



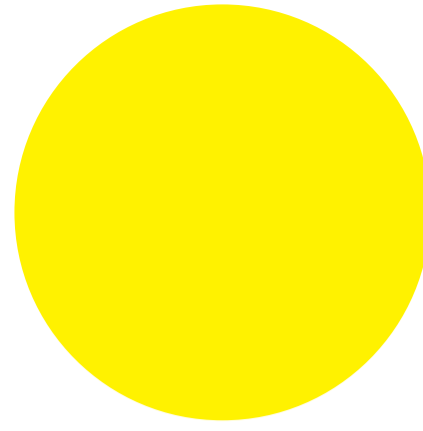
Saudis started working on long-term deal with Iran: *EM*

4 >



Trump expected to surrender to jail Thursday or Friday

5 >



Iran Daily



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Atlantic Council

ISSUES

REGIONS

RESEARCH & ANALYSIS

EVENTS

EXPERTS

ABOUT

DONATE

Search

Council ps!

A look at the role of the Atlantic Council (NATO's study arm) in Iran's 2022 riots

Most of the world's think tanks and study centers, including the Atlantic Council, have focused on unrest and riots in Iran. According to these think tanks, there is no solution to Iran's issue except to make it collapse from within. So, the opposition should invest in riots in a particular way. From their point of view, it is also necessary to create a coalition among the opposition abroad; They believe that such a coalition against the I.R.I. would be a key asset for bringing regime change inside Iran.

4 >



Forging legends: Zanzan's knives and its unseen potential

EXCLUSIVE

2 >



Iran spends hundreds of millions on foreign national students

7 >



City Photo Museum, pioneer in Middle East

EXCLUSIVE

8 >

India ready to complete Chabahar project: *PM*

International Desk

Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi expressed his country's readiness to complete a joint project on the development of the Iranian southeastern port city of Chabahar.

In a telephone conversation with Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi on Friday, Modi expressed satisfaction with the process of bilateral and long-term cooperation between India and Iran, Tasnim news agency reported. The Indian premier also described the joint project of Chabahar port and its development and transformation



FARS

into a regional transportation hub as an opportunity for the prosperity of the region. The two leaders also discussed cooperation at multilateral forums including the expansion of BRICS, and looked forward to their meeting on the margins of the forthcoming BRICS Summit.

Page 4 >

Iranian offshore bank to be established overseas: *Minister*

Economy Desk

Iranian Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance Ehsan Khandouzi announced on Saturday that for the first time, permission has been granted for an offshore bank, as the Central Bank of Iran is issuing the required approval. One of the main priorities of the country for economic growth is to introduce measures that lead to an increase in investment in Iran, the minister said, reported IRNA.

In the field of domestic investment, despite the fact that the investment rate in the previous government was zero, last year there was a 6.7% increase in investment in Iran's economy, Khan-



IRNA

douzi noted. The minister added that in the field of foreign investment, the amount of attracted foreign direct investment (FDI) during the recent 18 months has been higher than the same period in the previous government. Foreign investors will receive a residence permit for a period of five years once they transfer at least \$100,000 to the country, he said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bitcoin drops
to new
two-month low

REUTERS – Top cryptocurrency bitcoin hit a fresh two-month low on Saturday, breaking out of its recent tight range as a wave of risk averse sentiment swept through world markets. On Thursday, bitcoin fell 7.2% in its biggest one-day drop since November 2022 when top exchange FTX collapsed. It then slipped to a two-month low of \$26,172 during Asian trading hours on Friday, its lowest since June 16.

ECB to raise
objections to
Italy's windfall
tax on banks

CNBC – The European Central Bank (ECB) is preparing to send a letter to Italy raising objections about the government's windfall tax on banks' profits, the *Corriere della Sera* daily wrote.

The letter will criticize the fact Rome announced the tax last week without previously informing either the Bank of Italy or the ECB as it is supposed to do under EU rules, the newspaper wrote, without citing sources.

Brazil gov't
pushes
Congress
to approve
'green'

AFP – Brazil's government expects Congress to approve a series of energy transition-related bills in the next 100 days that it believes will boost the country's decarbonization credentials at the upcoming COP28 climate summit, an official said.

Rodrigo Rollemberg, a secretary at Brazil's development ministry, said in an interview that the package of bills are set to include projects aimed at increasing the use of renewable fuels and regulating related sectors, such as offshore wind farms.

Forging legends: Zanzan's knives
and its unseen potential

By Sadeq Dehqan
& M. S. Mohammadi
Staff writers

The city of Zanzan, nestled within the core of Iran's northeastern Zanzan Province, has gained global acclaim in creating a diverse range of finely crafted knives. With an annual production of six million knives of various kinds, the province has imprinted its name in the annals of knife making. This age-old craft, deeply rooted in Zanzan's history, has made the city a cradle for forging weapons since times long past.

In a bygone era when swords were the tools of warfare, Zanzan emerged as the birthplace of these instruments of combat. The skilled artisans of the region crafted swords from the finest alloys, adorning them even with the lustrous touch of gold plating. A tradition upheld through the centuries, the city currently boasts a workforce of 2,500 individuals dedicated to the craft of knife production, yielding a variety of products.

The allure of Zanzan's knives has extended beyond Iran's borders. Arab nations particularly long for the acquisition of these collectible swords, and if the process of export were to be eased, it could usher in substantial economic gain for the country.

Mikaeil Mousavi, the deputy of the Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Organization of Zanzan Province, explains the dynamics of the industry's exports, saying, "Iran predominantly exports machetes



and swords to Arab countries, while pocket knives find their way to European shores, including Germany and France."

However, official exports of these products remain "restricted," with a reported value of approximately \$30,000 annually. The figure is nothing in comparison to the estimated unofficial exports, which surge to \$1.2 million each year. The underlying cause of these covert transactions lies in the country's classification of knives as cold weapons, a label that has posed challenges to their legal export. This viewpoint, Mousavi points out,



overlooks the multifaceted utility of blades, which extends beyond their potential danger. From kitchens to diverse scenarios, these tools offer convenience and ease, rendering them more than just deadly gears.

Due to such regulations, a substantial portion of these valuable creations makes its way out of the country secretly, i.e., concealed under other shipments or within luggage. This, however, might change if Zanzan's rich history in knife production receives the recognition it deserves. Mousavi suggests that both provincial and

national authorities should push for globally registering Zanzan as the "World City of Knives", aligning with its profound legacy in the field.

Interestingly, despite Zanzan Province's annual output of six million knives, domestic production only caters to 18% of the nation's needs. The remaining demand is satisfied through imports from China and other nations. Paradoxically, Iranian knives, renowned for their exquisite craftsmanship, fall short in domestic market share due to this reliance. Mousavi acknowledges the

challenge, asserting that although attempts have been made to increase production through support from manufactures, the domestic market's appetite for knives remains insatiable. Iran's hurdle lies not only in production but also in the presentation of manufactured products on the global stage. Mousavi highlights the contrast between Chinese knives and Iranian counterparts.

"While Chinese products may lack superior quality, their packaging's visual appeal drives sales and marketing," he says. This revelation underscores the

importance of packaging and presentation in bolstering the marketability of products.

