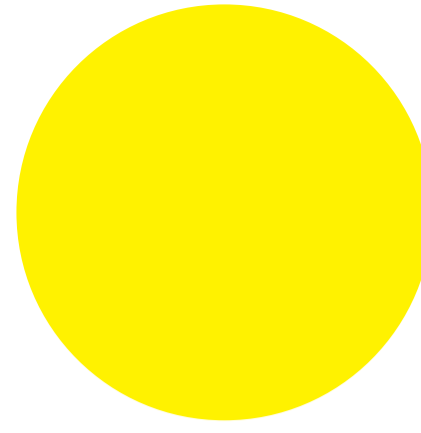




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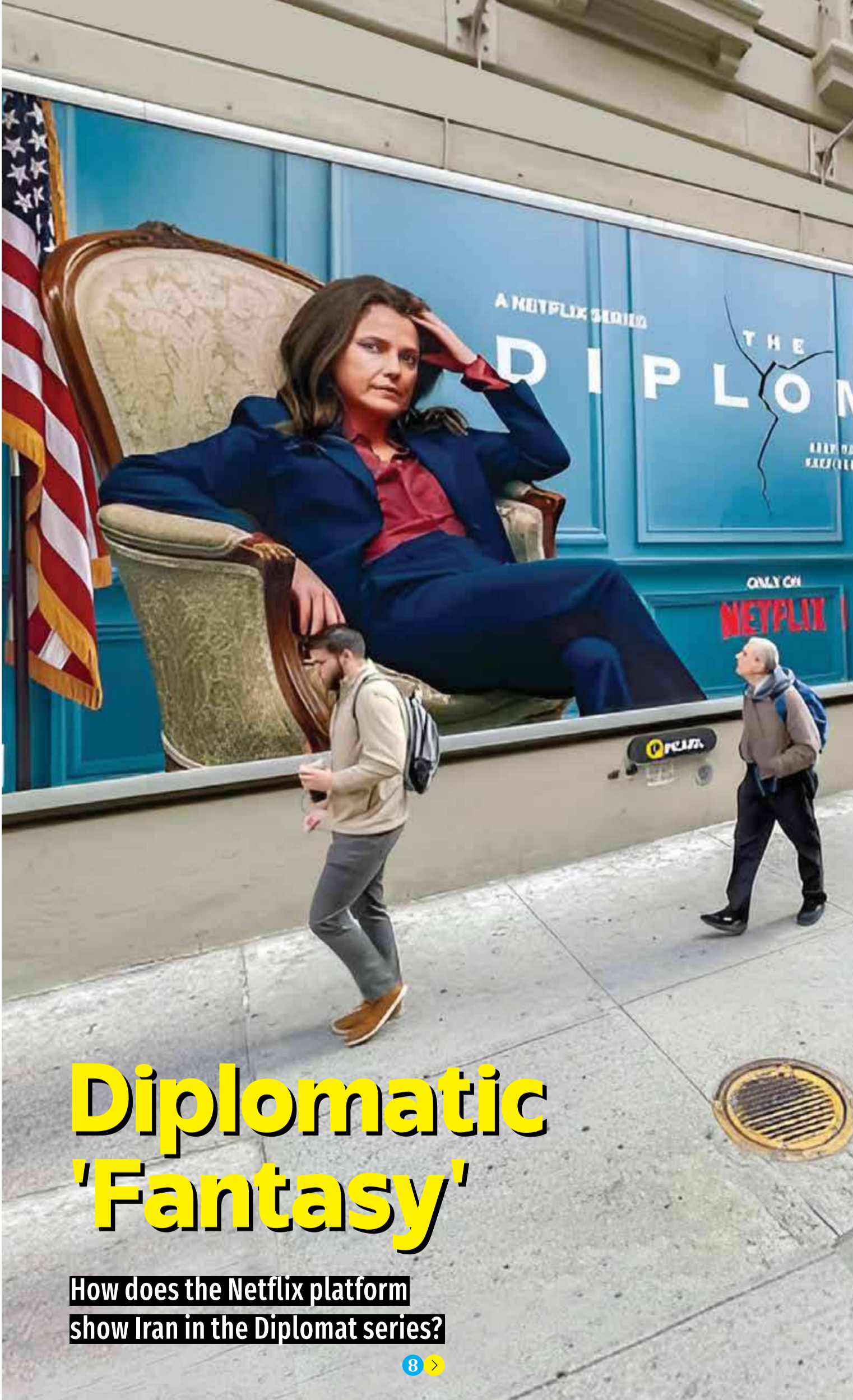


# Iran Daily



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## Diplomatic 'Fantasy'

**How does the Netflix platform show Iran in the Diplomat series?**

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### Raeisi: Iran eyes raising trade with LatAm, ASEAN nations

**International Desk** In meetings with a number of new foreign ambassadors to Tehran, Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi expressed Iran's willingness to broaden economic and trade relations with other countries, particularly with nations of Latin America and members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). The president on Sunday received the credentials of the new ambassadors of Ecuador, Colombia, Peru, Angola, and Cambodia at separate meetings in Tehran, according to Tasnim news agency. The president highlighted ample opportunities for the promotion of trade ties between Iran and Ecuador, called for the removal of obstacles to cooperation with Peru, and voiced Iran's readiness to share its experiences with Colombia in the fight against drug trafficking. Page 4 >

### Over 50 intelligence agencies set up Iran desks: Minister

Iranian Minister of Intelligence emphasizes that foes have not stopped their enmity towards Iran's Islamic Revolution, as over 50 intelligence services have set up Iran desks to confront the emerging power at the international level. Addressing commanders of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) on Sunday, Esmail Khatib said that the country's intelligence agencies have arrested spies from France, Sweden, Britain, and several other states, adding that some of those spies were sentenced to capital punishment and executed despite certain pressures, IRNA reported. The minister also announced that about 200 terrorists have entered Iran, attempting to destabilize the country and the region during the Arbreen march in Iraq, but have been arrested.



### Middle East booting out US, ending 'American century': Report

**International Desk** The US president is pushing for a Saudi-Israeli deal, a breakthrough on Palestine, and an understanding with Iran. However, the Guardian suggests that the 'American century' is long gone. The British news organization wrote on Sunday on the uncanniness of the way America's declining influence across the Middle East seems to be tracking the previous, humbling retreat of the British Empire from the same area. It's as if the countries of the region, having ditched one overweening imperium, are now rejecting another.



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## NEWS IN BRIEF

**Iran, Brazil to launch direct shipping line: TPOI**

**TASNIM** - The head of Trade Promotion Organization of Iran (TPOI) said a direct shipping line will be launched between Iran and Brazil, adding that the country's commercial attaché to Brazil will be deployed to São Paulo in the near future. Mehdi Zeyghami added that Iran attaches great importance to its trade ties with the South American country.

**Iran-EU six-month trade exceeds €2.3b: Eurostat**

**MEHR** - The Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat) on Sunday put the value of trade exchanges between Iran and the European Union's member states in the first half of 2023 (January-June) at €2.313 billion, half of which is related to Iran's trade with Germany. The trade exchanges between Iran and EU member states from January to June 2023 registered a 10 percent decline compared to the corresponding period last year. Iran and EU member states had exchanged €2.584 billion in the first half of 2022.

