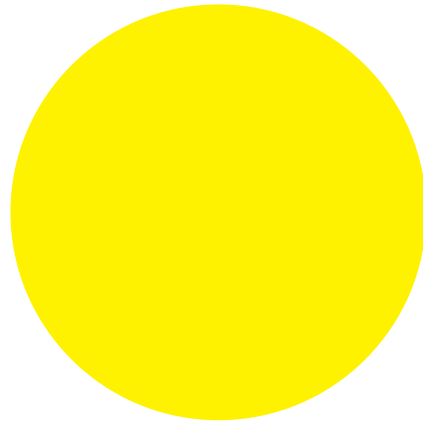




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Dubowitz syndrome!

What plans does FDD's Jewish CEO have against Iran?

According to the joint statement of the Ministry of Intelligence and the Intelligence Organization of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps, in 2022, he and the foundation under his management played a key role in organizing the rebellions against the Islamic Republic of Iran. But who is he really and what actions does the foundation under his management take against Iran?

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Judiciary chief:

Iran to bring to justice terror groups 'one by one'

National Desk

Head of Iran's Judiciary Gholamhossein Mohseni

Ejei has emphasized the completion of files related to terrorist groups, saying it is a top priority for the judiciary to address the backlogged cases of groups that committed crimes against the people and the country during the early days of the Islamic Revolution. "These terrorist groups are being brought to trial one by one," the judiciary chief added, according to IRNA. Addressing a Monday meeting of the Supreme Council of the Judiciary, Ejei said the body has assigned a dedicated group and headquarters to bring some of these backlogged cases, especially the cases of groups that committed crimes against various segments of the people and the country during the early days of the revolution, to conclusion. Page 2 >

FM: Foreign military presence in Syria detrimental to regional stability

International Desk

Iran believes that the presence of foreign forces in Syria will not contribute to the stability of Syria and the region, said the country's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian. Stressing that Iran fully understands Turkey's concerns about the security of its common borders with Syria, Amir-Abdollahian said, "We, however, believe that a military presence in Syria is not the solution." In a joint press conference with his Syrian counterpart Faisal

Mekdad in Tehran on Monday, Amir-Abdollahian underscored the necessity of continuing the Astana talks on the Syrian conflict and said there is consensus among all parties that the format will continue to operate in subsequent meetings at the level of foreign ministers and presidents. The top Iranian diplomat said the framework of the quadri-lateral meetings between Russia, Syria, Turkey and Iran as part of the political process to end the Syria conflict was the "most suitable diplomatic path" for the establishment of secu-

rity on the common borders of Syria and Turkey. "Iran firmly backs the right of the Syrian people to support the country's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity," the foreign minister said, adding, "We believe that the military presence of foreign countries in Syria will not contribute to stability and security in the country and the region." He underlined that the immediate withdrawal of the American occupation forces from Syrian territory would be a great contribution to the stability and security of the region.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Two killed in training plane crash



IRNA - Two people died after a training plane crashed on Monday west of Iran's capital Tehran, according to Iran's Civil Aviation Organization. The plane's pilot and a university student were on board when the training plane crashed in Alborz Province.

According to CAO officials, the incident happened at Payam International Airport at 05:45 local time (02:15 GMT). Investigation is underway to determine the cause of the deadly crash. Payam International Airport is located 40 kilometers west of Tehran, near the city of Karaj, in Alborz Province.

Ministry proposes cities' shutdown over heatwave

IRNA - Iran's Health Minister Bahram Einollahi said his ministry has proposed shutdown of some cities, which are experiencing temperatures above 40 degrees Celsius. Referring to the health impacts of the heatwave hitting the country, Einollahi said that people's health is related to a series of internal and environmental factors. Einollahi noted that sometimes these environmental factors can disrupt people's lives and cause problems for people's health. The Health Ministry proposes shutdown of these cities.

Iran urges South Korea to 'act wisely', on frozen funds

National Desk

Tehran has urged South Korea to "act wisely" and release billions of dollars' worth of Iranian funds frozen in the country's banks under the pretext of US sanctions. Speaking at a press conference on Monday, Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani said Tehran is in continuous consultations with Seoul to restore the rights of the Iranian nation, but complained about the limited progress of the talks.

"We expect the Korean government to act prudently and wisely in releasing Iran's assets in a timely manner," he asserted. Iran has commenced formal legal proceedings against South Korea as Seoul refuses to release billions of dollars' worth of Iranian funds on the pretext of US sanctions.



Iran sees new market for its drones in South America

International Desk

Iran is seeing new demand for its unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV), with Bolivia expressing interest in obtaining Iranian drones, a development that shows Tehran's focus on deepening its alliances in South America.

Bolivia's defense minister has recently confirmed his country's interest in acquiring Iranian drones, days after he visited Tehran for a bilateral meeting.

Bolivia is interested in obtaining Iranian drone technology to protect its borders and combat smuggling and drug trafficking, the An-

dean country's Defense Minister Edmundo Novillo said on July 26, a day after Argentina expressed concern about an agreement reached between Iran and Bolivia and demanded information on the deal, according to AP.

Novillo dismissed those concerns, saying they were "exaggerated" and came from an Argentine lawmaker "who, I understand, has Israeli origins," whom he did not name.

"Their technology could satisfy the requirement that we have raised," he said, according to reports, without specifying what kind of drones his government

wanted.

