

A peek from other side of the fence

EXCLUSIVE

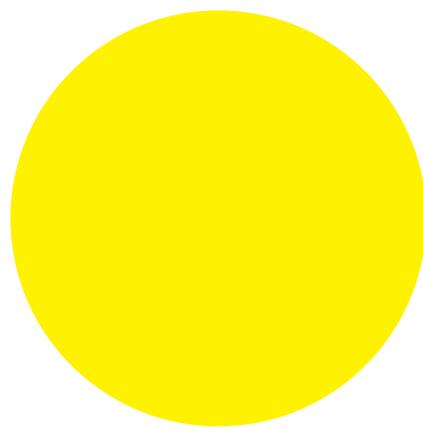
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Achaemenid, Sassanian works shine in Hamedan exhibition



8 >



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Spotlight on Expansion to Change Global Geopolitics

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Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva (l), President of China Xi Jinping (2nd l), South African President Cyril Ramaphosa (c), Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi (2nd r) and Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov (r) pose for a family photo during the 2023 BRICS Summit in Johannesburg on August 23, 2023.

GIANLUIGI GUERCIA/POOL/AFP



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Iran signals oil output boost as regional relations improve

Iran plans to raise oil production to near full capacity by the end of the summer, the country's oil minister said. Speaking to the Energy Committee in Iran's Parliament, Javad Owji stated that the country had boosted oil production by 50 percent over the last two years, and production is expected to increase to 3.4 million barrels a day (bpd), just below the capacity of 3.8 million bpd, The New Arab reported. According to the monitoring service TankerTrackers.com, Iran was able to ship 2.2 million bpd to 20 August, as reported by Bloomberg - a marked increase on the first



SHANA

seven months of 2023, in which Iran export over 1.5 million bpd in a single month. In addition to oil, Iran plans to increase its production capacity of natural gas by 500 million cubic meters per day (mcm/d), according to S&P global. Its current production standing is at one billion cubic meters per day.

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Qatar: Iran-US prisoner deal enters into force

National Desk

Qatar's Foreign Ministry spokesman Majed al-Ansari said that a prisoner deal recently reached between Iran and the United States has entered into force. During his weekly press briefing, the Qatari official said that Doha is still communicating with various parties to implement the agreement, which includes the release of prisoners from both sides and unfreezing of \$6 billion of Iranian funds in South Korea's banks. Al-Ansari noted that it is too early to talk about the location of the exchange of prisoners. "Such details will

be announced in due course" he said. White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan also said that the prisoner swap deal is "on track". Sullivan's comments on Tuesday marked a rare public expression of confidence from Washington that the prisoner swap would take place. "We believe that things are proceeding according to the understanding that we've reached with Iran," Sullivan told reporters during a conference call. "I don't have an exact timetable for you because there [are] steps that need to yet unfold. But we believe that that remains on track."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

EV production
on agenda

IRNA – Iranian Oil Minister Javad Owji on Wednesday said his ministry and the Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade are jointly following a plan to reduce air pollution.

Production of electric vehicles (EVs) for public transport fleet is among the projects the two ministries are pursuing, explained the top official, adding that the Oil Ministry will grant credit equal to saved fuel on the basis of the Persian Gulf free on board (FOB) price to those who make investments in this sector.

The plan gives first priority to taxis and pickup trucks, said the minister, adding the project will help reduce air pollution.

New envoy to
OPEC
appointed

SHANA – Iranian Oil Minister Javad Owji appointed Afshin Javan as Iran's representative to the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). Javan will serve as the director general of the department for OPEC affairs and relations with energy communities at the Iranian Oil Ministry.

Javan is also a member of the scientific board of the institute for International Energy Studies (IIES).

Iran signals
oil ...

Included in this increase is the beginning of production from Phase 11 of Iran's South Pars Gas Field after decades of delays. The current output of Phase 11 stands at 11 million cubic mcm/d, although Iran plans to increase output to 56 mcm/d.

Iran's increase in the production and export of energy comes as its relations with its Persian Gulf neighbors strengthen, with Iran and Saudi Arabia reopening embassies following a Chinese brokered deal between the two last March. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said that recent warming of relations between the two would lead to a "wave of reconciliation" in the region.

Annual profit of state-run Iranian banks hits \$1.4b: Minister



Economy Desk

Iranian Minister of Economy Ehsan Khandouzi announced on Wednesday that during the last Iranian year, which ended on March 20, except Bank Sepah, all state banks came out of the loss-making mode and posted a net profit of 70 trillion tomans (\$1.4 billion).

Speaking on state TV, the minister said that one of the long-standing problems of the country's financing system was that state banks were suffering from a lack of discipline and legality, IRNA reported.

He added that one of the important decisions of Iranian Pres-

ident Ebrahim Raeisi was on transformational measures in the financial field and state banks.

A total of 13 out of 30 banks in the country are under government management, the minister said, noting that except for Bank Sepah, which was affected by the effects of the merger, all other state banks were out of loss-making.

"Seven years ago, out of 13 state-owned banks, six lenders posted a total loss of 12 trillion tomans, a year later, nine banks had totally 28 trillion tomans of loss, while five years ago, 11 banks state-run lenders had a loss of 9 trillion tomans, as in the Iranian year of 1398 (ended March

2020), six banks had generated a loss of about 15 trillion tomans," he added.

The minister went to say that in the Iranian year of 1399, five banks were quite successful with 14 trillion tomans of profit, but again in 1400, the profitability of banks decreased and we had four loss-making banks, namely, Bank Keshavarzi Iran, Tose'e Ta'avon Bank, Bank Melli Iran, and Bank Sepah.

The government's efforts are on the issue of banking discipline and legality, avoiding non-returnable payments, paying according to the country's standards, and reminding the bank managers to comply with the law.

Number of NTBFs active in Iranian oil industry tripled

Economy Desk

There has been an increase of new technology based firms (NTBFs) in oil industry by more than three times as 751 contracts have been signed worth \$340 million with Iranian start-ups.

The 80-percent imports of equipment for Iranian oil industries has dropped to around 20 to 30%, has said Vahidreza Zeidifard, the deputy minister of oil for engineering, research and technology affairs. Industrial control systems and compressor systems used in Aradan Gas Compressor Station Project are designed by Iranian engineers as 90% of equipment used in the station are indigenized high-tech equipment, according to IRNA.

The number of start-ups in the oil industry has increased from 150 to about 550 since two years ago. Also some contracts with knowl-

edge-based companies were signed on various facilities, as some funds were provided for the companies, the official stated.

"Favorable relation and cooperation have been established between the Ministry of Science and the Ministry of Oil. Currently 81 contracts have been inked with universities and research institutes across the country that approximately \$77 million have been allocated for the contracts.

"Also we have signed contracts with four major academic centers in Iran and defined them as institutes to approve the licenses required by the Ministry of Oil," the official stated.