**IMIDRO's four-month aluminum output tops 218,000 tons**

**IRNA** - Iran produced more than 218,000 tons of aluminum ingot in the first four months of the current Iranian year (March 21 to July 22), according to the Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO). Four major aluminum production companies of the country produced 218,532 tons of aluminum ingot in the said period, showing a two percent decline compared to the same period last year.

**Annual exports of Iranian cooperatives top \$1.5b: Deputy minister**

## Economy Desk

Non-oil goods worth over \$1.5 billion were exported by the cooperative sector during the past Iranian year (ended March 20), announced deputy minister of cooperatives, labor, and social welfare.

Speaking at a press conference in Tehran on Sunday, Mehdi Maskani said his ministry had targeted \$1.8 billion of exports by Iranian cooperatives for the current Iranian year. There are 101,000 cooperatives active across the country, noted the official, adding that smartening and boosting efficiency are among the important services of the cooperative sector of Iran.

"Connecting to the Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME) system, holding the assemblies of cooperatives electronically in 31 provinces of the country, the meeting of the Minister of Labor Solat Morzazavi with the experts of the cooperative sector are among the plans that



will be carried out during the National Cooperative Week," Maskani said. The deputy minister also announced that the Supreme Cooperative Council will be held after many years with the pres-

ence of President Ebrahim Raeisi in the near future. A significant part of women's cooperatives are active in the field of handicrafts and carpets, he said, noting that his

ministry will play a greater role boosting cooperatives which are active in this field. In the event, Mohammad Sheikh Hosseini, CEO of the Tose'e Ta'avon Bank and Alborz Mohammadi,

CEO of Cooperative Investment Guarantee Fund explained their activities on cooperative affairs as two main subsidiaries of the Iranian Ministry of Cooperatives, Labor, and Social Welfare.

Deputy Minister of Cooperatives, Labor, and Social Welfare Mehdi Maskani (c) addresses a press conference in Tehran on August 20, 2023.  
● IRAN DAILY

**NIGC: Gas exports hike**

Europe seeks imports from Iran



The head of the National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) said on Sunday that his country's gas exports have increased. Majid Chegeni, who made the announcement ahead of Government Week (August 24-30), added Iran's natural gas and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) have jumped 16 and 22 percent, respectively, since the beginning of the current Iranian year (March 21, 2023), Shana reported. According to the latest OPEC Annual Statistical Bulletin (ASB), he continued, Iran's natural gas exports hit 18.43 billion and 18.79 billion cubic meters (bcm) in 2021 and 2022, respectively, showing over

60 percent growth compared to the related figure in 2020. The hikes in gas exports during the past two years were recorded while Iran faced gas imbalance in winter 2021, said Chegeni, adding that the country, however, not only exported gas as stipulated in the contracts, but also boosted their annual volumes. Touching upon Europe's energy needs, he said European states have held talks with Iran on importing gas through Turkey, adding that the negotiations have yet to come to fruition. Chegeni also said the extension of the contract on exporting gas to Iraq will be finalized soon.

Turkey is also willing to extend its gas contract with Iran, he stated, adding that gas talks on exports to Oman, revival of the contract with Pakistan, and trade with Russia are ongoing. Shifting to a gas swap deal with Turkmenistan, the NIGC CEO said the volume of gas Iran receives from this country has soared to eight million cubic meters per day from 4.5 mcm/d following the settlement of Iran's debt in three installments. Tehran and Yerevan extended their agreement until 2030, under which Iran exports more natural gas to Armenia in exchange for electricity, he said.

**Water transfer from Persian Gulf to feed industries in central Iran**

## Economy Desk

The water transmission line that will distribute water from the Persian Gulf is the driving force for the development of mining industries in the central regions of Iran, said the managing director of the Persian Gulf Water Supply and Transmission Company (WASCO).

Speaking on the measures and plans of his company, Ehsan Ansari noted that in the first phase of the project, 130 million cubic meters of water will be delivered to the large mining complexes in a pipeline that is comprised of three sections with a total length of 830 km, IRNA reported. "Established in 2013 by Gol-e Gohar Mining and Industrial Company, National Copper Industry Company of Iran, and Chadormalu Mining and Industrial Company, the WASCO will provide the needed water for the development plans of these companies," he added. At first glance, the plan to transfer water from the Persian Gulf seemed ambitious and impossible, Ansari said. "But with the cooperation of the shareholders and the leadership of the Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO), the water transfer line will become operational soon," he added.

**Textile industry posts 17.1% growth**

## Economy Desk

The textile industry grew by 17.1% last Iranian calendar year (ended March 20) which was the highest figure in all industrial sectors of Iran, said Mohsen Gorji, the director general of the department of textiles and clothing industries at the Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade. "Last year, we witnessed a significant growth in industrial infrastructure and technology of textile industry sector as one of the main targets of the industry is to enhance the exports that leads to fetch more forex into the country," Gorji added, according to IRNA. The average purchasing managers' index (PMI) during the month to June



21 was 53, as the related figure for the entire industry was 55, and the average of the textile industry was 64.17, while the average of clothing and leather was 64.29, the official noted. The PMI of textile and clothing sector is higher than the economy and

industry average as has grown by 3% and 36%. According to IRNA, the First Specialized International Exhibition of Fabrics and Related Industries will be held in Tehran on September 9-12 with the participation of more than 90 producers and suppliers of fabrics.



# Shahiyun of Dezful center of kapu-weaving in Khuzestan Province



## Iranica Desk

In the local dialect, *kapu* refers to any spherical object, but as a craft, it describes hand-woven, basket-like spherical objects that may have lids, too. *Kapu* are crafted by the masterful hands of women, and all of its materials are naturally found in Khuzestan Province.

Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts, and Tourism, Ezzatollah Zarghami, announced recently that the city of Dezful has been registered by the World Crafts Council (WCC) for its exceptional contributions to the world of traditional craftsmanship. Dezful earned distinction for its mastery of *kapu-bafi*.

The city of Shahiyun, located 37 kilometers from Dezful, in the southern province of Khuzestan, is the center of *kapu-bafi* (kapu-weaving) in the province and the country, said Alireza Zamani, the head of Dezful Islamic City Council, IRNA wrote. He said that the villages and small cities affiliated to Dezful, with a privileged position in the field of natural, historical and religious tourism, have a treasure of talents in handicraft production, saying that this potential should be explored and used in the best possible manner. Zamani said that over 90 percent of *kapus* are produced in the small workshops of Shahiyun, adding that paying attention to the

talents of locals and allocating an adequate budget to the city's handicraft production would help increase social satisfaction there and create reverse migration. Head of Dezful's Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department Hamidreza Khadem said that a large part of Dezful's potential in the field of tourism and handicraft production has been left unattended. He noted that the new strategies adopted by Dezful's Islamic City Council is truly a golden opportunity, which should be used for the development of the city and its affiliated cities and villages. "The Cultural Heritage Organization is prepared to cooperate with other bodies to develop the city's

tourism and handicrafts sectors," he said. Khadem continued that the establishment of a *kapu* house by the city's municipality, with the aim of organizing the handicraft production, sale and exports, would be a fruitful step, which should be taken to make Shahiyun the hub of *kapu* production in the country. Presently, 10 kapu-weaving workshops are operating in Dezful, and its affiliated cities and villages, where 2,000 artists are working. With the originality, high quality and elegance of *kapu*, its production has created employment for a large number of people. It is categorized as a kind of mat-weaving done by

weaving leaflets of palm trees around a special kind of straw-like object called *kertak*, which is a wild plant that grows in swamps and tropical climates. The stem of *kertak* is very flexible. This feature helps increase the durability of *kapu*. During recent years, weavers have begun incorporating colorful wool in their products to add to their beauty. Palm tree leaflets that are selected to be woven as *kapu* are young and white because they have not been exposed to the sun for a long time. They are then soaked in water for a day. Since the core fibers of *kapu*, the *kertak*, are sensitive to humidity, they are best kept in dry conditions.