The potential for Iran's knife industry to flourish on the international market hinges on diversification and improved packaging. By transcending legal barriers and offering a diverse range of high-quality blades in attractive packaging, the country could secure a lucrative foreign exchange income. The story of Zanzan's knives is not just one of craftsmanship; it's a narrative of economic potential waiting to be unlocked on a global scale.

Iran's trout exports hit
4,000 tons

Economy Desk

Iran has exported about 4,000 tons of trout to target markets including Russia and Arab nations since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21), said Arash Nabizadeh, the managing director of Iran's Coldwater Fish Farmers Association, adding that hitting the Chinese market is on agenda. Nabizadeh noted that, currently, due to water resources restriction, up to 115,000 tons of trout is produced in cold water farms across the country, however, the actual capacity of trout farming in the country is 196,000 to 200,000 tons per year, according to IRNA.

"The provinces of Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari, Lorestan, Kohgiluyeh and Boyer Ahmad, and Zanzan account for the largest share of trout production in the country," the official said.

Iran ranked first over the last few years, but presently Turkey has taken first place in trout production in the world, as Iran is expected to increase its trout exports this year, Nabizadeh stated.

NTBFs expected to optimize energy
consumption in construction sector

Economy Desk

There is a high need for more participation of new technology-based firms (NTBFs) to remove the barriers in the field of optimizing energy consumption in Iran, especially in the construction sector, Mohammad-Mahdi Haidari, the head of the Road, Housing and Urban Development Research Center said.

Visiting the Iran Energy Efficiency Conference and Exhibition on Saturday, Mohammad-Mahdi Heidari emphasized that his visit was aimed at taking the advantages of current scientific and technology potentials of Iranian NTBFs, IRNA reported. The official called for more participation of technology-based companies to eradicate the country's limitations in the field of energy consumption optimization as well as the country's construction sector.

Tourism Malaysia, Air Arabia hold
joint destination seminars in Iran

Tourism Malaysia's efforts to publicize its comprehensive promotional activities continue to the Middle Eastern region, Iran. The joint destination seminars was held in conjunction with Air Arabia flight operation to Malaysia since March 20, 2023 with daily flights from Sharjah to Tehran, Shiraz, Mashhad and four weekly flights to Lar in addition to three weekly flights from Abu Dhabi to Tehran.

The Director of Tourism Malaysia's Dubai Office

Madam Rosnah Mustafah and Tourism Malaysia officials from headquarter will lead the joint workshop and seminars with Air Arabia in two important cities of Iran - Shiraz and Isfahan, with the aim of introducing of Malaysia's new destinations, attractions, festivals and the latest tourism product in the country.

The joint workshop and seminars were an excellent platform to market and promote the Malaysia's latest attractions and destinations for shopping, family

fun, eco-adventure, honeymoon, luxury holidays, and safe travel destinations for Iranian travelers.

It also marks the active presence of Tourism Malaysia in this potential market from the Middle Eastern region, which also signifies a strong testimony to the country's support and its commitment to attract more Iranian tourists to Malaysia.

Travelers from Iran ranked in the top five among international tourists' spending in Malaysia, in terms

of per capita expenditure and spent longer average length of stay compared to tourists from other markets.

"With an exciting line-up of new attraction to be explored, including the newly opened Genting Skyworlds Theme Park, the world's second tallest skyscraper Merdeka 118, and the Sunway Resort in Kuala Lumpur that just reopened after a once-in-a-generation transformation, we are thrilled to welcome international travelers

worldwide to experience our country again", said Madam Rosnah during the seminar.

Since its full reopening of international borders, Malaysia has recorded a total of 10,070,964 (10.07 million) tourist arrivals and RM28.2 billion in tourist receipts in 2022, surpassing its initial target of 9.2 million international tourist arrivals.

In 2023, Malaysia is targeting to welcome 16.1 million international tourist arrivals (300,000 tourists from the West Asia) and generate RM 49.2 billion in tourist receipts. Malaysia Tourism Promotion Board, also known as

Tourism Malaysia, is an agency under the Ministry of Tourism, Arts & Culture Malaysia. It focuses on the specific task of promoting Malaysia as a preferred tourism destination. Since its inception, it has emerged as a major player in the international tourism scene as Farhad Jafari, is the marketing manager of Tourism Malaysia Tehran Representative Office.

In 2022, Malaysia recorded 7,570 tourist arrivals from Iran and in 2023 from January to the end of March, within 3 month 4,357 tourist from Iran market which shows increasing number of tourists from Iran to Malaysia.

Tourism infrastructures of Mehdishahr to be developed



● top-travel.ir



● hameghlim.com

Iranica Desk

The city of Mehdishahr, also known as Sangsar, is located 20 kilometers from the center of the north-central Iranian province of Semnan. Numerous regions of the city are very familiar to tourists and nature lovers. Mehdi Qassemi, an official from Semnan Province's Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Organization, told ISNA that efforts are underway to develop the infrastructures of the city. He added that a project to pave the route linking Azam Hossei-

niah to Khilkhan Residential, Catering and Tourism Complex of the city was launched. He noted that tourism is among the most dynamic sectors of the global economy, adding that improvement of these infrastructures would help develop sustainable tourism in the city. He said that Mehdishahr, with a pleasant climate, is home to numerous historical monuments and natural sites. "Shahmirzad, a town in Mehdishahr, which has been selected as an exemplary tourism area, attracts a large number of tour-

ists every year," he noted. The history of the city goes back to the pre-Islamic period and even the Pishdadian Dynasty. Mehdishahr is bordered by the city of Semnan from the south, Mazandaran Province from the north, Firouzkuh from the west, and Damghan from the east. A large number of mines are located in the area. However, Mehdishahr should be considered a completely mountainous region, south of the Alborz Mountains. The region has a variety of vegetation. If you move north from Shahmirzad, you will see many needle-leaf trees, including juniper, cypress, and barberry. The most important products of Mehdishahr include wheat and barley, fodder (alfalfa), walnuts, plums, pomegranates, grapes and apricots. Like other cities of the province, various types of handicrafts are being manufactured by the craftspeople of the city. Kilim-weaving, *jajim-bafi* (weaving a traditional Persian covering), *ghalam-zani* (the art of carving superb designs on various metals), *shomareh-duzi* (a type of embroidery) and pottery are among the main handicrafts of Mehdishahr. Mehdishahr has been registered as the National City of *shomareh-duzi*.

Enjoy water sports in Tehran's Fashafuyeh Lake



● ealiya.com



Tehran has no beaches. When you visit its periphery, you either reach the desert or mountains; forests and beaches belong to the other side of the mountains. If you travel toward Imam Khomeini International Airport, before reaching the airport, at kilometer 18 of the Tehran-Qom highway, you will see a lake that has all the leisure facilities of Kish and Qeshm islands. It is the destination of any tourist traveling around Tehran, visitiran.ir reported. Water sports are available in

Fashafuyeh Lake Complex only during the warm seasons, beginning in the middle of spring and lasting until about October. You can also go there in other seasons and enjoy other fun activities such as car racing and horse riding. Boat riding is one of the most popular activities you can undertake in the lake. Different kinds of boats such as motorboats, kayaks, and slaloms are available to choose from. **Water skiing:** To do this in Fashafuyeh Lake Complex, two separated water boards are

attached to your feet, you will stand on water, and a boat will pull you on the water by the rope you hold in your hands. **Jet skiing:** Jet ski is a kind of water motor that is so light that it would rarely drown. With basic instructions, you can ride it on the water and enjoy an exciting experience. Water shuttle is a ride that looks like a UFO. You can sit on it and lean back while holding its handles to avoid falling in the water. A motorboat pulls the shuttle by a rope. **Cable skiing:** This is also a type of water skiing. To do it, you will put both of your feet on one board, and a cable attached higher than the water level pulls the board. **Flyboarding:** This is one of the most exciting water rides you can experience. The boards use the force from pumping water to raise you up to twelve meters above the water. You can move freely and perform show tricks on the board.

