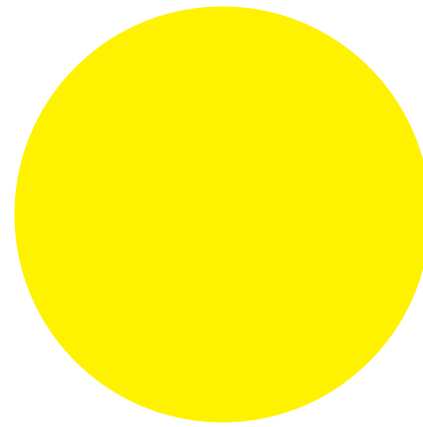




**Five-year strategic plan prepared for IRISL:CEO** 2 >



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# Iran Daily

During Saudi officials' meeting with Iran FM

## Riyadh speaks 'positively' of Damascus

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said that during his latest trip to Saudi Arabia, he received positive statements from Saudi officials regarding Syria. "Today, I am in Damascus to have talks about these re-

marks as well as bilateral, regional, and international issues," he added, according to Press TV. Amir-Abdollahian arrived in Syria on Wednesday to hold talks with the Arab country's senior officials on the latest

regional and international developments and discuss ways to further strengthen relations between Tehran and Damascus. "Given the fresh developments in the region, we are witnessing a new and positive chapter

in the relations in the region," Amir-Abdollahian told reporters upon arrival in Damascus. Hours earlier, Amir-Abdollahian announced in a post on his X social media account that he had departed for Syria to expedite the implementation

of the agreements reached between the presidents of the two countries. Amir-Abdollahian also said his trip was aimed at strengthening the policy of neighborliness in the region, underlining Iran's focus on the establish-

ment of stability and peace in Syria. Back in May, Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi and his Syrian counterpart Bashar al-Assad signed 15 documents in Damascus to expand cooperation between the two countries.



## Leader Hails Joining Int'l Bodies

Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei (L) addresses the Iranian cabinet members on the occasion of the Government Week in Tehran on August 30, 2023. [khamenei.ir](http://khamenei.ir)



**Picturesque town of Dalahu hosting Arbaeen pilgrims** 3 >



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*Child influencers*  
**'Abusive parents' to come under scrutiny** 7 >

### Is US seeking to prompt an Asian NATO?

Washington portraying Beijing as security threat

By Ebrahim Beheshti  
Staff writer

#### INTERVIEW

Korea reached an agreement at Camp David on Aug. 18 to expand security and economic cooperation. The move is said to be aimed at forming a united front against North Korea and countering China's increasing influence. The alignment could potentially pave the way for an Asian version of NATO. Iran Daily interviewed Jah-

angir Izadi, an international relations expert, to explore the United States' motives behind entering into this deal.

**From your perspective, what goals is the United States pursuing by expanding its influence in the Southeast Asia region while forging a new pact with South Korea and Japan?**

The US actions in Southeast Asia are driven by a set of goals, ranging from securing gains to overcoming challenges. Page 5 >

### Climate change a matter of life and death for a billion people: Study

A recent review of scientific articles on the impact of climate change on human lives has revealed a distressing prediction - approximately one billion people could die from climate-related disasters in the next century.

This estimate is based on an assumption known as the '1000-ton rule', which suggests that every thousand tons of carbon emissions indirectly contribute to future deaths, according to a paper published in Energies. If global temperatures rise by 2°C above preindustrial levels, which are likely to happen in the coming decades, we can expect a significant loss of life. For every 0.1°C increase



in temperature, around 100 million deaths could occur. Following this pattern, if we continue with our current actions and fail to act swiftly, anthropogenic global warming could result in a billion premature deaths over the next hundred years. Page 7 >



## NEWS IN BRIEF

**US GDP growth in second quarter revised down**

AFP – Economic growth in the United States was weaker than first estimated for the April to June period, the Commerce Department said Wednesday, noting downward revisions in business investment.

GDP growth in the world's biggest economy came in at 2.1 percent for the second quarter, down from the initial estimate of 2.4 percent released in July.

**Switzerland drafts tighter rules to combat money laundering**

REUTERS – Switzerland on Wednesday said it had drafted new rules to tighten perceived cracks in its money laundering regulations, holding lawyers and consultants accountable for reporting risks and stepping up oversight of legal entities, such as trusts.

The new rules, drafted by the Swiss government, will be presented to parliament in 2024 following consultation. Switzerland, whose banks make it the world's biggest manager of offshore wealth, has long sought to fight its old image as a place for criminals to stash ill-gotten gains.

**European EV sales up over 60%**

CNBC – European new car registrations jumped 15.2% in July, the 12th consecutive month of growth as the auto industry recovers from pandemic-related supply chain issues, data from the European Automobile Manufacturers Association (ACEA) showed on Wednesday.

Electric vehicle sales jumped 60.6%, continuing a rise buoyed by subsidies in a number of European Union countries. Full EVs accounted for 13.6% of all new car sales, up from under 10% in July 2022.

**Five-year strategic plan prepared for IRISL: CEO****Economy Desk**

A five-year strategic plan has been finalized for the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines (IRISL), the head of the company said on Wednesday.

Speaking to IRNA, Mohammadreza Modarres

Khiabani said that the document had been revised and modified with respect to domestic conditions and global markets.

He also outlined some of the major achievements of the IRISL over the past two years after the incumbent government

took office in August 2021.

Registering new records in cargo transportation, launching regular shipping lines to Venezuela, Africa, and Syria, as well as activating the International North-South Transit Corridor to promote trade with the

northern neighbors and the Caspian Sea littoral states were among the most outstanding feats of the IRISL according to Khiabani.

Referring to the government approach of sea-oriented economy, he noted that the first meeting of the Supreme

Council of Marine Industries was held this Iranian year with President Ebrahim Raeisi in attendance, during which it was decided to proceed with the renovation of the country's marine fleet.

