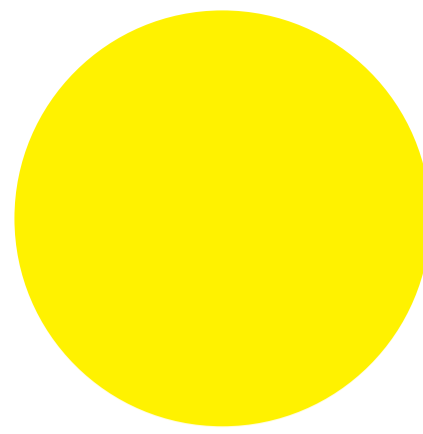


**International Desk** Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei said the enemies plotted to dismantle the Islamic Revolution through a maneuver akin to the 1953 Iranian coup d'état, only to find their schemes successfully countered by Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC). Making the remarks in a meeting with the Supreme Assembly of Commanders of the IRGC in Tehran on Thursday, he noted that this is the root cause of the enemies' grudge against the elite force, according to Press TV. [Page 2 >](#)



## Tehran-Riyadh Ties on Right Track

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Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian (L.) holds talks with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, on August 18, 2023. [mfa.gov.ir](#)



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**SPECIAL ISSUE**

**Shots through the heart of Chronos**

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**Russia, Brazil explore Iran's membership in BRICS**

The president of Russia and the foreign minister of Brazil talked with their Iranian counterparts, highlighting what the Asian country could add to BRICS if its application for membership is accepted in the bloc's upcoming summit in South Africa. In a telephone conversation on Thursday, Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin discussed ways to promote bilateral cooperation in various fields, specifically in the energy sector and trade. Also, the Brazilian Foreign Minister Mauro Vieira said Brazil and Iran have significant economic and trade capacities, and expressed the Brazilian government's interest in the expansion of ties with Iran.



REUTERS

**'Iranophobia' no longer functioning**

By **Sabah Zanganeh**  
Middle East affairs expert

**OPINION EXCLUSIVE**

Iran's Foreign Minister, Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, reciprocated his Saudi counterpart's recent visit to Tehran with a journey to the kingdom. During this visit, the FM engaged in discussions with Saudi Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan in the capital city of Riyadh and subsequently held an important meeting with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in Jeddah. Farhan's recent visit to Iran, following years of severed ties, marked a significant thaw in the political relations between two prominent Muslim nations of the Middle East. Now, with Amir-Abdollahian visiting Saudi Arabia, the trajectory continues, underscoring the ongoing trend of diplomatic re-engagement.

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Mastermind of Shiraz attack arrested



**TASNIM** – Iran's Intelligence Ministry said its forces have arrested the most important element that provided logistical support for a recent deadly terrorist attack on a religious site in the southern city of Shiraz. In a statement released on Friday, the Intelligence Ministry said the suspect was in Iran and was in charge of direct contact with the operational ring-leader of Daesh terrorist group in Syria and Afghanistan.

The terrorist attack on the Shah Cheragh Shrine in Shiraz killed two people and injured eight others on August 13.

## Iran begins producing 'most modern' satellite

**TASNIM** – The Iranian Space Organization (ISA) announced the launch of the production process of "Pars-3", the country's "most modern and accurate" satellite.

Hassan Salarieh, head of the ISA, noted on Thursday that the organization previously promised the production of remote sensing satellites with high accuracy. He named "Pars-2" and "Pars-3" as two such satellites, whose production procedures have officially started.

## Iran reports record in gasoline use



**PRESS TV** – Iran is experiencing record demand for gasoline these days as authorities deny rumors about a potential fuel price hike that has caused long queues at filling stations in large cities like Tehran. CEO of Iranian Oil Ministry's fuel distribution company (NIOPDC) said on Thursday that peak demand for gasoline had reached a record of 142 million liters per day in recent days.

Ali Akbar Nejad'ali said that average demand for gasoline had also reached 120 million liters per day in Iran over the busy travel days of this summer.

## Tehran-Riyadh ties on right track



Describing progress in the detente between Riyadh and Tehran, the Iranian foreign minister told a joint press conference with his Saudi counterpart, "Relations between Tehran and Saudi Arabia are on the right track, and we are witnessing progress," adding, "The talks were successful."

The top Iranian diplomat highlighted that Iran believes security in the region must be ensured through reliance on local capabilities, stating that Iran stretches out a hand of cooperation to neighboring countries.

"Within such a framework, we have planned promotion of solid relations

form in the history of the two countries and the path of regional security."

In June, Iran officially reopened its embassy in Saudi Arabia and Iranian media reported earlier this month that the kingdom's embassy in Tehran had resumed operations.

Prince Faisal confirmed on Thursday that the Saudi Embassy in Tehran has also resumed operations, which he described as "another step in the development of relations between the two countries".

"We look forward to a new phase in our relationship based on our Islamic brotherhood and work towards common interests," he said, adding that he welcomed Iran's endorsement of Riyadh's bid to host Expo 2030. The Thursday meeting came nearly two months after the Saudi foreign minister met Iranian officials in Tehran on his first trip to Iran since the China-brokered deal to resume relations and reopen diplomatic missions.

The last Iranian foreign minister to visit Saudi Arabia was Mohammad Javad Zarif, who traveled to the kingdom in 2015 to offer condolences for the death of King Abdullah. The two countries severed ties in 2016 after Iranian protesters, angry at the execution of the prominent Saudi Shia cleric Nimr al-Nimr, stormed Saudi's diplomatic missions in Iran.



Saudi Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan (R) receives his Iranian counterpart Hossein Amir-Abdollahian (C) in Riyadh on August 17, 2023.  
● [mfa.gov.ir](http://mfa.gov.ir)

## International Desk

Iran's foreign minister said relations between Tehran and Riyadh are on the right track after he paid a two-day visit to Saudi Arabia, marking the improvement of relations between the two regional powers.