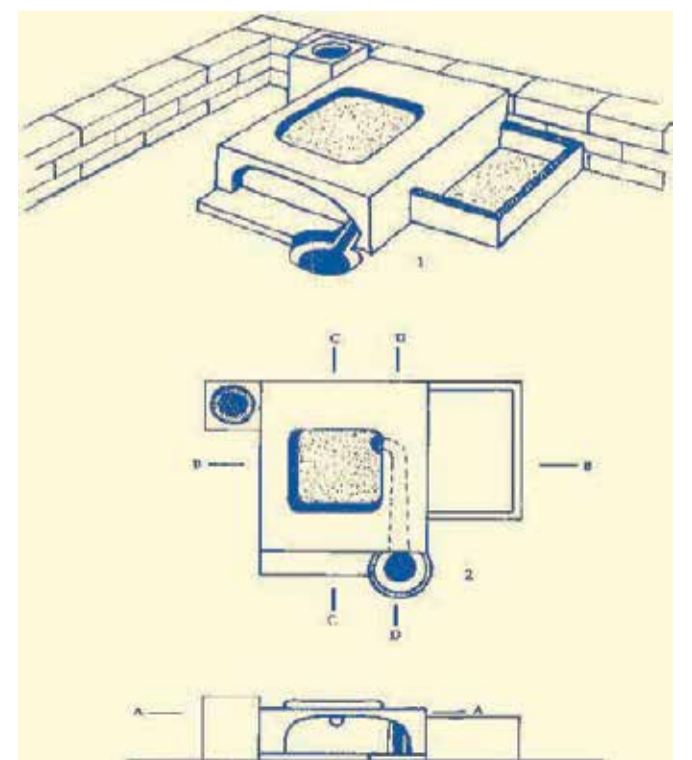
Crucible metallurgy in Iranian Plateau

Crucibles are known from a number of sites on the Iranian Plateau, such as Tal-e Iblis, Shahr-e Sokhteh and Tappeh Ghabrestan. However, just one smelting hearth has been found, in a 3rd millennium context at Shahdad, south of the Lut. Crucibles are typical for Iranian metallurgy in Chalcolithic and Bronze Age times. Their characteristic is their use not only in the melting of native copper for casting, but also in the melting of native copper mixed with copper arsenides in order to achieve an efficient alloy, as well as in the smelting of oxides and the co-smelting of oxides and sulphides.

In Tal-e Iblis near Kerman, the analysis of 300 crucible fragments indicated their use in smelting process, since they still held traces of slag and had not been exposed to temperatures higher than 1000°C. Thus, as an experimental reconstruction confirmed, the charge had been filled directly into the crucible, which had been covered, and the fireplaces had been simple pits in the ground. In Tal-e Iblis near Kerman, the analysis of 300 crucible fragments indicated their use in smelting process, since they still held traces of slag and had not been exposed to temperatures higher than 1,000°C. Thus, as an experimental re-

construction confirmed, the charge had been filled directly into the crucible, which had been covered, and the fireplaces had been simple pits in the ground. But the first irrefutable proof of smelting and casting processes comes from Tappeh Ghabrestan near Qazvin, at the end of the 5th millennium BCE: 20kg of malachite, crushed into small, nut-sized pieces, ideal for smelting, were found, along with two hearths, a crucible with slag residue, four open casting moulds for tools with shaft-holes, and a rectangular mould for five rod-shaped ingots. Additionally, a cylindrical object made of clay that can be inter-

preted either as a mould or as a tuyère (blowpipe) was uncovered. If it was in fact a tuyère, it would be the only prehistoric example from the plateau and one of the very few found in Western Asia as a whole. The workshops at Tappeh Ghabrestan and the significant quantities of metal at Tappeh Hesar, Sialk and Shahdad suggest the existence of professional metallurgists, whose efforts were more directed towards the manufacture of objects through casting and hammering than towards the modification of raw material processing techniques, which would not show significant improvement for two millennia.



So called metallurgical furnace from of Shahdad

The above is a lightly edited version of part of a chapter entitled, 'Susa', from a book entitled, 'Persian Antiques Splendor', edited by T. Stallner, R. Slotta, and A. Vatandoust, published by German Mining Museum. The photo were taken from the book.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Baqeri:
US power
in decline

IRNA – Iran's top military general said Russia's campaign against NATO's expansionism and China's strengthening of its military capabilities signal the decline of US power in the world.

Addressing an annual conference of commanders of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps in Tehran, the Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Hossein Baqeri said that the global arrogance is seeking a unipolar world.

Raeisi:
So-called
rights
advocates
violate int'l law

IRNA – Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi said so-called human rights advocates have shown once again that they do not adhere to any international law with the violation of diplomatic immunity of other countries' officials. President Raeisi made the remarks in a meeting with Iranian diplomat Assadollah Assadi who was recently released from a prison in Belgium. Assadi was sentenced to 20 years in prison after he was accused of plotting an attack against the anti-Iran Mujahedin-e Khalq terrorist outfit in the European country.

**Iran, Lebanon
discuss ties,
regional
developments**

ISNA – Iranian Foreign Minister's special assistant Mahdi Shoushtari held talks with Lebanese Parliament's Speaker Nabih Berri and Hezbollah Secretary General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah in Beirut on Saturday.

The latest developments in the region and Lebanon as well as bilateral relations were discussed during the meeting.

Saudis started working on long-term deal with Iran: **FM**

On his way back from a two-day visit to Saudi Arabia, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian says the kingdom has directed the launch of preliminary steps towards devising a "long-term cooperation agreement" with the Islamic Republic.

[Saudi Crown Prince] Mohammed bin Salman ordered [the kingdom's] Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan for the preliminary measures to take place towards devising of the framework of the long-term cooperation document between the countries," the Iranian top diplomat told reporters on Friday on board the plane that was taking him back to Iran from the kingdom, according to Press TV.

Upon completion, the document would be signed by the countries' high-ranking officials, Amir-Abdollahian added.

The Iranian foreign minister also announced that the country had invited the Saudi crown prince to pay a visit to the Islamic Republic. Mohammed bin Salman accepted the invitation, saying he would devise the necessary plans to travel to Tehran "at the opportune time," Amir-Abdollahian stated.

In turn, the Saudi official invited his Iranian counterpart Ebrahim Raeisi to visit Riyadh, which was similarly accepted by the president. Detailing his talks during the trip with the Saudi crown prince, the foreign minister said the two met for "90 minutes, more than 70 percent of which was focused on bilateral issues," since the two "are of the opinion that all-out and sustainable relations should take shape between Tehran and Riyadh".

