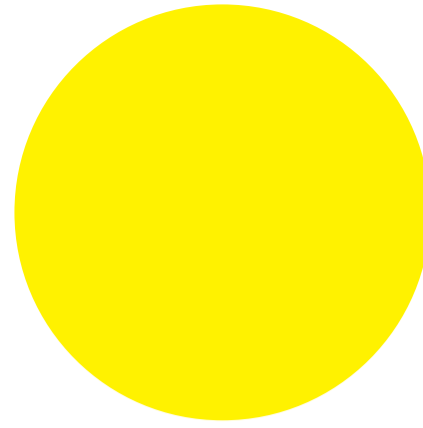




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Iran Daily



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Iran's crude production to increase to 3.5 mbd soon: **NIOC**

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Vietnam speaker discusses hitting \$2b trade with Iran

International Desk



otaghiranonline.ir

During his official visit to Tehran, Chairman of Vietnam's National Assembly (NA) Vuong Dinh Hue discussed ways to reach the target \$2 billion bilateral trade with top Iranian officials, including the president, and business representatives of the two sides. He urged working groups to step up their operations, emphasizing that the two countries have signed many agreements on double taxation avoidance, judicial assistance, and customs, along with memoranda of understanding on technology and education, Vietnam news agency reported. On Wednesday, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi expressed his regret to Speaker Hue that the commercial and economic relations between Iran and Vietnam have not advanced as far as their diplomatic ties have. Page 4 >

Iran gains technology to build supersonic missiles

National Desk



TASNIM

Iranian military scientists have gained the technical know-how to manufacture a cruise missile capable of traveling at supersonic speeds. The missiles are now undergoing tests and "will mark the beginning of a new chapter in the defense power of our country", Tasnim news agency reported on Wednesday. The new missiles could "significantly accelerate the Islamic Republic of Iran's response time in case of any combat, and take away attacking forces' opportunity for reaction". It did not say when such a missile could potentially complete the testing phase and be publicly unveiled.

Australia reinstates term 'Occupied Palestinian Territories'

The Australian government will reinstate the term "Occupied Palestinian Territories", vowing to strengthen its objections to "illegal" Israeli settlements before next week's Labor party national conference.



REUTERS

The move sparked claims from the Coalition opposition that "the faceless men and women of the Labor party" were dictating foreign policy, but the government maintained it was acting in line with Australia's key allies, The Guardian wrote. Some delegates at the Labor national conference in Brisbane are expected to agitate for the party to take a stronger position and commit to a timeframe to recognise Palestinian statehood.



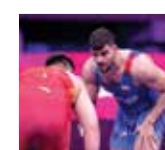
Iran's point-to-point inflation eases 15%: CBI

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Persian Arts: The chariots of heaven

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Iran eyeing double title defense in Wrestling U20 Worlds

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NEWS IN BRIEF

World largest
cruise ship
to set sail

AFP— Royal Caribbean's luxurious new vessel Icon of the Seas is nearing completion in the Turku shipyard on Finland's southwestern coast, its maiden voyage scheduled for January 2024.

"This ship is as of today, as far as we are aware of, the biggest cruise ship in the world," said Tim Meyer, CEO of shipbuilder Meyer Turku tasked with the construction.

Oil hits
new highs

REUTERS — Oil hit new peaks on Wednesday with Brent crude touching the highest price since April, as tighter supply owing to Saudi and Russian output cuts offset concerns over slow demand from China and a report showing rising US crude inventories. Top exporter Saudi Arabia last week extended its voluntary production cut of 1 million barrels per day for another month to include September, and Russia said it would cut oil exports by 300,000 bpd in September.

Russia to
widen scope of
digital rouble

CNBC — Russia will begin piloting its digital rouble with consumers on Aug. 15 after a lengthy testing phase with banks, the central bank said on Wednesday, as Moscow looks to widen the scope of its cross-border payments. Russia, like many countries, has been developing a central bank digital currency (CBDC) - digital tokens issued by central banks - over the last couple of years in a bid to modernise its financial system and head off cryptocurrencies such as bitcoin.

Iran's crude production
to increase to 3.5 mbd
soon: **NIOC**

● SHANA

Economy Desk

Iran will soon produce 3.5 million barrels per day of crude oil (mbd), announced the head of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) on Wednesday. Iran was producing 2.2 million barrels of oil per day when the current administration took office in 2021, Mohsen Khojasteh-mehr said adding that the figure will reach 3.5 mbd by September 22, Shana reported. Iran's oil output from on-shore and offshore fields will increase 150,000 barrels within the next two weeks, he said.

The NIOC head noted that 100,000 barrels of oil will also be added to the current level of production by mid-September, bringing the country's oil output to 3.5 million barrels per day at the end of the summer. He also called the implementation of the South Pars phase 11 development project a unique task. Khojasteh-Mehr emphasized that phase 11 implementation is one of the strategic goals of the country. "We are ready to start production in this phase at the present, and we will announce the official beginning of production as

soon as possible", the official announced. When fully developed, the South Pars Phase 11 will have a production capacity of two billion cubic feet per day or 370,000 barrels of oil equivalent per day. The produced gas will be fed into Iran's gas network. Iran had previously awarded the development of the Phase 11 project to a consortium comprised of France's Total, China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC), and Petropars which is a subsidiary of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC), however, Total and CNPC pulled out of the project in 2019 due

to the US sanctions. Currently, Petropars is developing the phase 11 project after its partners left the contract. The drilling operation for the first well of Phase 11 was officially started in December 2020. In the early production stage, the output of the phase will reach 500 million cubic feet (14 million cubic meters) per day. South Pars Gas Field, which Iran shares with Qatar in the Persian Gulf, is the world's largest gas field, covering an area of 3,700 square kilometers of Iran's territorial waters. The giant field is estimat-

ed to contain a significant amount of natural gas, accounting for about eight percent of the world's reserves, and approximately 18 billion barrels of condensate. The field is divided into 24 standard phases. Khojasteh-Mehr also said that Iran's oil export has doubled in the current government's incumbency. He said that 150,000 barrels of oil will be added to the country's oil export by the next week. According to the data presented at the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Annual Statistical Bulletin 2023, in

late July, Iran's oil income in 2022 reached \$42.6 billion, which is \$1.5 billion more than the country's oil revenues in the first year of the implementation of the nuclear deal (2016) when the figure was \$41.1 billion. The increase in Iran's oil exports to 1.4 mbd at the end of 2022, according to Kepler's statistics, and the increase in oil prices are among the reasons for Iran's oil income in the year. Iran has been increasing its oil production and exports over the past few years despite the U.S. sanctions.