On Friday, Hossein Amir-Abdollahian held talks with Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in Jeddah,

where the two sides reviewed bilateral relations and explored opportunities for cooperation between Tehran and Riyadh. They also discussed the latest international and regional developments. "Discussions were frank, beneficial and productive," Amir-Abdollahian said in a social media post after the meeting, adding that the countries "agree on the security and development of all in the

region". The meeting came as part of the Iranian foreign minister's visit to Riyadh on his first trip to Saudi Arabia since a Chinese-brokered rapprochement deal reached between the two countries in March. Earlier on Thursday, Iran's top diplomat held talks with his Saudi counterpart Prince Faisal bin Farhan. Amir-Abdollahian described Thursday's meet-

ing in the Saudi Foreign Ministry's Islamic Solidarity Hall as "a prelude to the meeting of the heads of the two countries," without specifying when Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi would visit Saudi Arabia at King Salman's invitation.

"We are sure that these meetings and cooperation will help the unity of the Islamic world," he said, proposing a "regional dialogue".

with other countries like Iraq, Qatar, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates apart from restoration of ties with the friendly and neighboring Saudi Arabia."

## Regional security

Prince Faisal, for his part, said on Thursday, "Our meeting today is a continuation of the steps taken towards implementing the agreement to resume diplomatic relations, which represents a pivotal plat-

## IRGC countered West's ...

Ayatollah Khamenei pointed to a summit of senior officials from the US, UK, France, and Germany on the French island of Guadeloupe just before the victory of the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

At that point, he added, they had concluded it was "impossible" to save the US-backed Pahlavi regime in Iran. Nevertheless, they adopted a strategy of "sequential crises" in the hope of destabilizing any new government in Iran, the

Leader said, recounting the series of crises, riots, security threats, and extensive acts of terrorism that marked the early phase of the Islamic Revolution. Ayatollah Khamenei highlighted that evidence obtained from the former US embassy in Iran also revealed that these incidents aligned with the West's deliberate strategy of instigating consecutive crises within Iran.

The Leader commended the IRGC for its exceptional efforts, noting that the elite force effectively

thwarted all those crises, safeguarding the Iranian people from their repercussions.

Therefore, he warned of enemies' attempts to tarnish the image of the IRGC and Basij volunteer forces. "Why is that? Because the IRGC is awe-inspiring, and Basij is impressive, which makes them (enemies) worried and anxious," the Leader stated. The last meeting between Ayatollah Khamenei and senior IRGC commanders was held some four years ago with the

presence of Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani, Iran's top anti-terror general who was assassinated by the United States a few months after the meeting.

Enemies have no way of tarnishing the reputation of the IRGC other than through "false news, rumors and all kinds of tricks and ploys," the Leader added, praising the IRGC elite force as "the world's biggest anti-terrorism organization".

Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi also hailed

the role that the IRGC has played in the fight against terrorism in the region, noting that European countries would have been dominated by Daesh terrorists without IRGC's efforts.

Addressing the second day of the Supreme Assembly of Commanders of the IRGC on Friday in Tehran, Raeisi said, "The peaceful life Europe enjoys today is a result of the efforts of the IRGC."

However, he added, it is unfortunate that they are assassinating the heroes who combat terrorism

and labeling the IRGC, which leads the fight against terrorism, as terrorists, adding that this raises important questions that international organizations must address.

The IRGC was established on April 22, 1979, by the founder of the Islamic Republic Ayatollah Khomeini as a paramilitary organization tasked with protecting the newborn Islamic Republic.

The IRGC has made great sacrifices in the fight against terror outfits operating in the region.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist



## €130m power plant unit launched in northwest

A new power plant unit came on line in Iran's northwestern province of Ardebil near the border with Azerbaijan with an investment value of 130 million euros. A deputy CEO of Iran's Thermal Power Plants Holding Company (TPPH) said on Thursday that the new steam unit opened at Sabalan Combined-Cycle Power Plant has a capacity to generate 160 megawatts (MW) of electricity, according to Press TV. Mohammad Ramazani said that the unit is a third steam unit launched

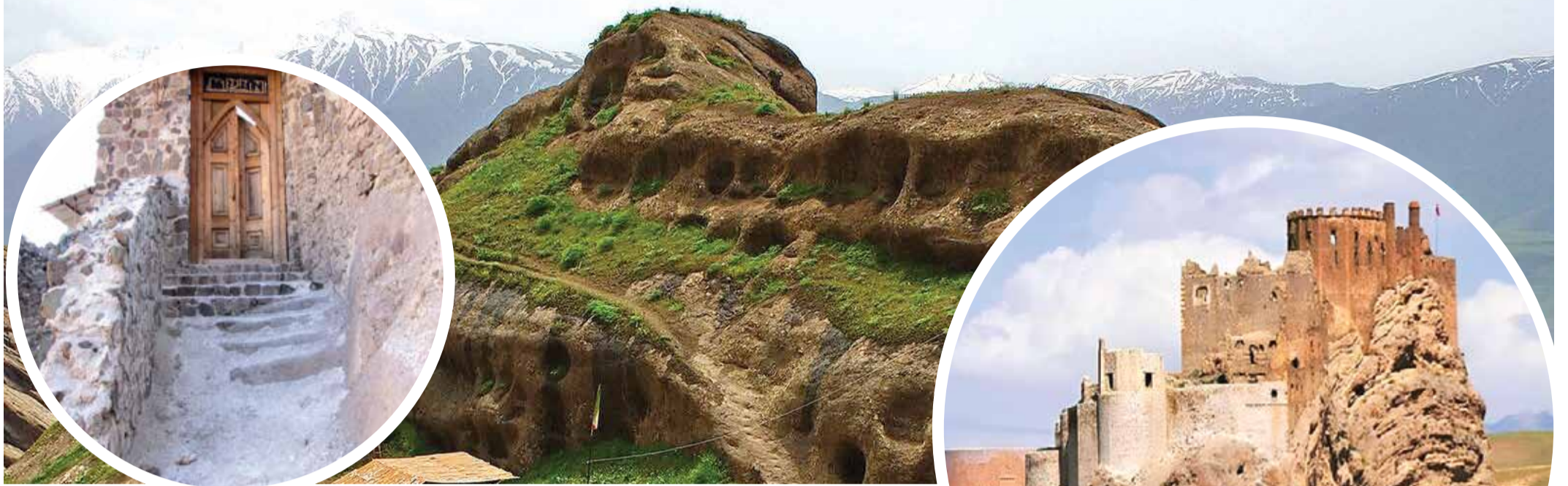
at Sabalan power plant, an electricity station with six gas-fired units that has now a total generation capacity to 1.44 gigawatts.

