the Iranian government is seeking to expand its visa waiver program to cover visitors from more than 60 new countries.

## Iran exporting elevator, escalator industry products to 15 states

## Economy Desk

Iran exports elevator and escalator industry products to 15 countries, announced Bahman Abdollahi, the head of the Iran Chamber of Cooperatives. Speaking in the inauguration ceremony of the 11th International Exhibition of Elevators, Escalators, Conveyors, Components

and Accessories in Tehran on Friday, he said the elevator and escalator industry has experienced significant progress in recent years, IRNA reported. "With measures taken in Iran's elevator industry, the exports of the products will exceed their imports in the next two to three years."

About 95 percent of the

elevator industry has been indigenized in Iran and only five percent of the required parts are imported, Abdollahi noted. The quality of production in the industry has reached an acceptable level such that we hope we will not need imports in less than five years, he added.

Abdollahi pointed out

that 1,200 escalators are produced annually in the country, and said: "Out of the figure, less than 1,000 units are for domestic use, and more than 200 units can be exported."

Over 140 domestic as well as 15 foreign companies are showcasing their latest products and services at the exhibition which will wrap up on Monday.



# Iran's national cord blood bank saves five-year-old

## Social Desk

The Iranian Blood Transfusion Organization has reported a significant milestone in the field of transplants using umbilical cord blood. The organization has successfully performed 28 transplants using stored umbilical cord blood, allowing individuals to experience a renewed lease on life.

One particularly heartwarming case involves the life-saving transplant that enabled five-year-old Arshia to embark on a new journey of health and vitality, IRNA reported.

Umbilical cord blood, recognized as a valuable source of stem cells, is the blood that remains in the placenta after childbirth. If not collected, this precious resource is unfortunately discarded as biological waste. However, studies have revealed that umbilical cord blood harbors hematopoietic stem cells with remarkable potential in treating various immune disorders and hematological malignancies in children. These versatile cells serve as a replacement for hematopoietic cells in patients grappling with cancer and other life-threatening illnesses. By harnessing the power of cord blood stem cell transplantation, numerous patients are being infused with newfound hope.

The Iran National Umbilical Cord Blood Bank spearheads the mission to provide stem

cells to individuals in dire need of transplantation. As a public cord blood bank, it houses cord blood units available for compatible patients, ensuring that the donated cord blood unit is not exclusively preserved for the respective donor's family. Instead, the cord blood stem cells, carefully collected from healthy infants, undergo rigorous testing, processing, and are ultimately stored at ultra-low temperatures within the umbilical cord blood bank.

Cord blood therapy has proven effective in treating various diseases, ranging from blood malignancies to congenital anemias such as thalassemia and Fanconi anemia. Moreover, the emergence of this treatment method within the realm of regenerative medicine and cell therapy has sparked extensive research aimed at addressing spinal cord injuries and cerebral palsy.

However, it is crucial to note that cord blood transplantation relies on the compatibility between the patient's histocompatibility antigen and the corresponding cord blood histocompatibility antigen. Consequently, medical and transplant centers play a pivotal role by facilitating the request for suitable cord blood units for transplantation.

## Arshia's remarkable journey to recovery

Arshia's story beautifully ex-

emplifies the impact of tissue matching and blood transplant facilitated by the national cord bank of the Iranian Blood Transfusion Organization. This five-year-old child, afflicted with a hereditary immunodeficiency disorder known as hemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis (HLH), was bestowed with a newfound sense of hope for a healthy and prosperous future. HLH is characterized by severe inflammation and organ dysfunction, potentially culminating in fatality.

Arshia's critical condition was met with a hematopoietic stem cell transplant utilizing a cord blood unit meticulously preserved in the Blood Transfusion Organization's cord blood bank. This groundbreaking procedure marks the 28th successful transplant using cord blood units stored by the Iranian Blood Transfusion Organization. Over 4,250 units of cord blood are currently safeguarded within the cord blood bank for blood transfusion purposes. However, reports indicate that only 86 of these units proved suitable for hematopoietic stem cell transplantation, as determined by compatible HLA samples. Regrettably, during the final confirmation of HLA compatibility using the High Resolution method, the samples fell short of full compatibility, precluding them from advancing to the transplantation stage. The High Resolution method meticulously



ly assesses the perfect match of tissue characteristics between the donor and the suitable graft. Iran's ethnically diverse populace presents a unique challenge, as the chances of compatibility between cord blood bank samples and potential recipients are notably low. The expansion of cord blood reserves and the increase in volunteers donating hematopoietic stem

cells hold promise in improving compatibility rates.