The IRISIL, with the aim of supporting domestic

industries and manufacturers, has ordered the construction of four multipurpose vessels with the Iranian Sadra Shipbuilding Company. Khiabani also said the sea transport capacity in the Caspian basin had increased by about 20 percent.

**MoU inked to support handwoven carpet cooperatives****Economy Desk**

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between Iran National Carpet Center and the Ministry of Labor to support handwoven carpet cooperatives. The agreement will enable cooperatives on holding

training courses, supporting integrated insurance coverage of carpet weavers who are members of the cooperatives, allocation of facilities for member cooperatives and introduce representatives of the cooperatives to be included in the trade delegations of Iran to the target

markets, according to IRNA. Mehdi Maskani, the deputy of cooperative affairs in the Ministry of Cooperation, Labor and Social Welfare said that since Iran's carpet industry is wellknown internationally, the MoU can help advertising Iranian carpets in the world.

Iran's carpet industry is wellknown internationally.  
IRNA

**5,400 idle industrial units resume production****Economy Desk**

IRNA

A total of 5,400 idle industrial units have resumed production since the current Iranian government assumed office in August 2021, an official at the Industry, Mine and Trade Ministry said Wednesday.

According to Ali Karimpour Natanzi, the executive officer of the government's

taskforce to relaunch inactive plants and factories, said 118,000 labor force restarted their work after the dormant units, IRNA reported.

"There are currently 52,000 inactive units across the country, of which 12,000 are in industrial zones," Natanzi said.

According to the official, lack of investment is the main challenge that the country's industrial manufacturing units are facing.

In the past few years, many of these units have been struggling with financial issues as well as procuring raw materials, so that, many have been forced to shut down or scale back their operations

**First transit train from Russia to KSA in Bandar Abbas**

The first transit train carrying goods from Russia arrived in Bandar Abbas, in the southern Iranian province of Hormuzgan, where it unloaded its

consignment before being shipped to Saudi Arabia. The cargo train, pulling 28 cars, discharged 36 containers onboard to complete legal formalities

before loading them on a ship to be sent to Jeddah port of Saudi Arabia, according to Alireza Nasiri Barazandeh, the caretaker of the Railway Department of Hormuzgan, IRNA reported on Wednesday. Choosing the Bandar Ab-

bas route for the transit of goods from Russia to Saudi Arabia will not only boost Iran's customs revenues but also invigorate loading and unloading zones in the southern province. It will also reduce the risks associated with road transportation.

Improving cultivation and harvesting methods	Agricultural infrastructure development
Implementation of farming contract plan on 1.5 million hectare area	
Gov't announcement of reasonable prices for guaranteed purchases	
114% increase in guaranteed purchase of wheat compared to two years ago	
Production of 10 million tons of wheat since March 2023, boosting the bargaining power of Iran	
Self-sufficiency in supplying the needed flour for bakeries	
Improving the country's food security	Forex savings up to \$2 billion

**Iran gains self-sufficiency in wheat production**

IRNA



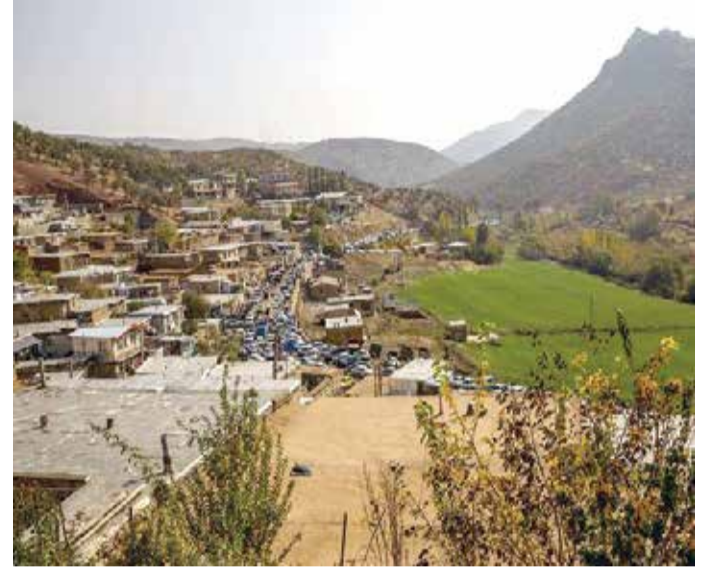
# Picturesque town of Dalahu hosting Arbaeen pilgrims



● ISNA



● IRNA



● IRNA

## Iranica Desk

Dalahu, a hidden gem nestled 90 kilometers west of Kermanshah, the capital city of the western province of Kermanshah, is captivating tourists with its extraordinary blend of natural wonders, rich history, and hospitable locals. Currently, the town is bustling with visitors as it graciously accommodates a significant influx of Arbaeen pilgrims. The Arbaeen pilgrimage, also known as Arbaeen Walk, is an important religious gathering observed by Shia Muslims. It commemorates the martyrdom of Imam Hussein (PBUH), the

third Imam of Shia Muslims. The pilgrimage takes place annually on the 40th day after the day of Ashura, which marks Imam Hussein's martyrdom. Millions of Shia Muslims from around the world travel to the holy city of Karbala in Iraq to pay their respects to Imam Hussein (PBUH) and his loyal companions. According to Farshad Mahtabi, the head of the Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department of Dalahu, it is the sixth town that visitors pass through, after entering Kermanshah to reach the Khosravi border. It is an important route for religious pilgrims travel-

ing to Iraq. He said that due to the substantial influx of visitors, the town has decided to take advantage of this opportunity to showcase its tourist attractions. As a result, specific plans have been developed to achieve this objective, ISNA wrote. Dalahu, a vibrant city with a rich cultural heritage, has earned the prestigious title of "The National City of Tambourine" due to its deep-rooted history and the extraordinary skills of its people in playing and crafting this timeless instrument. Referring to the abundant natural and historical sites of Dalahu, Mahtabi said that

