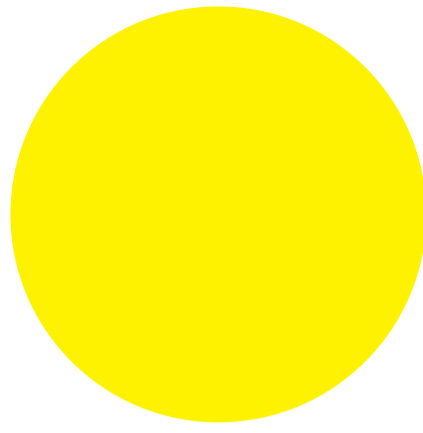




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Iran Daily



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The Secretary General of Lebanon's Hezbollah movement Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah (3rd R) meets Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian (3rd R) in Beirut, Lebanon, on September 1, 2023. ● HEZBOLLAH'S MEDIA OFFICE

Iran Reaffirms Support For Resistance Front

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Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian held talks with top Syrian and Lebanese officials on Thursday and Friday to reiterate the Islamic Republic's unwavering support for the two important countries in the Middle East. During a three-day visit to Syria and Lebanon, Iran's top diplomat and the officials from the two Arab countries discussed many issues including developments in the region, problems facing the two Arab countries, as well as relations between Tehran and Damascus and Beirut in different fields, especially in the economy.



Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian (3rd R) meets Syrian President Bashar al-Assad (3rd R) in Damascus, Syria, on August 31, 2023. ● mja.gov.ir

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OPEC oil output rises in August as Iran hits 2018 high

OPEC oil output rose in August as Iranian supply rose to its highest since 2018, a Reuters survey found on Thursday, despite ongoing cuts by Saudi Arabia and other members of the wider OPEC+ alliance to support the market. The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries has pumped 27.56 million barrels per day (bpd) last month, the survey found, up 220,000 bpd from July. That's the first rise since February, according to Reuters surveys. Iran is exempt from OPEC cuts and its exports have been rising in 2023 despite U.S. sanctions, although views differ as to the

exact scale. "Iran's output and export data are not transparent and major decision-makers like OPEC+ that adjust their production to balance the market can't be assured of Iran's supplies in the months to come," said a consultant SVB International. Output from the 10 OPEC members that are subject to OPEC+ supply cut agreements edged lower by 10,000 bpd, the survey found. Saudi Arabia and other Gulf members maintained strong compliance with agreed cutbacks and extra voluntary reductions. Page 2 >

Iran foils Israel's plot to sabotage missiles

International Desk

Iranian Defense Ministry announced that the country's security services have successfully foiled an Israeli sabotage plot against Iran's ballistic missile production and arrested several agents involved. An unnamed intelligence official the ministry on Thursday blamed arch-enemy Israel's Mossad spy agency for the alleged plan to sell Iran faulty components that would have blown up the missiles, according to AFP. Iran's Deputy Defense Minister Mehdi Farahi charged that enemy agents had attempted "to put an



explosive and undetectable circuit" inside missiles "so that it would explode at a specified time and date". The unnamed official was quoted as saying that "a very professional network, under the direct guidance of the Mossad organization, planned to sell defective and faulty parts to be used in the production of advanced missiles". Page 4 >

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran buying
new airliners:
Minister

Economy Desk

Iranian Minister of Roads and Urban Development Mehrdad Bazrpash announced the transfer of 128,000 Arbaeen pilgrims by plane, saying, "The purchase of a number of planes is underway, which cannot be described due to sanctions."

Stating that the average delay in Arbaeen flights has been significantly reduced compared to last year, he noted that outbound flights will peak in the next three days as we are trying to establish special flights for Arbaeen.

Bazarpash said one of the main programs of his ministry is to equip and modernize the air transport fleet, adding, "Some of the planes that were grounded were repaired and rejoined the national fleet, using local technologies by Iranian experts."

OPEC oil
output...

Top exporter Saudi Arabia kept August output within a whisker of 9 million bpd, the survey found, as the country extended a voluntary 1 million bpd output cut for a second month to provide extra support for the market.

Iranian oil output hit 3.10 million bpd in August, the survey found. This is the highest since 2018, the year Washington re-imposed sanctions on Iran, according to Reuters surveys and separate figures from OPEC.