The Blood Transfusion Organization's cord blood bank stands as the sole active public cord blood bank in Iran, with operations commencing in 2010. This institution diligently collects, processes, and stores cord blood donations, representing a beacon of hope for individuals awaiting life-changing transplants.

## Iran's Mostazafan Foundation donates 30 fully-equipped ambulances to underprivileged regions

### Social Desk

In a commendable effort to alleviate deprivation in underprivileged regions across the country, Parviz Fattah, the head of Mostazafan Foundation, announced the delivery of 30 fully-equipped ambulances during a ceremony.

This recent handover marks the successful implementation of the third stage of the initiative, bringing the total number of ambulances donated by the foundation to deprived areas to a remarkable 100, according to Fars News Agency.

Recognizing the limited access to medical facilities in these marginalized regions and the escalating demand for ambulances, Fattah emphasized the foundation's commitment to addressing this critical issue. "The procurement and equipping of ambulances have been prioritized on our agenda," he underscored.

These 30 equipped ambulances have been dispatched to 30 different regions across 21 provinces of the country. Notably, certain provinces such as Sistan and Baluchestan, Yazd, Gilan, and Kerman have been assigned three ambulances each, taking into account the pressing needs of these areas.

Fattah highlighted that the selection and preparation of these ambulances were based on the



requirements specified by universities of medical sciences.

"The Mostazafan Foundation has purchased these ambulances from reputable domestic car manufacturers, strictly adhering to the orders and standards set forth by the Ministry of Health. As of today, these ambulances will be at the disposal of the Ministry of Health in deprived areas," Fattah affirmed. He further disclosed that the foundation has dedicated \$125,000 for the purchase and equipping of each ambulance. This substantial investment underscores the tremendous commitment of the foundation to ensuring the provision of vital emergency care services to

those in dire need.

Moreover, Fattah expressed the foundation's unwavering resolve to procure and equip additional ambulances for deprived areas.

"We stand ready to purchase and import the necessary ambulances at the foundation's expense. However, it is regrettable that these fully-equipped ambulances are not readily available in the open market. Their procurement remains solely under the care of the Ministry of Health, thereby elongating the acquisition process," he stated. According to the latest report, the donated ambulances have been assigned to 30 medical centers across 19 universities

of medical sciences throughout the country. The contents of these equipped ambulances feature a comprehensive range of essential medical equipment, including electroshock devices, ventilators, vital signs monitoring systems, baby incubators, cold boxes, traction splints, scope stretchers, spinal stabilization vests, vacuum mattresses, various wire splints, glucometers, serum pumps, pulse oximeters, and neck collars. With this latest contribution, the Lanback boards continues to make a profound impact on the lives of individuals residing in deprived areas, ensuring their access to critical emergency medical services.

## Iran's ancient wind-catchers give architects cooling inspiration

Electricity consumption rises with the temperature as people turn on air conditioners in the summer. But many homes in Iran are still built with a simple but effective cooling device known as a wind-catcher, which requires no electricity and dates back centuries.

A wind-catcher looks like a tall, decorative chimney, usually with two or more open sides. It catches the breeze that blows well above ground level and channels it down into the house below. This displaces warm air that is expelled through the opposite face of the wind-catcher, The Guardian reported.

In some designs the incoming air blows over water, providing further cooling. Studies show that this simple design can reduce the tem-

perature inside a building by 8C to 12C.

Even in the complete absence of wind, a wind-catcher acts as a solar chimney: warm air rises through it, drawing down cooler air into the building from the other side.

Nobody knows how far back wind-catchers date. Ancient Egyptian art depicts what might be wind-catchers from more than 3,000 years ago, but some scholars maintain that structures found on the remains of a Persian temple are the oldest genuine wind-catchers.

Now architects are taking another look at wind-catchers, redesigning them with computer-aided tools for maximum environmentally friendly cooling and ventilation.