Amir-Abdollahian said Riyadh emphasized during the meetings that it had ad-



Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian (L) signs a memorial book following a meeting with his Saudi counterpart Faisal bin Farhan (2nd R) in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on August 17, 2023. mfa.gov.ir

opted a "new attitude". The Saudi authorities, he noted, tried to display their readi-

ness for opening up "a new chapter in the countries' relations".

He attributed the prospect to the emergence of the understanding that the region

can move towards development "without reliance on foreigners".

Council Ops!

Seventy years have passed since a coup took place in Iran, staged with the help of the United States, Britain, and the Iranian army under the leadership of the Shah. The coup led to the downfall of Mohammad Mossadegh's national government. Even now, after all this time, there are uncertainties about whether the US and Britain have stopped their practice of interfering in the internal affairs of other nations, especially Iran. Now, with the recent release of CIA documents and the admissions from US politicians like Richard Nixon, Madeleine Albright, Bill Clinton, Barack Obama, and Bernie Sanders, there is no longer any doubt about their role in toppling the Iranian government. It is evident that both the US and Britain played a significant part in this incident. Just recently, David Owen, Britain's former secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, mentioned

in an interview with The Guardian that the United Kingdom should acknowledge its leading role in overthrowing Mossadegh. The coup stands as a clear instance of direct interference by the US and Britain in Iran's internal matters. The event's bitterness still lingers in the historical memory of Iranians even after 70 years, significantly impacting the quality of relations between Iran and these states. The protest against the Pahlavi regime's heavy reliance on America was a major driving force behind the 1979 Islamic Revolution in Iran. Despite acknowledging their role in the coup, the Americans have never truly ceased their meddling in Iran's affairs or their attempts to interfere. They have even more openly pursued efforts to topple the Islamic Republic, particularly during certain moments like internal protests within Iran.

A recent example is the

Americans' backing of street protests in Iran last year, sparked by the tragic death of Mahsa Amini. Evidence suggests that US officials' stances aren't mere spontaneous reactions but rather align with strategic policies formulated within American think tanks, crafted with specific objectives and serving as a roadmap for their effective intervention in Iran's affairs. One of the prominent American think tanks is the Atlantic Council, which, in its most recent report, serves as an operational blueprint for the US administration on how to back the opposition of the Islamic Republic and provide recommendations to Iranian opposition groups for regime change amid the backdrop of internal protests in Iran. Founded in 1961 following the establishment of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the Atlantic Council initially aimed to promote cooperation between the US and Europe, with a focus on economy. It's no surprise that this think tank is often referred

to as an offshoot of NATO. However, over the course of several decades, the scope of its activities has expanded, now spanning across a variety of domains including politics, diplomacy, security and defense, trade and environment, social matters, technology, and its geographical reach has transcended the US and Europe. It seems that the central theme driving the activities of this think tank, in line with its initial objectives, is the advocacy for democracy and Western values, as well as the preservation of Western hegemony or the unipolar order centered on the United States. Given this perspective, it's natural that such a think tank would engage closely with models of governance that differ from its own, such as the independent system of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Consequently, it's not surprising that the Atlantic Council is involved in devising plans aimed at influencing or intervening in Iran's internal affairs, with the ultimate goal of

regime change. The council's latest report places its focus on fomenting unrest and strategies to fuel riots in Iran, under the premise that the country would ultimately crumble from within. The report emphasizes the need to support and facilitate the formation of a coalition of opponents to the Islamic Republic of Iran, operating from abroad. It also suggests ramping up sanctions against Iran concurrently, with the aim of pressuring its people to withdraw support for the establishment due to mounting economic strains. As an instance, the report lauds the formation of a coalition by certain Iranian opposition figures in the previous year, like Reza Pahlavi, Masih Alinejad, Nazanin Boniadi, Shirin Ebadi, Ali Karimi, Golshifteh Farahani, Hamed Esmailion, and Abdollah Mehtadi. This is deemed by the council as a significant stride forward in the arduous journey of bringing change to Iran. Furthermore, the report

suggests exerting pressure on the international community to back Iran's protests. The Atlantic Council also advises that, for success within Iran, parallels from Arab countries should be drawn upon, citing the Sudanese case as an example. In Sudan, the protests were fueled by various sectors, including lawyers, medics, teachers, journalists, and even bus and truck drivers. Consequently, the report advocates for a greater focus on workers' rights, as it could encourage hesitant elements to join the "revolutionary movement". Seven decades following the 1953 coup, there is no indications of reparation from the United States and Britain, but rather, unmistakable signs persist that both nations continue to contemplate meddling in Iran's matters. The Atlantic Council's report is just a single instance of these signals, even though the fake coalition endorsed by the think tank dissolved much sooner than anticipated.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



India ready to ...

Iran is among the guest countries invited to the BRICS Summit by host South Africa.

The Indian government made an outlay of one billion rupees (over \$12 million) for Chahbahar port in its 2023-24 budget, the same level as the allocation in the past two fiscal years, Hindustan Times wrote. This reflected the focus on connectivity projects including the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC).

India had earlier committed a grant aid of \$85 million and a credit facility of \$150

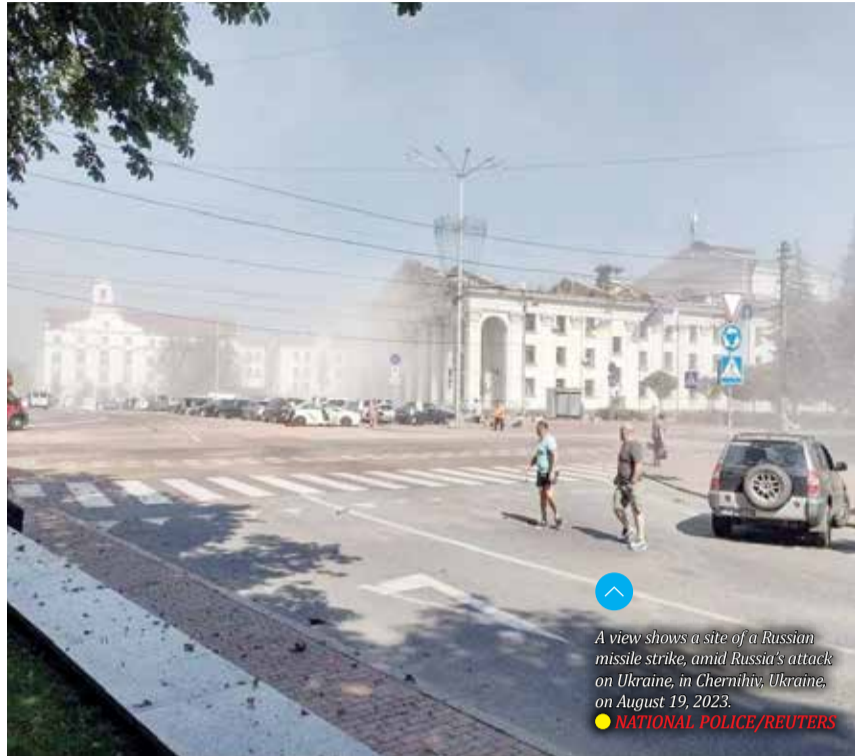
million for developing the Shahid Beheshti terminal, for which the US granted a special waiver from sanctions imposed on Iran.