Piran waterfall, one of the tallest in Iran, is a beautiful natural attraction drawing tourists from all over the country to the region every year. Additionally, he mentioned that the roaring Rijab waterfall offers a refreshing and picturesque view, making it a worthwhile stop for pilgrims on their way back from their journey. Yazdgerd Castle, located in Zardeh village, is a significant historical monument in the region. It dates back to the Parthian and Sassanid eras, making it an important site with a rich heritage. The castle is renowned for its age and robust fortifications,

making it one of the oldest and most fortified castles in Iran. The castle holds great cultural and historical values, attracting visitors from all around the country. He said that according to local legends, this ancient castle was believed to have served as a refuge for Yazdgerd III, the last Sassanid king, during the Arab invasion of the region. The Aboudjaneh Mausoleum is a prominent tourist site in the city, known for its distinctive architecture and cone-shaped domes. It consists of eight tomb buildings, each with its own unique design. The mausoleum is situated in a vast ancient

cemetery that spans three hectares. According to archaeologists, these buildings have a long history, dating back to the middle of the Islamic period. The Abdullah ibn Omar Mosque of Dalahu is also one of the historical mosques in the country, dating back to the early Islamic period. "Dalahu is a land of heavenly fruits. The orchards of figs, olives, and grapes in Rijab are known for their abundance and high quality. The town of Gahvareh is renowned for its apple orchards, which produce a wide variety of apples known for their exceptional taste and quality.

**Dalahu, a vibrant city with a rich cultural heritage, has earned the prestigious title of "The National City of Tambourine" due to its deep-rooted history and the extraordinary skills of its people in playing and crafting this timeless instrument.**

Our human cognition is so overwhelmed by "culture" that it is almost impossible to divest our philosophy on culture of cultural influences. It is difficult for us to come up with a precise definition of culture, the way we cannot figure out the genuine boundary of the universe surrounding us. Human nature gave way to culture that gradually became omnipresent in every aspect of our notions and actions. Our ancestors invented culture that set them apart from other mammals, by flouting the laws of nature. Culture is the fruit of human self-awareness, which was reflected for the first time in the prehistoric cave drawings, human or animal figurines, beads or other ornaments. Those humans with such cognitive skills could not only mastermind a set of elaborate tools and group activities, but could also express their fears, imaginations, hopes and admirations for their place in the intricacies of nature. Culture enhanced our ancestors' capability of adapting to environmental change. When humans stepped out of the natural boundaries of space and time, they entered a dy-



amic territory called culture. Every mammal lives in a standard ecological niche, whereas humans are spread out almost everywhere on this planet, from the North Pole to Antarctica. They have gained the capability to break free from space and time through their culture. Inuit gave a new identity to their space by inventing a myriad of tools and techniques, in fact through their cultural adaptation to such a frigid environment that naturally did not favor human existence at all. The same story

unfolded on the Iranian Plateau where the desert's water scarcity and harsh environment do not fit in with the humans' physical capabilities bestowed on them by their biological evolution. They had to step out of their arid space in order to survive their thirst and hunger. Thus, they developed a dynamic water culture that established a new balance between their communities and their natural environment. In the heart of the desert, thousands of water streams sprang up

and a myriad of green gardens appeared all over the landscape, which defied all spatial and temporal limitations. Hence, water became part of an inherently shared, cross-cultural experience. Altogether water is the most abundant element on the earth and is also the most serious problem that humans have ever faced in the course of their history, a problem that used to overwhelm humans because of whether its influx or its scarcity. We set foot in the world with plenty of water

that makes up about 80% of our body as infant. Somewhere between 70 and 75% of the earth's surface is covered with water. Hence, we are surrounded all the way by water in our environment and we are also awash with water inside our own bodies. For both purposes — preservation of water for humans and protection of humans against water hazards — the ancient people came to invent a variety of technologies and systems, each of which left a deep historical impact on human cul-

ture. Hence, water is the only chemical substance whose footprint is visible throughout our culture. Almost every culture used to worship a water deity whose duty was to protect water supplies for humans or to safeguard the humans against water hazards or both. Water has been engraved on Iranian culture so deeply that it can be traced back to the mysterious seclusion of the Sufi monks. For example, Ibn Arabi (1165-1240 CE) gave a metaphorical meaning to "water" in order to clarify his cosmological



Karun River  
● worldatlas.com

teachings that had a great influence on the Iranian Sufism for centuries. He used this metaphor to characterize the notion of multiplicity in the face of the "Unity of Existence". According to his school of thought, water exemplifies the pure existence that is intrinsically united but at the same time manifested in such multiple forms as drops, sea, wave, river, moisture, rain, cloud, dew, hail, snow and ice. And multiple manifestations of water — as a metaphor for the pure existence — lead to the creation of various characteristics like purity, fluidity, necessity, omnipresence, freshness, shapelessness, transparency, and so on. Many Persian poets and philosophers later echoed this notion that became the cornerstone of their mystical interpretation. Water leaked into the philosophical minds attempting to find an explanation for the existence of universe, as described in a Zoroastrian philosophy according to which water is one of the four fundamental elements of the creation.



## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Indigenous radars give Iran edge



**TASNIM** – Homegrown radars and missile systems have helped Iran emerge as one of the world's strongest air defense powers, Commander of the Iranian Army's Air Defense Force said.

With homegrown systems and radars at their bases, the Iranian Air Defense is monitoring each and every movement of the enemies, Alireza Sabahifard said on Wednesday.

He made it clear that Iran has no problem in detecting, tracking, intercepting, and destroying any type of aerial target from any generation.

## UN lauds Iran's aid to Afghan refugees



**IFP** – The United Nations commended Iran, as the second largest host of refugees in the world, for its health services to Afghan migrants and refugees, promising more support for future efforts.

"The UN Population Fund has signed an agreement with (Iranian) health authorities to provide midwifery and nursing skill-based education to Afghan women and girls who are currently in Iran," UN spokesperson Stephane Dujarric told a press conference on Tuesday.

## Iran's annual handicrafts exports at \$300m



**IRNA** – An Iranian official said Wednesday that the country's handicrafts exports had reached nearly \$300 million per year.