Analysts have said the higher exports appear to be the result of Iran's success in evading U.S. sanctions and Washington's discretion in enforcing them as the two countries seek better relations. The second-largest increase in OPEC output this month came from Nigeria, where exports resumed from the Forcados terminal after a shutdown, the survey found.

OPEC's output is still undershooting the targeted amount by almost 800,000 bpd mainly because Nigeria and Angola lack the capacity to pump as much as their agreed level.

The Reuters survey aims to track supply to the market. It is based on shipping data provided by external sources, Refinitiv Eikon flows data, information from companies that track flows such as Petro-Logistics and Kpler, and information provided by sources at oil companies, OPEC and consultants.

Tehran, Moscow agree on navigation in Volga for Iranian ships



Economy Desk

The Iranian cabinet has issued permission to purchase second-hand ships for Caspian Sea shipping, announced the deputy head of the Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO), adding that according to an agreement with Russia, the transit time of the Iranian ships from the Volga was reduced from one year to two weeks.

Majid-Ali Nazi told ILNA that in addition to building ships, the PMO also facilitates the purchase of new and second-hand ships, as clients can buy second-hand ships from countries such as Kazakhstan. Stating that the measure is being taken for the development of the International North-South Transit Corridor, he noted, "We received a special permission from the cabinet to provide facilities even for the purchase of sec-

ond-hand ships and vessels."

The permission is only for the supply of the Caspian Sea fleet and is not limited to the country of Kazakhstan, the PMO official explained.

An agreement has been made with Russia on the reduction of the time to change the flag of ships from one year to two weeks, he said.

"Previously, according to Russian laws, every ship that was purchased had to be

changed to the Russian flag for transportation, and when it arrived in Iran, the flag was changed again, but today these strictures have been removed; the ship will enter Iran's waters with the Iranian flag within two weeks," the official noted. Currently, on the Caspian Sea route, we are facing an increase in the demand for transporting goods, but since our fleet is limited, the PMO has agreed to purchase more ships, he concluded.

Iran's largest gasoline supplier reports 15% rise in output



Iran's largest gasoline supplier has ramped up output by 15% this year compared to levels seen in 2022 amid a rising demand for fuel in Iran that has been exacerbated by smuggling activity across the borders.

CEO of Persian Gulf Star Oil Refinery (PGSOR) said that gasoline output of the refinery had reached 41 million liters per day, up from a daily production of 35.6 million liters reported last year, reported Press TV.

Alireza Jafarpour said that the PGSOR supplies another four million liters per

day of gasoline derivatives to other refineries to help them increase their output.

"Directly and indirectly, we are responding to 45 million liters of the gasoline demand in the country," said Jafarpour.

The PGSOR is the largest refinery in the world that runs on condensate, which is a very light form of crude oil. It is located near the port city of Bandar Abbas in southern Iran on the Persian Gulf coast.

The refinery has played a major role in Iran's self-sufficiency in gasoline production since it was officially opened in 2019, more than a year after Iran's petroleum industry came under American sanctions.

The major increase in gasoline output in the PGSOR, which itself was blacklisted by Washington in July last year, comes despite the fact it is banned from accessing foreign investment and technology.

Iran's current average demand for gasoline is more than 120 million liters per day while consumption reaches nearly 150 million liters on peak travel days.

Experts say ultracheap prices of gasoline and diesel fuel in Iran have encouraged smuggling activity across the borders, leading to a steady rise in domestic demand in recent years.

Labor minister unveils 11 smart service systems

Economy Desk

A total of 11 smart service systems of the cooperative sector was unveiled in the presence of the Minister of Cooperatives, Labor and Social Welfare Solat Mortazavi and his deputy for cooperative affairs, Mehdi Maskani.

Speaking at the inaugural ceremony, Mortazavi said the realization of an electronic government and the smartening of services provide transparency to the people and also make people's access to services easy and cheap, according to mcls.gov.ir.

He suggested explaining in the media the systems and plans of the Ministry of Cooperatives, Labor and Social Welfare to the people.

Purchase system from Iran Mercantile Exchange, electronic transfer system of shares of cooperative members, education and promotion of cooperatives, joint portal of the Ministry of Cooperatives, Labor and Social Welfare with Tose'e Ta'avon Bank and Cooperative Investment Guarantee Fund, as well as monitoring system for construction and civil cooperatives were among the unveiled projects.