Ramazani said the launch cuts natural gas consumption in the power plant by 250 million cubic meters per year and increases its efficiency rate to 50%. Sabalan power plant is one of TPPH's largest electricity stations in Iran. It is located to the north of the city of Ardebil near the border with Azerbaijan. The power plant has a combined cycle system

where the exhaust heat from gas-fired turbines is used to raise steam to drive the steam turbines.

The efficient, environmentally-friendly system has become increasingly popular in Iran in recent years as the country relies on its massive natural gas resources to expand its electricity sector. The government has offered incentives like cheap and stable supply of natural gas to encourage private investors to build combined-cycle power plants in various regions.

# The mysterious Alamut Castle



iranwonders.com

dobaresajfar.ir

eghtesadonline.com

Perched on the peaks of Alborz Mountains, in northwestern Iran, Alamut Castle is one of the most famous and mysterious castles in the country. Only ruins remain from the once majestic castle, but its historical importance and the legends around it continue to make this place worth visiting. In this article, you will discover the story of Hassan Sabbah and the Alamut Castle. There is about 30 percent left of the original structure, which was a 20,000 square-meter fort, the construction of which started in the 9th century, surfiran.

com wrote. Located on top of a hill, the castle has two upper and lower parts, as well as the walls surrounded by precipices. Thanks to its location and architecture, Alamut Castle was known as one of the most impregnable in Iran. It became famous under Hassan Sabbah's rule, a member of the Ismailis that led a resistance against the Seljuk dynasty, which was in power at the time in Persia.

## Story of the castle

The story of Alamut Castle begins in 891 CE, when an

ancient Persian king decided to start the construction of the monument. Two centuries before the reign of Hassan Sabah, this king was on a hunt when he saw a large eagle perched on top of a remote hill. Seeing this as a favorable omen and realizing the strategic value of the location, the king chose to build a castle there and to name it "Alamut," which can translate into "eagle's nest". It was in 1090 CE when the castle became famous. This was when Hassan Sabbah took the castle to make it the center of the Ismailis. There are various stories

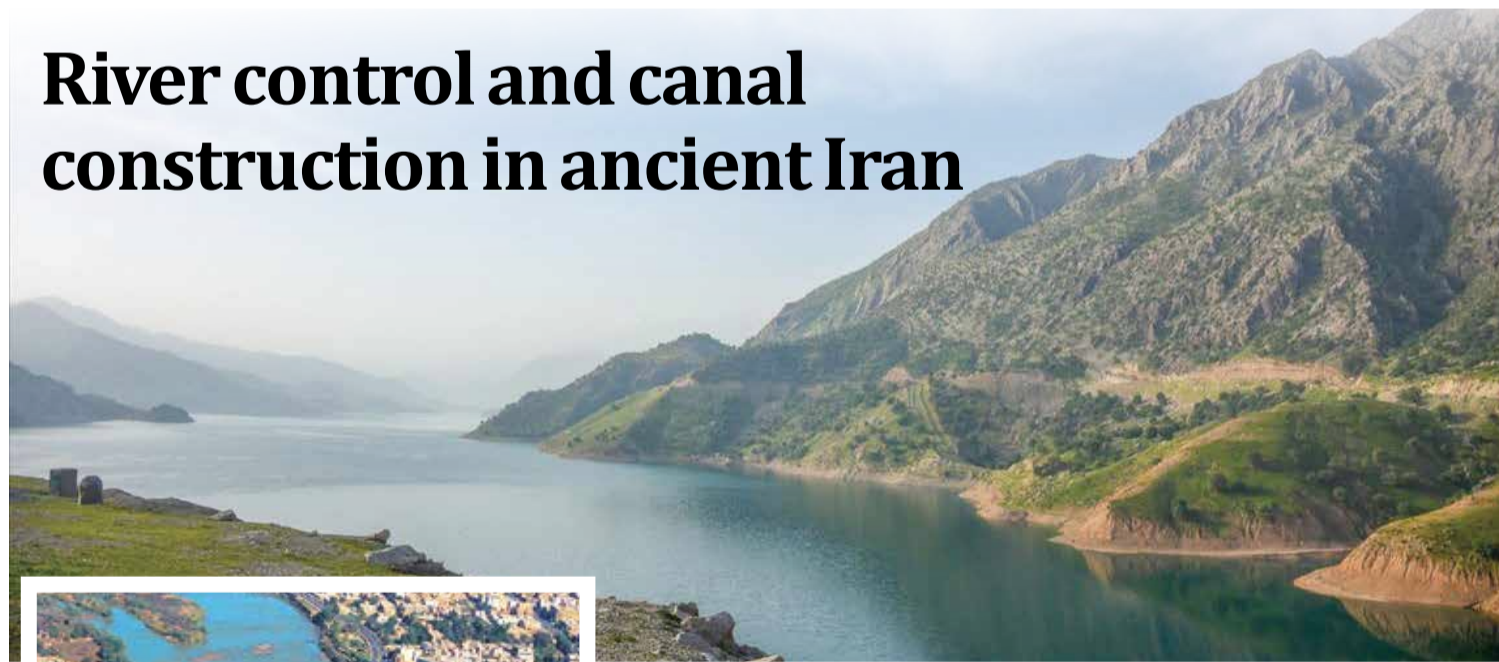
detailing how Hassan Sabbah took the castle. Which ever technique he used, it is said that he took control of the castle without spilling a drop of blood. Hassan Sabbah made the Alamut Castle the headquarters of the Ismailis and spent the rest of his life there, reading and writing. From Alamut, Hassan Sabbah fomented an open rebellion against the Seljuk dynasty, and his followers took and built several other castles in the region. Alamut Castle is one of the most popular in Iran, worth visiting for its historical significance and beautiful

natural surroundings. Expect some hiking to reach the fortress, as it is located on top of a hill, with an elevation of about 2,000 meters. It is a moderate hike that requires comfortable shoes. You will have to

climb about 400 stairs on an incline of 35 degrees, for about one to two hours, depending on your walking pace. As it is at a high altitude, the best time of the year to visit Alamut Castle is

in late spring and summer. While the view is amazing, the trail is often closed during winter due to heavy snow and reaching the top of the hill at that season requires professional training.