## Iranian voice dubber Ashkbus dies



IRNA - Ali-Mohammad Ashkbus, a veteran figure in Iran's dubbing industry, sadly passed away.

Ashkbus began his career in voice dubbing at the age of 18 in the year 1961. Over the years, he excelled not only in dubbing and voice acting but also contributed as an assistant to dubbing directors, showcasing his multifaceted talent.

Among his notable vocal performances, Ashkbus lent his voice to the series 'Zero Degree Turn' and the animated works 'The Adventures of Hutch the Honeybee' and 'Ganbare, Kickers!'. The passing of Ali-Mohammad Ashkbus left behind a legacy of exceptional voice work that will be remembered and cherished by colleagues and audiences alike.

## Italy demands Louvre return looted antiquities

AFP - Italy demanded the restitution of seven antiquities which it believes were looted before being sold by dealers to the Louvre in Paris in the 1980s and 90s, the museum said on Friday. The claim, first reported in Le Monde newspaper, was made in a letter handed over by Italian Culture Minister Gennaro Sangiuliano in February during a visit to France, a spokesperson for the museum said.

All seven items, which include an amphora as well as ancient Greek vases ranging from the 4th-6th centuries BC, were sold by Italian traders convicted or suspected of trafficking in ancient artworks.

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# Winners of Havva International Film Festival announced



### Arts & Culture Desk

The first Havva International Film Festival concluded

with a grand ceremony on Friday, where the distinguished winners were announced and commended.

The festival, which commenced on July 7 and coincided with Iran's "Family Day" observance, aims to highlight the crucial role of women and the influential impact of families within the social fabric.

Under the motto, "We Stand for the Family," this significant event strives to provide a prominent platform for the distribution and showcasing of films that center around women and families, both within Iran and globally. Collaborating with various cultural centers and organizations, the festival endeavors to broaden the pathways for these cinematic works.

According to Hanna Polak, a producer and one of the directors of the Polish Film

Festival, who came to Tehran for the festival with the film 'Angels of Sinjar,' said, "I am familiar with Iranian cinema. Women in Iranian cinema hold significant positions in directing, producing, and acting, and the Iranian cinema scene in this regard is similar to the global cinema scene."

She stated, "As women, we have a more emotional perspective on the world, which gives us a more artistic outlook. There are great Iranian and international female filmmakers and screenwriters who bring a feminine and dramatic gaze to their work, in a way that many men may not be able to present such works."

A member of China Theatre Association Bayin, who was among the jury members of the festival,

said, family and women are important issues in all societies and Iranian filmmakers have been very successful in addressing these works.

The secretariat of the Havva International Film Festival received an overwhelming response, receiving an impressive total of 350 submissions from 23 countries, including notable contributions from Italy, Ireland, and Denmark.

Organized by the Goharshad International Foundation, and spearheaded by the visionary Mahdieh Sadaat-Mehvar, this year's event took place on a national scale, from July 7 to 14, with specific screenings and activities occurring in Tehran, from July 11 to 14.

# Iranian satirist Kioumars Saberi commemorated

### Arts & Culture Desk

The late Iranian writer and satirist Kioumars Saberi was honored in a ceremony on Friday, graced by the presence of Iran's Culture and Islamic Guidance Minister, Mohammad-Mehdi Esmaeili. During the event, Esmaeili emphasized the importance of cultivating a spirit of humor within the country, harnessing the Iranian people's innate poetic and literary prowess to effectively convey messages through irony, metaphor, and humor, according to IRNA.

He stressed the need to fortify this distinctive characteristic of Iranian society with a dedicated approach. Minister Esmaeili made these remarks on the occasion of the 7th National Satire and Media Festival, known as "Tanz Pahlou."

He lauded Saberi's exceptional ability to captivate audiences with his artistry and creativity, as evident in the monthly satirical magazine 'Golagha,' which left readers eagerly anticipating each new issue. Saberi's writing demonstrated a polite and noble style, 'Golagha' con-

scientiously observed the boundaries of religious traditions and societal decorum.