In 2022, Iran had the largest arsenal of missiles and drones in the Middle East, according to the US Defense Intelligence Agency, CNBC reported.

Iran's drones have made "considerable impact on any battlefield they have appeared in," according to Farzin Nadimi, an arms expert at The Washington Institute said. Despite production and trade challenges due to heavy Western sanctions, the performance of Iranian drones is "at par with the competition, and in some respects, even better" — while also being cheaper, Nadimi said in a re-

port by the U.S. Institute for Peace. Two days after Novillo's remarks, John Kirby, communications chief for the US National Security Council, said in an interview that the Biden administration is concerned about any export of Iranian technology.

An apparent marketing push to countries in the developing world has strengthened Iran's alliances, while also improving revenue streams — something of critical importance to Tehran after several years of economic pressure under US sanctions.

Many Latin American countries cooperate with Iran as part of a

broader opposition to the US, or because they are under US sanctions — in particular Venezuela, which has been receiving Iranian drone technology since 2007. On a recent visit to Latin America, Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi stressed the importance of an alliance between Iran, Cuba, Nicaragua, and Venezuela in a common struggle against "imperialism and domination" by the US and the West.

Since the socialist party returned to power in Bolivia in 2020, the country has made a concerted effort to revive ties with Venezuela and Iran.

Iran, Belarus sign MoU to boost defense cooperation

The defense chiefs of Iran and Belarus signed a memorandum of understanding to improve cooperation in the defense sector.

The MoU was signed by Iranian Defense Minister Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Ashtiani and his Belarusian counterpart Viktor Khrenin following a meeting in Tehran on Monday, Press TV reported.

Pointing to the two countries' common stance on many regional and international issues, Ashtiani said Belarus has a special place in Iran's foreign policy. He added that Belarusian Pres-

ident Alexander Lukashenko's talks with senior Iranian officials in Tehran in March, and his meeting with Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei indicate the significance of Minsk in Iran's foreign policy.

During Lukashenko's state visit to Tehran, Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi and his Belarusian counterpart signed eight agreements on various fields, including trade, transportation, agriculture and mining, under a cooperation roadmap which marked 30 years of diplomatic

relations between the two countries.

Referring to the defense cooperation between Tehran and Minsk, Ashtiani said, "Making use of the two countries' capabilities and capacities and defense synergies will establish peace, stability and security in the region."

He reaffirmed the determination of the two countries' top officials to improve the level of bilateral cooperation in various areas as a strategic principle to overcome the West's sanctions policy against independent states, including Iran and Belarus.



Iranian Defense Minister Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Ashtiani (R) and his Belarusian counterpart Viktor Khrenin sign a memorandum of understanding during a meeting in Tehran on July 31, 2023.
● IRNA



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Iran to bring to justice ...

The judiciary has tasked the group and headquarters to thoroughly comprehend the crimes committed by the terrorist groups during the early days of the revolution, Ejei said.

They will consider various aspects, including the atrocities committed against women and children, the deliberate targeting of innocent civilians, collaboration and coordination with hostile forces, and providing information to them, he added.

Mizan news agency reported on Saturday that a top Iranian criminal court plans to bring more than a hundred members of the anti-Iran terrorist cult Mujahedin-e-Khalq Organization (MKO), which has murdered tens of thousands of Iranian citizens, to trial. According to the report, Branch 1 of Tehran's Criminal Court has announced that 104 MKO members, including the ringlead-

er of the terror cult Maryam Rajavi, must introduce their lawyers to the court so that they will represent and protect the rights of the defendants. Otherwise, a due decision would be made in accordance with the law, the report noted. The MKO has carried out numerous terrorist attacks against Iranian civilians and government officials since the victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979. Out of the nearly 17,000 Iranians killed in terrorist attacks over the past four decades, about 12,000 have fallen victim to the MKO's acts of terror.

On June 20, Albanian police forces entered the MKO camp, known as Ashraf-3, near Tirana, due to its engagement in "terror and cyberattacks" against foreign institutions. Authorities seized 150 computer devices linked to terrorist activities.

Badab-e Surt springs, a natural wonder in Mazandaran Province



● surfiran.com

The wonderland of Iran has an infinite number of offers for travel lovers. Ranging from the most ancient historical sites to amazing natural wonders, the country is a unique destination for all types of travelers.

On a single trip you can enjoy history and culture as well as amazing natural attractions of the country. One of the less-known astonishing wonders of Iran are the terraced hot springs of Badab-e Surt, located in the northern province of Mazandaran, surfiran.com wrote.

Badab-e Surt is a rare geological masterpiece formed during the Pleistocene and Pliocene epochs. Only a handful of such places exist in the world. A similar natural wonder has already been lost.

This site was crafted by nature after two different mineral hot springs spent thousands of years sending water bubbling down the mountain from over 6,000 feet above sea level. When the water cooled, it left behind its carbonate minerals in a jelly-like substance that eventually hardened to give the slope its current staircase shape.

Due to the high level of minerals such as iron oxide existing in these hot springs, a unique and colorful stepped terrace has emerged that adds to the beauty of this natural site.

Badab in Persian means gassed water, and Surt is the name of the nearest village. This sedimentary rock has been created over thousands of years, and as the

water flows down, the heavier minerals settle down and water becomes clearer. As a result, a mirror-like surface has been generated and each little pond reflects the color of the sky.