Lawmaker: Tehran has many options to
force Seoul to settle debt

● SHANA

A senior member of Iran's Parliament said the country has many options to force South Korea to return over \$7 billion of Iranian funds that have remained blocked in the country under the pretext of compliance with US sanctions on Tehran. Fada Hossein Maleki, a member of the powerful National Security and Foreign

Policy Committee of the Iranian Parliament, said that Iran will exhaust all measures to secure the release of the funds blocked in South Korea. "We have repeatedly said that Iran will not sit idle if this \$7 billion is not paid back and we have many options that would be to South Korea's detriment and we

will definitely use them," Maleki was quoted as saying by ILNA. The remarks came hours after the Iranian Parliament started procedures related to a bill submitted by the government which seeks the approval of the legislature to refer the dispute with South Korea over the blocked funds to interna-

tional arbitration. Maleki said the bill was a response to Seoul's repeated unfulfilled promises about the return of the Iranian funds, adding that the parliament would do its utmost to help the government secure the release of the funds. "The Koreans said again and again that they will pay but they never fulfilled their promises and this created a kind of distrust and the government reached the conclusion that it should seek the help of the Parliament," said the politician. South Korean authorities claim US sanctions on Tehran make it practically impossible to use the international banking system to return the funds that it has deposited to tow bank accounts in the country for purchases of oil and petroleum products before 2018.

Iran's point-to-point
inflation eases 15%: **CBI**

Economy Desk

The point-to-point inflation rate of Iran has decreased by about 15% since the beginning of the current Iranian year (March 21), announced Mohammad Reza Farzin, the governor of the Central bank of Iran on Wednesday. Considering the necessity of reforming the financial structures of the country, the CBI has developed a road map which will im-

plement step by step, said the CBI head, IRNA reported. "Liquidity control and management, forexmarket management, regulation and strengthening of supervision and governance of the CBI on rial, forex and credit as well as regulation of financial relations between the government and the banking system are among the main goals of the roadmap," Farzin added. The average growth rate of liquidity in recent five years was equal to 33 percent while the annual growth of the dollar exchange rate in the unofficial market was 61% and inflation rate was 42%, the CBI governor said adding the growth rate of GDP was 1.2% during the said period.

Swiss firms eager to boost trade
with Iranian counterparts

Switzerland's ambassador to Iran said that Swiss companies are interested in promoting their trade and economic ties with Iranian peers. Speaking in a meeting with Head of the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran (TPOI) Mehdi Zeyghami, Nadine Olivieri Lozano emphasized that Swiss firms want to stay in Iran and continue their trade activities despite sanctions, Tasnim News Agen-

cy reported. She hailed the unsparing efforts of the organization in solving problems facing international companies in Iran including "Nestlé" and called for further enhancement of trade ties with Iranian companies. The envoy raised the problems of Swiss companies in Iran, including Nestlé, and asked for the assistance of the TPOI head in solving these problems. "I am glad that the TPOI

is doing its best to promote trade and reduce the problems of international companies." The TPOI plays a leading role in settling problems created for international companies based in Iran, Lozano reiterated. The TPOI chief, for his part, pointed to the effective steps taken by his organization in solving trade problems facing international companies in Iran and said that prob-

lems regarding the allocation of exchange rates for this Swiss company in the provision of infant formula will be settled in the coming days. Zeyghami went on to say that the TPOI, in cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), will follow up on the case in line with efforts to remove trade barriers facing international companies in Iran.



● TASNIM

Persian Arts: The chariots of heaven

Iran has one of the most prolific art heritages in world history and has been rich in many media, including painting, architecture, music, literature, calligraphy, etc. Due to Iran's geography, Iranian

arts have been influenced by the techniques of neighboring civilizations at different times. Islamic arts have highly impressed the arts of Iran, specifically Persian architecture, ghoghnos.net

wrote. Iranian arts and crafts are truly ancient. Evidence of a painted-pottery civilization around Susa has been dated to 5,000 BCE, and Persian rock art dates back

to the early 2nd millennium BCE. Iranian rock reliefs are mostly located in Kermanshah Province, and they belong to the Elamite and Sassanid eras. Persian rock art has been a common medium

of art, used to glorify the king and proclaim Persian control over the territory. For instance, the Bisotoun rock relief and inscription, made around 500 BCE for Darius the Great, is reflecting the power

of the Achaemenid Empire. Iranian modern art is also rooted in the art of ancient Persia. In the following, you will read more about Persian arts and Iranian artistic genres.

Painting and miniature



A Persian miniature by Hossein Behzad
[wikimedia.org](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Hossein_Behzad_-_A_Persian_miniature.jpg)

The history of Persian painting goes back to ancient times. Several painted images of animals and hunting scenes (dating back to 5,000 years ago) have been discovered in the caves of Lorestan, Semnan, and Fars provinces. From the historical viewpoint, the most significant evolution in Persian painting art has been the adoption of Chinese designs and coloring, which were mixed with conceptions of Persian art designs. After the emergence of Islam and the Baghdad School of painting, Iranian artists began decorating books. This art of illumination made its path of progression under the Seljuk, Mogul, and Timurid reigns.

Master Hossein Behzad, the greatest painter of the Herat School, expanded the delicate art of miniature. Master Reza Abbasi founded the Safavid School of Art and altered the Persian art characteristics of painting.

The most elegant examples of this school can be seen in the Safavid palaces of Chehel Sotoun and Ali Qapou in Isfahan. Iranian artworks of the Qajar period (1789-1925 CE) show a combination of the classic European arts and the Safavid miniature techniques. Master Kamal al-Molk is the most prominent painting artist of the Qajar era. Master Mahmoud Far-

shchian is a contemporary miniature artist who is proudly introducing this magnificent art of Persia to the world.