## A classification for development of Persian art

For a long time, historians of Persian art have adhered to a dynastic chronology. Such a classification has a certain justification, for after a large territory had been unified under the control of a single dynasty which then ruled for a century or more, a certain unity of style was in fact created in that state. But a more detailed study of objects and a precise determination of their dates have shown that periods of change in art do not always coincide with the emergence or fate of dynasties. In 1970, Ernst Grube, a German historian of Islamic art, suggested a new classification for the development of Persian art in the Middle Ages. He distinguished five periods from the appear-

ance of the Arabs to the beginning of the 18th century. The first three periods, in his opinion, were common to the whole area dominated by Islam. These are: The period of its establishment (650-850 CE), the first inter-regional style (850-1050 CE) and the second inter-regional style (1050-1350 CE). After this, in Grube's opinion, art in Islamic countries follows separate lines of development in different regions. As regards Iran, he considers it possible to distinguish two periods: The art of Central Asia and Iran between 1350 CE and 1550 CE and the art of Safavid Iran between 1550 CE and 1700 CE. Grube sketches only the most general outline of each period's characteristics

without supplying any details. This important work was written years ago and its ideas have not been further developed, as far as we know, either in studies by Grube or those of other authors. It seems to us, however, that the periodic chronology suggested by Grube is correct. In his research into Iranian metalwork of the 14th-18th centuries, Anatoli Ivanov has come to the same conclusions with regards to the two final periods. In Grube's classification, the second inter-regional style (1050-1350 CE) is the most interesting. In his opinion it arises in various centres of Central Asia and eastern Iran at the end of the 10th century, and reaches its full development towards the mid-11th

century. One of its chief distinguishing features is its attention to the depiction of people. During this period wall-painting becomes very widespread; its style probably originating in eastern Turkestan. Perhaps there was miniature painting in eastern Iran at the time, but no examples have survived. It is interesting that at this same period depictions of people appear in works of applied art too — in metalwork, ceramics and textiles — although this does not occur simultaneously in the various branches of art. In his study of 10th- and 11th-century silver vessels, Boris Marshak, an archaeologist and expert on Iranian and Central Asian metalwork, came to the conclusion that the early 11th

century formed a certain boundary in the development of art, at least in eastern Iran. He even managed to distinguish two schools of metalwork, based in Balkh-Tokharistan and Khorasan. In the late 10th and first half of the 11th centuries CE new phenomena were also observed in the manufacture of bronze (brass) ware in the eastern regions of Iran. This can be clearly seen in a group of six bowls of large dimensions and beautiful workmanship decorated with benedictory Arabic inscriptions and in a few cases signed by the craftsmen. It should be stressed that the very fact that at the end of the 10th and early 11th centuries signatures appear on works evidently attests to the growth of self-con-



A brass bowl from Iran, 14th century

sciousness amongst the craftsmen. This is the first signed bronzeware at present known on Iranian territory (one should also take into consideration a 10th-century ewer by the craftsman Bu Saeed). Later, during the pre-Mongol period, the number of signed items in-

creased. All the bowls in question are richly decorated with people, birds and beasts and the signs of the zodiac. A bowl from the Kevorkian Collection bears an engraved hunting scene with a crowned rider — a subject drawn from the Sassanid Period.



## NEWS IN BRIEF

**Tanker begins offloading Iran's oil near Texas**

AP - An American-owned oil tanker long suspected of carrying Iranian crude oil began offloading its cargo near Texas late Saturday despite warnings from Tehran.

Ship-tracking data showed the Marshall Islands-flagged 'Suez Rajan' was undergoing a ship-to-ship transfer of its oil to another tanker, 'the Mr. Euphrates', near Galveston, Texas, some 70 kilometers (45 miles) southeast of Houston.

Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps has warned that those involved in offloading the cargo "should expect to be struck back".

**Swedish, Danish envoys summoned over Qur'an desecration**

IRNA - Iran's Foreign Ministry summoned the ambassadors of Sweden and Denmark on Sunday to protest the recurrence of the desecration of the Muslims' holy book in their countries.

The Foreign Ministry strongly condemned the continuation of such heinous moves in the two European countries, saying that Sweden and Denmark are responsible for its consequences.

**President to attend BRICS summit in South Africa**

PRESS TV - Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi is scheduled to leave Tehran for Johannesburg on Wednesday to participate in the annual meeting of the BRICS group of emerging economies in South Africa.

In addition to giving a speech at the summit, the Iranian president will also meet with a number of leaders in attendance.

The upcoming summit of the BRICS will be held in Johannesburg from August 22 to 24. The leaders of 70 countries have been invited to the event.

**US choppers forced to land back on carrier after IRGC warning: *Cmdr***

## National Desk

Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Navy said the IRGC Navy forced US helicopters to land back on their carrier in the Persian Gulf shortly after taking-off by sending warnings.

Rear Admiral Ali Reza Tangsiri made the remarks at the 24th assembly of the IRGC commanders during which a surveillance footage was released from a recent confrontation between the IRGC and the US carrier in the Strait of Hormuz.

Tangsiri said the IRGC forces, controlling the Strait of Hormuz, deployed Zolfaqar flotilla vessels to the scene and issued a warning, forcing US helicopters to land.

The footage shows the USS Bataan assault ship passing through the strait accompanied by choppers. The boat, which arrived in the Middle East last week, was also accompanied by the USS Carter Hall land docking ship, with 4,000



TASNIM

troops onboard between them.

The commander of the IRGC Navy underlined that IRGC naval forces are monitoring the US military movements in the Strait of

Hormuz. Tangsiri said that there is no need for the presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf, adding that Iran and its Persian Gulf neighbors can

guarantee the security of the region without their presence.

He also said the incident marked the first time in about 22 months that US naval forces entered the

Persian Gulf. Iran has consistently emphasized its commitment to ensuring the safety and security of the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz.

**Ancient silver coins discovered in Nahavand**

## Arts &amp; Culture Desk

In Iran's western city of Nahavand, 10 silver coins dating back to the Parthian, Sassanid, and Islamic periods have been found.

According to the director of the country's Cultural Heritage Preservation Unit, the discovery was made following the report of Iranian cultural heritage lovers regarding the purchase and sale of a large number of antiques in the Shaterabad district of Nahavand city, IRNA reported.

Brigadier General Hassan Mehri said, "After verifying the report, the matter was immediately put on the agenda of the Hamadan Province's Cultural Heritage Preservation Unit."

He added that an elite team of the unit inspected the location, discovered and seized 10 silver coins from smugglers, and arrested two suspects. Mehri noted that cultural heritage experts have verified that the discovered coins are of great historical value.