That's the reason why it is advisable to visit Badab-e Surt during sunrise and sunset. As the color of the sky changes, the site, too, shifts colors and a dreamy landscape appears.

When you reach the terraces, you will have an amazing view of the site along with the mountains surrounding it. As Badab-e Surt is located off the beaten track, you may see only a few visitors and, if you're lucky, no visitors at all! So, you can enjoy the peace and tranquility of this unguarded site.

Remember that you don't have to pay for visiting Badab-e Surt; it is free to explore it, although we suggest you to take care of this amazing natural attraction and help to preserve it in its natural state.

The best time to visit Badab-e Surt would be around April and May, when you can enjoy the scenery created by lush green mountains surrounding the terraces. However, it is also possible to visit the site in other seasons, even during the coldest days of winter.

Badab-e Surt can be a bit tough to get to, nonetheless, it is a place worth seeking out. The journey there requires winding along isolated roads and stretches of unpaved mountain passes. It is recommended that you get help from a local guide.

Decline of Persian language in South Asia

The amnesia created by the interpolation of 'literary return' in Persian literary historiography has dovetailed rather well with the overall narrative of Persian's 'decline' in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century South Asian historiography.

The narrative of 'decline' of Persian in South Asia is largely a by-product of Persian's association with political changes resulting from the downfall and break-up of the Mughal Empire (1526-1857 CE) after the death of the emperor Aurangzeb (1707). More often than not, the strength of Persian literary culture in South Asia has been seen as inextricably tied to the waning political fortunes of the Mughals. As the Mughal Empire went, it has been argued, so too did Persian literary culture. The rich corpus of administrative norms and practices, modes of patronage, literary models and trends in poetry tied

to the Persian language and nurtured over the centuries is seen to have reached its apogee and then died away completely when the Mughal Empire fractured.

Scholarship reflecting on how Persian literary culture functioned in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century South Asia tends to do so by emphasizing two major shifts occurring in post-Mughal times. Recasting the story of Persian literary culture within the framework of these two larger shifts deeply affects the manner in which Persian literary history in South Asia is written. The first is the language policies of the British as executed through their political and colonial endeavors. The second is the growing usage of Urdu as a means of literary expression. The cumulative impact of assessing the fortunes of Persian literary culture in post-Mughal South Asia through the prism

of these two hegemonic historiographies – colonialism and Urdu – relegates Persian to a transitional role of declining prestige and usage.

Coupled with a narrative of 'stagnation' on account of the so-called 'Indian Style', Persian literary culture of the post-Mughal period becomes all but forgotten. If the Iranian-centric narrative of 'literary return' needed to erase non-Iranian developments in the Persianate world to construct a taut narrative of literary nationalism in Iran, then South Asian narratives focused on the overwhelming impact of colonialism and the spectacular rise of Urdu needed to do the same in articulating their own origin stories. To do so effectively, as in the Iranian case, the messier elements of Persian literary culture in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century South Asia needed to be marginalized and ultimately erased.



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

What plans does FDD's Jewish CEO have against Iran?

Dubowitz syndrome!



Who is Mark Dubowitz?

Mark Dubowitz is the Jewish CEO of the Foundation for Defense of Democracies. He is an expert on Iran's nuclear program and is known as one of the key influencers in shaping policies to counter Iran. He also participates in the China program due to his work experience in the Indo-Pacific and his academic background. He is one of the most important commanders of the economic war against Iran. During the Trump administration, many of his ideas in line with maximum economic pressure on the Islamic Republic of Iran were implemented by Donald Trump. In 2015, he and his colleagues made more than 20 trips to European countries, the Middle East and the Persian Gulf to talk with government officials, banks, economic activists and businessmen about the risks of restarting trade with Iran. In 2019, the Iranian government sanctioned him and the Founda-

tion for the Defense of Democracy, calling them "the designing and implementing arm of the US government" regarding Iranian policy. According to the joint statement of the Ministry of Intelligence and the Intelligence Organization of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps, in 2022, he and the foundation under his management played a key role in organizing the rebellions against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Foundation's main actions against Iran

The activities of the Foundation for the Defense of Democracy have a special focus on Iran, which operates under the title "Iran Program". The Defense of Democracy Foundation says at the beginning of the "Iran Program" that it started this work to educate political and public associations of people abroad about the activities of Iranian branches.

The Foundation for the Defense of

Democracies is one of the important think tanks that played a key role in the field of international politics during Trump's presidency. It can be said that part of the intensification of economic sanctions and the application of crippling economic sanctions during the Trump era was the result of the decision-making of this think tank. To carry out a campaign of maximum pressure against the authorities, the Trump administration cut off the access of all Iranian banks to the world banking system, which includes access to SWIFT, and especially to transactions in the euro, the European currency, by implementing this foundation's plan. The Foundation for the Defense of Democracies, led by Dubowitz, has been announced as one of the architects of sanctions and the withdrawal of the United States from the JCPOA during Trump's era.

In 2011, they planned to sanction the Central Bank and Iran's oil

sector, in 2012, they tried to create problems for the movement of money in Iran. In recent years, there have been anti-Iranian research and actions regarding the JCPOA defects and the consequences of Iran's connection to SWIFT. Apart from the role of the director of this foundation, Mark Dubowitz, "Richard Goldberg", the senior advisor, in cooperation with the US Department of State, has played an influential role in the Iran oil embargo process. Based on this performance, Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs put the American Foundation for

the Defense of Democracies on its sanctions list. The important members of this foundation were among the most important senior advisers of [the US ex-president] Obama and Trump's policies and also during the presidency of Biden regarding Iran. One of the interesting points that can be seen in the recommendation of the foundation's solutions to the United States is the pressure on the European Union by the US to implement the package proposed by this foundation, and this shows the pressure level of Zionism in European policies.