Wiki Ta'avon system, electronic check of Tose'e Ta'avon Bank, cooperatives



● mcls.gov.ir

rating system, correspondence and requests portal system, integrated information system for cooperatives of Iran and a module for registered transaction information aimed at generating employment and smartening management of cooperatives were other systems that were unveiled during the event.

Speaking at the ceremony, Maskani announced the reduction of the cooperative registration time from 45 days to 10 days in the current administration, which took office in August 2021.

Pakistan's economic slowdown pushes up power prices



By Syed Ali Hassan

Iran Daily's correspondent in Pakistan

Former chief economist of Pakistan Parvez Tahir said that the country's industrialists are worried over the increase in electricity prices in Pakistan. The biggest problem here has been the unfair distribution of electricity, but such decisions cannot be made under political constraints. Currently, Electricity worth billions of rupees is provided free of cost to the influential class of the country and specific institutions. Meanwhile, electricity is stolen in many areas causing losses of billions, and the entire burden has been put on the billpayers.

The constant increase in electricity prices and taxes has been putting more pressure on the common man than on the capitalists.

Even when exports are low, the wages of workers working in factories are low as capitalists are not inclined to reduce their profits. So, the bigger the capitalists of a country are, the more concessions they will get. Electricity is expensive for the common man but free for the big executives. The lack of exports also affects the economy of the country, but it is only perceptible to the common man because the privileged class always finds a way out.

Last week, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics released a report, according to which Pakistan's exports of textile goods including cotton yarn increased

by 35.96% to \$97.03 million in July 2023 from \$71.36 million in July last year. Similarly, exports of knitwear decreased by 16.13% from \$434.64 million to \$364.54 million, exports of bed wear decreased by 14.60% from \$253.98 million to \$216.91 million, and exports of towels decreased by 2.93%.

Talking about the decrease in exports and increase in production cost, Waheed Ramey, Chairman of the Power Looms Association of Pakistan, said that the cost of production has increased by 40%, due to which thousands of power looms closed, their business stopped, and their workers are becoming increasingly unemployed. Ramey said that the power looms industry is partially closing now, and if the situation continues, it may be completely closed.

It has already been difficult to sell Pakistani goods in global markets. Now, the cost of production has also increased further due to the increase in electricity prices.

Citizens across the country are protesting against the increase in bills. The caretaker government says that an agreement has been reached with the IMF regarding the taxes that were included in the electricity bills. Meanwhile, according to the Finance Minister, due to financial difficulties, the caretaker government cannot give a subsidy itself. On the other hand, an increase in the value of the dollar in Pakistan has broken the back of importers, making the economy sluggish. Unfortunately, there is no hope for an improvement in Pakistan's economy in the coming days.

Efforts underway to develop tourism sector of South Khorasan Province



Tabas Geopark
tabasgeopark.com

Iranica Desk

The eastern province of South Khorasan, with 1,014 nationally and five

internationally registered sites, can be chosen as a destination by many tourists in all seasons of the year. However, despite having a significant

number of attractions, the tourism potentials of the province have not been introduced properly.

With a diverse climate, numerous natural landscapes, historical monuments, and traditional rituals and customs, the province is situated in a strategic geographical location. But lack of a suitable infrastructure in road, rail and air transportation has caused them to remain unknown across the country and the world, IRNA wrote.

More than 2,000 historically valuable sites have been recognized in South Khorasan Province, 1,014 of which have been inscribed on Iran's National Heritage List. Last year, Tabas, as the third Iranian geopark, received the positive vote of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Council. This caused the number of globally registered sites of the province to reach five.

Ehsan Dorostkar, an expert from South Khorasan Province's Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicraft Organization, told IRNA that spring and the early months of autumn are the best times to travel to the region.

"In other seasons, a limited number of people arrive in this province, and only

a number of passengers pass through some cities such as Tabas, Ferdous and Nehbandan to go to other provinces," he said.

"However, adopting new strategies would help us encourage them to stay longer in this province."

He continued that a number of plans have been devised to help realize the target, and thanks to the efforts taken by the provincial officials, the National Barberry Festival was held in the province in October of 2022.

"We prepared a number of travel packages before the festival and sent them to the province's tourism agency. This helped increase the arrival of tourists to the province," Dorostkar noted.

He noted that some fruitful steps were taken in the field of tourism marketing last year, for example, a number of multilingual video clips were prepared to be distributed in target countries.