**Iran's global ranking in science production rises to 15th**

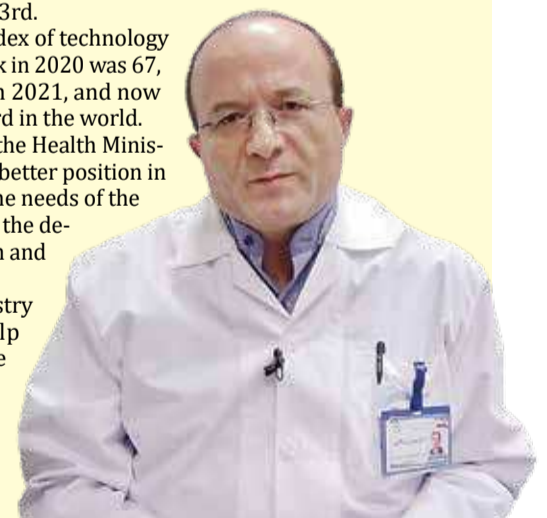
## National Desk

An Iranian Health Ministry official said Iran has ranked 15th in science production in the world, rising from the 26th position over the past 10 years.

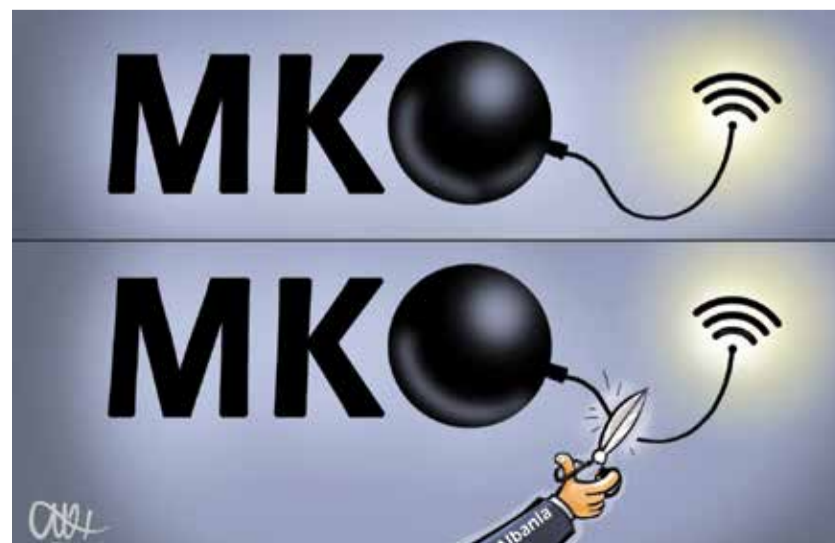
Younus Panahi said that in the field of technological research, Iran has also risen from 120th place to 53rd.

He said that in the index of technology production, Iran's rank in 2020 was 67, while it reached 60 in 2021, and now the country ranks 53rd in the world. Panahi also said that the Health Ministry plans to achieve a better position in the world and meet the needs of the health sector through the development of research and technology.

He said that the ministry is also trying to help the growth of science production in the country in order to improve the society's health status.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist

**Raeisi: Iran eyes ...**

The Western hegemonic powers are the main sponsors and supporters of drug production and trade, Raeisi warned.

In his meeting with the new Cambodian envoy, the president said Iran is willing to broaden ties with ASEAN and strengthen regional interaction with its members, including Cambodia.

In another meeting, Raeisi hailed the friendly relations between Iran and Angola, stressing the need for plans to enhance the economic and trade cooperation between the two nations.

The ambassador of Ecuador noted, "The two countries have very good capacities for interaction with each other, and Ecuador is interested in cooperating in the fields of medicine, industry, technology, and science with Iran."



Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi (R) and the new ambassador of Peru to Tehran (L)  
president.ir

The non-resident ambassador of the Republic of Peru also conveyed the warm greetings of the president of his country to Raeisi, saying, "In addition to the missions assigned by my country, due to the deep historical and civilizational roots of Iran and Peru, I am interested and have strong personal motivations to strengthen the relationship between the two countries."



# Russia's Luna-25 probe crashes on Moon

The Luna-25 probe, Russia's first Moon mission in almost 50 years, has crashed on the Moon after an incident during pre-landing manoeuvres, Russian space agency Roscosmos said on Sunday. Communication with Luna-25 was lost at 2:57 pm (11:57 GMT) on Saturday, Roscosmos said, AFP reported. According to preliminary findings, the lander "has ceased to exist following a collision with the Moon's surface". "Measures taken on August 19 and 20 to locate the craft and make contact with it were unsuccessful," the space agency added. It said a ministerial investigation would be launched into the causes of the crash, without giving any indication of what technical problems might have occurred. With Luna-25, Moscow had hoped to build on the legacy of its Soviet-era Luna programme, marking a return to independent lunar exploration in the face of financial trou-

bles and corruption scandals at the programme and growing isolation from the West. The 800-kilogram Luna-25 probe was to have made a soft landing on Monday on the lunar south pole – the first in history. Russia has not attempted to land on a celestial body since 1989, when the Soviet Union's ill-fated Phobos 2 probe to explore the moons of Mars failed due to an onboard computer malfunction. Roscosmos boss Yuri Borisov had said the venture would be "risky", telling President Vladimir Putin in June that the probability of it succeeding was "around 70 percent". Luna-25 had been successfully placed in the Moon's orbit on Wednesday after being launched from the Vostochny cosmodrome in the Russian Far East. But on Saturday, Roscosmos said an "emergency" had been detected during a manoeuvre by the probe prior to its Moon landing, preventing the operation from being car-

ried out. Luna-25 had been expected to stay on the Moon for a year, collecting soil samples and looking for water – an ingredient enthusiasts hope could be used to make rocket fuel for future launches and support potential colonies living there. Cameras installed on the lander have already taken shots of the lunar surface. Doubts have overshadowed Russia's long-running space cooperation with the West over its military campaign in Ukraine. While Russia has said it intends to use the International Space Station until 2028, the European Space Agency (ESA) has dropped plans to co-operate with Moscow on Moon and Mars missions. Moscow last landed a probe – Luna-24 – on the Moon in 1976 and then shifted away from lunar exploration in favour of missions to Venus and building the Mir space station. Landing Luna-25 successfully



A Roscosmos photo shows Luna-25 on its flight to the Moon on August 16, 2023. **HANDOUT/AFP**

would have paved the way for further Russian missions to the Moon, at a time when India and China are launching their own probes and the US returns to manned missions. India's competing space probe, Chandrayaan-3, entered the Moon's orbit earlier in August and also hopes to land on the south pole. Only Russia, the US and China have previously achieved a controlled landing on the Moon.

A Soyuz-2.1b rocket booster with a Fregat upper stage and the lunar landing spacecraft Luna-25 blasts off from a launchpad at the Vostochny Cosmodrome in the far eastern Amur region, Russia, on August 11, 2023. **ROSCOSMOS/REUTERS**

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### US, Japan, Australia plan joint drills



AP – The US, Japan and Australia are planning a joint navy drill in the South China Sea off the western Philippines this week to underscore their commitment to the rule of law in the region after a recent show of Chinese activities in the disputed waters, Filipino security officials said Sunday. On Aug. 5, Chinese coast guard ships used water cannons against Philippine vessels in the contested waterway where disputes have long been regarded as a potential flashpoint and have become a fault line in the rivalry between the US and China in the region.

### Ukrainian drones attack four regions: Moscow

REUTERS – Russia said Ukrainian drones had attacked four separate regions in a flurry of attempted strikes on Sunday, injuring five people and forcing two of Moscow's airports to briefly divert flights. Russia's Kursk, Rostov and Belgorod regions, all of which border Ukraine, reported attempted drone strikes, while Russia's defence ministry said it had jammed a Ukrainian drone in the Moscow region, forcing it to crash in an unpopulated area.