Iran has reached a very eye-catching development and growth in the defense industry. So the technologies used in the defense sector can be utilized in the oil industry since there are many capacities in the defense industry to help the oil industry.

A techno-engineering service export contract was signed with Venezuela El Palito refinery, and 2.7 million pieces of Iranian-made equipment were exported to Venezuela, which is very impressive.

Also catalyst was exported to Russia for the first time, which is an honor for the oil industry of Iran, as recently a private Iranian company active in the oil industry has signed a \$58-million worth contract with the Venezuelan oil company. The government and the Parliament of Iran have given a notable budget to provide facilities and financial support for NTBFs. In this regard, negotiations were done with several banks and some contracts were signed with some lenders. The Oil Industry Research and Technology Fund has played a very important role in helping knowledge-based companies. So far \$44.7 million have been paid to guarantee the



SHANA

companies. Since many years ago, some standards called Iranian Petroleum Standard (IPS) were used in oil industry. But, currently a sum of 122 IPS standards have been modified to national ones, which every applicant can refer to. "In various visits to science and technology

parks and academic centers, I have seen young people who started their careers from nothing but had great ideas. With great effort, they succeeded to be among the most important companies that cooperate with the oil industry and exchange technology and equipment," Zeidifard noted.

Iranian company inks contract to export batteries to Russia

An Iranian company signed a contract worth \$50 million with a Russian counterpart for exports of automotive batteries to the country.

The contract was signed on Wednesday on the sidelines of MIMS Automobility Moscow 2023.

Mahmoudreza Mousavi, the deputy for exports of the Iranian company, told IRNA that the company has been active in the Eurasian market and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). He added that the company began exports to Russia eight months ago.

Referring to factors such as quality, after-sales service, timely delivery, and offering competitive prices, which are on the agenda for his company, Mousavi predicted that the company will find its way in the Russian market. This is the second consecutive year that Iran is attending MIMS Automobility Moscow.

Some 32 Iranian companies, including two leading automakers, Iran Khodro (IKCO) and Saipa Group, two commercial companies, as well as 28 auto spare parts companies are showcasing their products in the four-day expo which opened on Monday.



Iran-China seven-month trade surpasses \$8.5b

Trade between Iran and China in the first seven months of the current year reached \$8.54 billion, with China's export of products to Iran accounting for \$6 billion of it, China's Customs Office reported.

Iran and China exchanged over \$9.6 billion worth of products from January to July 2022, the report added, according to Tasnim news agency.

In the first seven months of 2023, China imported \$2.54 billion worth of products from Iran, registering a 43 percent drop compared to last year's corresponding period.

But China's export of products to Iran in the first seven months of the current year reached \$6 billion, showing a 17 percent growth compared to the same period last year.

China had exported \$5.13 billion worth of products to Iran from January to July 2022. According to the report, the trade balance of the two countries in the period reached \$3.46 billion in favor of China.

Iran's majestic mountains

Visiting Iran is not just diving into its centuries-old history and culture, it's also encountering an incredible variety of natural landscapes, from vast deserts to lush forests and high mountains. If you're into mountaineering and trekking, Iran will offer many opportunities to wander into nature and discover breathtaking sceneries.

Iran has two major mountain ranges, which is why it offers possibilities to professional and amateur climbers to experience challenges and setbacks. They are the Alborz and Zagros mountains, both of which host a great variety of fauna and flora, surfiran.com wrote.



Zard Kuh
adventureiran.com



Sialan
iranasia.com



Dena
hipersia.com

Zagros Mountains

Zagros Mountains stretch from northwestern Iran all the way down to the Persian Gulf and Sistan and Baluchestan Province, in the southeast.

Dena

Dena Mountain stands at about 4,400 meters above sea level and boasts the highest peak in the Zagros Mountains. The mountain range has more than forty peaks over 4,000 meters in elevation.

Dena Mountain is situated on the boundary of the Isfahan, Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad and Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari provinces. In some parts, the landscape is covered with oak trees, rivers and streams that have made the mountain range gorgeous.

Zard Kuh

As a part of central Zagros Mountains, Zard Kuh is a mountain range in southwestern Iran. The mountain features an abundance of water and a special nature with a variety of plants, like medicinal herbs and wild mushrooms. Zard Kuh is also popular

for being the summer home of Bakhtiari nomads.

Zard Kuh's peak, Kolonchin (4,200m), is the second highest peak of Zagros, after Dena. This mountain range has other significant peaks like Haft Tanan, Shah-e Shahidan, Sardan and Zardeh.

West of Zard Kuh, you can find deep valleys and challenging walls that make winter ascents more difficult for mountaineers. It is located in Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari Province, where many nomadic tribes still migrate in the summer. Karun and Zayandehrud are the two major rivers of the country originating from Zard Kuh. The mountain is known for its stunning natural beauty, diverse wildlife, and popular hiking trails.

The best time to climb Zard Kuh is during the months of June and September, when the weather is mild and suitable for climbing. However, it's important to note that weather conditions can change quickly in mountainous regions, so it's advisable to check local forecasts and conditions before planning your climb. Moreover, it's recommended to

climb early in the day to avoid extreme temperatures and afternoon thunderstorms common in mountainous areas.

Alborz Mountains

Narrower than the Zagros Mountains, the Alborz Mountains cover northern Iran, from the southern part of the Caspian Sea to Khorasan provinces.

Damavand

Mount Damavand is the most iconic Iranian mountain to climb. As the highest mountain in Iran, it is in the middle of the Alborz Mountains, in Mazandaran Province, a few hours away from Tehran.

Standing at an impressive height of 5,610 meters, it is a popular destination for mountaineers and hikers. It holds significant cultural and historical importance in Persian mythology and is popular for its stunning beauty.

Mount Damavand, with wild and stunning nature surrounding it, has a conic shape that can be seen from Tehran in clear weather. It has been a symbol of greatness and endurance, often re-

ferred to in Persian culture and poetry, in particular. It is sometimes called "the Roof of Iran". The best time to climb Mount Damavand is during the months of June, July, and August.

Alam Kuh

Alam Kuh is another desirable destination of mountain lovers in Iran. Located in the central Alborz Mountains and Takht-e Soleiman region, Alam Kuh is the second highest mountain in Iran.

Alam Kuh is often called the paradise of mountaineers due to its steep foothills, beautiful glaciers, snowfields and challenging routes. Although Mount Damavand, being the most prominent peak in Iran, has overshadowed Alam Kuh, this amazing summit has a lot to offer to those who are enthusiastic about mountains and trekking. Alam Kuh has a rather humid climate due to its closeness to the Caspian Sea; thus, it is very often rainy. The best time for climbing Alam Kuh is during the months of July and August due to the stable weather; however, climbing this magnificent mountain in

June gives mountaineers the opportunity to see snowfields and enjoy the green valleys. Between mid-September to mid-October the climate is rather dry, without rain and snowfall. As winter approaches, the weather in Mount Alam gets colder and heavy snowfall begins. Thus, no trekking tours are held after October.