Foreign tourists are looking for the world's highest and hottest spots, etc. Tabas Geopark and Lut Desert, the globally registered natural sites of the province, have the required conditions to draw tourists with special interests.

Lut Desert has recently been recorded as the hottest place on Earth, with temperatures reaching up to 73.5°C.

He noted that unique handicrafts produced in the province are categorized among the outstanding tourist attractions of South Khorasan Province.

Dorostkar said that efforts should be made to introduce the traditional rituals and customs of the province in the best possible manner.

Referring to the significant role played by the municipalities in the development of the tourism sector, he said this will help preserve the cultural heritage of the province and generate sustainable income resources for the local people.

"Local communities of the province should be prepared culturally to host tourists; this would pave the way for them to benefit from the tourism industry," he concluded.

South Khorasan produces more than 60 percent of the world's saffron. Other products of the province include barberry and jujube. Planting saffron, using old traditional methods, has been common in this province since ancient times.

Language competition and the rise of Urdu

The increasing relevance of Urdu has been identified as one the main reason for Persian's outright decline during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

The rise of Urdu impacted literary culture, poetic expression and patronage practices associated with Persian, marginalising its social and literary value in certain venues and implementing it in others. The often linear presentation of the growth of Urdu in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century South Asia, however, favours the displacement of Persian as abrupt and complete, giving the impression that Persian literary culture declined and disappeared without a trace remaining. Such a view wishes to see the complex interplay between multiple languages in a shared literary environment as necessarily arcing towards the replacement of one by the other. It is a conception modelled on the romantic view of nationalism where monolingualism is an established feature of the modern nation-state.

As Francesca Orsini, an Italian

scholar of South Asian literature, reminds us, careful attention must be paid to the particular configurations of multilingual practices and uses among different groups, places and genres in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century India, rather than that we fall into the trap of generalisations, such as the phenomenon of vernacularisation or a theory of language substitution. The relationship between the register of Urdu and Persian literary tradition was indeed messy.

The origin and rise of Urdu, the circumstances and places where it developed and the genealogy of the name itself remain the subject of much controversy and debate. Contrary to the linear narrative of its development, as nationalist and colonial constructions posit, the emergence of Urdu is the outgrowth of a long series of overlapping and cross-cutting histories. Urdu's emergence and use as a literary language can be related to far-flung phenomena spread across South Asia in the medieval and early modern periods, such as debates over its literary acceptability

and new modes of patronage. Urdu's rise to prominence can best be seen as the cumulative impact of these many disparate factors, occurring in fits and starts in both the Subcontinent's north and south over several hundred years. Urdu's emergence is as much the result of Sufis in early fifteenth-century Gujarat using proto-Urdu to reach a wider audience, and the dual linguistic pattern of Persian and Dakhani under operation at various courts, as it is the outcome of debates among poets and literati concerning its merits as a replacement for Persian in later centuries.

In the early eighteenth century, Rekhta – a mixture of Persian and Hindustani literary verse and a direct literary ancestor of Urdu – experienced its 'first great flowering', to borrow the words of Ralph Russell, a British scholar of Urdu literature. At this time, the language began to blossom as a court language, and later, more prominently, it began to blossom as a language of poetic expression. Over the next two centuries, political developments, sociological processes and community desires all coalesced to initiate a

greater utilisation of the Urdu vernacular as a growing medium of expression. Its emergence challenged Persian in certain settings, but remained coexistent with it elsewhere.

The break-up of the Mughal empire was a defining moment in this regard. The rise of various successor states in the wake of the empire's disintegration, along with new patronage opportunities at the court level and throughout society, had far-reaching impacts on Persian literary practice.

A shift, however, had already been under way with regard to Urdu and Persian at the Mughal court. Beginning around the reign of Shah 'Alam II (1759-1806 CE), Rekhta (slowly coming to call itself 'Urdu') came to be used in the court of the Mughals. While Persian remained in place as the official language, the gentry in Delhi became less inclined to utilise it in their writings.

They increasingly viewed Persian as a language most readily associated with the royal patronage practices of a strained imperial centre.