Persian architecture shows great variety in artistic and structural features. It is one of the Persian arts which have made their way through various dynasties, and it is still dynamic and alive. Persian architecture managed to survive, renovate, and innovate itself despite the invasions and cultural shocks. Highly influenced by Islamic architecture, it has manifested its inventiveness, specifically in vault and dome construction. Several architectural palaces and mosques of Iran are UNESCO World Heritage sites.

One of the most stunning and famous Persian arts is tiling. This remarkable Iranian art of decoration has carried on most of the Persian art characteristics of architecture. This art of Persia offers two types of techniques: marquetry tiling and seven-color tiling. Seven-color tile work is performed by designers who draw Persian art patterns on a tile with seven colors (red, pink, blue, turquoise, yellow, black, and purple) and then bake it in a kiln to make their masterpieces ready to be used on buildings. Enameled brick making is the art of ancient Persia, dating back to 3,500 years ago.

Persian rugs

The most famous Persian art known to the world is carpet weaving. This art has its roots in Iranian arts and culture and their nationalized feelings. Rug weaving is severely attached to Iranian myths and philosophies. When the Iranian people began to know themselves as a nation, they started creating life images reflected mostly through the excellent art of Persia carpets. Carpet weavers combine graceful Persian art de-

signs with countless colors to create these artworks. The patterns used in carpet weaving are almost the same as the designs and patterns applied in the construction of Persian gardens. The same philosophy and geometrics are used, and they both want to reach a holy goal: Giving the inspiration that we need to make the world a better place. As one of the most stunning arts of Iran, the Persian carpet is heaven under your feet.



Persian rugs
carpettino.com



Mina-kari
IRNA

Persian handicrafts

As the most applicable Persian arts, Iran handicrafts manifest every region's culture and art. Iranian crafts such as *mina-kari* (covering metal objects by glazing colors), *khatam-kari* (inlaid work), *qalam-zani* (metal engraving) and *termeh-bafi* (weaving a type of luxurious handwoven fabric) are world famous as the most popular Iran souvenirs.

By using Persian art designs, handicrafts manifest the art of ancient Persia. You can trace Persian art patterns, including paisley and *golva-morgh* (flower and birds), on many Iranian artworks and handicrafts. Handmade arts of the country are mostly made of wood, copper, brass, bone, silver, gold, pottery, ceramic, and clothes.

Persian literature and music

Literature reflects a nation's thoughts and philosophies being verbalized. Understanding a nation's literature is a key to the way they comprehend and feel the world. Persian literature dates back as far as history can tell us. Poems and texts from ancient times manifest Iranian's decent taste and talent in verbal arts. Noble Persian poets such as Ferdowsi, Sa'adi, Hafez, Khayyam (translated into English by Edward FitzGerald), Attar, Sanaie, etc., dedicate a new point of view in poetry and thought. Poetry and music are two intermingled Iranian arts, beautifully complementing each other. Music is a medium describing the spirit, world-

view, and feelings of each nation. Iranian music is the voice of Persian literature that passes the flesh and reaches out to the soul. It reflects the love, sorrow, internal, and external struggles of this nation. Archaeological pieces of evidence prove that musical instruments have been a major part of Iranian productions since at least 3,000 BCE. This precious Persian art is mostly known for its unique stringed instruments. Some Iranian instruments were invented by Iranians and some were adjusted to be used in the Persian *dastgah* (Persian music system) such as *taar*, *setar*, *tambour*, *kamancheh*, *santour* (dulcimer), *tonbak*, *daf*, and *ney*.



The Divan of Hafez
roozaneh.net

Persian calligraphy



Calligraphy is one of the most reputed and famous Persian arts because some Iranian arts seem imperfect without being enriched by decorative calligraphy. This art of Persia was mainly applied to inscriptions at the entrances of mosques, shrines, and for writing religious texts. The major tools used in Iranian calligraphy are *qalam*

ney (pen), *qalam tarash* (pen sharpener), *morakkab* (ink), *davaat* ink container, *liqeh* (silky ink-controller). Although calligraphy is the art of ancient Persia, modern calligraphic movements are currently practiced by a number of famous artists who use Persian calligraphy and Rumi's poetry in dress designing.

Persian calligraphy
IRNA

Cinema



A scene from an Iranian movie, Damascus Time, directed by Ebrahim Hatamikia
fa.nody.ir

The cinema industry was brought to Iran in the late 19th century during the Qajar era. Since then, Iran has been finding its path as one of the leading movie producers in the region and the world. Iranian cinema has been appreciated in many festivals of the world, including the Academy Awards, Cannes Film Festival, and the Berlin International Film Festival.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran FM to attend meet in South Africa

ISNA – Iran and South Africa are set to hold a joint economic commission meeting on Thursday after a three-year break, said Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian before leaving Tehran for Pretoria, South Africa's administrative capital, on Wednesday. The meeting aims to enhance cooperation between the two countries and explore new avenues for bilateral trade.

Amir-Abdollahian added that a delegation representing more than a dozen Iranian ministries as well as the private sector has already arrived in South Africa on Monday to hold preliminary meetings with South African officials.

The top diplomat said the Iranian delegation is "preparing the prerequisites for the [Iranian] president's upcoming visit to this country".

US after turning Afghanistan into crisis center



IRNA – Iranian President's Special Representative in Afghanistan's Affairs Hassan Kazemi Qomi said the United States is trying to turn Afghanistan into a center of crisis for its neighbors.

The continuation of instability in Afghanistan is of great importance for the United States. This is while, the regional countries want establishment of peace and stability in Afghanistan, he said.

Kazemi Qomi noted that developments in Afghanistan have its effects on the security of the country's neighbors, especially Iran and Pakistan.

UK envoy summoned over 'undiplomatic' remarks

TASNIM – Iran's Foreign Ministry summoned the UK Ambassador in Tehran Simon Shercliff to protest the British diplomat's "meddlesome" remarks on social media on August 8 – the day which Iran marked the National Journalists Day.

The ministry said "irresponsible and undiplomatic" remarks by the British envoy are unacceptable and a clear example of interference in internal affairs of another country.

Saudi Arabia's embassy resumes operation in Tehran: Report

National Desk

The embassy of Saudi Arabia in Tehran has restarted its activities months after the two countries agreed to restore their diplomatic relations which had been severed for years.

Saudi Arabia's Embassy in Tehran has officials restarted its activities since Sunday, IRNA quoted an informed source at the Iranian Foreign Ministry as saying.