Sabalán

Mount Sabalan, located in Ardebil Province, with an altitude of 4,811 meters, is the country's third-highest peak, after Damavand and Mount Alam. Sabalan Lake, located on Sultan Peak, makes it one of the unique mountains in Iran. Alongside the beautiful peaks and natural glaciers of the mountain, this lake attracts many mountaineers every year.

It is a popular destination for adventurers and offers stunning views of the surrounding landscape.

The best time to climb Mount Sabalan is during the months of June, July, and August, when the weather is mild and predictable. It is important to note that the weather conditions can be chal-

lenging and can change rapidly, so climbers should be well-prepared and have appropriate equipment.

Sialan

Located in the Alborz Mountains, Sialan Mountain is one of the highest and most important peaks in the region. It stretches from the breathtaking Daryasar Plain in the north, to the mysterious castles of Alamut in the south.

Sialan peak, with an elevation of 4,175 meters, overlooks the south of the Roodbar Alamut area of Qazvin Province, and north of the Dohezar valley of Tonekabon in Mazandaran Province.

Sialan Mountain is also home to lovely valleys and springs. The time to climb Sialan Mountain would depend on various factors such as weather conditions, accessibility, and personal preferences. However, generally, the best time would be during the dry season, which typically falls between the months of April to October.

In general, the Sialan peak can be traversed from the northern, southern, and ridge directions.

Alam Kuh
hipersia.com



NEWS IN BRIEF

PM:
Malaysia, Iran
to set up joint
commissions



BERNAMA – Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim said Tehran and Kuala Lumpur have agreed to set up two joint committees – Joint Commission Meeting and Joint Economic Commission – to explore all possibilities of cooperation between the two countries. Ibrahim made the comments on Wednesday after his phone conversation with Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, who held a meeting with Malaysian Foreign Minister Zambry Abdul Kadir in Tehran on Tuesday.

**Iran's defense
doctrine
based on
'deterrence'**



IRNA – Iranian Defense Minister Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Ashtiani said on Wednesday that Iran's defense doctrine is based on deterrence. Addressing a group of foreign military attachés in Tehran, Ashtiani said that Iran adheres to all human and moral principles respected by the world and takes military action only against aggression and occupation.

**Iran to pursue
release of
journalist in
Afghanistan**



TASNIM – Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani underlined the ministry's determined efforts to secure the release of a Tasnim news agency photographer detained by the Taliban. Mohammad Hossein Velayati, who had legally entered Afghanistan through an air border and had spent ten days in Kabul, was apprehended without a clear explanation upon his return at Kabul Airport on Sunday.

Iran, India drop arbitration clause for Chabahar port



Iran's Chabahar Port
IRNA

India and Iran have agreed not to seek commercial foreign arbitration for disputes between users and operators at Chabahar Port, paving the way for the two sides to sign a long-term deal for the development of the strategic port, two persons aware of the development said. They said a team from India's Ministry of Port and Shipping is expected to visit Iran in

September to try and reach an agreement over the rules of engagement and mode of arbitration. This would be followed up with the two countries reaching a formal agreement for long-term operation of the port located in South-east Iran, with an unhindered sea route to India's West coast, *livemint.com* reported. "We have agreed that dis-

putes at Chabahar will not go for commercial arbitration in foreign courts but take investment arbitration or other any other mode of dispute settlement. This would prevent Iran from having to amend its Constitution," one of the persons quoted above said. Under Iran's Constitution, an arbitration cannot be referred to a foreign court. It would require a constitutional amend-

ment, which would have been difficult and would have delayed a long-term contract. Currently, India and Iran sign one-year contracts for development and running the terminal at Chabahar Port. However, New Delhi has been pushing Tehran to sign a longer-term agreement as it seeks more certainty for investment and development plans for the port. A long-term contract

may be for a period of 10 years with provisions for automatic renewal. Negotiations on long-term contract had been held up due to disagreements over the arbitration clause. Both sides have now agreed to pursue arbitration under rules framed by the UN Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) which is favored by India over those framed by the International Chambers of

Commerce (ICC). The positive development comes at a time when China has been showing growing interest in investments in ports and other coastal infrastructure in Iran, and the Iranian side has been pressing New Delhi to step up development of Shahid Beheshti terminal, which is operated by the state-run India Ports Global Limited (IPGL).

Qatar: Iran-US ...

"The process of releasing billions of dollars from the assets of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which were illegally seized in South Korea by the United States for several years, has begun," Iranian Foreign Ministry said in a statement on Thursday.

"Iran has received the necessary assurances regarding America's commitment to its obligations in this matter," it added. The deal has drawn criticism from some Republican politicians, with some of them expressing concern about it. Three top House Republicans sent a letter to the Biden administration this week expressing "deep



Qatar's Foreign Ministry spokesman Majed al-Ansari

concern" about what they call potential threats to the US national security from an alleged agreement being kept under wraps between the US and Iran. The Monday letter – signed by House Foreign Affairs Chairman Michael McCaul, House Majority Leader Steve Scalise, and House Republican Conference Chairwoman

Elise Stefanik – criticizes the deal as dangerous for releasing \$6 billion in frozen funds to Iran for the freeing of five American prisoners. The letter also accuses the administration of reaching a secret nuclear understanding with Tehran in the agreement.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Iran-Saudi diplomatic shift

From enmity to cooperation

By Javad
Mohammad Ali
Staff writer

OPINION

Hossein Amir-Abdollahian's recent visit to Saudi Arabia, the first such trip by an Iranian foreign minister to the Arab nation in nearly eight years, marked a milestone in the tumultuous relationship between the two neighbors. The top diplomat's visit culminated in a meeting with Mohammed bin Salman, the influential crown prince and de facto ruler of the oil-rich kingdom, which held the promise of fully restoring ties and ending open hostilities that had plagued the two regional powerhouses for the past seven years.

A similar occasion occurred just a month ago, when Saudi Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan paid a visit to Tehran where he held talks with Ebrahim Raisi, the first such meeting between a Saudi FM and an Iranian president in fifteen years.

Such overtures might seem astonishing, given the backdrop of the past seven years, when the two neighbors found themselves entangled in a web of animosity, each launching even outright attacks on the other. But against all odds, both sides opted for burying the hatchet and rekindling their relationship. The diplomatic shift was manifest in these meetings, as well as the invitations extended to the leaders of both countries to visit each other's capitals. In fact, Farhan gave an invitation to

Raisi to fly to Riyadh, while Amir-Abdollahian reciprocated by inviting Bin Salman to grace Tehran with his presence.