### BC wildfires intensify, doubling evacuations to over 35k



REUTERS – Forest fires in Canada's western province of British Columbia intensified on Saturday, with the number of people under evacuation orders doubling from a day earlier – a further 30,000, as authorities warned of difficult days ahead. The province declared a state of emergency on Friday to access temporary authoritative powers to tackle fire-related risks, as out-of-control fires ripped through interior British Columbia, partially shutting some sections of a key highway between the Pacific coast and the rest of western Canada, and destroying many properties.

# Pakistan's losses two years after Kabul's fall



By Syed Ali Hassan  
Iran Daily's correspondent in Pakistan

Under the patronage of the US, the Ghani government in Afghanistan, along with the US-trained Afghan forces, stood as a fragile barrier against the Taliban. Ultimately, Ghani fled to the UAE, taking all his equipment, while the Afghan Army retreated, finding itself confined to Kabul. The Doha talks were widely seen as a US defeat, causing a loss of morale among the various forces active in Af-

ghanistan under the influence of the US Army. Fearing the Taliban's growing power, even figures like the sons of Ahmad Shah Masood and Dari-speaking commanders of Mazar-i-Sharif excluded Pakistan from the Doha talks. Despite Pakistan's role in convincing US former president Donald Trump to initiate direct talks with the Taliban, the Taliban engaged in negotiations with China, Pakistan, and Iran. The rapid fall of Kabul showcased the Taliban's effective governance plan and their ability to independently manage their

homeland. Pakistan's failure to recover Afghanistan's frozen assets led the Taliban to shift their hopes away from Pakistan, turning their focus toward direct talks with the United States. Consequently, Pakistan found itself distanced from Afghan affairs, marking a significant failure in its foreign policy. This shift was partly due to entrusting key responsibilities to Bilawal Bhutto, who was perhaps not the ideal candidate. In contrast, Federal Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Hina Rabbani Khar, has played her role effectively.

Chief of the Pakistan Army General Bajwa initially believed that it might take a year or more for the Afghan Taliban to regain power in Kabul following the American withdrawal. He also anticipated strong resistance from the Afghan National Army as the Taliban attempted to capture Kabul. General Bajwa expected the international community to use this time to form a comprehensive government involving all groups. This perspective echoed the emotions displayed by General Aslam Baig during the US's first war against Iraq when he made emotional

and unreasonable statements, considering Saddam a symbol of resistance. When President Biden announced the withdrawal date for US troops from Afghanistan, US intelligence claimed that it might take nine months for the Taliban to seize control of Kabul. However, this assessment was revised in light of evolving circumstances, predicting Kabul's fall within three months of the US Army's withdrawal. The speed at which Kabul succumbed to the Taliban exposed flaws in intelligence analyses by both the US and Pakistani agencies.

Islamabad couldn't have predicted the Afghan Taliban's return to power and the resulting security threat. Pakistan's primary expectation from the Afghan Taliban was assistance in neutralizing the outlawed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). Yet, despite the passing of two years, TTP's cross-border attacks have escalated, and the Afghan Taliban has not taken action against them. The situation persists as long as Mullah Haibatullah leads the Afghan Taliban, keeping the Kabul government tied to the Pakistani Taliban's support.

**First Announcement**

**N.I.S.O.C**  
NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY  
AHVAZ-IRAN

TENDER NO.: 08-38-0240003

National Iranian South Oilfields Company (NISOC) intends to purchase the following

Items	Material Description	Quantity
01	COILED TUBING REEL STRING, QT-800 TAPERED TYPE H2S SERVICE, 15000 FT. LONG WITH FOLLOWING SPECIFICATION. SHIPPING SPOOL: STEEL FITTING: FIG. 1502 WING WITH INTERNAL/EXTERNAL CORROSION INHIBITOR TEST CERTIFICATE/ANALYZES, WELDING LOCATION AND MATERIAL CERTIFICATE ATTACHED ON EACH REEL. REF. QUALITY TUBING WALL THICKNESS & SEGMENT LENGTH: 0.109" W.T X 9000 FT., 0.109"-0.134 W.T X 2200 FT., 0.134" W.T X 3800 FT. HUB SIZE: 4 INCH 2.375 IN. O.D. NOM., W/T 0.134 TO 0.203 IN.	5 RL

Vendors who intend to participate in aforesaid tenders are requested to send their "Intention To Participate" letter via fax to the following number along with their resume according to Qualitative Assessment Form no. 1, available at [www.nisoc.ir](http://www.nisoc.ir), not later than 14 days after the second announcement, otherwise, their requests for participation in the tender will be disregarded. The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of 42,220/51 EURO or 17,347,730,000 RIAL, in favor of NISOC. Tender documents including the materials thorough technical specifications and Qualitative Assessment Forms can be accessed via: [www.nisoc.ir](http://www.nisoc.ir)-material procurement management tab

ONLY ACCEPTABLE DELIVERY TERM IS D.D.P., NISOC'S WAREHOUSE, AGHAJARI, IRAN  
PAYMENT TERM IS C.O.D., SUBSEQUENT TO NISOC'S MATERIAL APPROVAL  
FOREIGN PURCHASING DEPARTMENT

Bldg. No. 104, Material Procurement Management Complex,  
Kouy-e-Fadaeian Islam (New Site), Ahvaz, Iran  
Tel. No.: 061 34 12 3772  
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## Bomb attack kills 11 in Pakistan

Eleven labourers were killed in a bomb blast in north-western Pakistan near the border with Afghanistan, a local government official said Sunday. The device exploded after being attached to the vehicle they were travelling in on Saturday evening, Rehman Gul Khattak, senior government official for North Waziristan, said in a statement, AFP reported. "The labourers were working at an under construction post for the Pakistan army," Khattak said. Amir Muhammad Khan, a senior police official in the area, confirmed the bomb blast and the number of casualties to AFP. "Heartbreaking to know about the terrorist attack in North Waziristan which claimed the lives of 11 innocent laborers. Strongly condemn this senseless act of violence and stand in solidarity with the families affected," caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar posted on X, formerly known as Twitter. Pakistan has seen a sharp rise in militant attacks since the Afghan Taliban surged back to power in neighbouring Afghanistan in 2021. The militant assaults have been focused in regions abutting Afghanistan, and Islamabad alleges some are being planned on Afghan soil – a charge Kabul denies. Pakistan's home-grown Taliban group, Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), has waged a growing campaign against security officials, including police officers.



## Panahi, Botshekan win Asian junior wushu golds for Iran

### Sports Desk

The fourth day of the Asian Junior Wushu Championships in Macau, China, saw Iranians Sana Panahi and Zahra Botshekan walk away with double gold medals in the women's taolu contests. Having settled for a nanquan silver earlier in the competitions, Panahi came out on top in the nangun event, while Botshekan bagged the nanquan gold in her respective age category. Sunday's triumphs took Iran's gold tally to five in Macau.

Diana Rahimi had beaten the host's contestant for the ultimate prize in the women's sanda -60kg weight class, with Amir-Hesam Mohammadi claiming the men's -45kg gold.