The main destinations for the exports are the Persian Gulf littoral states and Iraq, said Mohammad-Hossein Askarpour, a senior official with Iran's Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts.



The Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution (2nd-L) speaks with cabinet members in Tehran, Iran, on August 30, 2023  
● [khamenei.ir](http://khamenei.ir)

## Leader hails joining int'l bodies

Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei expressed his gratitude to President Raeisi's government for its foreign policy achievements including its "neighborliness policy" and efforts to join international organizations. The neighborliness policy must be pursued vigorously, he stressed during a Wednesday meeting with Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi and members of his

cabinet in Tehran on the occasion of the Government Week, according to Press TV. "We must not be in conflict with any of our neighbors," Ayatollah Khamenei said. "Every conflict must be turned into cooperation. This is doable and has already been done to some extent." He also described Iran's membership in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and the BRICS

group of emerging economies as two great achievements within a short span of time. "Gaining membership in two important international bodies in a short period of time was a great success," the Leader said, arguing that the developments demonstrate Iran's clout has grown to such an extent that "the founders of these international agreements are willing — and sometimes insist

— to include our beloved country among them."

## Sanctions must be 'neutralized'

Ayatollah Khamenei also said the anti-Iran sanctions are intended to take people's livelihood hostage, calling for attempts to "neutralize" the bans while pursuing negotiations for lifting them. He added that it is a pity that the Iranian government's positive measures

are being overshadowed by livelihood problems such as the high cost of housing and rent.

The Leader advised officials to consider the effects of their economic decisions on issues of wealth inequality, market stability, exchange rate, inflation, etc.

Ayatollah Khamenei said that he has supported every Iranian government despite their different ideologies for more than three

decades, adding that in addition to supporting the incumbent government, he would like to express his praise for it.

"What I want to emphasize is that a significant number of macroeconomic indicators show growth and progress," he added.

Unfortunately, the Leader lamented, the incumbent government is not eloquent enough in presenting what it has done to the public.

## Iran's nuclear tech has overcome '20 years of sabotage'

The photo released by the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran on July 2, 2020, shows a building after it was damaged by a fire at the Natanz uranium enrichment facility as a result of sabotage.

● AP



The head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) said the country has managed to advance its nuclear technology despite facing two decades of industrial sabotage.

"Assassination of [Iran's nuclear] scientists, sanctions, psychological operations, and recourse to international organizations to exert more pressure on Iran... none could impede the advancement of the country's nuclear science," Mohammad Eslami said on Tuesday, Press TV reported.

Israel has assassinated as many as seven Iranian nuclear scientists and targeted Iran's nuclear installations on several occasions with its terrorist attacks.

In line with its attempts to cast Iran's nuclear energy

program in a bad light, Israel's officials have, one after another, also been running a raucous propaganda campaign to sabotage the Islamic Republic's nuclear activities.

This is while, the Israeli regime itself is the Middle East region's sole possessor of nuclear weapons that has — thanks to the support of its oldest and strongest ally, the United States — evaded joining the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Eslami reminisced how Iran's enemies would "resort to saber-rattling every day, saying they would attack the country's nuclear facilities".

Today, however, Iran's nuclear energy has assumed a leading global status, and

the enemies "cannot tolerate this," he added.

The enemy is opposed to the prosperity and calm of the Iranians, the country's nuclear chief stated, advising Tehran to invest stronger, more expedient, and more integrated efforts toward further enabling its nuclear advancement.

He pointed out that the country is now among the world's top producers of radiopharmaceuticals, heavy water, and semiconductors. "Today, by God's grace, we have achieved everything in the field of nuclear technology," Eslami said, ascribing the progress to "ardor and round-the-clock endeavor". He also noted that Iran's nuclear science has served as a propeller for all of its industries.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist



## Qatar Museums to present rare Safavid textiles

Qatar Museums will host "Fashioning an Empire: Textiles from Safavid Iran", an exhibition featuring a selection of extraordinary textiles from its collection, on view at the Museum of Islamic Art (MIA) from October 23 through April 20, 2024.

The exhibition, to be displayed in MIA's Sheikh Saoud Gallery, highlights the importance of silk in the vibrant social, economic, and artistic life of the Safavid Dynasty (1501-1736), The Peninsula wrote.

Fashioning an Empire: Textiles from Safavid Iran was first conceived by and presented at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Asian Art, Washington, DC, and shown as part of the Qatar-USA 2021 Year of Culture.

The more than 100 works on view, drawn

from MIA and Qatar Museums' permanent collections as well as loans from the Qatar National Library, include a wide selection of artifacts, among them 20 precious brocade silk textiles and 12 carpets from the Safavid period.



● THE PENINSULA



# Gabon military officers say they have seized power after election

Military officers in oil-producing Gabon said they had seized power on Wednesday and had put President Ali Bongo under house arrest, stepping in minutes after the Central African state's election body announced he had won a third term. The officers who said they represented the armed forces declared on television that the election results were cancelled, borders were closed and state institutions were dissolved, after a tense vote without international observers that was set to extend the Bongo family's more than half century in power, Reuters reported.

Hundreds of people celebrated the military's intervention, while France, Gabon's former colonial ruler which has troops stationed in the African nation, condemned the coup. The Kremlin also said Wednesday it was concerned by events in Gabon, with Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov saying, "We are deeply concerned about the situation in Ga-

bon. We are closely following what is going on there". A jobless 27-year-old who joined crowds on Libreville's streets, said "I am marching today because I am joyful. After almost 60 years, the Bongos are out of power".

In another statement, the officers said they had deposed Bongo, who took over in 2009 from his father Omar, who had ruled since 1967. They said they had arrested the president's son, Nouredin Bongo Valentin, and others for corruption and treason.

Opponents say the family has done little to share the state's oil and mining wealth with its 2.3 million people. Violent unrest had broken out after Bongo's disputed 2016 election win and there was a failed coup attempt in 2019.