This comes two months after Iran also resumed its activities in its embassy in Saudi Arabia.

Iran officially reopened its embassy in Saudi Arabia on June 6 during a ceremony which was held inside the embassy's compound with dozens of diplomats and officials attending the re-opening of the diplomatic mission for the first time in seven years.

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Consular Affairs Alireza Bikdeli, who attended the ceremony, said, "We consider today an important day in the relations between Islamic Republic of Iran and Saudi Arabia". "The region will move Inshallah (God will-



ing) towards greater cooperation and convergence to achieve stability, prosperity and progress," Bikdeli said in a speech during the ceremony.

In 2016, Riyadh cut its diplomatic relations with Tehran after Iranian protesters, angry at the execution of a Shia cleric in Saudi Arabia, stormed its embassy.

However, a Chinese-brokered agreement reached between the two regional heavyweights in March, ended a seven-year rupture of ties between the two Per-

sian Gulf states. The thaw between Tehran and Riyadh was a major turning point for the region. In has resulted in reestablishment of rela-



tions between many countries in the Middle East region.

BRICS motivations for admitting Iran



By Ja'afar Qannadbashi
International affairs expert

OPINION EXCLUSIVE

Following its admission into the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Islamic Republic of Iran is now actively pursuing membership in the league of emerging economic powerhouses commonly known as BRICS. The BRICS consortium, which presently comprises five members – Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa – has attracted the interest of several other nations, including Iran, who are vying

to secure a spot within this influential assembly.

The motivations driving Iran's quest for BRICS membership are manifold and strategically oriented, encompassing both political and economic dimensions. Aligning itself with this coalition of burgeoning economies holds manifold advantages for Tehran. The possible inclusion of Iran among these five nations promises to unlock fresh avenues for the Islamic Republic. In light of the four-decade-long sanctions regime imposed upon Iran by the United States, the prospect of BRICS membership assumes particular significance as it could attenuate the impact of US sanctions, facilitating the gradual ex-

pansion of Iran's economic horizons through access to new markets.

Iran's foreign policy strategy hinges upon the pursuit of a multipolar world paradigm. In this vein, BRICS, in tandem with the SCO, emerges as a counterforce to unilateralism, charting a course divergent from the hegemonic tendencies often exhibited by Western powers. Iran's historical stance against US hegemony, notably in the volatile West Asian sphere, underscores its alignment with BRICS' mission. The collective might of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa possesses the potential to establish a novel pole of influence, effectively challenging the unilateral pre-

dilections favored by the West. Consequently, these nations have the capacity to gradually erode, if not entirely dismantle, America's predominance across various geopolitical theaters, including the Middle East.

Central to Iran's foreign policy approach is its pursuit of a de-dollarized global economy. BRICS' ascendancy within the global economic landscape could position it to champion this initiative. Notably, China and Russia's shared aspirations toward de-dollarization converge with Iran's own objectives, further enhancing the allure of BRICS membership.

The geopolitical and diplomatic imperatives under-

lying Iran's bid for BRICS entail political gains as well. Particularly noteworthy is the membership status of China and Russia as permanent fixtures on the United Nations Security Council, which imbues Tehran with a strategic advantage, helping it to overcome challenges in international forums and diplomatic circles.

However, Iran's path toward BRICS membership is not devoid of obstacles. Foreseeably, the United States, adhering to its established playbook of sanctions and isolation vis-à-vis Iran, is anticipated to exert pressure to impede Iran's accession, leveraging its historical strategy. Nonetheless, the

pivotal consideration rests in the motivations of the existing BRICS member states who have strong incentives to embrace Iran into their fold. In fact, Iran's prospective integration into BRICS is not merely a unilateral concession granted to Tehran; rather, it harbors substantial attractions for the incumbent members. Iran's geopolitical significance and its energy-related advantages synergize to enhance the collective weight of the BRICS alliance upon its inclusion. Evidently, the existing members display a welcoming disposition toward Iran's participation in BRICS, even if the realization thereof necessitates a measured timeline.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Vietnam speaker discusses ...

"Development of our relations may not sit well with some governments," Raeisi said, adding, "What matters, however, is [the adoption of] effective steps towards the fulfillment of the interests of the two countries and nations."

The Vietnamese top parliamentarian expressed interest on the part of his country in the expansion of Hanoi's interaction and cooperation with Tehran, according to Press TV. Within the first two days of Hue's three-day visit to Iran, the two sides have reached more cooperation docu-

ments, covering collaboration between the legislative bodies, plant and animal quarantine, culture, and education, among other fields. Vietnam's Chairman of the National Assembly attended a business forum on Wednesday, which was hosted by the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA). A 70-member delegation comprised of representatives from the Southeast Asian country's companies active in various sectors also attended the event to get to know their Iranian counterparts and discuss business

opportunities. Addressing the forum, Hue suggested Vietnam and Iran remove obstacles to raising their bilateral trade in the near future and continue perfecting legal frameworks to facilitate the operations of their businesses and investors. The Vietnamese legislature has been making all-out efforts to consolidate its legal system and untangle knots for foreign investors in the country, the NA Chairman affirmed, hoping that the Vietnamese and Iranian legislatures will work together to supervise the implementation of the documents.

Niger junta accuses France of violating airspace, destabilising country

Niger's junta accused France on Wednesday of violating its airspace as part of a broader plan to destabilise the country, ratcheting up rhetoric in a way that left little hope for a swift diplomatic resolution of the crisis there.

The video statement by junta representative Amadou Abdramane, which provided no evidence, came at a moment of high tension, with West African heads of state due to discuss options including military action against the junta at a summit today, Reuters reported. It also came hours after news emerged that a former rebel leader had launched a movement opposing the junta that took power in a July 26 coup, a first sign of internal resistance to army rule in the strategically important Sahel country.