An Urdu book: "The History of the Urdu Language"
loc.gov

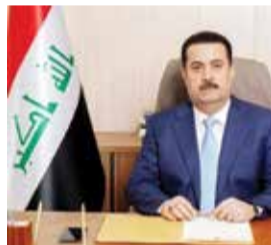
NEWS IN BRIEF

Army self-sufficient in arms production: Chief



IRNA – Iranian Army Commander Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi said that the country's army is self-sufficient in meeting its defense needs and is not dependent on any foreign country. He said that Iran's Army has reached a point that is now independent of foreign countries in supplying its defense equipment.

Iraqi PM to visit Iran



IRNA – Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia' al-Sudani will pay a visit to Khuzestan Province next week, said the governor general of Iran's Khuzestan Province, Ali Akbar Hosseini-Mehrab. The details about his trip to Iran will be announced in the coming days.

Iran slams Pakistan terror attack



IRNA – Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani in a statement condemned a suicide attack on Pakistan's military forces in northwest Pakistan. Kanaani offered his condolences to the Pakistani government, army and families of the victims, wishing a speedy recovery for those injured in the suicide attack. At least nine soldiers were killed and 20 others were injured in the terrorist attack in Bannu, which is a district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province, bordering Afghanistan. Pakistan's Army said that no group has claimed responsibility for the attack.

Iran reaffirms support for resistance front

Nasrallah warns Israel against any 'miscalculated' action

International Desk

Secretary General of Lebanon's Hezbollah's movement Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah warned of a strong response to any "miscalculated" action by the Israeli regime.

During a meeting with Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian on Friday in Beirut, Nasrallah emphasized that the resistance front in Lebanon and Palestine is in its strongest position. He also referred to Iran's constructive role in the Middle East region and the role Iranian General Qassem Soleimani played in ensuring security in the region.

Both officials also discussed several regional issues including developments in Palestine, Lebanon and Syria.

The Iranian foreign minister, for his part, described as positive a recent trip to Saudi Arabia and his meetings with the Arab country's officials.

Amir-Abdollahian, who arrived in Beirut on Thursday, also held separate meetings with other Leb-

anese officials.

During his meeting with Lebanese Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri, the Iranian top diplomat underscored the significance of Lebanon's security and stability in the West Asia region, expressing Iran's support for the election of a president and new government in the Arab country.

Formation of new gov't

"The election of a president and the formation of the new government of Lebanon is very important, and of course, this issue is within the jurisdiction of the nation and the political leaders of Lebanon," the top Iranian diplomat said.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran supports your efforts as the speaker of Parliament and the Lebanese political currents to elect the president," he added.

The Iranian foreign minister also held a meeting with his Lebanese counterpart Abdullah Bouhabib. Amir-Abdollahian stressed the importance of economic cooperation between the two nations, saying that



the sanctions imposed by the US on Iran cannot impede economic relations between Iran and Lebanon. He said that Iranian companies are ready to help Lebanon fix its electricity problems.

The Iranian official also slammed the Israeli regime as the enemy of the whole region, its stability and security, warning that any plan for the normalization of ties with the regime will be detrimental to the region.

Amir-Abdollahian's trip to Lebanon followed a visit to Syria and talks with the country's top officials.

Meeting with Assad

On Thursday, Syrian Presi-

dent Bashar al-Assad in his meeting with the Iranian official congratulated Tehran on its upcoming accession to the BRICS group of emerging economies.

Assad said that Iran's membership in the BRICS group of fast-developing economies – Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa – shows that the world is changing and that both Tehran and Damascus are on the right path.

Iran was invited last week to join BRICS, which is often seen as an alternative to the Western economic and political hegemony, along with Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Ethiopia, Egypt, and Argentina.

Amir-Abdollahian, for his part, expressed his satisfaction with Syria's return to the Arab League and the strengthening of Damascus' relations with Arab states. He also noted that Syria is today in its "best condition" after its government, nation and army won "a global terrorist war."

"We are happy that the region and the world recognized the reality and power of Syria. Nevertheless, the enemies of Syria are seeking to pursue their own political objectives by subjecting its government and nation to sanctions and economic pressure."

Amir-Abdollahian arrived in Syria on Wednesday to hold talks with the senior officials of the Arab country.

Raeisi: United Muslim world 'greatest barrier' to imperialism

Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi said a united Muslim world poses the biggest obstacle to the realization of the objectives of global imperialism in the post-World War II era.

Addressing a meeting of Sunni religious scholars in

Tehran on Thursday, Raeisi noted that the "global arrogance" has created obstacles in the path of Muslims trying to make progress, spread propaganda via their media empire, and formed Takfiri terrorist groups to cause bloodshed

among Muslims, Press TV reported.