One of the programs of the FDD Foundation is to communicate with the opposition of the target countries in order to overthrow their political systems. One of the programs of the FDD Foundation is to communicate with the opposition of the target countries in order to overthrow their political systems. The picture is of Dubowitz's meeting with the son of Mohammad Reza Pahlavi (Reza), the former Shah of Iran, who is currently trying to overthrow the Islamic Republic of Iran. They made their relationship and meeting public in Tel Aviv a few months ago.



The Foundation for the Defense of Democracies (FDD), which has a long history of opposing the Islamic Republic of Iran, advised the Biden government to exert maximum pressure on the Iranian political system in one of its positions regarding the events of 2022 in Iran. Referring to the change in the pattern of internal tension in Iran after 2016, this think tank asked the US government to use all its tools to pressure Iran. The authors of FDD stated that US bilateral and multilateral policies against Iran should include communication support and political and financial support, as well as increasing sanctions against Iranian officials and trying to isolate them politically in international organizations.

Some major issues on FDD's Iran Program Desk

Iranophobia in the world

1 It makes suggestions regarding Iran's overseas activities and takes steps to counter its influence in the world, especially in the region, West Asia, China, Latin America, and currently Russia.

Human rights in Iran

2 Under the pretext of human rights violations, it provides solutions for comprehensive intervention through proposals to US policies and international organizations.

Iranian missiles

3 In recent years, Iran's missile system has become a threat against America's hegemonic policies in the world with its comprehensive growth. Due to the riskiness of this industry for America and the Zionist government and the creation of deterrence, this foundation also puts forward suggestions to deal with its development.

Nuclear Iran

4 In recent years, Iran's missile system has become a threat to US policies with its comprehensive growth. Due to the riskiness of this industry and the creation of deterrence, the foundation also makes suggestions to deal with its development.

Economic policy

5 Another function of the foundation is to put pressure on the country's activities both domestically and internationally. They impose economic terrorism on the country to limit economic activities and reduce Iran's revenues, most of which are applied in the form of a package of sanctions.

Latin America

6 Latin America is the US' backyard. Therefore, Iran's political influence in the LatAm states and Iranian officials' visits to these countries are considered a warning for the US. The Foundation tries to suggest ways to curb Iran's actions.

Iran's influence in the region

7 The resistance groups in the West Asian region have been an obstacle to the US' war goals. Since Iran is considered the pole and center of gravity of these groups, the foundation tries to challenge Iran's performance in the entire region and isolate Iran's policies with proposals.

Important headings of some prescriptions

- Opposition to the revival of the JCPOA agreement with Iran
- Opposition to any increase in trade between Iran and Türkiye
- to impose sanctions on the IRIB
- Trying to isolate the Islamic Republic politically by excluding or condemning the Islamic Republic in the international arena and at the same time putting pressure on the allies to cut off or reduce bilateral diplomatic relations.
- Providing protesters with security information about Iran's security forces
- Disruption in key industries such as oil, gas, petrochemical, and financial sectors to pro-

- voke dissatisfaction and general labor strike, especially in strategic sectors of Iran.
- President Biden and other high-ranking officials should strongly embrace traditional and social media to strengthen and maintain their support for the Iranian people and remind demonstrators that the government stands by them.
- Supporting ethnic minorities to rebel against the Islamic Republic (with a special focus on Azarbaijan and Arabs in Khuzestan) and trying to network with groups in neighboring countries such as Azerbaijan, Turkey, and Iraq.

Which country will be the next?

The issues explained here about Iran can be used against any other country by the FDD to ensure the interests of the US and Israel anyway. The "Iran program" is only one of the many projects of the foundation; and various measures may be adopted by the foundation against any other country one day; What we call Dubowitz syndrome! Therefore, the political authorities of the countries must be aware of the behind-the-scenes policy-making in the United States about other countries and recognize their true nature.



NEWS IN BRIEF

UAE, China to hold first joint air drill



AA – China and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) will conduct their first joint military drill next month in China's northwestern Xinjiang province, the Chinese Defense Ministry said on Monday.

"This is the first joint training between both air forces, aiming to deepen pragmatic exchanges and cooperation between the two militaries and enhance mutual understanding and trust," it added.

Death toll from Pakistan's suicide bombing rises



AL JAZEERA – The death toll from a massive suicide bombing that targeted an election rally for a pro-Taliban Muslim leader has risen to 54, as Pakistan held funerals and the government promised to hunt down those behind the attack. While no one immediately claimed responsibility for Sunday's bombing, which also wounded nearly 200 people, police said their initial investigation suggested that the ISIL (ISIS) regional affiliate could be responsible.

China curbs exports of drone equipment



REUTERS – China on Monday announced export controls on some drones and drone-related equipment, saying it wanted to safeguard "national security and interests" amid escalating tension with the United States over access to technology.

The restrictions on equipment including some drone engines, lasers, communication equipment, and anti-drone systems would take effect on September 1, the commerce ministry said. The controls would also affect some consumer drones.