Anti-French rhetoric has been a feature of other coups in the region over the past two years, includ-



General Abdourahmane Tiani, who was declared as the new head of state of Niger by leaders of a coup, arrives to meet with ministers in Niamey, Niger, on July 28, 2023.
● BALIMA BOUREIMA/REUTERS

ing in Mali and Burkina Faso, whose army rulers are strongly backing the generals now in charge in Niamey. It is not the first time that

the Niger coup leaders have accused France of breaching their airspace. Paris has denied doing so. There was no immediate French reaction on Wednesday to the

junta's latest statement. The coup was triggered by internal politics, but has spun out into an international drama, with West African regional bloc ECOW-

AS, the United Nations and Western countries putting pressure on the junta to stand down, while Mali and Burkina Faso have vowed to defend it.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Assad blames Turkey for violence in Syria



AP - Syria's President Bashar Assad slammed Turkey in comments published Wednesday, blaming Ankara for the uptick in violence in his war-torn country and insisting on the withdrawal of Turkish forces from Syria. Assad spoke in an interview with Sky News Arabia, his first interview with a foreign media outlet in months. The interview is to be fully aired later on Wednesday but Sky News Arabia released some excerpts ahead of the broadcast.

41 migrants missing after new Mediterranean shipwreck

AFP - Forty-one migrants including three children are feared dead after being shipwrecked last week in the Mediterranean, UN agencies said, citing four survivors brought to the Italian island of Lampedusa Wednesday. Their metal boat overturned in bad weather during the night of Thursday to Friday after setting off from the Tunisian port of Sfax, said a joint statement from the UN agencies for refugees, children and migration. The survivors - a 13-year-old boy on his own, a woman and two men - drifted for days before being rescued by a merchant ship on Tuesday, they said. They were finally brought to Lampedusa by the Italian coastguard on Wednesday. In a separate statement, the Italian Red Cross, which manages the migrant reception centre on the island, said the four were generally in good health.

Poland to send additional 2k troops to Belarus border

Poland will send an additional 2,000 troops to reinforce its eastern border with neighbouring Belarus, a deputy interior minister said Wednesday, as a record number of migrants try to cross. "This will not be a reinforcement of 1,000 but of 2,000 soldiers," Maciej Wasik told the PAP state news agency, adding that the move was approved by the defence minister following a request from the national border agency for extra manpower, AFP reported. The troops are slated to

be deployed within two weeks and will join the 2,000 soldiers already stationed near the border. Poland has recently warned of the threat of provocations from Belarus and potential dangers posed by the Wagner mercenary group based there. Warsaw has also accused Belarus and Russia of orchestrating a new migration influx into the European Union in order to destabilise the region. Wasik on Wednesday added that all attempts

of illegal crossings into Poland through that route are staged by the Belarusian services. "If on the other side we had real border guards, and not smuggling officers, these crossings wouldn't exist at all," Wasik said. According to the Polish border guard, 19,000 migrants have tried to enter Poland from Belarus so far this year, compared to 16,000 during all of 2022. Last month alone, more than 4,000 migrants tried to cross the border.

China, Philippines' dispute over grounded warship heats up

China again asked the Philippines to tow away a grounded warship - a World War Two-era vessel now used as a military outpost - from a disputed shoal on Tuesday, after Manila rejected Beijing's earlier demand. Tensions have soared between the two neighbours over the South China Sea under Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr, with Manila pivoting back to the United States, which supports the Southeast Asian nation in its maritime disputes with China, Reuters reported. China's embassy in Manila criticised Washington for "gathering" its allies to

continue "hyping up" the South China Sea issue and the boat incident. "South China Sea is not a 'safari park' for countries outside the region to make mischief and sow discord," the embassy said in a statement on Tuesday. The Second Thomas Shoal, which lies within the Philippines exclusive economic zone, is home to a handful of troops living aboard the former warship Sierra Madre. Manila deliberately grounded the vessel in 1999 to reinforce its sovereignty claims. Manila has repeatedly accused the Chinese coastguard of blocking resupply missions to its troops

there, as it did on Aug. 5 when it sprayed a Philippine vessel with a water cannon. China maintains the Philippines' occupation of the shoal is illegal. The Philippine military described the Chinese coastguard's actions on Saturday as "excessive and offensive". China said the incident was a "warning" and that it has exercised "rational restraint" at all times. China's defence ministry on Tuesday urged Manila to stop all "provocative" actions, and vowed to continue taking necessary measures to safeguard sovereignty and maritime rights.



BRP Sierra Madre, a dilapidated Philippine Navy ship that has been grounded since 1999 is pictured on the disputed Second Thomas Shoal, part of the Spratly Islands, in the South China Sea March 29, 2014.
● ERIK DE CASTRO/REUTERS

True peril of Imran Khan's arrest



By Syed Ali Hassan
Iran Daily's correspondent in Pakistan

Pakistan's former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif seems to have sought retribution for his disqualification by having Imran Khan, the country's most popular leader, arrested, an allegedly controversial decision by a lower court in the country. Imran Khan's arrest stems from his alleged involvement in a case that could have harmful effects not only on Pakistani politicians but also on top military leadership, bureaucracy, and diplomats. However, the danger doesn't solely reside in this arrest; the true peril lies in the potential impact on Pakistan's economic system, which is

on the brink of financial bankruptcy. Pakistan's economy has fallen to a weaker state than Afghanistan's. Since the PDM ruling alliance, comprising various political parties, took power, the citizens of this nation have struggled to afford basic meals due to escalating monthly inflation. In July, there was a recorded inflation rate of 1.6 percent in food grains. Pakistan's monetary policy has deterred investors from investing, factories are closing and unemployment is increasing, and business activities are being restricted due to high-interest rates. After the approval of a loan of 3 billion US dollars by the IMF, there was a possibility that Pakistan would move towards economic stability, but it did not happen. Pakistan's corrupt extrav-

aganza arrested Imran Khan after a controversial court ruling to keep him in their ranks. Since the removal of the Imran Khan's government, Pakistan has been facing continuous crises. Imran Khan's initial arrest triggered a strong public reaction. When paramilitary organization Rangers apprehended him, public anger manifested as a backlash against the army. Conversely, overseas Pakistanis conveyed their dissatisfaction by withholding remittances, which play a pivotal role in Pakistan's financial system. Imran Khan's arrest is unlikely to lead to riots as the organizational structure of Tehreek-e-Insaf has been destroyed by state institutions, but public outcry will take a different form and add to Pakistan's economic crisis.