## River control and canal construction in ancient Iran



Karun River  
fadaktrains.com

Dez River  
kindiran.com

As the historians wrote down, the civilization of ancient Iran were mostly located in the southern and southwestern provinces of

the country (Fars and Khuzestan provinces). There were a number of dams in the south of Iran which are still existed. There is

no doubt about their roles in the development of the south. While the rivers in the south have moderate discharges, Karun River has been the largest one in Iran. There are many remains of ancient civilization around this river. Khuzestan had been the store of grain and the land of sugar cane and it was very famous in the world. Although the execution of new dams, land leveling

and providing modern irrigation networks cause some of those old water structures to be ruined, there are still many old canals, which show the greatness and importance of Khuzestan Province in the past. Even now, some of them are under operation.

## The boundary of southern rivers

The most important rivers in Khuzestan are: Karun,

Dez and Karkheh. There are many small rivers in this great plain as well. The sign of projection of shore into the sea called river sedimentation. There are many canals between Karkheh and Dez, which belonged to the old era.

## The trace of Elamites' irrigation canals

Investigators believe some of these irrigation canals

in this large plain had been excavated during Elamites Period, as it was written on old inscriptions. It is clear that they were crossing the Karun River by boat, but its location isn't clear. There are different crossing points on Dez.

## Achaemenid and Sassanid

One of the important canals in Shushtar is Darian. It is believed; Darius the Great. Besides that, there were many water and irrigation structures, which belonged to Achaemenid era in this great plain. Unfortunately there are not many traces of them, but there were some people believed they would belong to some other eras. There was a serious need to construct some bridges over three important rivers in Khuzestan region during Sassanid era. As you know one of the governmental centers was in Pasaargade and the other one in Teisphon.

## Specification of Sassanids' bridges

Shapur the First had two major objectives for these bridges: His army could

easily cross the rivers any time, which was necessary. The piles of constructed bridges were somehow used as dams to raise water level and divert it to left and right irrigation canals. There were even structures with triple objectives in Iran. One of the best samples is Band-e-Amir in Fars. Irrespective of connecting both river banks, it acted as dam and raised water level to divert to the canals in both sides, and finally they used the water power of this great historical structure to rotate the millstones. Another sample is Gargar Weir and the water mills around it, which were constructed during Sassanid era. Those explanation of multipurpose structures belonged to the most recent era. When Shapur the First defeated Valerian the Roman Emperor in Epuda battle (260 CE), he got benefit from Roman captives to carry out his construction plan. After Shapur his successor, Khosrow Parviz who was very interested in development and improvement of the country started the construction of Qasr-e Shirin and Taq-e Bostan.

The above is a lightly edited version of part of a chapter entitled "River Controlling and The Method of Distributing and Using Water Power in Ancient Iran" from a book entitled, "Water and Irrigation Techniques in Ancient Iran", written by Gholam Reza Kuroos and Majid Labbaf Khaneiki, published by Iranian National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage.

## Photography keeps life alive



By Ali  
Kakadezfuli  
Managing  
Director

Between audio, video and photo, the last is definitely the most powerful format for capturing the moment. It is only through photography that the “moment”

becomes meaningful. In audio and video formats, what is recorded is the flow of moments, but in the photo, only a single moment survives.

A photo anchors us in a specific moment. In a photo, we see the image of a moment in time, yet, what we get out of it is not just that moment, but a world of concepts. We enter a place where time stands still, but the meaning is always alive and giving birth.

A photo is silent, but it speaks with its audience. Each photo creates a unique dialogue with each different audience. Neither does the photographer die, nor does the meaning that is embedded in the photo.

In a frame, a photograph not only carries a subject, but also bears the presence of the photographer. Perhaps the reason a photo is always alive is that the point at which the photographer stands is unique. The photographer steps aside and invites us to look at the world through their eyes for a moment. What a photographer sees in the viewfinder is not the only thing we see. At that instant, we can touch the photographer's whole being, all his or her mental sequences and even their feelings and emotions.

Photographers take us into their world through their cameras, so that we exist in their place and we are living in their bodies. In this sense, perhaps they are the most selfless individuals in the world at that moment. Every photograph is the artist's world when they give it to us, as described by Susan Sontag.

Photos are not only a window to the past. They are reminders to face the future better; a reminder not to forget our roots and, of course, our sufferings. Facing the sufferings of the past may not be a pleasant thing at first glance, but until we recognize our sufferings, we will not try to reduce them, and we will not live a better life.

So the photographer has a great mission, one that is more difficult than all the physical challenges of their work. World Photography Day is an opportunity to take a deeper look at photos and appreciate those who capture the most precious moments forever.



# Shots through the Heart of Chronos

Before the invention of the camera, we humans had only the written word in our fight against oblivion. However, since the modern artifact was made, it has become a powerful weapon in our hands, allowing us to take shots through the heart of time, immortalizing otherwise ephemeral moments. This special issue is a celebration of the camera and photography, without which our finite historical memory would have lost so much of its flesh, leaving unbearable lacunas in our communal existence.

## A photographer's journey ignited by Stanley Kubrick



By Mostafa  
Shirmohammadi  
Staff writer

In the heart of Iran's bustling streets, a passionate soul named Amin Qolipour emerged as a steadfast observer of life through the lens of his camera. With a

spark ignited from childhood, Amin, a 48-year-old freelance photographer, had been nurturing an unwavering love for both photography and cinema since his earliest memories. Cinema's enchanting tales had captivated him, but it was a single moment that transformed his adoration into a life-altering pursuit.

During the 1980s, an Iranian TV program about cinema showcased the brilliance of Stanley Kubrick's masterpiece, '2001: A Space Odyssey'. Amin was fascinated as Kubrick's masterful use of the one-point perspective in his shots painted a world of depth and wonder before him.

"That was the moment I fell head over heels for photography," Amin recalled, his eyes lighting up as he recounted the turning point. The technique Kubrick employed, framing a central point with precision, resonated deeply with Amin's parallel love for filmmaking. The seeds of his journey were sown that day, destined to blossom into a lifelong passion.