If successful, the Gabon coup would be the eighth in West and Central Africa since 2020. The latest one, in Niger, was in July. Military officers have also seized power in Mali, Guinea, Burkina Faso and Chad,



erasing democratic gains since the 1990s.

The Gabon officers, calling themselves The Committee of Transition and the Restoration of Institutions, said the country faced "a severe institutional, political, economic, and social crisis". They said the Aug. 26 vote was not credible.

It was not clear who was leading the coup, but television images showed a man in fatigues and a green beret held aloft by soldiers shouting "Oligui president", a possible reference to Brice Oligui Nguema, the head of Gabon's Republican Guard. Despite the brief sound of

gunfire in the capital shortly after the officers made their first announcement, the streets of Libreville were calm until celebrations erupted. Police officers fanned out to guard major city intersections. There was no immediate comment from Gabon's government.



This video grab shows the spokesperson for the mutinous soldiers speaking on state television as they announce that they had seized power in Libreville, Gabon, on August 30, 2023.

● GABON 24 VIA AP

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Washington to send \$250m in weapons to Ukraine



AP - The Biden administration announced Tuesday it will send an additional \$250 million in weapons and ammunition to Ukraine as part of its ongoing support of Kyiv.

The weapons will be drawn from existing US stockpiles and will include mine-clearing equipment, artillery and rocket rounds, ambulances and medical gear, among other items and spare parts, according to the State Department.

### Spain's PM rejects to back premiership bid

REUTERS - Spain's acting Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez on Wednesday rejected a request from Alberto Nunez Feijoo, leader of the conservatives, to support him in a vote to form a government and will instead seek a new term himself, his Socialist Party said.

Feijoo's People's Party won the most seats in the July 23 elections, but came short of a working majority and is trying to garner enough support in the lower house. He had asked Sanchez, a Socialist, in a meeting earlier on Wednesday to back him for at least two years in exchange for policy pacts. In a document handed to Sanchez, Feijoo had said a two-year government pact could be extended if both parties agreed. Legislatures last four years in Spain.



A view shows a framed photo of Russian mercenary chief Yevgeny Prigozhin at his grave at the Porokhovskoye cemetery in Saint Petersburg, Russia, on August 30, 2023.

● REUTERS

## Kremlin: Prigozhin plane may have been downed on purpose

The Kremlin said on Wednesday that investigators were considering the possibility that the plane carrying mercenary chief Yevgeny Prigozhin was downed on purpose, the first explicit acknowledgement that he may have been assassinated. "It is obvious that different versions are being considered, including the version - you know what we are talking about - let's say, a deliberate atrocity," Kremlin spokes-

man Dmitry Peskov told reporters when asked about the investigation, Reuters reported. Asked if the International Civil Aviation Organization would investigate the crash, Peskov said that the circumstances made it different, though he cautioned that investigators had made no formal conclusions yet about what exactly took place. "Let's wait for the results of our Russian investigation," Peskov said.

The private Embraer jet on which Prigozhin was travelling to St Petersburg from Moscow crashed north of Moscow killing all 10 people on board on Aug. 23, including two other top Wagner figures, Prigozhin's four bodyguards and a crew of three. The cause is still unclear, but villagers near the scene told Reuters they heard a bang and then saw the jet plummet to the ground.

The plane crashed exactly two months since Prigozhin took control of the southern city of Rostov in late June, the opening salvo of a mutiny which shook the foundations of the Russian government. The Kremlin has rejected as an "absolute lie" the suggestion by some Western politicians and commentators - for which they have not provided evidence - that Putin ordered Prigozhin to be killed in revenge.

## Is US seeking ...

Among the most significant is the containment of China, which, as it gains power, is increasingly perceived by Washington as a threat to both its interests and those of its allies.

By forming political, military, and economic coalitions the US is trying to portray China as a security threat. Other measures include bolstering military bases in the region, arms sales to allies like Taiwan, South Korea, Japan, and even the Philippines and Indonesia, as well as holding joint military exercises. The trilateral security pact known as AUKUS among Australia, Britain, and United States, aimed at deploying nuclear submarines in the Pacific Ocean, fits into this framework. AUKUS, to some degree, appears to be in breach of the terms of the

nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Likewise, the Quad security pact with the US, India, Australia, and Japan, in the Indo-Pacific region, aims to counterbalance China's growing power. Alongside these efforts, the US is attempting to mend historical conflicts between its key allies, Japan and South Korea, which are neighbors to China. The recent agreement struck at Camp David also contributes to resolving disputes between these two countries.

Beyond China, the possible threat posed by North Korea in Southeast Asia is also a concern for the US and its allies. It is logical for Japan and South Korea to form an alliance against this threat and cooperate alongside a major power like the US.

Referring to the agree-

ment as 'Asian NATO', North Korea's leader has interpreted it as the US establishing a military presence in East Asia. Does this agreement pursue objectives similar to that of the NATO military alliance?

There are indeed some parallels between this trilateral agreement and the North Atlantic Treaty or NATO, given that in both cases, the US holds the central role and power, and Washington's interests are definitely in focus. In fact, without the US, NATO would be meaningless. However, the term "Asian NATO" used by North Korea's leader doesn't mirror the extensive commitments of European NATO. Article 5 of NATO emphasizes that an attack on any member state is considered an attack on all members. Regardless of the agree-

ment's name, it doesn't negate the expansion of the US military and security presence in East Asia. However, in these pacts, the US mainly plays strategic, managerial, and supportive roles, and follows a policy of "outsourcing," just as in NATO where it has engaged Europe with Russia, or even in the Middle East, where the US has involved Israel, Jordan, and other Arab countries in an arms race. In the Southeast Asian region, the US has played South Korea, Japan, the Philippines, Taiwan, and Singapore off against China.

Will these security-military moves ultimately lead to stability and enhanced security for the regional countries, or could they potentially stoke threats and insecurity?