Second Announcement

Tender invitation

Invitation to public tender for Potassium Carbonate // 65500kg

Tabriz petrochemical company intends to procure its required quantity of Potassium Carbonate for Acrylonitrile Butadiene Styrene (ABS) production plant from reputable & reliable producer and supplier of said product. Interested suppliers should submit their request to below email in order to get tender documents until Aug13, 2023. Deadline for submission of offers for tender is Aug24, 2023.
Email: n.ahmadian@tpco.ir Phone No.: +98-41-34217426

Tender	No	Quantity
Potassium Carbonate	PVS-0241026	65500 kg

Public Relations of Tabriz Petrochemical Company (Public Stock)

First turn published: August 05, 2023
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Van Dijk accepts Liverpool 'doubts' before new season



● DAVID CLIFF/AP

REUTERS – Liverpool captain Virgil van Dijk said he understands people's concerns over the Premier League club's lack of transfer business ahead of the new season but the defender urged his team mates to step up following the departure of several key players. The 32-year-old Van Dijk, who also captains the Netherlands national team, replaced Jordan Henderson as the Merseyside outfit's skipper after the England midfielder ended a 12-year stay at Liverpool to join Saudi Pro League club Al-Ettifaq last month.

Liverpool have lost as many as six senior players, with Henderson and Fabinho moving to Saudi Arabian sides, while fellow midfielders Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain, James Milner, Naby Keita and forward Roberto Firmino leaving on free transfers.

With two days to go before the start of the new season, the number of arrivals at Anfield has not kept pace with exits, with midfielders Alexis Mac Allister and Dominik Szoboszlai being the only two players Liverpool have signed in the close season.

"I can definitely understand it in some ways but I'm not a very negative person," said Van Dijk, who moved from Championship side Southampton to Liverpool in 2018, referring to fans' worries.

"But obviously, when a lot of players are leaving, when your captain is leaving, your vice-captain is leaving, and at the moment, there are only two incomings.

"And the way we have been playing, in possession really good but defensively when you concede goals it's not as good, I can understand some people having doubts."

The six-time European champions will not feature in the Champions League for the first time since manager Juergen Klopp's first full season in 2016-17.

"Let's see if more players are coming in and then we have to be ready again for a long season. It will be very tough if we look at the teams around us, but we want to be up there again, we want to be challenging again," the Dutchman said.

"There have been characters leaving, players who have played a big part in the success, but others have to step up."

IHF U19 Handball World Championship: Iran's fairytale run ends in last-16 dismay



Germany's Max Günther (5) makes an attempt during a victory over Iran at the IHF Men's U19 Handball World Championship in Opatija, Croatia, on August 8, 2023.

● IHF



Sport Desk

A second successive defeat dashed Iran's hopes of a historic last-eight berth at the IHF Men's U19 Handball World Championship in Croatia.

Having suffered a 26:29 loss to Saudi Arabia in the main-round opener, Majid Rahimizadeh's boys were beaten 32:25 by Germany – runner-up in the previous edition – on Tuesday to finish bottom of Group IV.

Max Günther produced a player-of-the-match performance, scoring a game-high eight goals, as the Germans bounced back from a 30:28 setback against the Faroe Islands on the preceding night. Amirhossein Masoudnia topped the scoring for Iran with seven.

Iran had a shaky start, scoring only once in eight minutes, and Germany made the most of it to propel to a 9:4 lead.

German shot stopper Marc

Julian Buchele enjoyed an impressive first half with nine saves out of 18 attempts as the European side took a 13:9 advantage into the break.

Iran kept fighting after the restart and narrowed the gap to three with 15 minutes remaining but technical errors proved costly for the Asian side and led to Germany going on a 5-0 run for a 28:20 lead before ultimately walking away with the victory.

The Iranian boys will perhaps rue the defeat against Saudi Arabia – beaten by Iran in last year's Asian Championship semifinals – where Rahimizadeh's team gave away a halftime four-goal lead in the second period.

Later on Tuesday, the Faroe Islands came out victorious (41:23) against the Saudis to join Germany in progressing to the quarterfinals.

Iran, meanwhile, will still be looking for a bit of consolation

when taking on Brazil today in the first of the 13th-16th placement matches.

Having last appeared in the tournament 14 years ago, Iran got off to decent start in Croatia, holding handball powerhouse Sweden to a 26:26 draw in Group H opener.

Iran then edged the Faroe Islands by two goals (29:27) before a 46:24 rout of Burundi sealed a top-spot finish in the group for the country.

Iran eyeing double title defense in Wrestling U20 Worlds



Defending champion Amirreza Masoumi (R) will represent Iran in the freestyle 125kg event at the Wrestling U20 World Championships in Amman, Jordan.