One of his uncles shared his fervor for photography with Amin when he gave the young boy a professional camera that would become his steadfast companion. Armed with this newfound tool, Amin soon emerged as the sole photographer among his friends.

Among the moments fixed permanently in the photographer's memory are the roaring of fighter jets, F5s and F14s, soaring overhead in a dazzling display at an Iranian Air Force aerial show. His camera captured the powerful aircrafts in all their glory.

In 2007, a revolutionary shift occurred with the emergence of camera phones. A Nokia N95 transformed Amin's days into a visual adventure, with his lens taking up to 300 moments daily – people crossing the streets, architectural marvels touching the sky, and countless structures that told stories through their silent forms.

"I'm like a hunter, waiting for that perfect instant to seize the essence of what I see. I'm a 'documentary photographer,'" Amin said, highlighting his dedication to capture life's candid stories.

With the advent of social media, particularly Instagram, Amin found a platform to share his vision with

the world. Though he had never sought the title of "photographer," the digital realm granted him recognition. However, it was an encounter with Iranian war photographer, Sasan Moayedi, who sealed Amin's self-perception. Encouraged by Moayedi's endorsement, he embraced the title he had hesitated to claim before.





An Iranian soldier aims his AK-47 rifle during Operation Badr outside the Iraqi town of Al-Qurnah on March 18, 1985.

● MOHAMMAD-HOSSEIN HEIDARI/FARS



An image of Baqer Khan (L) and Sattar Khan, two leaders of the Iranian Constitutional Revolution, is among the earliest photos taken in Iran.

● STEPAN STEPANIAN



A labor child crosses a street in Tehran, showcasing the power of photography in bringing to the fore evils facing a society.

● SOBH-E ROUYESH



Iranian freestyle wrestler Hassan Yazdani (blue) reacts after beating American rival David Taylor to win the 86kg gold medal at the 2021 World Championships in Oslo, Norway, on October 3, 2021.

● MARTIN GABOR/UWW



Still from 'A Separation' by Asghar Farhadi, which is among the 100 best movies of all time.

● IRNA



## Photojournalism: A dance between accuracy and speed



By Majid Khahi  
Guest contributor

In the realm of photojournalism, I find myself immersed in a dynamic dance between accuracy and speed, a delicate balance where the urgency to capture and share moments in real-time defines our craft. The heartbeat of this profession pulses with the rhythms of stress and excitement, an electrifying mixture that fuels our passion for storytelling through the lens. Photojournalism intertwined with street photography and documentary work form a trio of visual narratives that unveil the tapestry of life. What sets us apart is the heartbeat of news value – the heartbeat of a moment that bears witness to history unfolding. To be a news photographer demands an intimate connection with diverse facets of society. Our mission is clear: To seize the essence of unfolding stories, to etch reality onto frames, and to bear witness for those who may not have a voice. In the realm of news photography, aesthetics bow to immediacy. The artistry is present but not dominant. Our focus is on the raw, unfiltered portrayal of events as they unfold. Yet, within this devotion to accuracy, there exists a subtle dance between form and function, a dance that often goes unnoticed but lends depth to our visual storytelling. Financial rewards are not the cornerstone of our pursuit. Pho-

tojournalism is a calling answered by those driven by passion rather than profit. It is a journey through life's nooks and crannies, guided by an unquenchable thirst to document the spectrum of human existence. This field thrives on the love for capturing life's intricacies, the zeal to preserve the pages of history, and the resolute dedication to uncovering the truth. I find great happiness in capturing the everyday rhythms of life. But things have changed in my homeland, Iran. The vibrant colors of true news photography have faded, replaced by more muted tones, often overshadowed by public relations.



● PETA PIXEL

## Western rarity narrates the conclusion of Iranians' political aspirations



By Ebrahim Beheshti  
Staff writer

The 136-year-long Qajar dynasty (1789-1925) was the last old-fashioned, pre-modern royal family that ruled Iran. As it happens, during its reign, Iranians came into contact with modernity, and its new concepts and inventions. In retrospect, there remains no doubt that these novelties brought about with them deep political, social, cultural, and military changes.

The art – or the industry – of photography was also one of those modern phenomena that entered Iran during that time, only three years after its invention in Europe. Although for many years, it only had a limited functionality, and was contained within the walls of the court.

Due to his affinity with cameras and photography, Naser al-Din Shah, during his 50-year-long rule, became a patron of photography and, therefore, played an important role in the spread of the art form. The Iranian king was so fond of photography that he learned the craft from the French photographer Francis Carlihan (1818-1870), and established a photography studio in his court. Towards the end of his reign, photography burst out of the court and into the public scene. It was immediately embraced by ordinary people. The camera, rare as it was, also came to be of great help to foreign scholars and diplomats who wanted to record real images of Iran at the time. Their attempts led to the first collection of photos of Iran's ancient monuments, taken by Luigi Pesce (1828-1864), a Naples-born Italian sergeant who traveled to Iran as an amateur photographer.

At the same time, the art of photography became an appealing, efficient tool for in the hands of historians and journalists during the turbulent time of Iranian Constitutional Revolution (1905-1911). The revolution itself was, in fact, a manifest of Iranian public's embracing of modern political concepts. However, this component of modernity which required limiting the power of the court and courtiers didn't come as easy as photography to them. The courtiers hated and opposed giving up their power to popular institutions as much as they loved and encouraged photography.

Nevertheless, it so happened that during this part of Iran's history, camera – the precious rarity of Western art – recorded the first attempts of Eastern liberals to institutionalize yet another Western good – although with a religious, national flavor. The art of photography, in its first public appearance in Iran, encountered the country's greatest contemporary political and social event. Through the lens of the photographers of the age, most notably Stepan Stepanian, a man remembered by some as Iran's first photojournalist, the art of photography recorded the most important events of the Iranian Constitutional Revolution and its great leaders such as Sattar Khan and Baqer Khan.



'The Napalm Girl' by a Vietnamese-American photographer, is one of the most iconic photos of all time, perhaps viewed and reviewed by billions of people so far. The reason for its inclusion in this issue, decades after it was taken and publication is the unique sort of freshness it contains, and the never-ending opportunity it offers for being shocked to the core. Although the Vietnam War is over, this visual document keeps us from forgetting its horrors and USA's crimes against humanity during that war.