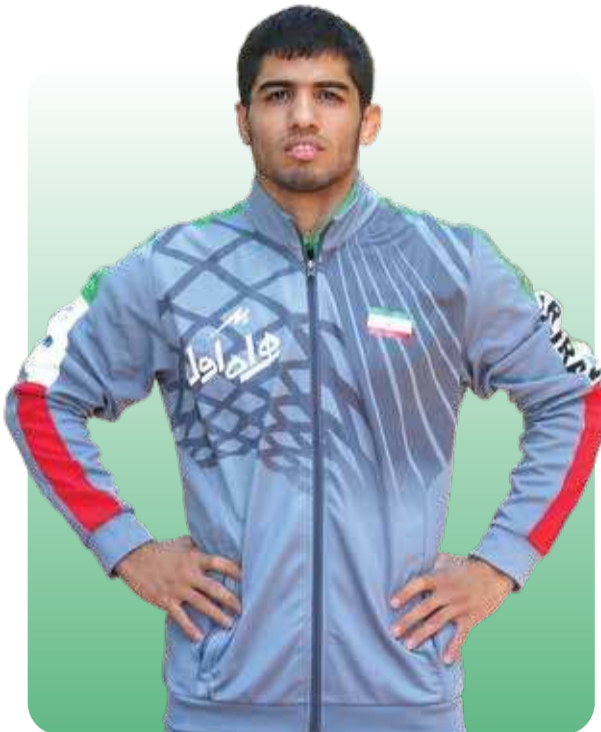


Iran's Sana Panahi (top) and Zahra Botshekan won a couple of women's taolu golds at the Asian Junior Wushu Championships in Macau, China.

● IRNA

Narges Shahbazi had also finished her campaign on a high note with a gold-winning run in the women's changquan event. Elsewhere on Sunday, a final defeat against the Kazakhstani opponent saw Mahan Ahmadpour grab the men's sanda -56kg silver. Samyar Sadeqi (men's qiangshu silver), Setayesh Barati (women's -56kg bronze), and Rojan Fattahi (women's -52kg bronze) were also among the Iranian medalists at the 11th edition of the competitions in Macau.

# Wrestling U20 Worlds: Iranians steal the show with triple GR golds on Day 5



### Sports Desk

L-R: Ahmadreza Mohsennejad (63kg), Alireza Abdevali (77kg), and Fardin Hedayati (130kg) grabbed three Greco-Roman gold medals for Iran at the Wrestling U20 World Championships in Amman, Jordan.

● iwj.ir

Iranians dominated Day 5 of the Wrestling U20 World Championships in Amman, Jordan, grabbing three Greco-Roman gold medals across five weight classes.

Abolfazl Choubani had to settle for a silver in the 87kg category after a 4-1 loss to Georgian Achiko Bolkvadze, while a 9-0 defeat against Uzbekistan's Alisher Ganiev in the third-place bout of the 55kg contests saw Ali Ahmadi Vafa leave the event empty-handed.

Ahmadreza Mohsennejad spearheaded the Iranians' gold rush in the Jordanian capital, thanks to a 9-0 victory over Kyrgyzstan's Zhan-toro Mirzaliev – an Asian under-17 champion in 2022

– in the 63kg final. Mohsennejad opened the scoring with a turn when Mirzaliev was put in par terre and then a stepout gave the Iranian a 4-0 lead at the break.

Double gut-wrenches on a second par terre in the second period secured the technical superiority for Mohsennejad, who follows in the footsteps of his elder brother Mehdi – a winner of multiple Asian and world under-23 medals. Alireza Abdevali bagged a second gold for the country on Saturday, coming out on top against Moldova's Alexandru Solovei – a silver medalist last year – in the 77kg final.

The two wrestlers exchanged activity points with

Abdevali holding the criteria after it finished 1-1 to avenge his final defeat against the Moldovan in the U17 world event two years ago.

Meanwhile, Fardin Hedayati bounced back from last year's final heartbreak in emphatic fashion by cruising to the 130kg gold. Hedayati eased into the final showdown, courtesy of three wins by technical superiority, before defeating China's Wenhao Jiang in a repeat of last month's encounter in Amman, where the Iranian came out victorious for the Asian under-20 gold.

Hedayati scored four steptouts and two take-downs in the 8-0 win over the Chinese opponent, meaning he did not concede a single point in the competition

and was not in a par-terre position for being passive even once.

The superheavyweight class is dominated by reigning world silver medalist Amin Mirzazadeh in Iran, but the 20-year-old prodigy said he has already set sights on the major seniors' glory in the near future.

"I have great opponents in Iran, including Amin Mirzazadeh, and I respect all of them, but I'll be doing my best to be a decent representative for my country in the 2024 Olympics," Hedayati said.

"I want to become a champion in Paris and the domestic rivalries only motivates me to train harder for my ultimate goal of Olympic success," added the Iranian.

### Freestyle crown

Saturday's medals for Iran came after the country's freestyle squad had claimed the world under-20 crown for a third year running last week in Amman.

Reza Shakeri (65kg), Mohammad-Mobin Azimi (92kg), Abolfazl Babalou (97kg), and Amir-Reza Masoumi (125kg) inspired Iran's title-winning campaign by grabbing the gold medal in their respective weight classes.

Ali Rezaei (70kg) and Hossein Mohammad Aqaei (74kg) added two silvers to the country's medal haul, with Ali Khorramdel taking a 61kg bronze, as Iran finished atop the table with 165 points – 13 points clear of runner-up USA.

## World Athletics Championships:

# Crouser hails title defence as 'performance of his life'

AFP – Shot put legend Ryan Crouser labelled the successful defence of his world title as "the best performance of his life" given at one point he was unsure he would even be able to get to Budapest due to blood clots in a calf.

The 30-year-old American showed little sign of the health scare as he dominated Saturday's final from the outset and twice broke the championship record.

World Athletics president Sebastian Coe had pinpointed the men's shot put as the event to savour and Crouser did not let him down, signing off with a stunning 23.51 metres effort, five centimetres off his world record. Crouser, who comes from a family of throwers, said the run-in to the worlds had been "the most stressful 20 days I've ever had".

"The week before I was supposed to leave I woke up with calf pain and we thought I had a partial tear in my calf. "We treated it like that but after 10 days of no improvement we had a doctor look at it and he said you have two blood clots."

The two-time Olympic champion said that he then faced a race against time to be cleared to fly.

"My training camp was scrapped so I had to find a way to get here," he said.

"Luckily I had a great medical team working with me and they got me safe to fly.

"So it felt like a relief just to get here, even though I didn't have proper training or preparation."

Crouser, who in the 2016 Rio Games broke Ulf Timmerman's 28-year-old Olympic record, said his final throw would rank alongside his world record as the throw of his life.

"After all that it was the best performance of my life, given the health issues, the stress and all of it," he said.

"It wasn't quite a world record but to me it was."

However, despite his hold over the event, his great rival, two-time world champion Joe Kovacs, who had to make do with bronze, insisted that he was beatable.

"Is Ryan playing in a different league? No, I don't think so," said the 34-year-old American.

"Today you could see already in the warm-up that he would throw the pot outside the stadium.

"He got one metre further than me, it's OK."

Kovacs based his belief he could wrest the Olympic title from Crouser in Paris next year on having a smoother domestic run-in even though he admits he is "getting old".



American Ryan Crouser makes a throw during the men's shot put final at the World Athletics Championships in Budapest, Hungary, on August 19, 2023.