I doubt that the US aims to



Jahangir Izadi

attain lasting security and stability in the region as a primary goal. In the short term, the US might achieve its goals and come out as a winner in this rivalry. As mentioned earlier, the US seeks to portray China as a security threat. This approach forces China into a defensive position, prompting Beijing to invest more in its military policies in response to such new coalitions. Essentially, the US aims to pass off China as a military threat. On one hand, this issue diverts China's focus from economic development to military expansion, and on the other hand, it fuels suspicion



among regional countries toward China, particularly due to historical and territorial disputes. However, in the long run, I don't think the US will necessarily succeed in its strategy. As the German philosopher and critical theorist Herbert Marcuse said, "History is not an insurance corporation to guarantee things." Hence, there's no guarantee that the substantial US investments and costs in Southeast Asia will yield the desired outcomes in the long term. China might become so powerful within the next decade that these coalition formations and US measures



US President Joe Biden (c), Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida (R) and South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol arrive for a joint press conference during the trilateral summit at Camp David near Thurmont, Maryland, US, on August 18, 2023.

● JIM BOURG/REUTERS

might not pose a threat to Beijing anymore. Or the US might weaken and decline, prompting the need for updates within the current coalitions. For instance, consider India, a member of the Western-oriented Quad security pact, but also part of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and BRICS, where China is the cornerstone.



## Paralympian Rostami bags double world powerlifting golds

### Sports Desk

Iran's Rouhollah Rostami finished his campaign at the World Para Powerlifting Championships on a high note, making a clean sweep of two golds in the men's 80kg event in Dubai, the UAE. A Paralympic champion in Tokyo two years ago, Rostami walked away with the ultimate prize thanks to a best lift of 232kg – one kilogram clear of Chinese silver winner Gu Xiaofei – before an overall tally of 686kg secured

the total gold for the Iranian – also a silver medalist in London 2012 – on Tuesday. Gu, who had finished behind Rostami in Tokyo, also settled for the total silver, while Rasool Mohsin of Iraq grabbed a brace of bronzes. Rostami's triumphs took the country's gold count to four in Dubai, after superheavyweights Ali-Akbar Gharibshahi and Ahmad Aminzadeh had come out on top in their respective weight classes. Representing Iran in the men's 107kg contest, Ghar-

ibshahi finished on the top podium with a best lift of 248kg, while Saman Razi registered 455kg for the total bronze.

The +107kg competition, meanwhile, saw Aminzadeh lift 255kg to beat fellow Iranian Mahdi Sayyadi to the top spot.

Elsewhere in the men's competitions, Amir Ja'fari (best) and Ali Seifi (total) notched up a couple of silvers in the 65kg event, while Hamed Solhipour picked up the 97kg bronze.



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## Persian Gulf Pro League:

# 10-man Sepahan salvages victory at Paykan, keeps perfect run



● Sepahan players celebrate a goal during a 3-1 victory over Paykan in the Persian Gulf Pro League in Tehran, Iran, on August 29, 2023.  
● PAYAM SANI/IRNA

### Sports Desk

Sepahan again proved to be the real deal in the new Persian Gulf Pro League season after coming from behind to beat Paykan 3-1 on Tuesday and maintain a perfect start to the Iranian top-flight campaign.

An ill-fated back pass by Sepahan defender Nilson Júnior fell into the path of Hamed Pakdel, who went past goalkeeper Payam Niazmand before Reza Qandipour found the empty net from close range to give the home side a surprise lead on the half-hour mark. Summer signing Reza Asadi drew the visitors level with a thumping header 10 minutes later but Sepahan went down to 10 men right before the interval when Mohammad Daneshgar

received his marching orders for bringing goal-bound Ebrahim Salehi down behind the box.

Ramin Rezaeian's strike from the edge of the area went in off Paykan's Iman Akbari midway through the second half and substitute Arya Yousefi's sizzling effort found the top corner with one minute left on the clock to secure all three points for Jose Morais's men. A fourth successive victory the season kept Sepahan atop the table before September's international break.

Elsewhere, Golgozar and Malavan played to 1-1 draw in Sirjan.

Saeed Saharkhizan equalized for the home side with 20 minutes remaining to cancel out Reza Ja'fari's 57th-minute opener for Malavan.

Nassaji Mazandaran celebrated a first

victory of the season, defeating San'at Naft Abadan 3-1 at home.

Mohammadreza Abbasi, Iraqi Alaa Abbas, and Farshid Esmaeili scored for the host, with Taleb Rikani bagging a consolation for Abdollah Vei-si's side.

Tuesday's results came after Esteghlal edged out Esteghlal Khuzestan 1-0 at the Azadi Stadium on the preceding night, thanks to a Mehrdad Mohammadi's second-half header – the 1,000th goal in the history of the Iranian Pro League for the Tehran Blues.

In Tabriz, a late strike by Mehdi Abdi, who joined on loan from Persepolis last week, saw Tractor notch up the first points of the campaign with a 1-0 home win against Mes Rafsanjan.

## Alcaraz gets easy start to US Open title defence, Medvedev advances

**REUTERS** – Carlos Alcaraz has surrendered the number one world ranking but got his US Open title defence off to an easy start as injured German Dominik Koepfer retired against the 20-year-old top seed on Tuesday. The season's final Grand Slam began on Monday with a change at the top after Novak Djokovic demolished Frenchman Alexandre Muller to ease into the second round – a result that meant the Serb will replace Alcaraz as world number one when the rankings are updated on Sept. 11. But Alcaraz will have the number one attached to his name for the duration of the Flushing Meadows fortnight and advanced to the second round after Koepfer twisted his ankle minutes into the match and later retired with the Spaniard up 6-2 3-2.

Alcaraz, bidding to become the first man to retain his US Open crown since Roger Federer won five straight from 2004 to 2008, appeared unsteady at times on the North American hardcourts ahead of the season's final Grand Slam but kept his composure on Tuesday with few errors.

"I'm not thinking about defending the title. I was not thinking about I was the champion last year," he told reporters.