● NICK UT

## Iran to host Angola in September friendly



IRNA

### Sport Desk

Iran will face Angola in a friendly fixture at Tehran's Azadi Stadium on September 12, the Iranian Football Federation announced.

The game will be a second outing for the Asian side in the upcoming FIFA international break, coming five days after a friendly against Bulgaria at the Hristo Botev Stadium in Plovdiv.

Iranian head coach Amir Qalenoee, who replaced Portuguese Carlos Queiroz following last year's World Cup in Qatar, is tasked with steering his team in next January's AFC Asian Cup – also to be held in Qatar – where the three-time champion will be chasing a first title since 1976.

Iran is drawn alongside the United Arab Emirates, Hong Kong, and Palestine in Group C of the continent's flagship international event.

## Russians 'unlikely' to be at Paris Olympics: World Athletics

BBC – Russian and Belarusian track and field athletes are "unlikely" to be able to compete at the 2024 Olympics, says World Athletics president Lord Coe.

World Athletics has banned competitors from the two countries from its events, including under a neutral flag, because of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The International Olympics Committee (IOC) has said athletes should be able to compete as neutrals.

However, Lord Coe said World Athletics' position was "very clear".

When World Athletics announced its ban in March, Lord Coe said "unprecedented sanctions" on Russia and Belarus by "countries and industries" are the "only way to restore peace".

Speaking on Thursday, Lord Coe added: "I don't have a crystal ball, I follow world events in the same way that you all do."

"We have risk committees, we have working groups that will always be wanting to be across that and what might the circumstances look like if there's any shift in the situation but I have to say that looks unlikely at the moment with where we are with events in Ukraine."

# Persian Gulf Pro League roundup: Title favorites relishing perfect start to new campaign



Esteghlal centerback Mohammad-Hossein Moradmand (2nd R) celebrates with teammates after scoring the winner in a 1-0 victory over Malavan FC in the Persian Gulf Pro League at the Azadi Stadium, Tehran, Iran, on August 17, 2023.

● ALI SHARIFZADEH/IRNA



### Sport Desk

There will surely be a lot of twists and turns until the end of the new season but Persepolis, Sepahan, Esteghlal seem to have already established a three-horse race for the Persian Gulf Pro League crown.

The top three from the previous campaign walked away with a second victory in as many games while Tractor, which had high hopes of an impressive start after last season's fourth-spot finish as well as a busy transfer window, appears to be far from a finished article.

In the highly-anticipated fixture in Tabriz, another howler by new Tractor goalkeeper Hossein Pourhamidi

– following the blunder in the 3-1 defeat at Sepahan – left Saeed Sadeqi facing an empty net before the Persepolis winger rolled home to silence the crowd at the full-packed Yadegar-e Imam Stadium late in the first half. Both sides hit the woodwork in the second period but the result remained intact as the defending champion left Tabriz with a massive 1-0 triumph on Wednesday.

Yahya Golmohammadi's Reds are yet to drop points in the league since the home defeat against Sepahan in March, enjoying a remarkable run of 12 successive league and cup wins.

Later in the day, second-half strikes by Morteza Asadi and Shahriyar Moghanlou

steered Sepahan to a 2-0 win at Zob Ahan in the Isfahan derby.

Having joined from Tractor in the summer, Asadi got Sepahan off the mark from the spot in the 52nd minute after Moghanlou went down in the box by Arash Qaderi. Moghanlou then rounded off a sublime counterattack when his curling effort from the edge of the box found the bottom corner.

Sepahan fans, who saw their team miss out on the title by a single point last term, will be desperate to celebrate a first league trophy since 2015 come the end of the season. On Thursday, Esteghlal had to wait 80 minutes to break the deadlock against Mehdi Tartar's brave Malavan side in Tehran's Azadi Stadium

when center-back Mohammad-Hossein Moradmand headed home Mehdi Mehdi-dipour's corner kick.

New manager Javad Nekounam had skipper Hossein Hosseini to thank for keeping him on a winning start to life on the Blues bench as Esteghlal keeper denied Mehran Ahmadi an opener from the spot with seven minutes into the contest. Elsewhere in the league, Paykan and Golgozar Sirjan shared the spoils in a goalless stalemate in Tehran on Tuesday, while Mehran Mousavi's header with nine minutes left on the clock secured a 1-0 home victory for Iralco against newly-promoted Esteghlal Khuzestan.

Shams Azar, which also won

promotion last season, left the pitch empty-handed in a first top-flight home game in the history of the club in Qazvin, falling to 2-1 defeat against Havadar.

Former Esteghlal players Babak Moradi and Amin Qasseminejad were on the scoresheet for the visiting side before Rahman Jafari bagged a late consolation for the host.

Mes Rafsanjan and Nassaji Mazandaran played to a 1-1 draw in Rafsanjan, with Mohammadreza Azadi's first-half goal for Nassaji cancelled out by Hassan Jafari four minutes after the interval.

The pressure is on for Foolad Khuzestan manager Alireza Mansourian after his side suffered a second consecu-

tive defeat in the new season – a 2-1 loss to San'at Naft Abadan at the Foolad Arena. San'at skipper Taleb Rikani gave his side the lead with a trademark left-foot effort from behind the box in the 14th minute.

Things went from bad to worse for Foolad when Sina Shah-Abbasi was shown his marching orders for a second bookable offense right before the break and Hossein Shanani's composed finish doubled the lead for San'at in the 50th minute.

Mohammad Abbaszadeh pulled one back for the home side with five minutes from normal time but it proved to be too little too late as Abdollah Veisi's men came out on top in the southern Iranian derby.

## Head coach Ataei names Iran's 14-man squad for Asian Volleyball Championship



● volleyball.ir

### Sport Desk

Iran head coach Behrouz Ataei announced his 14-man squad for the Asian Men's Volleyball Championship – starting today in Urmia, northwest Iran.