This departure from enmity to friendship symbolizes resilience in settling past disputes and embracing a new chapter. It also highlights Iran's capacity to tackle tough challenges in international relations. Adaptability and the ability to reshape their course are essential traits for any government or nation and Iran's venture into this sphere was crucial to bolster its standing and address pressing issues.

The historical ebb and flow of Iran-Saudi relations, replete with ruptures and rapprochements, testifies to the intrinsic nature of their connection. Despite periods of detachment, they inevitably found their way back to the negotiating table. This pattern highlights a fundamental truth: when countries opt for confrontation, a clear-cut victory remains elusive and competition might inflict damage; but cooperation stands as the most lucrative avenue, yielding mutual benefits.

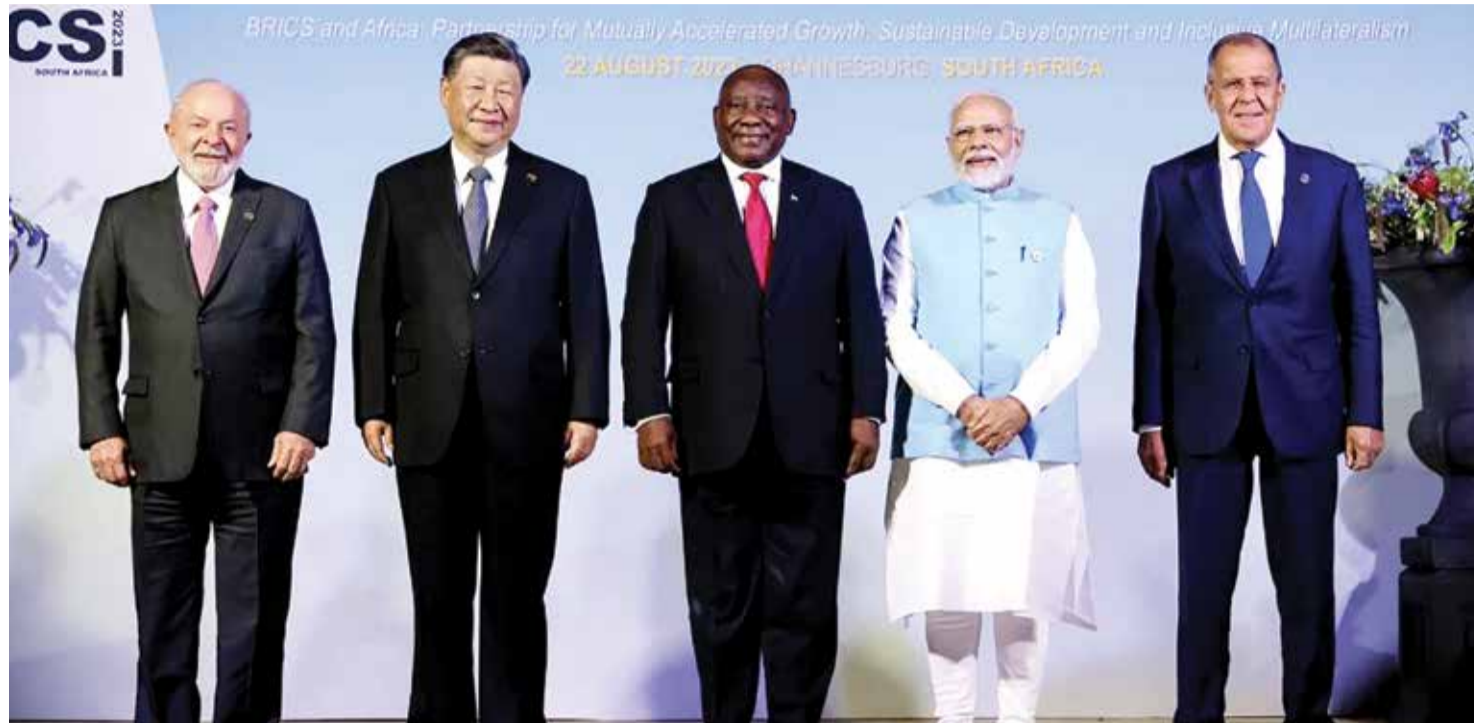
Contemplating the ripple effects of the Iran-Saudi rapport reveals a broader picture. Beyond the two nations, it extends to the entire region and resonates across the global arena. The realms of oil markets, counter-terrorism, cooperation with eastern powers, and maritime security all beckon for joint efforts between Tehran and Riyadh. And in the midst of

turmoil in places like Yemen, Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon, lies the potential for Iran and Saudi Arabia to synergize their measures for shared accomplishments.

One notable area for collaboration arises from Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030, an ambitious blueprint for the nation's future championed by Bin Salman. The initiative envisions a diversification of Saudi Arabia's incomes, liberating the kingdom from the clutches of oil dependency. Monumental projects like the Neom city are set to receive enormous investments amounting to \$500 billion. This presents a golden opportunity for Iran to participate in various sectors, sending skilled labor and engaging its enterprises.

To fully understand the emergent Saudi Arabia needs to discard outdated stereotypes. Its new economic approach hinges on disentangling itself from dependence on oil revenues and nurturing ties with a spectrum of global and regional powers, while pursuing an independent path from the United States. Recognizing this paradigm shift can unlock fresh avenues for mutually beneficial cooperation in economic, political, and security domains. Iran and Saudi Arabia now stand at a crossroads. The opportunity to rewrite their narrative is within their grasp; a narrative that acknowledges shared interests, bridges divisions, and charts a course toward a future of regional prosperity and stability.

Spotlight on Expansion to Change Global Geopolitics



In this photo released by the Russian Foreign Ministry Press Service, Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, Chinese President Xi Jinping, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov pose for a photo on the sideline of the BRICS group of emerging economies three-day summit in Johannesburg, South Africa, on Aug. 22, 2023.
● Russian Foreign Ministry Press Service via AP

International Desk

The BRICS summit commenced in Johannesburg, South Africa, on Wednesday, bringing together the leaders of the current members – Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa with a significant focus on expanding the membership. The discussions around potential new members are poised to reshape global dynamics, as BRICS continues to seek to push for a shift in global geopolitics with Chinese President Xi Jinping calling on the bloc of emerging markets to fast-track a plan to expand its members at the summit in South Africa.