Modi said the India-Iran relationship is "underpinned by close historic and civilizational connections" including strong people-to-people contacts. He further condemned a recent fatal terrorist attack on the Shah Cheragh Shrine in Iran's southern city of Shiraz, voicing his sympathy with the government and nation of the Islamic Republic and the families of victims of the attack. For his part, Raeisi thanked Modi for his sym-

pathy regarding the terrorist attack in Shiraz.

He also said, "Iran wants to strengthen regional integration and develop economic relations and, thus, seeks interaction with all countries of the world, especially Asian countries."

It is important to develop interactions with India, especially in the fields of transit and energy and regional security, Raeisi added. He demanded the development of transportation cooperation, particularly in the INSTC, and the acceleration of putting the Chahbahar port facilities into operation.



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A view shows a site of a Russian missile strike, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in Chernihiv, Ukraine, on August 19, 2023.
● NATIONAL POLICE/REUTERS

Russia thwarts flurry of drone attacks, says warplane damaged

Russia's Defence Ministry reported a flurry of Ukrainian drone attacks on Saturday targeting the regions of Moscow, Novgorod to the northwest of the Russian capital, and Belgorod that borders Ukraine.

It said nobody was hurt in the attacks but said the drone targeting the Novgorod region had damaged a warplane and caused a fire at a military airfield. The Novgorod region lies hundreds of km from Russia's border with Ukraine, Reuters reported. "As a result of the terrorist attack on the territory of the airfield, a fire broke out in the parking lot of aircraft, which was quickly eliminated by fire fighters. One aircraft was damaged," the ministry said. It later reported that air defence forces had jammed an aircraft-type drone on the northwestern outskirts of Moscow, forcing it to crash near the settlement of Putilkovo.

Drone air strikes deep inside Russia have increased in recent months. One smashed into a building in central Mos-

cow on Friday after Russian air defences shot it down, disrupting air traffic at all civilian airports of the Russian capital. The Defence Ministry also reported a thwarted attack by an aircraft-type drone on Saturday in the Belgorod region, which now sees such incidents on an almost daily basis. It caused no casualties or damage, the ministry added.

Overnight, Russia's air defence forces also shot down a Ukraine-launched missile over the Crimean Peninsula, the Defence Ministry said earlier.

Also, according to Reuters, seven people were killed and 90 wounded when a Russian missile struck a central square in the historic northern Ukrainian city of Chernihiv, the interior ministry said on Saturday.

"A Russian missile hit right in the centre of the city, in our Chernihiv. A square, the polytechnic university, a theatre," President Volodymyr Zelenskiy, who was on a working visit to Sweden, posted on Telegram.

China launches drills in response to Taiwan VP's US visit

China launched military drills around Taiwan on Saturday as a "serious warning" to separatist forces in an angry response to Vice President William Lai's visit to the United States, drawing condemnation from Taipei.

Lai, the front-runner to become Taiwan's president in elections in January, returned from the United States on Friday. He officially made only stopovers on his way to and from Paraguay but gave speeches while in the US, Reuters reported.

China considers Taiwan as its own territory.

The People's Liberation Army's Eastern Theatre Command, said in a brief statement it was carrying out joint naval and air combat readiness patrols around the island.

Taiwan's Defence Ministry said it had detected 42 Chinese aircraft and eight ships involved in drills around the island from Saturday morning and that it had deployed ships and aircraft in response.

Twenty-six Chinese aircraft crossed the median line of the 100-km wide Taiwan Strait, or areas beyond each end of the line, the ministry said in a statement. For decades, the line served as an unofficial barrier between the two militaries.

The PLA's Eastern Theatre Command said it was holding joint exercises and training of naval and air forces, focusing on ship-aircraft coordination, seizing control and anti-submarine

drills to the north and southwest of Taiwan to test the forces' "actual combat capabilities".

"This is a serious warning against Taiwan independence separatist forces colluding with external forces to provoke," it said.

The command released video footage purportedly taken on Saturday, showing J-16 and J-10 fighter jets and a naval destroyer on patrol.

In text accompanying the footage, set to a thumping orchestral score, it said the drills were to "test the actual combat capabilities of joint operations of forces in the theatre".

Equipment deployed included destroyers, frigates and fast attack missile boats as well as fighters, early warning and jamming aircraft that "assembled in a predetermined area", it said, without giving details.

The forces carried out "omnidirectional encirclement of the island", the command said.

Taiwan strongly condemned the drills, with the defence ministry saying it had the ability, determination, and confidence to ensure national security.



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An Air Force aircraft takes part in military drills by the Eastern Theatre Command of China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) around Taiwan, in this screenshot from a handout video released on August 19, 2023.
● EASTERN THEATRE COMMAND/REUTERS



NEWS IN BRIEF

Israeli air force suspends senior reservists



PRESS TV – Chief of Israel's air force has suspended a number of senior military reserve forces amid persisting protests against prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu's far-right cabinet and its policies, including the so-called judicial overhaul plan. Major General Tomer Bar agreed to suspend the service of several brigadier generals, without identifying them or revealing the number of sacked officers, Israeli media outlets reported, Press TV reported.

Thousands flee raging wildfire in Canada



AP – The capital of Canada's Northwest Territories was virtually deserted after nearly all the residents of the city of just over 20,000 fled as a huge wildfire burned nearby. To the south, in British Columbia, thousands more people were told to leave their homes while firefighters battled a growing fire that set homes ablaze. Officials in Northwest Territories said Friday evening that about 19,000 people had left Yellowknife in less than 48 hours, with about 15,000 driving out in convoys and 3,800 leaving on emergency flights.

Trump expected to surrender to jail Thursday or Friday



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Former US president Donald Trump speaks to supporters at the Iowa State Fair, on August 12, 2023.
● CHARLIE NEIBERGALL/AP



Former US president Donald Trump is expected to surrender himself to the Fulton County jail at the end of next week – on Thursday or Friday, a senior law enforcement official with knowledge of the surrender told CNN.

Trump and 18 co-defendants were charged on Monday in connection with a plot to subvert the 2020 election results in Georgia. After the 41-count indictment was unsealed, Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis set an August 25 deadline for their surrender, CNN reported.

Negotiations between Trump's lawyers and Willis' prosecutors are expected to continue into next week, ahead of the surrender deadline. The exact timing of Trump's surrender remains unclear.

Trump's expected surrender in Georgia comes the same week as the first Republican presidential debate of the 2024 election cycle. The former president, however, is planning to skip the event and instead sit for an interview with former Fox News Host Tucker Carlson, multiple sources familiar with his plans told CNN on Friday – though he could change his mind.

Trump now faces a total of 91 charges across four criminal cases. His surrender

and arraignment in Georgia are expected to look different from those in his previous three criminal cases. Fulton County Sheriff Pat Labat has previously suggested he wants to treat Trump and the others named in the indictment similar to any other defendant. This could mean that they would have mugshots taken and be fingerprinted. According to the indictment, Trump is accused of being the head of a "criminal enterprise" that was part of a broad conspiracy to overturn his 2020 electoral defeat. The group of defendants named in the Georgia indictment includes former White House chief of staff Mark Meadows and ex-Trump attorney Rudy Giuliani.