● ASSEM SHALGUMBAYEVA/UWW

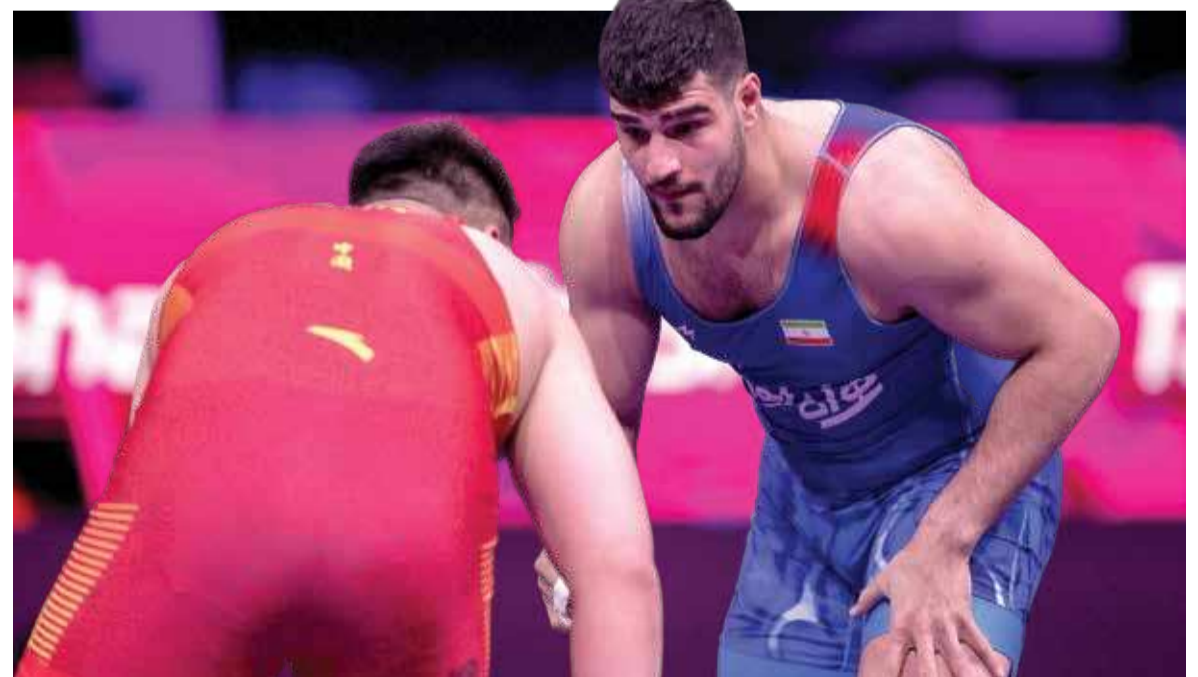
Sport Desk

Days after Iran made a clean sweep of the freestyle and Greco-Roman world under-17 trophies, the country will seek yet another glorious campaign when the Wrestling U20 World Championships get underway in Amman, Jordan, on Monday.

The two Iranian squads will put their world titles on the line in Amman, which brings back fond memories for the wrestling powerhouse, as Iran stormed to double Asian crowns of the age group in the Jordanian capital in July.

Amirreza Masoumi headlines the Iranian freestyle team at the event and will be chasing a second successive world title in the 125kg weight class.

Ali Rezaei (70kg) and Mohammad-Mobin Azimi (92kg), meanwhile, will be looking to build on their Asian gold-winning campaigns, with Ahmad Javan (57kg), Ali Khorramdel (61kg), Mohammadreza Shakeri (65kg), Hossein Aqaei (74kg), Farzad Safi



(79kg), Amirhossein Alizadeh (86kg), and Abolfazl Babalou (97kg) completing the freestyle squad.

A total of eight medals – including three golds – saw Iran beat the USA to freestyle crown last year in Sofia, and both countries will again be the favorites to finish atop the table, though the return

of the Russian wrestlers, participating as neutral athletes, will surely affect the final outcome in each division.

In the Greco-Roman contests, Iran will be represented by some high-profile wrestlers of the age category, including the 2021 world U20 champion Amirreza Dehbozorgi

(60kg), as well as Abolfazl Choubani (87kg) and Fardin Hedayati (130kg), who will hope to improve on their defeats in the final showdowns last year in Sofia.

Ahoura Bouveiri (67kg), Amirreza Akbari (97kg) will return to Amman as the reigning Asian champions, with Ali Ahmadi

Vafa (55kg), Ahmadreza Mohsennejad (63kg), Mohammad-Mehdi Miri (72kg), Alireza Abdevali (77kg), and Yasin Yazdi (82kg) also in the squad.

Iran bagged a remarkable four golds plus two silvers and bronze medals apiece to collect 174 points in Sofia – 55 clear of second-placed Azerbaijan.

Southern Kerman in need of comprehensive cultural heritage planning

Social Desk

The southern region of Kerman Province is resounding with voices of discontent as critics lament the perceived neglect of its rich cultural heritage. Despite boasting a remarkable historical and cultural legacy, this area has allegedly received inadequate attention from Ministry of Cultural Heritage officials.

In response, these officials argue that the area's resources are relatively limited and maintain that they have strived to achieve a balanced provision of services throughout southern Kerman, according to IRNA.

Kerman Province spans vast expanses and encompasses eight world-renowned monuments, over 700 national landmarks, and countless historical and natural attractions. Many of these treasures are concentrated in the southern regions, each holding significant value in their own right while contributing to the broader tapestry of human civilization.

Notably, Jiroft stands out as an epicenter for ancient civilizations dating back several millennia. The Halil River Civilization found in Jiroft has yielded numerous artifacts that shed light on West Asian history and open new horizons for archaeological exploration.

Amongst the prominent tourist sites within southern regions of Kerman Province are the historic cities of Daqyanoos and Jiroft, historically significant structures

like the Jiroft Mosque, ancient hills of Konar Sandal village, Manujan and Kahnuj castles and Delfard and Faryab waterfalls.

Despite its rich climatic, geographical, and cultural background, the southern regions of Kerman struggle with negligence by authorities responsible for preserving its cultural heritage. Concerns have been raised regarding neglected sites such as Konar Sandal hills in Jiroft which reportedly suffered from insufficient post-excavation care resulting in potential destruction.

Jiroft Governor Ahmad Bolandnazar has recently expressed dissatisfaction with the Ministry of Cultural Heritage lack of sufficient attention to the region during a recent meeting with the provincial director of the Ministry. He emphasized that the cultural heritage of Jiroft was limited to mere representation, lacking a clear administrative structure and mechanism.

He further added that no significant events related to cultural heritage had taken place in the city for years, acknowledging people's valid complaints regarding their performance in this domain. Urgent restoration is needed for historical sites such as Konar Sandal hills and the old city of Jiroft to prevent further degradation.

Other officials, media outlets, and cultural activists have also voiced concerns about the exclusion of southern Kerman from the travel plans of the Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handi-



IRNA

crafts during his visits to Kerman province over recent years.

Zabihollah Azami, representative of Jiroft and Anbarabad in the parliament, proclaimed his unawareness regarding the visit of the Deputy Minister of Cultural Heritage. He particularly highlighted the slow progress in constructing the Jiroft Museum due to lack of funding, arguing that the minister should shoulder responsibility for addressing this issue promptly.

However, the Director General of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts of Kerman Province addressed concerns regarding the lack of attention given to the cultural heritage area in southern regions

of Kerman. He emphasized the need for a balanced approach in providing services related to cultural heritage, tourism, and handicrafts across both the north and south regions of the province. The official stated that they have developed promising projects for investment in tourism specifically targeted towards enhancing development in southern Kerman. Fereidoun Af'aali further revealed that around \$1 million had been allocated recently for Kerman Province. Out of this allocation, half were designated for a project located in southern Kerman.

He also mentioned that there was a necessity to review and phase

out the construction project of Jiroft Museum after several years of suspension. This review has already taken place, resulting in an additional allocation of \$700 thousand during a recent visit by Deputy Minister of Cultural Heritage to Kerman province. It was deemed as one among country's priority museums. Af'aali then stated that efforts have been made to revive and activate Jiroft Museum's restoration workshop. As per current expectations, completion of the first phase of the construction is anticipated within three years' time.