“I am glad to see growing enthusiasm from developing countries about participating in BRICS,” Xi said in a speech at the event on Wednesday, as his country leads a push to give the group more clout on the world stage, Bloomberg reported. The bloc should “accelerate the BRICS expansion process to bring more countries into the BRICS family,” he added. The BRICS club presents a potential to challenge the existing global order and the dominance of unipolarity. Some 20 nations have formally applied to join the grouping – these are reported to include Saudi

Arabia, Indonesia and Egypt. Iran is also among dozens of countries seeking membership in BRICS and has submitted a formal request to join the body. At least 40 countries have shown interest in becoming members, with 23 having submitted their applications. Going into the summit, there was some disagreement over the plan, and how it should be executed. While South Africa and Russia backed the addition of new members, Brazil was worried about alienating the West. Addressing the summit, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi suggested several areas, -- including

New Development Bank of BRICS – where the BRICS partners could cooperate and work together, Times of India reported. “India fully supports the expansion of BRICS membership and we welcome moving forward based on consensus,” Modi said. Shortly after, Xi added that an expanded BRICS would “make global governance more equitable.” Modi hoped that India’s proposal to make the African Union a permanent member of the G20 will be supported by BRICS member nations. Modi welcomed the move to give special importance to countries of the Global South under the South

African presidency of the BRICS and said “We wholeheartedly welcome the move to give special importance to countries of global south under South Africa’s BRICS presidency.” “New Development Bank of BRICS playing important role in development of Global South,” he added. Russian President Vladimir Putin also participated remotely in the three-day meeting of the bloc. He took multiple shots at the West on the opening day of an economic summit in South Africa, using a prerecorded speech that was aired on giant screens Tuesday to rail at what he called “illegitimate sanctions” on his coun-

try and threaten to cut off Ukraine’s grain exports permanently, AP reported. The five BRICS countries are already home to 40% of the world’s population and responsible for more than 30% of global economic output, and more than 20 nations have applied to join, according to South African officials, including Saudi Arabia, Iran and the United Arab Emirates. Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi and Saudi Arabia’s Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan planned to attend the summit. The five current member countries will have to agree on the criteria for new members before any countries are admitted.

Sudan fighting leaves about 500 children dead from hunger: *Charity*

About 500 children have died from hunger in Sudan – including two dozen babies in a government-run orphanage in the capital of Khartoum – since fighting erupted in the East African country in April, a leading aid group said Tuesday. Save the Children also said that at least 31,000 children lack access to treatment for malnutrition and related illnesses since the charity was forced to close 57 of its nutrition centers in Sudan, AP reported. Sudan was plunged into chaos after months-long tensions between the military and a rival paramilitary force exploded into open fighting on April 15. The conflict has turned Khartoum and other urban areas into battlefields. Many residents live without water and electricity, and the country’s health care system has nearly collapsed. “Never did we think we would see children dying from hunger in such numbers, but this is now the reality in Sudan,” said Arif Noor, Save the Children’s director for Sudan. “We are seeing children dying from entirely

preventable hunger.” The violence in Sudan is estimated to have killed at least 4,000 people, according to Liz Throssell, a spokesperson for the UN human rights office. Activists and doctors on the ground, however, say the death toll is likely far higher. Mamadou Dian Balde, the UN East Africa regional refugee chief and coordinator for Sudan, told a UN press conference that 947,000 people have fled Sudan including South Sudanese, Ethiopian and Eritrean refugees who had sought shelter there -- and 3.6 million Sudanese are displaced within the country. Speaking from Sudan’s White Nile state, Balde praised neighboring Chad, Egypt, South Sudan, Ethiopia, and Central African Republic for



opening their borders to those fleeing the fighting. But he expressed concern that recently “we started seeing and witnessing bureaucratic barriers as well as challenges into admission.” Balde urged all countries to keep their doors open. He also urged donors to give generously to the \$566m appeal for Sudanese refugees, which is only 35% funded. Save the Children said that between May and July, at least 316 children, mostly under 5 years of age, died of malnutrition or associated illnesses in the southern White Nile province. More than 2,400 more children have admitted to hospitals in the past eight months with severe acute malnutrition – the deadliest form of malnutrition, it added.

Pakistan’s PM declares resolute against terrorism



By Syed Ali Hassan
Iran Daily’s correspondent in Pakistan

Pakistan’s caretaker Prime Minister Anwarul Haq Kakar has reaffirmed the country’s unyielding commitment to combat extremism and terrorism in the face of growing terrorism within the country’s borders. Kakar’s resolute stance comes after a clash between security forces and terrorists in the tribal district of South Waziristan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, which resulted in the tragic loss of six soldiers. Prime Minister Kakar’s message, delivered in the wake of this deadly encounter, emphasizes Pakistan’s refusal to surrender to the threats posed by terrorism, extremism, and intolerance. He staunchly declared,

“We will not surrender to extremism, terrorism, and intolerance under any circumstances. No matter what happens, we will fight.” This assertion reflects the sentiment that Pakistan’s battle against terrorism is not a mere fleeting endeavor but a sustained commitment. The clash in South Waziristan, which claimed the lives of the brave soldiers, highlights the grave security challenges the nation faces. The outlawed Tehreek Taliban Pakistan and Daesh terrorists have been reported to have established roots within the country, particularly in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa region. The support of the Taliban rulers in Kabul has reportedly emboldened the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan, according to Pakistan’s government and security agencies. While Pakistan remains

resolute in its fight against terrorism, it grapples not only with the security threats but economic hardships. The weakening economy, exacerbated by factors like the uncontrollable value of the dollar and the burden of IMF loans, has put additional strain on the country. This economic instability has further underscored the urgency for Pakistan to tackle terrorism and create an environment conducive to growth and stability. As the prime minister emphasizes Pakistan’s determination to stand firm against terrorism, his words reflect the sentiment of a nation unwilling to be cowed by threats to its peace and security. With ongoing discussions about the way forward, the country remains committed to restoring order and prosperity within its borders.

NEWS IN BRIEF

‘US does not support Ukrainian strikes inside Russia’



REUTERS – The US does not encourage or enable attacks inside Russia, a US State Department spokesperson said after Russian authorities said they downed drones that tried to attack Moscow early on Wednesday.

It is up to Ukraine to decide how it chooses to defend itself from the Russian war that began in February last year, the State Department spokesperson said, adding Russia could end the war any time by withdrawing from Ukraine.

S Korea holds rare air raid drill



REUTERS – Sirens wailed on Wednesday as South Korea held its first nationwide air defence drills in six years to counter what it called North Korea’s growing nuclear and missile threats, but many people appeared to ignore calls to seek shelter. The government has reintroduced the drills into the annual Ulchi civil defence exercises, held alongside the Ulchi Freedom Shield drills, which South Korean and US troops began on Monday.

Greek fires rage after migrant tragedy



BBC – Fires that have claimed 20 lives in Greece are still burning out of control in foothills near Athens and the Evros region near the border with Turkey. Eighteen of those killed are thought to be refugees and migrants who crossed the border recently, hiding in forests north of the city of Alexandroupolis. For five days, fires have burned near the city and west along the coast.

Qasempour major doubt for Wrestling Worlds after second injury blow



iwf.ir

Sports Desk

A second groin injury in three months could force Iran's Kamran Qasempour out of the Wrestling World Championships, starting September 16 in Belgrade, Serbia.

The Iranian, who has dominated the freestyle 92kg class with back-to-back world golds, had already missed the Ranking Series events in June and July after suffering the same problem, though it was on the other leg.