Kremlin asks for aims of Ukraine talks in Saudi Arabia



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy (front-L) shakes hand with Crown Prince of Kuwait Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah during a meeting of the Arab League in Jeddah on May 19, 2023.
● AMERICAN PHOTO ARCHIVE

The Kremlin said on Monday it needed to find out the purpose of upcoming talks reportedly planned in Saudi Arabia about the war in Ukraine.

The Wall Street Journal (WSJ) reported on Saturday

that Saudi Arabia would invite Western states, Ukraine, and major developing countries to the talks. The paper said Kyiv and Western countries hoped that the talks, which would exclude Russia, can lead

to international backing for peace terms favoring Ukraine, Reuters wrote. Asked about the WSJ report, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said: "Of course, Russia will follow this meeting. We need to understand

what goals are set and what will be discussed. Any attempt to promote a peaceful settlement deserves a positive evaluation." However, Peskov also restated Moscow's position that it currently saw no grounds

for peace talks with Kyiv. "The Kyiv regime does not want and cannot want peace, as long as it is used exclusively as a tool in the war of the collective West with Russia," he said on a call with reporters.

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has previously expressed a readiness to mediate in the conflict.

President Vladimir Putin said on Saturday that an African initiative — which envisages confidence-building measures followed by a cessation of hostilities — could be a basis for peace in Ukraine but that Ukrainian attacks on Russia made this very hard to realize.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has rejected the idea of a ceasefire now that would leave Russia in control of nearly a fifth of his country and give its forces time to regroup after 17 grinding months of war.

Denmark, Sweden seek to de-escalate as more Qur'ans are burned

More Qur'an burnings took place in Sweden and Denmark on Monday as the governments of the two Nordic countries said they were examining ways to legally limit such acts in a bid to de-escalate growing tensions with several Muslim countries. Denmark and Sweden have seen several protests in recent weeks where copies of the Qur'an have been burned, or otherwise damaged, prompting outrage in Muslim countries, which have demanded the Nordic governments put a stop to the desecrations, according to Reuters.

The Danish government said on Sunday it would seek to find a "legal tool" that could enable authorities to intervene in such protests, if deemed to entail "significant

negative consequences for Denmark, not least with regard to security". "The fact that we are signalling both in Denmark and abroad that we are working on it will hopefully help de-escalate the problems we are facing," Rasmussen told journalists following a meeting with foreign policy speakers of parliament on Monday. "It is not because we feel pressured to do so, but it is our political analysis that it is in the best interest of all of us," Rasmussen said, adding: "We shouldn't just sit and wait for this to explode."

Meanwhile, desecration continues. Even so, Qur'an burnings took place in both countries on Monday. In Stockholm, an Iraqi

refugee behind several protests in recent weeks appeared to burn a copy of the Qur'an outside the Swedish parliament. In Denmark, anti-Muslim protesters burned the Qur'an outside the Saudi Arabian embassy in Copenhagen, with several more planned for later in the day. The Nordic countries have deplored the burnings of the Qur'an but claim that they cannot prevent it under constitutional laws protecting freedom of speech. However, both governments have now said they are considering legal changes that would allow authorities to prevent further desecrations in special situations. The Swedish government said this month it is examining a similar

solution but right-wing parties in both countries have denounced the initiatives, with some saying freedom of speech cannot be compromised. Swedish Foreign Minister Tobias Billstrom said on Monday that he had sent letters to all 57 countries in the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to explain Sweden's right to assembly and

condemned Islamophobic acts. OIC foreign ministers will convene in an extraordinary session on Monday to discuss the recent developments.

Furious protesters burn the Danish and Swedish flags outside the Swedish Embassy in London.
● SHUTTERSTOCK

Karbala's message resonates with Hindus too: *Indian scholar*

Karbala's enduring message of resisting tyranny strikes a chord not only with Indian Muslims but also with Hindus and followers of other faiths, says an Indian professor. Professor Balram Shukla, the director of the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre in Tehran, made the remarks in an interview on Press TV's weekly show "The Subcontinent", which

aired on Friday. Shukla called Imam Hussein (PBUH) "the epitome of the struggle against tyranny and untruthfulness," saying he is revered by people of different religious denominations including Hindus. "India is a syncretism of all cultures that you can find on the surface of Earth. A variety of cultures live together in peace. And in

this colorful India, one of the brightest colors, I think, is that of Muharram and that of Imam Hussein (PBUH)," Shukla said. "In all parts of India, we find that Muharram is observed, mourning is observed, and people find themselves close to the imam and there're many localized traditions that are not visible even in Iran or other parts of the world."

Shukla, a Hindu, also spoke about his personal experience of observing Muharram commemorations, which are part of the rich cultural heritage of India and an example of interfaith harmony. "I'm from the city of Gorakhpur in the (northern Indian) state of Uttar Pradesh, and there is an Imambara (Hosseinayah). Imambara is a specific place for mourn-

ing Imam Hussein's (PBUH) martyrdom," he stated, adding that people of all religions go there and "mourn for the imam, observe the mourning, and watch ta'zieh (a recreation of the scenes of Karbala)." He said Indian people from various religious backgrounds understand the message of Karbala, which is about fighting injustice and standing on the right side of history. The Indian cultural house director said that at various places in mainland India, Hindu families have been holding ta'zieh processions for hundreds of years, believing that Imam Hussein (PBUH) is an embodiment of piety, courage, and sacrifice, and someone who belongs to the whole of mankind. "Karbala was an event that could transcend localities,

geographies, ethnicities, and even religions including Islam. This is not something exclusive to Muslims. All human beings of each and every ethnicity find themselves close to the imam because of the special message that Karbala conveys," he said. "Karbala sends the message that even if you seem to be small, even if you seem to be weak, you should not quit being on the side of truth and ultimately, you will triumph." On why Imam Hussein (PBUH) is so popular in the Hindu-majority South Asian country, he said the Indian people's love for Prophet Mohammad's (PBUH) grandson has its roots in India's history and its eastern culture that has been intertwined with the Islamic culture for centuries.