The US Secret Service has been onsite at the Fulton County Jail for the last several weeks working with the Fulton County Sheriff Department and the city of Atlanta in planning for the former president's surrender, a USSS spokesperson told CNN.

N Korea slams UN HR meeting as a US 'scheme'

REUTERS – North Korea slammed a recent United Nations meeting about its human rights record, asserting the United States used the international organisation for a "scheme" against Pyongyang, state media KCNA reported on Saturday.

The UN Security Council discussed human rights abuses in North Korea on Thursday, with the US ambassador criticising leader Kim Jong-un for using "repression and cruelty" to develop nuclear weapons and missiles.

Iran to play Venezuela before FIBA World Cup



● FIBA

Sport Desk

Iran will face Venezuela in a friendly on Monday in the buildup to the upcoming FIBA Basketball World Cup.

The three-time Asian champion will face the South American team in the Chinese city of Jinjiang before leaving for Jakarta, Indonesia, to take part in the international basketball flagship event – also cohosted by Japan and the Philippines.

Iran will begin its Group G campaign with a game against Brazil next Saturday.

Hakan Demir's men will take on Ivory Coast two days later before concluding the group fixtures against reigning world champion Spain on August 30.

Turkish coach Demir, who took charge of the team in May, will be looking to steer Iran to a maiden progress beyond the first-round group phase at the fourth time of asking.

Sweden beat Australia to finish third at World Cup



● AMANDA PEROBELLI/REUTERS

REUTERS – Sweden picked up their fourth Women's World Cup bronze medal on Saturday after beating co-hosts Australia 2-0 in the third-place playoff match at Lang Park in Brisbane.

The Swedes, ranked third in the world, were awarded a penalty in the 28th minute after a VAR review showed Australia's Clare Hunt clipped Stina Blackstenius' heels, and Fridolina Rolfo slotted home the resulting spot kick.

Sweden captain Kosovare Asllani doubled their lead just after the hour mark, rifling a sweet strike from the edge of the penalty area beyond goalkeeper Mackenzie Arnold following another quick counter-attack.

While disappointed to sign off at the World Cup with another defeat, the Matildas still achieved their best result at the tournament having never previously gone beyond the quarter-final stage.

England and Spain will square off in the final showdown today.

Masoumi remains dominant force of junior wrestling



Amir-Reza Masoumi is seen with the Iranian flag after winning the freestyle 125kg gold medal at the Wrestling U20 World Championships in Amman, Jordan, on August 16, 2023.

● UWW



Sport Desk

For Iranian wrestler Amir-Reza Masoumi, the U20 World Championships in Amman, Jordan, was a test of character – one that he passed in emphatic fashion.

The Iranian, who will turn 19 in less than a month, stepped into the freestyle 125kg contests on the back of a couple of domestic and international setbacks.

April's Asian Championships was one to forget

for the young prodigy as he was beaten 8-6 by high-profile Mongolian Mönkhörtiin Lkhagvagerel in the semifinals – a first international defeat for the Iranian – before a loss to China's Buheerdun in the bronze-medal bout saw the superheavyweight wrestler leave Astana empty-handed.

A second blow to Masoumi's progress as a senior wrestler came in May's Takhti Cup in Urmia – which also served as the national

team's trials for the upcoming World Championships – where he was outclassed 8-0 by fellow Iranian Amir-Hossein Zare' in the final showdown.

Still, Wednesday's gold medal in the Jordanian capital proved that Masoumi is in a league of his own when it comes to the age-group wrestling.

In cruising to the ultimate prize, Masoumi – whose father Fardin is a former world superheavyweight silver and bronze medalist

– collected a remarkable 51 points across five bouts, while conceding only one – in the first-round 9-1 victory over Turkey's Hakan Buyukcingil.

The Iranian then made a quick work of China's Da Lu, American Christian Carroll, and Volodymyr Kochanov of Ukraine, outmuscling all three by technical fall en route to the final.

It was the same scenario in the showdown against Russian Said Akhmatov – representing the Individual

Neutral Athletes team – as a four-point throw with nine seconds into the contest put Masoumi on his way to a second successive world under-20 gold before the six-minute mark.

Masoumi's fourth gold in the international age groups, following the cadet crown in 2021 and last year's under-23 triumph, capped off a glorious campaign in Amman for the Iranian freestyle squad, which won the team title with 165 points – 13 clear of runner-up

USA – with Mohammadreza Shakeri (65kg), Mobin Azimi (92kg), and Abolfazl Babalou (97kg) also among the gold medalists for the Asian powerhouse.

Masoumi might spend some time behind Tokyo Olympic bronze medalist Zare' – who will be chasing a third world medal in September's showdown in Belgrade – in the Iranian seniors' pecking order but he has already cemented his status as the next big thing in freestyle wrestling.

Spalletti, an Italian champion to revive the Azzurri

AFP – Luciano Spalletti, crowned Italian champion with Napoli last season, was on Friday handed the task of reviving the Azzurri, five days after Roberto Mancini's shock resignation as Italy coach. Spalletti's main objective will be to qualify the European champions for the 2026 World Cup in the United States, Canada and Mexico, after Italy missed the 2018 and 2022 editions.

"Let's welcome Spalletti," said FIGC president Gabriele Gravina, "the national team needed a great coach and I am very happy that he accepted the technical guidance of the Azzurri."

The duration of his contract was not specified, but according to the Italian press, it would cover three years until 2026. The FIGC said Spalletti would be presented officially at the national training centre at Coverciano, near Florence, before Euro 2024 qualifiers

against North Macedonia and Ukraine in early September.

Spalletti had been out of a job since he left Napoli, just weeks after leading them to the third Scudetto in their history.

Negotiations had been complicated because his contract with Napoli, which runs until June 2024, included a clause requiring him to pay compensation of 3 million euros (\$3.3 million) if he takes up a new position. Napoli president and owner Aurelio De Laurentiis had refused to release the Tuscan coach from this obligation.

The FIGC did not specify whether an agreement has been reached with Napoli.

'Enthusiasm'

But before thinking about the next World Cup and healing the traumas of a nation, the new Azzurri coach will have to put his team, reigning European champions, back on track



● CIRO FUSCO/REUTERS

for Euro 2024 which will take place in Germany. Italy are third in Group C with three points after a 2-0 win over Malta and a 2-1 loss to England, who are top with 12 points from four games.

"His enthusiasm and his expertise will be fundamental for the challenges that await Italy in the

coming months," said Gravina.

Spalletti has only a few days to prepare for a complicated trip to Skopje to face North Macedonia on September 9, a country that blocked Italy's path to the World Cup in Qatar, then host Ukraine in Milan three days later.

Like his predecessor,

Spalletti will have a major problem to solve, with a limited pool of forwards. The top Italian scorers in Serie A last season, Sassuolo's Domenico Berardi and Lazio's Ciro Immobile, both managed 12 goals.

This offensive fragility did not prevent Mancini from winning the European ti-

tle, 53 years after Italy's first continental trophy, and going on a 37-match unbeaten run between September 2018 and October 2021, a record for a national team.