Abazar Eslami, a member of the Iranian coaching staff, told IRNA that Qasempour would undergo an MRI scan before the medical team makes a full assessment of his injury within the coming days. Should Qasempour miss out on the event in the Serbian capital, he will likely be replaced by young prodigy Amir-Ali Azarpira.

Azarpira walked away with the world under-23 gold medals in 2021 and 2022, while he was part of the Iranian seniors' team that finished second to the USA in last December's Freestyle World Cup in Coralville, Iowa, the United States.

Mohammad-Mobin Azimi could also be considered for the 92kg slot in Belgrade after he won the ultimate prize at the U20 World Championships in Amman, Jordan, last week. Milad Valizadeh (57kg), Reza Atri (61kg), reigning world champion Rahman Amouzad (65kg), Amirmohammad Yazdani (70kg), Younes Emami (74kg), Mohammad Nokhodi (79kg), eight-time world and Olympic medalist Hassan Yazdani (86kg), Mojtaba Goleij (97kg), and Amirhossein Zare' (125kg) will also represent the country in the freestyle events in Belgrade, where Iran – runner-up to the USA last year – will be chasing a first freestyle crown in a decade.

Iran's Tractor devastated, misses out on ACL group stage



Sharjah FC skipper Shahin Abdulrahman heads home his team's opening goal in a 3-1 victory over Tractor in the AFC Champions League group stage playoffs at the Yadegar-e Iman Stadium, Tabriz, Iran, on August 22, 2023.

AFC

Sports Desk

Tractor's campaign at the AFC Champions League came to an early finish after the Persian Gulf Pro League club suffered a 3-1 playoff defeat against Emirati side Sharjah FC at home on Tuesday, failing to secure a place in the group stage of competition.

Inspired by former AS Roma and Juventus midfielder Miralem Pjanic, the visitors took the lead in the 25th minute, when Shahin Abdulrahman's free header on a corner kick went past Tractor keeper Hossein Pourhamidi to silence the jam-packed crowd at the Yadegar-e Iman Stadium in Tabriz.

Tractor's desperate push for an equalizer in the second half left Paco Jémez's men vulnerable in the backline and they were punished late as Guinean striker Osmane Camara doubled Sharjah's lead with six minutes left on the clock.

Just when the Tractor faithful were leaving the stadium substitute Meh-



di Hashemnejad headed home two minutes later to give his team a lifeline.

However, Brazilian Caio Lucas shattered Tractor's hopes for a dramatic comeback, sending Pourhamidi the wrong way from the spot in the 90th minute.

The result summed up a dreadful 13 days for Trac-

tor after back-to-back defeats against Sepahan and Persepolis in the start of the new Iranian top-flight season.

Tractor's setback also means Iran will be represented by three clubs in today's draw for the Asian elite clubs' competition at the AFC House in Kuala Lumpur.

Reigning Iranian league and cup champion Persepolis is in Pot 1 of the West Zone and will avoid Saudi Pro League giants Al Hilal and Al Ittihad as well as Qatar's Al Sadd SC, and Pakhtakor of Uzbekistan in the group stage.

The Tehran Reds could still be pitted against Saudi team Al Nassr and its

Portuguese superstar Cristiano Ronaldo in a repeat of the 2020 semifinals, which Persepolis won in the shootout.

Ronaldo and Sadio Mané had Anderson Talisca to thank for a group spot, after the Brazilian scored a brace – including a 95th-minute strike – as Al Nassr came from behind to

beat Shabab Al Ahli Dubai 4-2 in the playoffs on Tuesday.

Runner-up to Persepolis in the Iranian league last season, Sepahan is joined by the 2022 Hazfi Cup champion Nassaji Mazandaran in Pot 2 – also featuring Qatari club Al Duhail SC, Uzbekistan's FC Nasaf, and Saudi side Al Fayha FC.

World Athletics Championships: Italian Tamberi wins thrilling high jump final

REUTERS – Italy's Olympic champion and showman Gianmarco Tamberi captured the high jump title at the World Athletics Championships on Tuesday, in a dramatic finish against young American JuVaughn Harrison.

Tamberi, who famously shared the Olympic title with three-time world champion Mutaz Barshim of Qatar, cleared a world-leading 2.36 metres for gold. He missed at one attempt at 2.40 and then called it a night, his victory secured.

"I feel like a human being who beats superheroes," Tamberi said.

The 31-year-old Tamberi, wearing one green sock and one red, and his face shaved on only one side, leapt into the water hazard of the steeplechase in wild celebration with Soufiane El Bakkali of Morocco, who had just raced to gold in the men's 3,000m steeplechase.

"It's crazy, it's an indescribable feeling," Tamberi said. "I have been rewarded for all the sacrifices made."

"I managed to stay focused, expressing my feelings. My secret is being myself on the platform. It worked," he added.

The 24-year-old Harrison also cleared 2.36 but had more misses on the countback, and so took silver for his first senior global medal. "I think this was the best year of my career," Harrison said. "I was consistent in every competition. After qualification I was about to have fun in the final and enjoy the jumps."

"It is fantastic that I beat one of the Olympic winners and I equalled the other. This is what I came for. This result gives me a great confidence for the Olympic Games in Paris."

Barshim cleared 2.33 for bronze, missing at all three attempts at 2.36. The 32-year-old, who has the second best jump in history – 2.43 behind Cuban great Javier Sotomayor (2.45 in 1993) – looked in for a rough night when he missed his first attempt at 2.25.

"Everything was different today," Barshim said. "I came here with three world golds and one silver and managed to add a bronze tonight. Look at my career. If it was not me that did this, but someone else, I would like to be that someone. I am the only high jumper with such a medal count. This almost brings tears to my eyes."



Italian Gianmarco Tamberi competes in the men's high jump final at the World Athletics Championships in Budapest, Hungary, on August 22, 2023.

EPA

"The rivalry between all the jumpers was incredible. I am happy that Tamberi won the gold," he added. "It was a medal he was missing from his CV and he added it tonight. The Paris Olympics is my next goal but it will be my last. It will be more like a contest, not revenge."

Elsewhere in Budapest's National Athletics Centre, Olympic gold medallist El Bakkali claimed his second consecutive world 3,000 metres steeplechase title.

The 27-year-old held off world record holder and Olympic silver medallist

Lamecha Girma of Ethiopia to win in eight minutes 3.53 seconds.

The 22-year-old Girma, who blazed to 7:52.11 at the Paris Diamond League on June 9 to break the 19-year-old world record, lost contact with El Bakkali over the final water jump en route

to his third world silver in 8:05.44.

Kenyan Abraham Kibiwot clipped a barrier and fell heading into the final lap but scrambled back to his feet and then overtook team mate Leonard Kipkemoi Bett to take a well-earned bronze in 8:11.98.