"I just focus on play my best level, to recover the level that I played last year, try to do same things that I did last year. That's the only thing that I'm thinking right now." With Alcaraz and Djokovic hogging the spotlight, Daniil Medvedev had been the forgotten man but the third seeded Russian remains a threat to claim his second US Open title in three years.

He got everyone's attention when he dispatched Hungarian Attila Balazs 6-1 6-1 6-0 in a speedy affair to kick off the action on Arthur Ashe Stadium, firing off 41 winners to set up a second round meeting with Australian Christopher O'Connell. Andy Murray, the 2012 US Open champion, recorded a landmark 200th Grand Slam match win as he turned back the clock to beat young Frenchman Corentin Moutet 6-2 7-5 6-3.

The 36-year-old Scotsman said he was playing some of the best tennis on a consistent level since 2017. He faces Bulgarian Grigor Dimitrov in the second round. Italian sixth seed Jannik Sinner handily beat German Yannick Hanfmann 6-3 6-1 6-1 and will play compatriot Lorenzo Sonego next.



● SHANNON STAPLETON/REUTERS

## Man City's Haaland wins PFA men's player of the year award

**BBC** – Manchester City's Erling Haaland won the PFA men's players' player of the year award, with Arsenal's Bukayo Saka named young player of the year. Norway forward Haaland, 23, scored 52 goals in all competitions in his debut season with Pep Guardiola's side.

Haaland beat team-mates Kevin de Bruyne and John Stones, Arsenal's Saka and Martin Odegaard and Tottenham's Harry Kane, now at Bayern Munich.

"It's an honour to win this prestigious award," said Haaland. "To be recognised by your competitors is a great feeling and I would like to thank everyone who voted for me."

"It was an unforgettable season for the team and for me personally. Winning the Treble was something I never imagined, so to achieve that with such a special group of players was an amazing feeling."

"We created some incredible memories last season, but now we want to do the same again this year. We have started the season well and we need to keep going."

Haaland joined City from Borussia Dortmund in a deal worth £51.2m in June 2022. He was also nominated for the young player prize, which was awarded to England winger Saka after he scored 14 goals and contributed 11 assists in his finest season for the Gunners.

The 21-year-old beat fellow nominees Moises Caicedo, who recently joined Chelsea from Brighton, Aston Villa midfielder Jacob Ramsey, Arsenal forward Gabriel Martinelli and Brighton striker Evan Ferguson.

Meanwhile, both winners of the individual prizes were also included in the PFA Team of the Year.

PFA team of the year: Aaron Ramsdale (Arsenal), William Saliba (Arsenal), Ruben Dias (Man City), John Stones (Man City), Kieran Trippier (Newcastle), Rodri (Man City), Martin Odegaard (Arsenal), Kevin de Bruyne (Man City), Bukayo Saka (Arsenal), Harry Kane (Tottenham), Erling Haaland (Man City).



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# Child influencers: 'Abusive parents' to come under scrutiny

## Social Desk

The secretary of the Iranian National Council for Children's Rights has announced that the Cyberspace Committee is now active within their organization. This committee is working in collaboration with the Supreme Council of Cyberspace and other institutions to address concerns related to children's safety online, ISNA reported.

One of their key initiatives is to draft amendments and additions to the Child Protection Law. Seyyed Ali Kazemi highlighted emerging phenomena such as modeling, blogging, and influencing among children and teenagers. He emphasized that if not managed properly, these activities could harm young individuals. Research indicates that engagement in social networks through modeling, blogging, and influencing can impact children negatively by exposing them to inappropriate content, challenges harmful to their well-being, invasion of privacy regarding family matters, and unwanted interactions from profit-seeking or harassing individuals.

Kazemi also noted that image-oriented platforms are often used for advertising purposes by models and bloggers due to their high visibility. These activities aim at attracting a large audience and gaining maximum attention. The secretary further explained how

child bloggers promote various brands across categories such as cosmetics, food products, home appliances, and clothing workshops for kids' apparel. Advertisements on these pages involve both active partici-

tion from children themselves in endorsing products through role-playing as well as passive involvement using photos and videos.

Regarding child modeling pages, Kazemi mentioned that models are introduced through posters, advertising videos during photography tours or featured in modeling magazines showcasing different poses along with physical appearance characteristics. "Unfortunately, these introductions often prioritize non-Iranian or non-native models while promoting consumerism patterns associated with foreign goods or lifestyles incon-

sistent with Iranian culture or Islamic values," he said.

Such practices can lead to identity issues among children who may start valuing themselves based on appearances rather than personal qualities.

Kazemi further expressed concern over families' limited awareness about the potential harms faced by children involved in advertisements, fashion, and modeling industries. The vulnerability of children participating in these areas raises significant challenges that need to be addressed.

In summary, the use of children in advertisements and modeling, coupled with a lack of understanding among families about the risks involved, has become a pressing issue. The National Council for Children's Rights is taking proactive steps by establishing the Cyberspace Committee to deal with these concerns and work towards safeguarding children in the digital realm.

While discussing the legal dimensions of children's involvement in cyberspace and referring to the Law on Protection of Children and Adolescents, it was emphasized that certain activities like blogging, modeling, and influencing can negatively impact a child's physical, mental, psychological, moral, and social well-being. These activities may also pose risks to their safety and educational status. According to the law, such situations are considered dangerous for children and can lead to social or judicial

intervention.

If these activities involve earning income and are considered "jobs" or "work," they contradict Article 79 of the Labor Law which prohibits employing individuals under 15 years old. This is seen as economic exploitation under labor laws as well as laws protecting children and adolescents.

Furthermore, producing any content that portrays a child or adolescent in a sexually suggestive manner (such as nudity) is considered pornography according to paragraph D of Article 1 of the Law on Protection of Children and Adolescents. It should be noted that even sharing pictures online where inappropriate clothing is visible can potentially be classified as pornography under this law.

It is essential to recognize that treating children as mere tools for earning money—whether in virtual spaces or real life—is against their rights.