Middle blocker Mehdi Jelveh was the last player to be dropped for the continent's flagship volleyball event before Iran gets its title defense underway with a game against Hong Kong in Pool A – also featuring Iraq – on Sunday. Seyyed Mohammad Mousavi, Milad Ebadi-pour, Mohammad Valizadeh, Pouria Hossein Khanzadeh, Meysam Salehi, Shahrouz Hodayounfarmanesh, Mobin Nasri,

Amin Esmailnejad, Saber Kazemi, Mohammadreza Hazratpour, Arman Salehi, Mohammad-Taher Vadi, Javad Karimi, and Mohammad Fallah will represent the Asian powerhouse at the 22nd edition of the competition.

Having endured a disastrous campaign at the Volleyball Nations League in July, which saw Ataei's men lose 10 in 12 outings and finish third from bottom in the 16-team table of the preliminary round, Iran will be eager to bounce back when chasing a fifth Asian trophy ahead of late September's qualifiers for the Paris Olympics. The outcome of the Asian event will contribute to the

teams' status in the FIVB World Ranking – a decisive factor in the qualification process for next year's Games in the French capital. That is what convinced Japan, which stunned the world of volleyball by claiming the bronze medal at the VNL Finals, to name a full-strength squad for the Asian Championship. On Thursday, Ataei's side walked away with a morale-boosting victory over Japan in a friendly game behind closed doors in Urmia, rallying from behind to win 3-1 (23-25, 27-25, 25-21, 25-21). Japan will begin its Pool B campaign today against Thailand before facing Uzbekistan on Sunday.

# 1000 Palestinian prisoners on hunger strike to protest Israeli abuse

One thousand Palestinian prisoners held in Israeli jails entered a collective hunger strike late on Thursday in protest of the "Israeli prison service's aggression against prisoners", according to a statement by the Palestinian Prisoners' Club.

The Palestinian prisoners' 'National Unified Leadership' announced the surprising move hours after Israeli forces raided Palestinian inmates' cells in the Negev prison, newarab.com reported.

The strike began at 7:00 pm local time, according to the statement signed by the 'National Emergency Committee', the united leadership body of Palestinian prisoners. The statement called on Palestinians to support the strike through protests and demonstrations.

The surprising move came hours after Israeli prison service forces raided Palestinian inmates' cells in sev-

eral sections at the Negev prison. The Prisoners' Club said the raids used "excessive force" and "brutal repressive measures" against Palestinian prisoners.

The raids occurred a day after Israel's far-right security minister Itamar Ben-Gvir visited the Negev prison, in which he said that Palestinian prisoners enjoy "too much courtyard time". Ben-Gvir added that the inmates' daily one-hour courtyard time, their only chance of exposure to sunlight, "needs a way to be cut shorter", as quoted by Israeli media.

"This hunger strike announcement bypassed all accustomed stages and came surprisingly without any preparation or warning, which indicated the urgency of the situation in the occupation jails," Abdel Naser Farawneh, head of the research unit at the Palestinian Prisoners' affairs commission, told The

New Arab.

"The Israeli occupation's current offensive on Palestinian prisoners has reached a dangerous level of aggression with the increasing practice of medical neglect, solitary confinement, continuous transfer of prisoners, reduction of life conditions and the spike of administrative detention orders," Farawneh said.

"Previous attempts to pressure the occupation authorities into halting its escalation against prisoners have failed, and the latest occupation's raid of prisoners cells in the Negev prison was the final straw," he noted. "This is a well-connected escalation against prisoners' rights, serving internal Israeli political games, and our prisoners had to stand up against it."

Palestinian human rights groups also announced Thursday that Israeli forces



● X (TWITTER)

placed 75 Palestinian prisoners under solitary confinement following the hunger strike announcement. No-charge detentions Meanwhile, nine Palestinians detained without charges under the Israeli "administrative detention" system continued their hunger strikes to protest their indefinite detention renewal.

The longest-running among them is 34-year-old Kayed Fafus, who has been refusing food for 15 days. Fafus was detained in May and given a six-month detention order without charges by an Israeli military court.

In 2021, Fafus was released from a months-long administrative detention following a 131-day-long

individual hunger strike.

Earlier this year, Palestinian detainee Khader Adnan died at an Israeli hospital on the 87th day of his sixth hunger strike since 2011, protesting his repeated administrative detention. A quarter of all 5,100 Palestinian prisoners are administrative detainees held without charges under renewable detention orders.

## Trump's lawyers propose 2026 trial date in federal election case



Former US President and Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks during a campaign rally in Erie, Pennsylvania, US, on July 29, 2023.

● LINDSAY DEDARIO/REUTERS

Lawyers for former President Donald J. Trump asked a judge on Thursday to reject the government's proposal to take Trump to trial in early January on charges of seeking to overturn the 2020 election and to instead push back the proceeding until April 2026 - nearly a year and a half after the 2024 election, nytimes.com reported.

The lawyers said the extraordinary delay was needed because of the historic nature of the case and the extraordinary volume of discovery evidence they will have to sort through - as much as 8.5 terabytes of materials, totaling over 11.5 million pages, they wrote in a filing to Judge Tanya S. Chutkan, who is overseeing the case, nytimes.com reported. In a bit of legal showmanship, Gregory M. Singer, the lawyer who wrote the brief, included a graph that showed how 11.5 million pages of documents stacked atop one another would result in a "tower of paper stretching nearly 5,000 feet into the sky."

"Even assuming we could begin reviewing the documents today, we would need to proceed at a pace of 99,762 pages per day to finish the government's initial production by its proposed date for jury selection," Singer wrote.

Trump's aggressive request to postpone the trial in Federal District Court in Washington - a strategy he has pursued in all of the criminal cases he is facing - followed an equally ambitious proposal made last week by prosecutors in the office of the special counsel, Jack Smith, to get the case in front of a jury by the first week of 2024.

That requested date would place the trial after the November 2024 US election, in which Trump is the front-runner for the Republican nomination.

"The public interest lies in justice and fair trial, not a rush to judgment," Trump's attorneys wrote on Thursday.

## Ukrainian drone damages building in Moscow: Russia

A Ukrainian drone smashed into a building in central Moscow on Friday after Russian air defences shot it down, disrupting air traffic at all the civilian airports of the Russian capital, Russian officials said.

A Reuters witness who was in the area described hearing "a powerful explosion". Reuters images showed workers and emergency workers inspecting a damaged roof of a non-residential building which the drone hit, Reuters reported.