● KAI PFAFFENBACH/REUTERS



Mohammad Ali Hamedei discusses Lake Urmia and the consequences of its drying up:

# 14 million lives at stake

## Social Desk

These days Lake Urmia, once dubbed the turquoise solitaire of Azarbaijan, is far from shining. Reports suggest that a significant portion of the lake, potentially up to 95 percent, has dried up. Expert speculations indicate that disastrous consequences of the lake's disappearance could affect the lives and livelihoods of millions of people. It should come as no surprise then that it's the talk of the town, and there's a sea of information and, perhaps an ocean of misinformation about it.

Fortunately, *Asriran* website has recently published a scholarly interview with Mohammad Ali Hamedei, a prominent expert in water management. The main focus of the interview is the reason behind Lake Urmia's drying up, as well as the possibility of reviving it and the potential consequences of its continued depletion. The urgency of the situation is also highlighted by raising a critical question: What will happen if Lake Urmia is not revived? A shorter version of the interview is presented in report form below.

## Origins of Lake Urmia

To understand the causes behind the current situation of Lake Urmia, it is important to consider the lake's geographical structure. It is fed by three large watersheds: Simineh River in West Azarbaijan Province, Zarrineh River formed in Kurdistan, and Tappeh River in East Azerbaijan. These rivers used to bring 3.5 billion cubic meters of water to the lake each year, compensating for natural evaporation.

## What happened?

Significant developments in agriculture and urbanization in the provinces supplying water to Lake Urmia have increased the demand for water. While Kurdistan Province still supplies 1.5 billion cubic meters of water to the lake through the Shahid Kazemi Dam, West Azarbaijan

has seen a significant increase in water demand due to urban and agricultural development. The cultivated area in this province has increased from 180,000 hectares to about 600,000 hectares in the last decade alone. The 400,000 extra hectares naturally consume a large amount of water in the Simineh River basin. This increased demand for water has led to a decrease in dam water and a great demand for resources that fed the lake through underground aquifers. As a result, the input of water into the lake has been greatly reduced.

With this water, crops such as sugar beets, apples, grapes, and summer crops are cultivated which require substantial amounts of irrigation. Additionally, animal husbandry has been developed leading to increased fodder farming needs.

## Progress or mismanagement?

This situation raises concerns regarding mismanagement and favoring agricultural growth over wetland preservation. However, it is important to acknowledge that forty years ago there was a sizable rural population seeking access to clean drinking water as well as improvements in their quality of life and income levels. Agricultural development emerged as an immediate solution that could cater to these requirements most effectively. While management practices in this regard have been more reactive than proactive, they are not solely attributed to government mismanagement but also reflect a collective transformation driven by rural communities' demands.

Rural development encompasses various aspects beyond just the agricultural sector, such as tourism and industry. It is important to recognize that rural development does not solely rely on agricultural growth. In certain regions with naturally arid conditions, other forms of economic activities thrive organically, like handicrafts. One prominent ex-



ample is carpet weaving in cities such as Qom, Kashan, and Yazd. These regions have predominantly relied on non-agricultural occupations. However, it has been a common assumption everywhere that the key to rural development lies solely in promoting agriculture. This narrow perspective often overlooks the potential for developing other sectors within rural communities.

## Public ignorance

There was a lack of public awareness in almost everybody regarding our attitudes towards water and soil. The programs implemented were developed by some experts, including myself. We all played a part in this situation without considering the long-term consequences, whether as experts, parliamentarians, or government officials. It would be incorrect to solely attribute the cause of this situation to dam construction by the government. Dam construction is a response to a demand.

In 1969, we had a severe decline in water inflow into Lake Urmia due to drought conditions and climate change impacts on rainfall patterns. These factors combined with our flawed planning have shaped the current state of affairs. However, everyone has had a role in contributing to this erroneous planning process. While drought can occur periodically based on variations in the amount of rainfall, structural drought caused by climate

change does not follow cyclic patterns. Additionally, mistreatment and improper management of water resources have occurred both within the society at large and among political authorities alike. All these factors intertwined, resulting in the current state of wetlands' fate being sealed.

## Moment of clarity

About fifteen years ago, we became aware of the gradual drying process affecting the wetlands. It was then that we realized our actions towards the wetlands were incorrect. However, by that time, the main work had already occurred, making it difficult to revert back to previous conditions. The Urmia Lake Restoration Headquarters was established eight years ago, with the aim of revitalizing the lake. The headquarters intended to determine an appropriate water level and devised plans for reducing cultivated areas while providing financial compensation to rural communities.

Initially, the policy of the Restoration Headquarters was to reduce cultivation by 90,000 hectares in Lake Urmia's vicinity and provide monetary compensation as reparation for damages caused. This meant offering cash payments equivalent to a farmer's annual income from agricultural work in exchange for refraining from cultivation activities. This approach has been implemented elsewhere globally as well. Essentially, governments in-

tervene by establishing "non-cultivation zones."

However, due to our political and social structure, implementing such policies proved practically challenging here. Even though cash incentives were provided, some rural communities continued farming despite receiving the cash payment. If authorities attempted a total ban on farming even once, they would face backlash questioning why village life was being disrupted.

## What is to be done?

The current state where 95 percent of Lake Urmia has dried up does not necessarily represent a fixed condition. Two years ago, there was a notable increase in water levels of the lake, and it approached its classic historical level.

As of now, our hope lies primarily in returning to normal climatic patterns and subsequently assessing lake levels accordingly. It is estimated that approximately 50 percent of the lake surface area has been lost; however, it can potentially be revived. If sufficient water resources reach Lake Urmia, the lake has the potential to return to its normal level. It is important to note that complete disappearance of the lake is unlikely as it lies in the downstream of some rivers. Therefore, if these river flows are reinstated, Lake Urmia will regain its body. However, whether it will fully recover to historical levels remains uncertain; I anticipate it may reach around 50-60 percent with proper precipitation, but not attain its previous highest point.

It is crucial to strive for balanced development. Through implementing the necessary measures, as well as fostering understanding between the government and local communities reliant on water in the area, the situation can be improved. It is essential to convince farmers within these communities that alternative employment opportunities exist, or that continuous expansion of cultivated land is unnecessary.

Instead, they could focus on limiting cultivation areas while adopting optimized farming practices.

Regrettably, in my opinion, full restoration may not be feasible; however, some revival might occur under favorable conditions. This means accepting that approximately 50 percent of the lake surface has been irreversibly lost.

## What to expect otherwise?

The consequences will be distressing. The dust generated from the lost surface area could reach as far as northern Alborz Province. Temperature rise will result in salt particles dispersing with wind currents and could potentially reach areas such as the city of Urmia, Tabriz, Zanjan, and Qazvin. It is estimated that these particles could travel considerable distances.

If the entire lake were lost, the dimensions of this disaster would be even more severe. The drying up of Lake Urmia would pose challenges for approximately 14 million people, specifically in the provinces of West and East Azarbaijan, Qazvin, Zanjan, and parts of Kurdistan.

## Mass migration

We can expect a significant displacement of the population along with increased unemployment and the development of urban outskirts. Although providing an exact estimate at this moment is not possible, the Urmia Lake Restoration Headquarters might have conducted studies on the matter. It would be similar to some of the previous mass migrations in our country.

For example, around 1915, about 200,000 people migrated from Iran's Azarbaijan to Baku before the establishment of the Iranian Constitution, thereby forming a part of Baku's Iranian population.