Young man's death breathes new life into five people



Mahdieh Qazvinian
Staff writer

Hospital workers and medical professionals never forget some instances of brain death in Firouzabadi hospital in Shahr-e Rey.

One such instance occurred when Meisam Aqaie, a 35-year-old father of one and husband passed away in the aftermath of having a brain seizure.

Hundreds of people gathered in the hospital courtyard to honor Meisam by throwing flowers on the ambulance, all the while reciting soulful poems.

Meisam used to visit his mother every day, and was the best hus-

band for his loving wife Najibeh and the kindest of fathers for Mahiaz.

Meisam got home from work on June 26, 2023, feeling nauseous and having a severe headache. He let his wife know that he did not feel well so they headed to the doctor's office in Shahr-e Rey. The doctor advised Meisam to go to the closest hospital after noticing that he was in an extreme condition.

Meisam and his wife Najibeh were sitting in the back seat of the taxi, and their 5-year-old daughter, Mahiaz sat in the front seat next to the driver. The young man called his daughter in a shaky voice.

"My sweetest daughter..." and caught his daughter's hand and

said his last goodbye to the apple of his eyes. Mahiaz did not know that this is her last meeting with her father.

Zohreh Mobbasheri, Meisam's mother, says, "It's hard to see your son's life hangs by a thread."

"It was around 7:00 p.m. when I reached Meisam in hospital. His eyes were wide open, and I held his hand. He said to me, 'Mom, I'm dying... take care of my daughter.' As soon as he said these words he went into a coma."

Meisam was the eldest son of his family, and his brother was his closest friend. As a child, he used to be playfully charming, and his best personality trait was his abounding respect towards his parents and the elders. He was a forgiving soul, without any extravagant pride. After Meisam's eyes were closed in the emergency room, he was taken to the intensive care unit. He was kept there until July 1, 2023. During these five days, his mother and wife hardly ever left his side, visiting him in the ICU as often as they could.

"I used to go to Meisam, taking his hand, asking him to get up. I told him that you are a strong boy and you should return home with me. I recorded Mahiaz's

voice and kept playing it for him, wishing he would open his eyes and start speaking," Zohreh said, with a hint of tragedy in her voice.

After five days in the ICU, the medical staff of the hospital held a meeting with Meisam's family. In light of his consciousness level, they asked them to donate his organs.

Upon hearing the request, his mother left the room, because she could not stand the thought of her son never returning home. But she gradually came around, and on the morning of July 2, 2023, Zohreh signed the donation form, kissing his son goodbye. Meisam's heart, liver, kidneys, lungs and intestines were donated to five needy patients.

Meisam's loss is a wound so deep for the Aqaie family - one that even time could hardly heal; yet, donating his organs was an act of grace that brought them some peace of mind. Aqaie family believed that all these events were arranged in a way that Meisam would have the proper ending that such a life deserves. Now, they have accepted his death as destiny, seeking comfort in the fact that his death has not been in vain. Zohreh has kept some of his

shirts and whenever she feels grief-stricken and lonely, she picks one up smell it to - perhaps partially - mend her broken heart.

Now Aqaie family knows that their son's heart beats to keep a 17-year-old girl alive, and the knowledge helps them cope with their son's passing with more ease.

Meisam is far from dead. As long as his organs keep others alive, his memory will never fade.



IRAN DAILY

Amazon nations fail to agree on deforestation goal at summit



REUTERS

Eight Amazon nations agreed to a list of unified environmental policies and measures to bolster regional cooperation at a major rain-forest summit in Brazil on Tuesday, but failed to agree on a common goal for ending deforestation.

Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, who has staked his international reputation on improving Brazil's environmental standing, had been pushing for the region to unite behind a common policy of ending deforestation by 2030 - one he has already adopted, according to Reuters.

Instead, the joint declaration issued on Tuesday in the Brazilian city of Belem created an alliance for combating forest destruction, with countries left to pursue their own individual deforestation goals.

The failure of the eight Amazon countries to agree on a pact to protect their own forests points to the larger, global difficulties of forging an agreement to combat climate change. Many scientists say policymakers are acting too slowly to head off catastrophic global warming.

"The planet is melting; we are breaking temperature records every day. It is not possible that, in a scenario like this, eight Amazonian countries are unable to put in a statement - in large letters - that deforestation needs to be zero," said Marcio Astrini of environmental lobby group Climate Observatory.

Lula and other national leaders left Tuesday's meeting without commenting on the declaration. Presidents from Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia and Peru attended the summit, while Ecuador, Guyana, Suriname and Venezuela sent other top officials.

Bolivia and Venezuela are the only Amazon countries not to sign onto a 2021 agreement among more than 100 countries to work toward halting deforestation by 2030. A Brazilian government source said in the lead up to the summit that Bolivia, where forest destruction is surging, is a hold-out on the issue.

Bolivian President Luis Arce did not address the 2030 commitment in his speech on Tuesday.

Brazil's Foreign Minister Mauro Vieira said in a press briefing that the issue of deforestation "in no way whatsoever will divide the region" and cited "an understanding about deforestation" in the declaration, without elaborating.



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News in photo

In memory of soldiers killed in Syria



Iran pays tribute to its advisory forces fallen in Syria during a decade-long war against foreign-backed militants and terror groups at a ceremony attended by Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and the families of those soldiers in Tehran on August 9, 2023.

● PAYAM SANI/IRNA

Hall of Brilliant reopens



The Hall of Brilliant (Talar-e Berelian) of the Golestan Palace, in Tehran, Iran, is reopened by Deputy Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, Ali Darabi, on August 9, 2023.

● MARZIYEH MOUSAVI/IRNA

Sunflower fields



The photos, released on August 9, 2023, show sunflower fields, as one of the tourist attractions of the Asb-Tajan region, in Behshahr, north of Iran.

● AKBAR QASEMPOUR/YJC

Funeral ceremony



A funeral procession is held for two police officers, who lost their lives in a building collapse incident in a Tehran neighborhood, on August 9, 2023. Five people were killed and 11 others injured after several buildings came down in the Iranian capital last week.

● FOROUGH TAHERKHANI/MEHR