"Exploiting children must be prevented. Children's activities in cyberspace are subject to laws just like their actions in physical space. The country's regulations including labor laws and laws protecting children govern these activities with three prohibitions: violating children's rights by using them instrumentally; exploiting them; or disregarding societal moral values," said the official.

To address these concerns effectively, the Cyberspace Committee within the National Council for Children's Rights has been activated through collaboration with various institutions including the Supreme Council of Cyberspace, the Judiciary's Office for Child

and Adolescent Protection, FATA Police, the Research Center of Islamic Council, and Prosecutor's Office. The committee meetings aim to examine issues related to child exploitation in cyberspace while also working on a draft to amend and enhance the child protection law.

It is important to note that so far, there have been no significant prosecutions against parents who exploit their children in cyberspace. Therefore, it is necessary to address this matter within the virtual space working group.

When asked about plans for dealing with offenders and abusers of children in cyberspace, it was stated that such cases will be pursued if they can be addressed by current laws. The Office for Child and Adolescent Protection of the Judiciary has already warned against widespread abuse and exploitation of children online. In specific instances, FATA police and the attorney general's office can intervene through criminal cases committees and Judiciary offices dedicated to protecting children and adolescents.

Another issue discussed in these meetings was violent content, promotion, and incitement of violence against children in cyberspace. The question arises whether existing laws including the Law on Protection of Children are sufficient to safeguard at-risk children online. It was concluded that while some aspects are covered by existing legislation, others may require interpretation or refinement, as well as amendments where certain issues should be explicitly criminalized for better protection.



## Iranian judge gives unorthodox verdict

## Social Desk

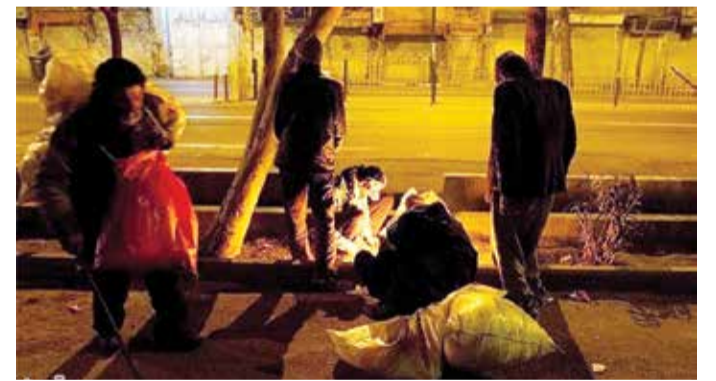
A judge made an interesting decision in a case involving someone who had helped a suspect escape from police. The accused was sentenced to provide free meals to eight homeless individuals staying at shelters for eight weeks in a row.

In the summer of 2023, police officers in Tehran were trying to arrest a wanted man when they found his hideout in a restaurant

in Lavasanat, northeastern Tehran. The owner of the restaurant then allowed the suspect to run away by delaying the officers, according to Tasnim News Agency. The owner was quickly arrested and taken to a district court for investigation. During questioning, he admitted his crime of helping the wanted to evade capture because he was his friend. After completing their initial investigation, the Lavasanat Prosecutor's Office charged the ac-

cused with aiding a fugitive. The trial took place in Branch 102 of Lavasan Two County Criminal Court, presided over by Judge Meysam Hosseinpour. During court proceedings, the man in the dock, who later confessed to his crime, was arraigned on several charges. He expressed remorse and asked for forgiveness from Judge Hosseinpour who presided over the trial. Following due legal process, the judge issued his verdict on the

case. Considering that there was no prior criminal record and acknowledging remorse shown by the accused; rather than sentencing him to eight months' imprisonment as initially anticipated, he instead ordered him to feed eight homeless individuals living in shelters within Lavasan city for eight consecutive weeks. The convict must take the homeless to his restaurant and serve them free food during this period.



TASNIM



## Climate change a matter ...

Calculating the exact death toll caused by climate change is challenging due to various factors involved. Environmental conditions already claim about 13 million lives annually according to the United Nations, but it's unclear how many are directly or indirectly related to climate change. Abnormal temperatures alone might be responsible for up to five million annual

deaths, although other estimates are lower.

Climate change affects different aspects like crop failures, droughts, floods, extreme weather events, wildfires, and rising sea levels – all impacting human lives in complex ways. Predicting future casualties from these catastrophes is inherently imperfect work; however, researchers argue that measuring emissions in terms of potential human lives lost helps people understand and emphasizes our urgent need for action. To illustrate this point further, Pearce and Parncutt, in their

publication 'Quantifying Global Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Human Deaths to Guide Energy Policy', applied their estimation method to Australia's Adani Carmichael coalmine – expected to become the world's largest coalmine. If all its reserves are burned, it could cause about three million premature deaths. These victims would largely be children living primarily in developing nations. The authors stress that burning such vast amounts of coal will almost certainly lead to future fatalities. It's important to note that

the '1000-ton rule' does not account for possible climate feedback loops, which could worsen the environmental consequences of carbon emissions. This estimation is a conservative best estimate and leaves room for even more dire scenarios.

Facing this challenging reality is crucial for both the public and policymakers. As climate scientists continue to model future outcomes, it is essential that we acknowledge these predictions and take immediate action to avoid catastrophic consequences.





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# Arbaeen pilgrims flocking to Karbala



● REZA DERIS/YJC



● IRNA

Huge crowds of pilgrims are descending on the city of Karbala that hosts the holy shrine of Imam Hussein (PBUH) to mark Arbaeen that comes 40 days after the martyrdom anniversary of the third Shia Imam. The occasion reaches its zenith on September 6, this year.

The Arbaeen march is an annual event symbolizes the fight against oppression and the struggle for freedom. Every year, millions of Shia Muslims from different countries travel to Iraq to visit Imam Hussein's shrine. The march is meant to sympathize with the Imam on the pains he endured during the battle of Karbala more than 13 centuries ago.



● SEYED KHALIL MOUSAVI/MEHR



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