A clan of Hindus known as "Hussaini Brahmins" mourn the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussein (PBUH), the third Shia Imam, in India during the Ashura.
● ALAMY

'Morale-boosting' display for Iran U19 ahead of World Championship



● volleyball.ir

Sports Desk

Iran head coach Mohammad Vakili hailed his team's "morale-boosting" performance in a friendly tournament in São Paulo ahead of the upcoming FIVB Volleyball Boys' U19 World Championship in San Juan, Argentina.

On Sunday, Vakili's boys came out on top against Bulgaria in straight sets (25-20, 25-19, 31-29) in the final showdown of the four-team event, which also featured the Brazilian un-

der-19 side and SESI São Paulo U21 team.

This was a third victory in the Brazilian city for the reigning Asian champion, which will be chasing a third world title – first since 2017 – in San Juan. Iran beat Brazil in four sets (25-21, 28-30, 25-17, 25-19) in the opening game before suffering a straight-set defeat (25-21, 25-22, 26-24) against Bulgaria – runner-up to Poland in the previous World Championship in Tehran two years ago.

Vakili's side was back in the winning ways, beating SESI São Paulo 3-0 (25-21, 27-25, 25-21) for a place in the final showdown.

"The tournament was a morale booster for us and helped improve the harmony in the team before the World Championship," Vakili said after the final match.

"We were brilliant in attack and did much better than the Bulgarians in defense. Both sides will be among the favorites in Argentina," added the Iranian coach,

who was excited to see his boys receiving "such a massive support by the Brazilian fans."

"I didn't expect such a crowd cheering our team. This shows Iranian volleyball's strong fanbase all over the world, most notably in the South American countries," Vakili said.

There were also individual recognitions for the Iranian players in the tournament as Taha Behboudnia took the MVP and Best Middle Blocker awards while Mahan Barzkar was

named the joint Best Opposite Spiker.

A 2021 bronze medalist on home soil, Iran will begin its World Championship campaign with a game against fellow Asian side South Korea on Wednesday before taking on Puerto Rico, Columbia, and Nigeria in Pool C. The host country – also the reigning South American champion – will headline Pool A, with the United States, Egypt, Serbia, and Costa Rica also in the group. Bulgaria is in Pool B along-

Mohammad Vakili's boys came out on top against Bulgaria in straight sets in the final showdown of the four-team event, which also featured the Brazilian under-19 side and SESI São Paulo U21 team.

Iran U23 wins CAFA Futsal Cup



● FFIRI

Sports Desk

Iran's under-23 team claimed the title at the CAFA Futsal Cup thanks to a final-day 1-0 victory over Tajikistan.

Ali Akrami bagged the only goal of the game as Ali Sanei's side finished atop the six-team table with 12 points.

Iran got off to a losing start at the event in Dushanbe, suffering a shock 2-1 defeat against Turkmenistan, but bounced back to beat Kyrgyzstan (1-0), Afghanistan (5-1), and Uzbekistan (5-0) before Sunday's win against the host.

Akrami went on to pick up the Most Valuable Player award while his teammate Mehdi Rostami was named the Best Goalkeeper.

Afghanistan finished as the runner-up with 10 points, courtesy of three wins and one draw and defeat apiece, followed by Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and the Kyrgyz Republic.

Hosseini bags first gold for Iran in World University Games



● MNA

Sports Desk

The second day of the FISU World University Games saw Seyyed Mohammad Hosseini, representing Iran in the wushu competitions, grab a first gold for the country in Chengdu, China. Hosseini claimed the ultimate prize of the gunshu event to take Iran's tally in the men's taolu to two medals.

Shahin Banitalebi settled for a bronze in the nanquan contest, finishing behind the host's Cao Maoyan and Ziu Lizong of Hong Kong.

Elsewhere in the Games, Iran's poomsae squad finished its campaign with four bronze medals.

The Iranian trio of Seyyed Ali Zare', Reza Jalalifar, and Morteza Zendehelel shared the third podium with Vietnam in the men's team event – a second bronze for Zendehelel following a third-spot finish in the individual competition.

South Korea won the team gold, with China taking the silver.

In the women's contests, Yasaman Limouchi won the individual bronze and was also part of the Iranian side – alongside Mobina Sharifi and Reihaneh Moqaddam – that won the team bronze. Vietnam took the other bronze while South Korea and China again scooped the gold and silver medals respectively.

'Cheeky' Verstappen toys with rivals as third F1 title looms large



Red Bull's Max Verstappen celebrates with the trophy on the podium after winning the Belgian Grand Prix in Spa, Belgium, on July 30, 2023.
JOHANNA GERON/REUTERS

BBC – Max Verstappen is toying with Formula 1 at the moment.