Spalletti has a temperament and style which can transform the national side and the credentials to convince his players after a stunning season with Napoli.

He became the oldest ever coach to win the Italian title last season at 64 but his vibrancy and the modern, free-wheeling way his teams play bely his advancing years.

After a modest playing career as a midfielder in Italy's third division, Spalletti made his mark as a coach in small clubs before leading AS Roma, Inter or even Zenit Saint-Petersburg. Meanwhile Mancini, 58, who resigned after five years at the helm citing "a personal decision", has been touted to take over as Saudi Arabia coach.

Restoration of Jalal Al-e Ahmad's paternal house has begun:

A new cultural center for Tehran on the horizon



Social Desk

The house in which Jalal Al-e Ahmad (1923-1969), famous Iranian novelist, short story writer, and translator, grew up, located in the historic Sangelaj neighborhood of Tehran, is one of the houses registered on the Iran National Heritage List. The house is owned by the national fund for the restoration and utilization of historical and cultural monuments.

In 2020, the house was put up for auction with the aim of restoring it and transforming it into a center for cultural events, Mehr news agency reported.

Mahboubeh Kazemi Doulabi, a cultural developer, took on the responsibility of restoring and utilizing the property. However, upon receiving the house, she discovered that it lacked basic amenities such as water, electricity, and gas. Moreover, it was filled with garbage and, on top of that, around 15 drug addicts, led by

a certain 'Amir Chelcheleh', had turned the historic house into a place for drug exchange.

On May 18, 2021, the house was entrusted under unsuitable conditions. Additionally, it lacked installed water and electricity meters for an entire year thereafter. All this was in spite of the fact that Doulabi was supposed to bring the house to a state in which cultural events could take place.

However, due to infrastructural inadequacies, delays from restoration funds, and addicts residing in the premises, the process has been prolonged. It wasn't until January, 2023, when Doulabi received official confirmation that she could begin restoration work. Her efforts finally began on March 9, 2023 and are still ongoing.

The restoration process is being carried out meticulously and diligently. Over time, the house has undergone many alterations – from experiencing flooding

reported by neighbors, to a persistent humidity problem threatening its structural integrity. The house has also attracted diverse crowds ranging from celebrities to drug addicts who considered it their home.

At different time periods throughout its history, the house has witnessed cement or plaster applied over its walls. However, the current restoration team is painstakingly removing these additional layers to get to the original bricks beneath. They are also sanding and cleaning them. Some original bricks have been replaced, while others have been rearranged to preserve the house's authentic appearance.

The team of restorers and designers has made good use of photographs, manuscripts, letters, and storybooks among other resources to recreate the atmosphere of Jalal Al-e Ahmad's presence at this residence.

"Jalal's family has been very helpful. They inform us about loose

parts of the house or covered pipes. We will have more pictures soon," Doulabi says.

She adds, "If there has been a delay in restoring this house, it is because we have been waiting for approvals right from the start. They did not inform us that there was no electricity or water here." The water department, according to her, insisted on providing an ownership document to install a meter, while the ownership of the house lies with the Ministry of Cultural Heritage.

She also points out that removing the addicts from the premises took time.

"Plus, we prioritize quality over speed when it comes to restoration work. While plastering could have saved us time, we didn't want to rush through the project."

After a tour of the different parts of the house, Doulabi mentions, "When Master Jazayeri restored the doors of the house we got to their original greenish turquoise



MEHR

color, and they will be painted this very same color."

With approval from experts at the restoration fund, the restoration team demolished an additional room built on top of a porch due to its collapsed roof and lack of any historic value.

"In return, we restored an existing balcony from 1931. Several wells in the house were also restored, while the one that had collapsed was closed off and a new one was dug," Doulabi says. She continues, "I saw this house back in 2017, but a suitable use for it was not defined then. But now, with its reception purposes in mind, parts of the yard under Jalal's room and balcony could be turned into a café, and the house's 27 spaces could be utilized for cultural activities."

She suggests that Jalal's room could serve as accommodation for artists or writers who wish to engage in creative pursuits such as writing books or screenplays "from morning till night."

Other sections can be designated as meeting halls or used for book launches, cultural and educational workshops, etc.

"This house is one of those rare houses that have a wind catcher, so we plan to restore that as well," she says.

The cultural developer adds, "We have also discussed with vendors in the neighborhood that the shutters of their shops should be painted by a team of artists in order to transform this alley into a street gallery. These painted shutters could even be illuminated. We pitched the idea to the municipality and they all agreed." Doulabi believes that those who invest their resources in historical houses should not be labeled as mere investors because, from an economic and investment standpoint, restoring these houses may not always yield returns.

These individuals are cultural developers, who allocate more than estimated costs towards preserving such buildings.

Iran spends hundreds of millions of dollars on foreign students

Social Desk

The head of international affairs and foreign schools at Iran's Ministry of Education has revealed that \$335 million are spent annually on foreign students, with an average expenditure of \$527 per student.

Mehdi Fayyazi also discussed the education system's strategy for foreign nationals in Iran, which prioritizes honoring them and identifying talented students, according to IRNA.

Currently, five percent of the country's education resources and 22,000 classrooms are dedicated to serving foreign students.

Fayyazi highlighted a concerning contrast between funding received by Iran compared to other countries. He explained that while Iran receives around 17 million euros from international institutions for foreign students (which is relative-

ly low), Turkey has demanded annual payments from Europe with the threat of opening its borders to allow these individuals into Europe. However, he reassured that there is no discrimination between Iranian students and foreign students in Iran.

Furthermore, Fayyazi mentioned that international organizations have constructed a total of 88 schools within the country, with an additional 23 schools currently under construction.

Regarding Iranian schools abroad, he noted that there are currently 11 international schools operating in Iran (mostly non-governmental) and 75 governmental/non-governmental/remote schools present in various countries worldwide. In recent years, there has been a decrease in both the number and population of these schools by 49 percent, resulting

in the closure of 33 institutions. However, last year witnessed a positive trend as student enrollment increased by 15 percent. Students attending these overseas schools primarily consist of children of Iranians living abroad as part of the global network community along with Iranian businessmen.

Fayyazi stressed two key demands made by overseas students: firstly, enhancing Islamic and Iranian identity within these educational institutions; secondly, the need for bilingualism through adopting an international curriculum alongside proficiency in another language – an aspect neglected previously since many such schools were monolingual. However, in line with government priorities, the bilingualization process was given prominence during the current administration.

Fayyazi also acknowledged the demands of teachers working abroad, which have been accumulating. However, due to the substantial amount involved, it has become challenging to address their payment issues.

In conclusion, Fayyazi emphasized that Iranian schools operating abroad play a crucial role in strengthening the global network of Iranians. Schools must obtain a license from the Ministry of Education for proper administration; otherwise, they risk closure and their educational credentials will not be recognized or approved.

British nurse guilty of murdering seven babies

A neonatal nurse has been found guilty of murdering seven babies and attempting to kill six more, making her the worst child serial killer in modern British history and raising urgent questions over whether her crimes could have been stopped.