Iran sees progress in knowledge-based pharmaceuticals

Social Desk

The Vice President of Research and Technology at the Ministry of Health, Treatment, and Medical Education announced that there are currently 800 research centers operating, including 52 centers specifically focused on pharmaceuticals. Additionally, there are 1,285 knowledge-based companies in the health sector. These companies contribute to 40 percent of the production of raw materials and their growth has accelerated during the current administration, IRNA reported.

Younes Panahi shared this information during his speech at a three-day conference on the future of pharmaceuticals held at Olympic Hotel on Wednesday. He emphasized that scientific circles have recognized the significance of advancements in pharmaceuticals. Leading universities worldwide have prioritized meeting society's healthcare needs through research endeavors.

Furthermore, Panahi stated that there are currently 257 scientists working in various health-related fields across our country, with 28 percent specializing in pharmaceuticals. Notably, first-rate scientific journals focus on pharmaceutical topics while researchers strive for scientific excellence within this field.

Panahi highlighted how

pharmacy is highly regarded within scientific communities today as it addresses a crucial societal need for medicine and medical equipment. He emphasized that science cannot progress without financial resources.

Heydar Mohammadi, head of Iran's Food and Drug Organization also addressed attendees at this conference by emphasizing Iran's achievements despite harsh sanctions impacting its pharmaceutical industry. Mohammadi proudly stated that we now produce 99 percent of drugs domestically; even amidst COVID-19 pandemic challenges, six domestic corona vaccines were successfully developed—an impressive testament to our nation's capabilities.

Mohammadi stressed that cell therapy discussions hold great importance as a significant portion of required raw materials is produced internally—underscoring further research efforts needed in this area to avoid neglecting its potential benefits. Regarding export opportunities, he urged pharmaceutical manufacturers to support increased activity in this field. He expressed satisfaction with current growth but emphasized the need for continued expansion.

Pharmacists' presence in hospitals was deemed necessary by the official as it aids patient treatment



processes. Additionally, efforts are being made to address concerns related to medical service tariffs during the country's 7th Development Plan to ensure pharmacists' well-being is not compromised. He also expressed hope that with pharmacists playing a vital role, our country would soon achieve complete drug self-sufficiency—realizing a fully functional production and supply chain for pharmaceutical items.

Mohammad Raieszadeh, head of the country's top medical organization, stressed the criticality of considering future advancements in medical sciences and pharmaceuticals. Failing to keep up with these changes could lead us into a disadvantaged position within tomorrow's world. Ignoring the importance of medicine and pharmaceuticals is not an option. Raieszadeh further emphasized that pharmaceu-

tical science and industry are strategic sectors within our nation. Therefore, it is crucial that we unite in supporting this industry rather than allowing other organizations to encroach upon its domain. The progress and development of Iran's pharmaceutical industry should be championed alongside recognizing the contributions of professors and veterans who have dedicated their expertise towards advancing this field.

Fukushima wastewater to be pumped into ocean this week



Japan has announced plans to release wastewater from the stricken Fukushima-Daiichi nuclear plant into the ocean starting Thursday.

Here is what we know about the release, how the water has been treated and concerns around the safety of the exercise, according to AFP. Around 100,000 liters of contaminated water – from cooling the crippled plant's reactors as well as groundwater and rain seeping in – is collected at the site in northeast Japan every day.

Some 1.34 million tons are now stored in around a thousand steel containers at the seaside site, and now there is no more space, authorities say.

Japan decided in 2021, after years of discussion, that it would release at most around 500,000 liters per day into the sea via a pipe one kilometer long.

Plant operator TEPCO says that a special filtering system called ALPS has removed all radioactive elements except tritium.

TEPCO has said it has diluted the water to reduce radioactivity levels.

Tony Hooker, nuclear expert from the University of Adelaide, said that the level of tritium is well below the World Health Organization drinking water limit of 10,000 Bq/L.

"Tritium is regularly released from nuclear power facilities into waterways worldwide," Hooker told AFP.

"For decades (there have been) no evidential detrimental environmental or health effects," he said.

UN atomic watchdog the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has said the release meets international standards and "will not cause any harm to the environment."

The Japanese government has spent months trying to win over skeptics at home and abroad, with everything from study tours of Fukushima to video live-streams of fish living in the wastewater. Tokyo has also sought to counter disinformation being peddled online about the release, such as manipulated or old photos and claims – denied by Japan – that it bribed the IAEA.

The far more dangerous task remains removing radioactive debris and highly dangerous nuclear fuel from the three reactors that went into meltdown in 2011.

TEPCO plans to use robots to remove the fuel but there are fears that radiation levels are so high that they could even disable the remote-controlled machines.

The whole gargantuan process is expected to take 30 to 40 years and cost around eight trillion yen (\$55 billion).

A peek from other side of the fence



By Ali Amiri
Staff writer

For several years now, it seems that there is a no love lost between the Iranian public and the country's doctors. This sour relationship occasionally manifests itself on social media during medical controversies, such as the case of late Iranian director Abbas Kiarostami, or when a doctor makes a bold statement that goes viral.

Reasons for this strained relationship are manifold. One common complaint among Iranians is that doctors often disregard their patients' time by making them wait unnecessarily for examinations. On top of that, there are concerns about the quality of care provided. Put such complaints alongside the "good life" that doctors are perceived to live, and you might begin to understand why there is so much hostility towards physicians in Iran.

One part of the problem might be the fact that different sectors of Iranian society usually cannot commu-

nicate well with each other. More often than not, there are misconceptions and even myths about professions in Iran, and medicine is no exception. However, doctors are not helping since they usually act like a clan, excluding other people from their circles, or defending their peers even when they are wrong.

Yet, it would be very difficult to refute the role doctors play in any given society since they are our saviors, the ones we turn to when we are facing dangers to our well-being. What perhaps the Iranian public does not know, is the fact that these heroes in white coats spend many years in training to become doctors, and have to spend their entire careers studying to remain updated.

In order to gain a better understanding of the medical training Iranian doctors receive, and the challenges they face in their careers, we turned to Negin Namavari, a 28-year-old, recently graduated medical doctor, who is serving in a disadvantaged village in southern parts of Fars Province, between Shiraz and Jahrom.

"The village I'm practicing in right now didn't use to have a residing doctor," she says, adding, "So the people here really appreciate me, which makes me feel good." For many of us, the idea of spending the early years of our careers in an underprivileged area might be off-putting. Yet, young Iranian doctors are welcomed into the profession by practicing in health care centers scattered across the country, many of them located in villages in underdeveloped regions.

"Although, it's good to be able to grow as a doctor, and become able to take care of a patient all by yourself," says Negin. The path for her and her peers to become physicians is a long, exhausting one – one that many of us would not dare to cross. After taking on the national university entrance exams head on, they start their training by learning so much, so fast about basic science.