The Russian Defence Ministry and Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyenin said there were no casualties after air defences destroyed a drone which then fell on a non-residential building of Moscow's Expo Center complex in the early hours of Friday.

The Expo Center is a large spread of exhibition pavilions and multi-purpose halls, fewer than 5 kilometers away from the Kremlin.

"At about 4 a.m. Moscow time, the Kyiv regime launched another terrorist attack using an unmanned aerial vehicle on objects located in Moscow and the Moscow region," the Russian ministry said.

Air-traffic was briefly suspended at four major airports around the capital - Vnukovo, Domodedovo, Sheremetyevo and Zhukovsky - though later they reopened. Drone air strikes deep inside Russia have increased since a drone was destroyed over the Kremlin in early May.

Civilian areas of the capital were hit later in May. The New York Times reported in May that United States intelligence agencies believed Ukrainian spies or military intelligence were behind the drone strike on the Kremlin.



Investigators work near a damaged roof following a reported Ukrainian drone shot down in Moscow, Russia, on August 18, 2023.

● SHAMIL ZHUMATOV/REUTERS

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Russia bans entry to Moldovan officials



REUTERS - Russia banned entry to several Moldovan officials following Moldova's "unfriendly" decision to expel 22 Russian diplomats, the Russian Foreign Ministry said on Friday, marking a further worsening of already strained bilateral ties.

Twenty-two Russian diplomats flew out of the Moldovan capital Chisinau on Aug. 14, leaving behind a skeleton staff.

"... this unfriendly step leads to the further destruction of Russian-Moldovan relations, which are already in a deep crisis due to the actions of the Moldovan side," Russia's Foreign Ministry said in a statement after summoning Chisinau's ambassador to Moscow to express its disapproval.

#### W African militaries meet on Niger crisis



REUTERS - West African army chiefs held a second and final day of talks on Friday in Ghana's capital Accra, where they have been hashing out the details of a possible military intervention in Niger if diplomacy fails to reverse a military coup.

Military officers deposed Nigerien President Mohamed Bazoum on July 26 and have defied calls from the United Nations, the West African bloc ECOWAS and others to reinstate him, prompting regional powers to order a standby force to be assembled.

## 'Iranophobia' no longer ...

The meeting between the Iranian FM and bin Salman stands as a strong testament to both nations' steadfast commitment to strengthening their ties.

Iran and Saudi Arabia underwent an eight-year-long period of diplomatic estrangement. In the initial stages of normalizing relations, the primary focus remains on repairing and reinforcing bilateral rapport. Despite significant regional developments that warrant attention from Tehran and Riyadh, the main objective is to solidify their relations.

The Saudi foreign minister's emphasis on anticipating a visit from Iran's president to Saudi Arabia resonates as an indicator of the strides the two regional powers are taking to build confidence. The upcoming visit of President Ebrahim Raeisi to Saudi Arabia is expected to further bolster this growing trust.

Once the process of restoring relations is complete, or even simultaneously, it becomes imperative for Iran and Saudi Arabia to engage in face-to-face dialogue over the regional dynamics. Such talks should encompass

an open exchange of perspectives, a genuine effort to identify the underlying causes that led to the escalation of regional tensions in recent years, and a collaborative endeavor to resolve these issues.

As a result, the imminent prospect of Raeisi's forthcoming visit to Saudi Arabia is expected to be a pivotal moment in the relations between these two nations, and by extension, for the broader West Asian region. Many regional states have embraced the recent de-escalation efforts that have unfolded over the past months.

In the interim, the United States does not shy away from the prospect of achieving peace and security in the region. However, Americans seek a form of peace and security that aligns with their interests; otherwise, their reception might not be favorable.

In a similar vein, the US aims to synchronize the normalization of Saudi-Iran relations with its ongoing efforts to establish diplomatic ties between Saudi Arabia and Israel. This perspective forms the backdrop for the actions it set in motion during Amir-Abdollahian's

visit to Saudi Arabia. In tandem, the US secretary of state promptly engaged with their Saudi counterpart, pressuring him to elicit information about their talks with the Iranian diplomat and simultaneously pushing for Saudi-Israeli rapprochement.

Against this backdrop, a series of visits from US security officials to Saudi Arabia over recent months takes on added significance. These meetings were orchestrated to pave the way for future diplomatic ties between Saudi Arabia and Israel. Hence, the unfolding

narrative raises anticipation regarding Saudi Arabia's response to these American overtures - whether they will comply with US demands or firmly uphold their sovereignty and national interests in the face of such pressure.

Nevertheless, it's clear that the ongoing changes within the region are moving in a positive direction. Both the United States and Israel find themselves in a situation where they can no longer stoke fear in the region by highlighting Iran's capabilities, as Saudi Arabia and other Arab nations have

done in the past. Effectively, the era characterized by "Iranophobia" has come to an end, creating room for building confidence between the Islamic Republic and its southern neighbors. Amir-Abdollahian's recent visit to Saudi Arabia, involving extensive talks with the Saudi foreign minister and crown prince, serves as a powerful illustration of this evolving landscape. These negotiations signify a joint effort on both sides to lay the groundwork for more enduring and stable relations in the chapters ahead.



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# News in photo

## Reopening of Iran's Embassy in Riyadh



The Islamic Republic of Iran reopened its embassy in Saudi Arabia's capital Riyadh in the presence of Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian on August 17, 2023.

● MARZIYEH MOUSAVI/IRNA

## Funeral of Martyrs of Attack on Shah Cheragh Shrine



The funeral procession of two martyrs of a terrorist attack on Shah Cheragh Shrine is held in Shiraz, southern Iran, on August 16, 2023.

● FARZANEH CHAKHMAGH SAZ/YJC

## Russian Military Exhibition



Russian military exhibition titled "ARMY 2023" is held in Patriot Park, known as "Russian Military Disneyland," on the outskirts of Moscow, with the participation of defense industries of different countries, which will continue until August 20, 2023.

● MEHDI BOLOURIAN/IRNA

## Meteor Shower



The annual meteor shower lights up the sky in the southwestern Iranian province of Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari, from August 15-19, 2023.

● AHMAD RIAHI DEHKORDI/IRNA