# Diplomatic 'Fantasy'

Analysis of the Representation of Iran in 'The Diplomat'

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The recently released Netflix series "The Diplomat" is gaining attention for its IMDb rating of eight. The show falls within the political thriller genre and prominently features Iran in its storyline. Unlike earlier depictions, this series provides a novel viewpoint on Iran, highlighting its diminished condition due to Western sanctions. Reports suggest that the series is already in the process of producing its second season.

However, what truly sets this series apart is Iran's significant role within the narrative's development. Historically, Western representations of Iran often echoed the portrayal expressed by George Bush Jr. post September 11 attacks, labeling Iran as part of the "axis of evil." In contrast, the image of Iran depicted in "The Diplomat" differs from the past. There has been a noticeable shift in how West-

erners perceive Iran. The series showcases Iran as a nation heavily impacted by Western sanctions, no longer willing to confront Western powers. Throughout the show, Iranian leaders exhibit a keen interest in cooperating with the West, aiming to extricate themselves from their predicament, even if such collaboration strains Iran's relationships with its friendly nations. Crafting such depiction of

Iran in the Netflix series seems to be a response to prevailing Western public sentiment. Presently, Western societies grapple with questions surrounding the efficacy of the US-imposed sanctions that were originally intended, according to Western politicians, to bring Iran to reason. The series raises inquiries about whether these sanctions have truly achieved their intended impact or if Iran can still

pursue its international foreign policy goals in spite of them. Additionally, the series appears to conduct a psychological maneuver against Iranian society. Westerners are seemingly striving to position themselves as the victors in the sanctions scenario, thereby influencing Iranian perceptions. Ultimately, "The Diplomat" aims to depict Iran as an untrustworthy ally capable of betraying its partners at any juncture.



## Former political representations of Iran

Although it's not the first instance of Iran being featured in the American entertainment industry – consider the movie 'Argo' or the video games 'Battlefield 3' and 'Splinter Cell' – what elevates the significance of this particular series is its contemporary emergence and its novel portrayal of Iran. This contrast sets it apart from earlier productions that predominantly depicted Iran through the lens of the "axis of evil."

## Overview of the series' scenario

The series opens with a British aircraft carrier in the Persian Gulf facing a missile attack, causing sailor casualties. Due to its proximity to Iran's coast and the presence of an IRGC fast boat, suspicion arises regarding Iran's involvement, leading both the British and American governments to question Iran's role. In a bid for collaboration, the American president appoints a seasoned diplomat, experienced in resolving West Asian crises, as the ambassador to England.

Despite prevailing anti-Iran sentiments among American and British officials, the diplomat and her colleague's husband, given their engagement with Iran and regional knowledge, believe that Iran's weakened condition mitigates the likelihood of escalating

tensions. However, this conviction is challenged when Iranian intelligence agents abduct the diplomat's husband and establish a connection with Rasoul Shahin, a prominent figure and Iran's deputy foreign minister. Rasoul, linked to JCPOA negotiations, owes a debt to the diplomat's husband for his care during illness. He refutes Iran's involvement in the attack and proposes demonstrating goodwill by halting an operation targeting an American general linked to the assassination of Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani. Meanwhile, the British Foreign Ministry summons the Iranian ambassador to address public unrest. In a discreet meeting with the British Foreign Minister and an undercover American ambassador, the Iranian envoy reveals information about the attack's orchestrator, Lenkov, and his group, symbolizing Russia's Wagner forces. The Iranian ambassador's sudden death from a heart attack follows the meeting, prompting the American ambassador to flee to evade exposure. Russia, displeased with the actions of the Lenkov group, cooperates with the West, disclosing Lenkov's location. The season concludes with uncertainty about whether Lenkov and his group were hired by the British Prime Minister, leaving viewers intrigued.

## Iran's representation

Rasoul, a character with a pivotal but concise role in propelling the narrative forward, emerges as a close associate of the Iranian Leader, holding the title of Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs. Additionally, Rasoul shares a historical bond with the Leader, deepening his

familial connection. His significance lies in his instrumental role during the JCPOA agreement negotiations, functioning as a bridge for information exchange between the US and Iran. Despite his proximity to the Leader and his role as a confidant, Rasoul diverges from the common perception that "America is the great devil." This unique perspective allows for smoother cooperation with Americans. Notably, Rasoul holds a sense of indebtedness towards the Americans, stemming from their support during his illness and subsequent treatment. Rasoul's character encapsulates a faction within the system striving for compromise with the West. Despite their influential positions in the decision-making echelons, they actively seek avenues for reconciliation. Given their perception of Iran's vulnerable stance, these individuals aim to mitigate tensions and foster preliminary collaborations with Western counterparts. The Iranian intelligence agents are depicted as a male and a female character. Under Rasoul's command, they incapacitate and abduct the diplomat's spouse. Rasoul expresses disapproval towards these agents after becoming aware of the details of the abduction. The series portrays Iran's intelligence personnel as acting capriciously, often disregarding superior orders. Additionally, Rasoul portrays them as impulsive and lacking control when discussing them with the diplomat's husband. The role of the Iranian envoy in England and his deputy are played by two Afghan actors who speak to each other

completely in the Dari dialect, which shows that despite the use of an Iranian actor for the role of Rasoul, the filmmakers don't have a correct understanding of the various Persian dialects and the difference between Iranians and Afghans. The ambassador's appearance and clothes and his deputy are messed up and are not worthy of diplomatic agents at all. In this series, the ambassador, who represents Iran's diplomatic agents, is very timid, and when the tension rises a little, the Iranian ambassador has a heart attack and dies. Even though Iran does not have diplomatic ties with the US, he readily agreed to meet with the American ambassador in the office of the British Foreign Secretary, provided that the rest of the ministry's staff did not find out. The exchanged dialogues between the Iranian and the American ambassadors, as well as the storyline, are designed to create the image of an unreliable ally from Iran. In a part of the series, Iran's ambassador to England is assigned by the Iranian authorities to provide the American ambassador and the British foreign minister with information about their allies, namely Russia and the Lenkov (Wagner) group, to prevent the West from getting angry at Iran. It can be concluded that due to the positive image that the Russian people have of Iran, as well as the effort of the Putin government to strengthen the positive feeling of the Russian people towards Iran. The Westerners, who are unhappy with this situation, try to destroy this image and the positive feeling of the Russian people about Iranians. Discussions about Iran often

emphasize its economy's collapse due to Western sanctions, with both Westerners and Iranian officials highlighting this point. Iranian authorities show reluctance to escalate tensions with the West, fearing severe repercussions that could further harm the economy. Consequently, they readily cooperate with Western entities. While recent harsh Western sanctions have undeniably inflicted significant damage on Iran's economy and people's lives, Western research institutions and experts suggest that these measures have not fully achieved their intended objectives. Over time, the sanctions' impact has lessened, and Iran's economy has adjusted. Despite this, Western sources seemingly aim to manipulate Iranian public opinion by accentuating the idea that sanctions have completely crippled Iran's economy. Recent TV series and movies centered on Iran suggest a comprehensive media effort from the West. This campaign not only targets Iranians, particularly the middle class, but also people in allied nations and those seeking to collaborate with Iran. Its goals include distorting perceptions among Iranians and their allies and undermining Iran's credibility as a dependable partner in the eyes of nations seeking increased cooperation. To counter this, media outlets are advised to highlight Iran's real-world influence and capabilities on the global stage, showcasing its potential as a significant international player. This approach aims to enhance public awareness of Iran's ability to shape the behavior of other nations.

● NETFLIX