The Dutchman won the Belgian Grand Prix for Red Bull on Sunday at a canter from sixth on the grid while barely appearing to extend himself. When he wanted to overtake Sergio Perez for the lead, he lapped two seconds faster than his Red Bull team-mate at will.

Once out front Verstappen spent the rest of the race engaging in light-hearted badinage with his race engineer Gianpiero Lambiase as they bickered about how hard he should push. Verstappen was so at ease once in the lead that he was able to joke with his team.

After being asked by Lambiase to take it easier on his final set of tyres, due to Red Bull's concerns about their durability, his response was to suggest he push

even harder, extend an even bigger gap and take another set to give the team some pit stop practice.

Not that they need it, given Red Bull consistently have the fastest pit stops.

"He has all reason to be a bit cheeky," said Toto Wolff, boss of the Mercedes team that two years ago were going toe-to-toe with Verstappen for the title, but now appear helpless and lost in trying to understand just why Red Bull's advantage is so big.

"[He's] just driving around. On merit. Nothing else to say. As much as it's annoying." Though Verstappen's searing pace may have given the impression that he ignored Lambiase's demands to back off, especially once he crossed the line 22.3 seconds ahead of the only man in the same car, that was not the reality. Verstappen, Lambiase said after the race, "did listen". It just didn't look like it, so great was his superiority. Verstappen took a dominant

pole position won by more than 0.8 seconds, but was demoted five places by a grid penalty for using too many gearbox parts.

It took him just over 16 of the 44 laps to reach the front of the field. "I'm surprised it took him so long," Red Bull team principal Christian Horner said.

Horner quickly qualified that he was joking, but you know what they say about many a true word. His remark actually reflected the belief throughout the F1 paddock – before the grand prix started many were debating how many laps it would take Verstappen to get into the lead.

"What we are witnessing with Max at the moment," Horner said, "is something you see once in a generation. Like all the great drivers, he has that extra capacity. And what we're seeing is his ability to read a tyre, read a race, extract absolutely everything out of it. It's great to see. He is just at the top of his form."

China announces measures on consumption boosting



AFP – Chinese authorities announced new measures to boost consumption on Monday, as fresh economic data suggested that the country's post-COVID recovery is running out of steam and growth is slowing.

Official figures released Monday showed factory activity contracting for the fourth straight month in July, adding to a run of dismal economic data that has ramped up calls for government support measures.

China's State Council released on Monday a 20-point plan to increase consumption across the board, touching on housing, culture and tourism, as well as green consumption such as electric vehicles.

Eurozone inflation slows in July



REUTERS – Economic growth in the eurozone rebounded in the second quarter, data showed Monday, but concerns remain over inflation that is slowing yet still stubbornly high, and over stagnation in the German economy. The EU's Eurostat data agency said growth in the 20-country single currency zone reached 0.3 percent over the April-June period after recording zero growth in the first three months of the year.

UK to issue oil, gas licences in North Sea



CNBC – The UK government said Monday it would issue "hundreds" of new oil and gas licences in the North Sea to secure energy reserves while still aiming for net zero carbon emissions by 2050. The announcement angered environmental groups and comes amid an internal debate within the ruling Conservative party on green policies.

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Tehran, Damascus stress pursuing implementation of bilateral agreements

Officials from Iran and Syria underlined following up on agreements reached between the two sides previously.

Following the meeting of Iranian and Syrian presidents in May, heads of the Iran-Syria Joint Economic Commission met in Tehran to follow up on the implementation of 16 memoranda of understanding (MoUs) inked between the two sides, reported Tasnim news agency.

Iran's Ministry of Roads and Urban Development hosted a meeting in Tehran on Monday to follow up on the agreements reached between Iran and Syria during a visit by Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi to Damascus on May 3, 2023.

The meeting was headed by Iran's Minister of Roads and Urban Development Mehrdad Bazrpash and Syrian Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade Mohammad Samer al-Khalil, according to the Iranian Road Ministry's website.

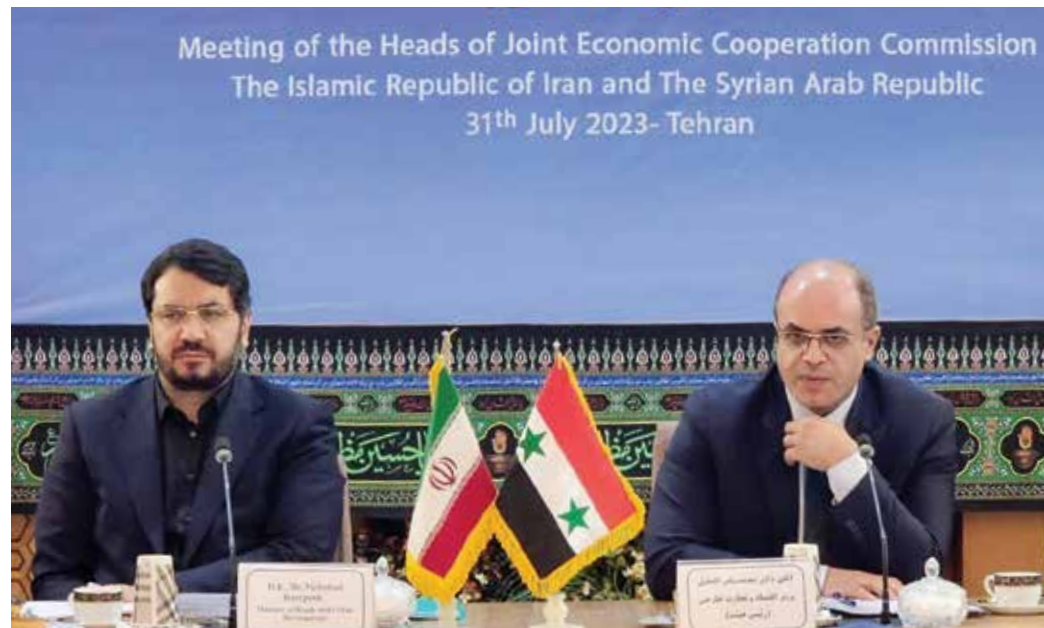
During the meeting, the two sides expressed their satisfaction with the progress in joint agendas and projects since the last