Highlighting the approaching 20th anniversary of Saberi's passing, Esmaeili emphasized the importance of ensuring that future generations will remember Saberi's contributions even more than the present one. A provincial official in Gilan, Reza Seqati, also shared insights from the festival, noting a remarkable 28% increase in submissions to the secretariat compared to the previous year. A total of

1,318 works were submitted to the festival, of which 21 outstanding contributions were honored.

Minister Esmaeili underscored that humor serves as a universal language, fostering understanding and providing a shared means of communication between people and officials. Expressing social demands through humor allows for the articulation of concerns without causing harm.

Born in 1941 in Gilan Province, Kioumars Saberi, widely known by his pen name "Golagha," was a prominent



contemporary writer and satirist.

After battling leukemia for an extended period, Saberi passed away in Tehran in 2004.

His influential work, 'A Couple of Sensible Words,' served as the impetus for the creation of the national festival.



Iran's Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance, Mohammad-Mehdi Esmaeili, addresses attendees at a ceremony held in Fuman County, Gilan Province, on July 14, 2023, to honor the renowned Iranian satirist Kioumars Saberi. ● IRNA

## At Peru temple site, archaeologists explore 3,000-year-old 'condor's passageway'

Archaeologists working in Peru uncovered a 3,000-year-old sealed corridor dubbed "the condor's passageway" that likely leads to other chambers inside what was once a massive temple complex pertaining to the ancient Chavin culture.

Located around 190 miles (306 km) northeast of Lima, the Chavin de Huantar archaeological site is among the culture's most important centers, thriving from around 1,500-550 B.C, Reuters wrote.

The Chavin are well-known for their advanced art, often featuring depictions of birds and felines. They date back to the first sedentary farming communities in the northern highlands of the Peruvian Andes, more than 2,000 years before the Inca Empire rose to power.

The latest Chavin discoveries focus on a hallway inside a south-



ern portion of the temple that was sealed due to what archaeologists believe was its structural weakness, but that now offers a glimpse into the earliest days of the Chavin.

"What we have here has been frozen in time," lead archeologist John Rick told Reuters.

A large ceramic piece weighing some 37 pounds (17 kg) decorated with what appears to be a condor's head and wings has been found in the passageway, along with a ceramic bowl, both unearthed in May 2022 when the

entrance was uncovered. The condor, one of the largest birds in the world, was associated with power and prosperity in ancient Andean cultures.

The temple complex features terraces as well as a network of passageways, which have only recently been discovered.

Rick, a Stanford University archeologist, has said much of the temple complex remains to be excavated.

The entrance to the "condor's passageway" was first explored by Rick's team using cameras mounted on robots, seeking to negotiate the debris that once filled it as well as avoiding the risk of further collapse of the ancient architecture.

The United Nations' educational, scientific and cultural arm UNESCO declared Chavin de Huantar a world heritage site in 1985.

## Chemical imaging reveals hidden details in Egyptian paintings

Researchers using a cutting-edge technique discovered hidden details in two ancient Egyptian paintings in the Theban Necropolis, near the River Nile, that date back more than 3,000 years.

The paintings are located within the tombs, in chapels where people could gather to commemorate the dead, CNN wrote. Using portable chemical imaging technology, the researchers identified alterations made by the artists that are rare in Egyptian paintings, commonly thought to be the product of highly formalized workflows.

The study is also trying to upend tradition in Egyptology, as the analysis was performed in the tombs with advanced portable devices, whereas most studies are traditionally performed in museums or laboratories.



"What is new is the way we are trying to use those tools," said Philippe Martinez, an Egyptologist at the Sorbonne University in Paris and lead author of the study published Wednesday in the journal PLOS ONE.

"The way these works of art have been dealt with before has been mainly, purely analog, and they have been somewhat

taken for granted — nobody has been really looking at them from the point of view of the artists. We want to understand how these paintings were made."

Chemical imaging technology involves X-ray fluorescence. X-rays, which are more commonly used in checking for fractures, create a map of the surface of the painting down to the molecular level, including its chemical properties. Another process, hyperspectral imaging, analyzes the painting on multiple wavelengths, such as ultraviolet or infrared, revealing more than is visible to the human eye.

The digital technology was used in two tombs that both date from the Ramesside Period (1292 BC to 1075 BC) in ancient Egypt.