He added that the "global arrogance" has created obstacles in the path of Muslims trying to make progress, spread propaganda via their media empire, and formed Takfiri terrorist groups to cause bloodshed among Muslims.

They also insulted Muslims' sanctities, particularly Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) and the Holy Qur'an, to oppose Muslim nations, he said.

Elsewhere in his address, the Iranian president said regional developments are taking place in favor of the resistance front, adding, "The current situation in

Palestine cannot be compared with the one in the past."

Raeisi emphasized that the Palestine Liberation Organization made decisions for Palestinians in the past, but the Palestinian fighters are currently taking the initiative.

He said the resistance is the victorious front on the battlefield, and "there is no talk of compromise and capitulation in the Palestinian literature anymore". Raeisi also highlighted that the rhetoric of attacking Iran has been removed from the arrogant powers' language "because the Iran of today is different and [more] powerful compared

to the Iran of yesterday". The Islamic Republic owes its power to the martyrs' blood, including its 15,000 Sunni martyrs, and the presence of Iranian men and women in various political scenes, he noted.

The Iranian chief executive also said that a new world order would be established with the collapse of the US and other arrogant powers.

"The regional and extra-regional coalitions and treaties among emerging powers, including BRICS and the Shanghai [Cooperation Organization], oppose the unilateralism of the current hegemonic system," Raeisi said.



Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi (R) greets Sunni religious scholars in Tehran, Iran, on August 31, 2023. [president.ir](https://www.president.ir)



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Iran foils Israel's ...

"Despite the very complex plan of the Zionist enemy, this action was under intelligence and operational monitoring from the very beginning and was completely neutralized by the arrest of the network's agents," the unnamed source said.

The official did not say how many agents had been arrested or where they were from. The Israeli prime minister's office declined to comment, though it comes amid a years-long effort by both Israel and the US to target Iran, AP wrote.

A reporter also said the parts could be used in Iran's extensive arsenal of drones. The pieces shown in the television report appeared to be military-style, high-density circular electrical connectors. Such connectors can be used to attach electronic components of a missile or a drone, such as its guidance computer, and pass both electricity and signals. Video released by Iran in the past showed missile scientists working with similar connectors.

The New York Times in 2019 reported the US under then-President Donald

Trump had accelerated a sabotage program targeting Iran's missile and rocket program that dated back to the administration of President George W. Bush. The CIA declined to comment on the purported sabotage attack. Tehran has also accused Israel of being behind a January drone attack on a Defense Ministry site in the central province of Isfahan. Fabian Hinz, a missile expert and research fellow at the International Institute for Strategic Studies, said, "It's quite likely Iran purchases these connectors from abroad."

France's sphere of influence on Africa waning



Thousands of protesters gather in support of the putschist soldiers in the capital Niamey, Niger, on August 3, 2023. The sign reads "Goodbye France."
● REUTERS

By Ebrahim Beheshti
Staff writer

France's presence in Africa is "dwindling." This is what Iran's former ambassador to France believes. The former Iranian envoy to Libya has argued that France is unable to resort to military action to quell recent coups within its sphere of influence on Africa.

On August 30, just over a month following a military coup in Niger, Gabon's top military brass orchestrated a putsch, bringing down the sitting government. Al Jazeera reports that eight coups have taken place in

West and Central Africa since 2020, affecting nations such as Mali, Guinea, Burkina Faso, Chad, Niger, and Gabon.

Gabon's coup was staged just a day after the presidential election results were released, confirming the victory of Ali Bongo who secured his third consecutive term. But opposition factions rejected the outcome as rigged, claiming widespread irregularities. Bongo has been in power since 2009, succeeding his father, Omar Bongo, who presided over the nation's vast oil and mineral resources for 42 years.

The majority of the Central

and West African countries experiencing coups were formerly French colonies, and following their independence, they continued to be tethered to Paris's influence in security, politics, and economy. Despite their resource-rich status, many of these nations, including Gabon, grapple with glaring wealth disparities and inadequate resource allocation, resulting in a significant yawning gap between the ruling elite and a substantial portion of the public. In the case of Gabon, it is estimated that one-third of its 1.7 million strong population lives under the poverty line.