visit which Samer al-Khalil called a turning point in economic and trade ties and as a sign of determination in promoting bilateral cooperation.

Some agendas have been realized since May, which include the removal of trade tariffs, an increase of flights to reach 50,000 passengers per year, and the maintenance of Syrian aircraft by Iran.

Other agendas are underway including the Iran-Iraq-Syria Railway as an alternative to the land route for transit, repair and maintenance of existing rail routes, rail fleet provision, construction of a railway route from Iraq to Syria, a trilateral agreement between Iran, Iraq, and Syria for truck transit in the form of a consortium, electricity, water provision, free trade agreement, custom and industrial cooperation, banking, insurance as well as greater air and seaport cooperation.

Meanwhile, in another meeting held between Al-Khalil and Iran's Minister of Communications and Information Technology (ICT) Issa Zarepour in Tehran on Mon-



Iranian Minister of Roads and Urban Development Mehrdad Bazrpash (L) co-chairs the Iran-Syria Joint Economic Commission meeting with and Syrian Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade Mohammad Samer al-Khalil in Tehran on July 31, 2023. IRNA

day, the two sides explored avenues for the expansion of bilateral relations in the field of ICT. During the meeting, the two ministers mulled over the agreements reached between the two

countries in the field of joint cooperation in the ICT sector, emphasizing the implementation of a memorandum of understanding inked between the ICT ministers of the two countries.

Increasing cooperation between Tehran and Damascus in the fields of e-government and space industry were among the other topics discussed between the two sides.

Iran eyes developing trade ties with African states: Deputy minister

Iran attaches great importance to developing trade and economic relations with African countries, a deputy foreign minister said.

Speaking at the first gathering of Iran trade centers overseas on Monday, Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Diplomacy Mehdi Safari stated that the administration of President Ebrahim Raeisi has prioritized increasing trade and economic ties with neighboring and regional states, reported IRNA. The development of trade and economic ties with African and Latin American countries is of paramount importance for Iran and has been put at the top of the agenda of the current administration, he said.

Iran enjoys high potential in exporting technical and engineering services to



other countries, he added. Safari pointed to Iran's privileged situation for exporting products to African countries and emphasized that an appropriate balance should be created between imports and exports with the aim of expanding trade ties.

Turkey has accounted for a \$30 billion share of the African market, while Iran can increase its share from the lucrative market of Africa as well, he added.

Iran insists on joint exploitation of Arash gas field

Iran is pushing for the joint exploitation of the Arash gas field that is shared with its southwestern neighbors, said Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani.

In comments at a press conference on Monday, Kanaani underscored Iran's demand for the joint exploitation of the Arash gas field, IRNA reported.

He said Iran had expressed its readiness for talks with Kuwait regarding the exploitation and exploration of the gas field.

Reiterating Iran's support for the "friendly settlement" of border and maritime issues with neighbors, the spokesman said, "We have always taken the course of negotiations and understanding in connection with the exploitation of the joint (oil and gas) fields."

His remarks came after Kuwaiti oil minister Saad Al Barrak said that the Arab country's plans for production from the field will not wait for border demarcation with Iran.



Kuwait and Saudi Arabia announced in early 2022 that they had reached an agreement to jointly produce one billion cubic feet (28.3 million cubic meters) per day of natural gas, and 84,000 barrels per day of condensates from the Arash field, also known as Durra.

That caused Iranian Oil Minister Javad Owji to post a tweet at the time to say that Iran will soon install a drilling jacket at Arash field to resume development operations that had been halted

in 2001 after Kuwait threatened to lodge a complaint against Iran in international courts.

The maritime border demarcation dispute between Iran and Kuwait dates back to more than 60 years ago.

Some estimates suggest more than 70 percent of the resources of the disputed gas field, which is believed to contain up to 60 trillion cubic feet (1.7 trillion cubic meters) of gas, lie in waters claimed by Iran under the dispute with Kuwait.

Iran's four-month imports of basic goods top \$4.7b: IRICA

Iran imported 7.352 million tons of basic commodities worth \$4.763 billion in the first four months of the current Iranian year (March 21-July 22), 6.21 percent less than the figure for last year's same period. According to the data released by the Islamic Republic

of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), the imports of basic goods in the four months decreased by 1.57 percent in terms of weight ILNA reported.

Corn, barley, sugar, tea, cereal, red meat, soybean meal, chicken, and eggs were among the top imported

basic goods in the mentioned four months.

During the period, corn with \$1.297 billion, edible oils with \$1.022 billion, oil seeds with \$707 million, rice with \$601 million, and wheat with \$525 million had the highest value among the imported items.