"It takes five semesters, and after that there will be a general exam to check if we have learned the basics of the profession well," Negin says.

Passing the exam, they qualify for the physiopathology, where in a year they learn all about diseases, and how they affect the organs.

"This is when our lessons become more clinical and functional," she says, adding, "So, that makes it three and a half years of training just to gain a theoretical basis for medicine."



Then they become medical stagers, which goes on for two years. One year as a medical student and the other as an extern. During this time, they come into contact with patients, and are required to learn the proper ways of examination. Spending time in hospitals, dealing with sick people is no picnic.



Negin Namavari, a recently graduated medical doctor currently serving in a small village in Fars Province, Iran.

The villagers appreciate their first-ever residing doctor by bringing her delicacies.

IRAN DAILY

TO BE CONTINUED

Iranian Ajdari among top six Hollywood musicians

Arts & Culture Desk

TASNIM - Iranian composer and musician, Mohammadreza Ajdari, with his composition 'Autumn Girl', secured a spot among the top six musicians in the instrumental category of the Hollywood Independent Music Awards 2023.

Ajdari, as the sole representative from Iran in the instrumental music category, showcased his talent and placed both his name and his country among the elite in the Hollywood Independent Music Awards 2023.

Last year, Ajdari's 'Nil' drove him into the top 10 global contenders at the Hollywood Music Awards. Earlier, the Iranian composer won a silver medal in the instrumental category of the Global Music Awards 2023. Ajdari, a graduate of Tehran University, specializes in international instrumental performance.

Founding the Padramad Orchestra in 2014, he conducted numerous concerts until 2017 and since then, shifted his focus towards producing his own works.

In 2018, he unveiled his first work, 'Miracle of Love'. Throughout the previous years, he has consistently released a host of individual compositions. Ajdari's works are characterized by a serene, New Age style, providing listeners with a tranquil experience upon engaging with his compositions.

Iran's 'Between the Cliffs' to hit screen in S Korea

MEHR - Iran's cinematic creation, 'Between the Cliffs,' will hit the silver screen during the 11th edition of the Seoul International Children's Film Festival (SICFF), scheduled to take place from September 13 to 20.

Directed by Mokhtar Abdollahi, 'Between the Cliffs' will be competing alongside a selection of six other motion pictures representing the United States (2 films), South Korea, Japan, and Norway (2 films).

The storyline of 'Between the Cliffs' revolves around the journey of a young boy and his little sister. Their tale unfolds as they undertake the responsibility of herding cattle across the elevated terrain of a mountain, a task that leads them to unexpected discoveries and challenges.

'Between the Cliffs' has already won recognition on the international stage. It received two awards within the children's cinema category at the 2023 Russian Within the Family Film Festival. The movie's brilliance was acknowledged through the Best Film Award and the Best Actor Award.

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Achaemenid, Sassanian works shine in Hamedan exhibition



An art exhibition, featuring 11 exquisite golden and silver Achaemenid and Sassanian artifacts, which opened on August 24, will run through August 28 at Hegmataneh Museum in Hamedan Province.

Arts & Culture Desk

A collection of 11 exquisite Achaemenid and Sassanian artifacts is on display in Hegmataneh Museum, coinciding with the UNESCO assessor's visit to Hamedan. The exhibition features 11 masterpieces crafted from gold and silver, spanning the eras of Achaemenid to Sassanian.

According to ISNA, the displayed items include a golden rhyton adorned with a lion and bird wings, a golden Achaemenid dagger,

a Sassanian silver plate, a silver Achaemenid rhyton, a stone capital from the Achaemenid period featuring an intricately carved bull, a golden Achaemenid bowl, a silver Achaemenid amphora, a silver plate depicting a Sassanian queen, and a golden Achaemenid bracelet.

The gilded and golden collection, discovered in the ancient precincts of Hamedan, is normally housed in the National Museum of Iran. For this temporary display, the artifacts

have been carefully transported to the Hegmataneh Museum with security measures in place.

The occasion of the UNESCO delegate's visit to Hamedan and showcasing the ancient artifacts is being done with a focus on the Hegmataneh archaeological site. Pending a positive evaluation and UNESCO's confirmation, the dossier for 'Hegmataneh and the historical center of Hamadan' is ready for global recognition at a future UNESCO assembly.

The exhibition will run through August 28.



Golden bowl

Silver plate

Gilded silver plate

Achaemenid capital

Silver utensil

Golden bracelet

Golden dagger

Golden rhyton

Silver cup

Iranian filmmaker Ebrahim Golestan dies at 101

Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian filmmaker Ebrahim Taqavi Shirazi, known as Ebrahim Golestan, died late on Tuesday away from home in England at the age of 101, his daughter Lili announced his death in an Instagram post.

Golestan was born in 1922 in the southern



Iranian city of Shiraz and became an outstanding filmmaker and literary figure with half a century of a shining career.

He established his own studio in 1957, where he made 'A Fire' (1961), 'Wave, Coral and Rock' (1962), 'The Hills of Marlik' (1963), and 'The Crown Jewels of Iran' (1965) among other masterpieces.

Golestan immigrated to England for the first time in 1967 and returned to Iran in 1972. He left his homeland again in 1977, and lived in England for the rest of his life.

Arts and culture run deep in his family. His daughter Lili is a respected translator and author, his late son Kaveh was a photojournalist and documentary filmmaker, and his grandson Mani Haqiqi is a prominent filmmaker, actor, and scriptwriter.

In 1947, he penned his first short story collection titled 'Off to Bur-

glary,' and later appeared in the collection 'Azar, the Last Month of Autumn' in 1949.

Golestan also translated stories by Ernest Hemingway, William Faulkner, and Anton Chekhov, which he compiled into a collection called 'Shipwrecks.'

In 1957, Golestan published his story collection 'Shadow-Hunting.'" Throughout most of his stories, he narrated the lives of individuals struggling with failures and setbacks while pursuing grand ambitions. Golestan was one of the early contemporary Iranian writers to emphasize the importance of narrative prose and innovative storytelling structures, contributing significantly to the progression of modern Persian storytelling.

Hassan Mirabedini, a prominent literary figure, regarded Golestan as one of the most dedicated followers of American fiction writ-

ers in Iran. While he achieved remarkable success in capturing the storytelling style of Faulkner, especially in the collection 'Azar, the Last Month of Autumn,' Golestan believed he himself had gone beyond Hemingway's techniques. Mohammad Qa'ed described Golestan's writing style as rhythmically formal and ornate. Although some of his works can offer insights into various writing styles, Golestan's style is characterized by deliberate artistry.

Golestan's distinctive feature was his creation of interconnected story collections, a concept relatively new to Iranian literature. He published four collections of short stories and two novellas.

Golestan himself reflected on his filmmaking career, stating, "I aimed to create cinema, and the cinema I wanted differs from simply using images to illustrate a concept."