Lucy Letby, 33, was convicted of the "persistent, calculated and cold-blooded" murder of five premature boys and two newborn girls on the unit where she worked at the Countess of Chester hospital in north-west England, The Guardian reported.

As ministers ordered an independent inquiry into how Letby was able to carry out her horrifying campaign, a whistleblower told the Guardian that he believed babies would have been saved if hospital executives had acted sooner on concerns about the nurse.

Stephen Brearey, who was the first to alert executives to Letby's connection to unusual deaths and collapses, said he felt bosses had been "neglectful" by failing to contact the police earlier.

Letby was in her mid-20s when she preyed on highly vulnerable babies between June 2015 and June 2016, often attacking them just moments after their parents or nurses had left their side. Police were finally contacted in 2017 and she was arrested

in 2018. Her victims included two identical triplet brothers, killed within 24 hours of each other, a newborn weighing less than 1kg who was fatally injected with air, and a girl born 10 weeks premature who was murdered on the fourth attempt.

Bereaved parents gasped and wept in the public gallery as the verdicts were delivered over several dramatic days at Manchester crown court, after one of the longest-running murder trials in recent times.

Outside court, parents of the victims said justice had been served but that no conviction would "take away from the extreme hurt, anger and distress that we have all had to experience."

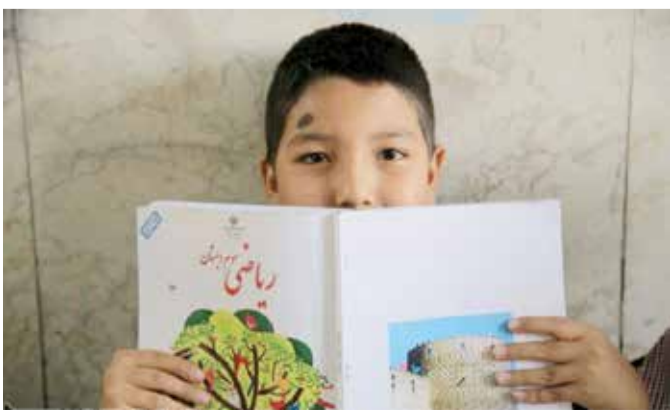
Letby is expected to become only the third woman alive in

the UK to be handed a whole-life term – meaning she will never be released from prison – when she is sentenced on Monday.

Police believe Letby may have harmed more babies during her six-year career as a children's nurse and have launched a helpline for parents to call to report concerns.

Detectives have asked specialists to examine the records of more than 4,000 infants born at Liverpool Women's hospital and the Countess of Chester, the two hospitals where Letby worked between 2010 and 2016.

One mother said on Friday night that she believed Letby attacked her newborn son a day after she made a complaint about an "inappropriate" comment by the nurse.



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City Photo Museum, pioneer in Middle East



By Sadeq Dehqan
 Staff writer

For years, people worldwide have collected objects to study and preserve the legacy of past generations and their environment. Museums often bear the name associated with this focus. Among various subjects, photography aligns closely with a museum's goals. A photograph not only serves as a memory, but also offers insight into human history, revealing social and political contexts, lifestyles, and relationships. The City Photo Museum stands as the Middle East's first specialized museum dedicated to the history of photography. Affiliated with the Tehran Municipality, this museum, located in Bahar Square, Tehran, welcomes visitors and photography enthusiasts with a collection of photographs, cameras, photographic tools, and heritage.

Amir Houshang Lellahi, the head of the City Photo Museum, shared in an exclusive interview with Iran Daily that this museum emerged as the first institution of its kind in Tehran in April 1995, a project realized through the collaborative efforts of the Tehran Municipality. The late Bahman Jalali, a renowned Iranian photographer, conceived the museum's design and concept due to his fascination with the history of photography. With support from pioneers in the field and financial aid from the municipality, he gathered objects from across Iran. According to Lellahi, the City Photo Museum remains the sole museum dedicated to the history of photography in the Middle East, with no comparable institution in the region. Despite the proximity of countries like Turkey and Egypt to Iran, these nations lack such comprehensive collections and museums.



Sections of museum

The museum comprises two sections. One holds permanent displays, featuring cameras, lenses, retouching devices, film-related equipment, and various old albums. Another section hosts temporary exhibitions, with photos showcased on the museum walls for a span of one to two months. Upon entering, visitors encounter a gallery showcasing the works of Armenian-Georgian photographer Antoine Sevruguin, who lived in Iran. This section features a headstone adorned with Qajar-period tiles, retrieved from Sevruguin's photog-

raphy studio on Ferdowsi Street. Sevruguin stands out as a pioneering 19th-century photographer, amassing over 7,000 glass negatives during his five-decade career in Iran. His linguistic and cultural ability, combined with his knowledge of Western art and photography techniques, distinguish him from his contemporaries. The central halls of the museum house an array of cameras, varying in size and type. Studio, box, lantern, stereoscopic, instant film, reflex, non-reflex single-lens, dual-lens, and miniature cameras are among the notable examples. An eye-catching

item is the 19th-century stereoscopic wooden camera, potentially one of the oldest in the collection, dating back 140 to 150 years ago. Lellahi explains that stereoscopic cameras mimic human vision, capturing two side-by-side images that viewers can observe in three dimensions using stereoscope devices. Stereoscopic photos once paved the way for panoramic images. Another section features the equipment of an old photography studio from Shiraz, owned by the Akkasbashi family, who practiced photography for generations.

Various exhibitions

The museum's walls exhibit photos from temporary exhibitions. 'Novelties of Times,' an exhibition researched by Mohammadreza Tahmasebpour, showcases modern phenomena during the Qajar era, displaying architecture, medicine, transportation, military technology, telegraphy, printing, agriculture, sculpture, theater, and music

photos. Among these, a photograph by Sevruguin depicts a cataract surgery assembly, while another reveals patients afflicted by cholera lying on the floor. The photo highlights the dire consequences of the disease's outbreak. A shot of the government hospital illustrates Dr. Pollack and Monsieur Foucault performing litho-

tomy under anesthesia in December 1852. Additionally, there are images of the first automobile acquired by Mozaffar ad-Din Shah Qajar and a balloon ascending over Mashgh Square in Tabriz in 1933. One corner showcases the construction of Lalezar Street in Tehran around 1905, evoking a European street atmosphere.



Iran, pioneer in photography

Iran's role as a photography pioneer traces back 180 years, coinciding with the Qajar rule. Despite the Qajar period's challenges, Iran's interest in photography thrived, particularly due to the Qajar kings' desire to document their reign. Photography entered Iran when Jacques Louis Daguerre invented the photographic camera in France in 1839. Mohammad Shah, the

third Qajar king, received cameras as gifts from the Queen of England and the Tsar of Russia in 1842. The first photo of the Shah of Iran, taken by Russian diplomat Nikolay Pavlov in 1842, is historically significant. The head of the museum highlights Malek Qassem Mirza Qajar as the first Iranian photographer, thanks to his exposure to photography during

his European travels. Nasser al-Din Shah, the fourth Qajar king, further established photography in Iran. Under his rule, Golestan Palace's album house was established, housing over 45,000 old photos from Iran and around the world. With nearly 1,000 photos from the Qajar, Pahlavi, and wartime periods, the museum stands as a testament to Iran's rich photographic history.