Abolqassem Delfi, former

Iranian ambassador to France, has told Iran Daily that while coups have become a recurring theme in Africa, the majority of them in French-influenced nations before 2000 had been engineered in line with France's interests. "These coups were either directly fomented by Paris or launched by militias backed by the French government. However, the recent coups largely diverge from France's interests in these nations."

Ja'afar Qannadbashi, an expert on African affairs and former Iranian ambassador to Libya, echoed a similar stance to Iran Daily, highlighting the

prevalence of coups as a "rampant means of regime change and power transfer" due to the "fragility of political structures" in most African countries.

According to Qannadbashi, apparently legitimate governments elected through democratic processes often struggle to address ongoing issues, despite abundant resources at their disposal. Furthermore, the geopolitical competition among major powers in Africa exerts little influence on these coups.

Drawing upon his visit to Libreville, the capital of Gabon, Qannadbashi explained the gross disparities in wealth and resource monopolies among the ruling elite and their associates. "Within the city, there is a dichotomy, with one part exhibiting a modernity akin to European nations, while another segment languishes in poverty, bereft of basic needs for a humble life.

While pointing to the people's economic discontentment with the inefficiencies of the Gabonese government, Qannadbashi said that the primary source of anger stems from the government's heavy reliance on France and the latter's control over the country's decision-making and ex-

ecutive bodies. Therefore, the military intervened in response to the people's protests, topping the government and assuming power. Qannadbashi asserted that the era of French post-colonial influence over African nations is now dwindling, after the end of the old colonial epoch.

Delfi highlighted the persistence of coups in African nations, despite international condemnation, citing a series of factors that fuel these recurring incidents. He pointed to the coup in Gabon and its anti-French undertones, saying: "France had been in the process of disengaging from Africa in recent years but sought a face-saving withdrawal that could protect some of its traditional interests."

He noted that France had realized that maintaining control over Africa as it did in the past was no longer feasible, primarily due to the financial burdens imposed and the emergence of new influential players on the continent, including China, the United States, and Russia.

In examining the rivalry among major powers in Africa, Delfi referred to the outright confrontation between Europe, including France, and Russia, the Ukraine war. He hinted that this rivalry might have extended to Africa, noting instances where Russian flags appeared in the hands of opposition forces in Niger and Burkina Faso before coups and

the noticeable presence of the Moscow-linked Wagner militia group in Africa. The fact that the Gabonese coup came hot on the heels of the putsch in Niger, raises the question of whether France or other African nations would resort to military intervention to crush the coup plotters.

Qannadbashi suggested that even if France harbored such intentions, it did not have the ability to do so. "Because there are concerns that military intervention could embroil the French in protracted conflicts akin to the quagmire of Afghanistan where the Americans bogged down. Furthermore, French authorities worry that instead of receiving a warm reception, their intervention might trigger resistance from the affected people.

Delfi also noted that prevailing international conditions and domestic circumstances in France were not conducive to the utilization of old methods of flexing muscles and military intervention. He underscored that within an unspoken and unwritten reality, France had come to terms with the notion that, in the medium and long term, it could not guarantee a sustained presence in the nations within its sphere of influence on Africa. "While Paris strives to safeguard its interests in the short term, it is aware that the era of its dominance is drawing to a close."

On the significance of Vietnam's Independence Day

Vietnam's remarkable transformation in 77 years

By Luong Quoc Huy
Ambassador of Vietnam in Tehran

OPINION
EXCLUSIVE

78 years ago, in the autumn of 1945, under the leadership of President Ho Chi Minh, the people all over the country of Vietnam simultaneously rose up and conducted a general uprising to seize power. By making good use of situational factors and revolutionary opportunities with careful preparation, the general uprising took place very quickly, with almost no bloodshed but a huge victory. Within just 15 days at the end of August 1945, the general uprising won completely, and the government belonged to the people of Vietnam.

On September 2, 1945, at Ba Dinh Square, President Ho Chi Minh read the historic "Declaration of Inde-

pendence" and solemnly declared to the whole world the birth of a new state: the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (now the Socialist Republic of Vietnam).

More than two-thirds of the century has passed. Many details of the contents of the "Declaration of Independence" have been studied and clarified in many fields. It is a legal document laying the basis for affirming the establishment of a state based on the rule of law, with the goals of Independence, Freedom, and Happiness. Moreover, the Declaration of Independence also contributed to the path of human liberation and opened the era of independence and freedom for oppressed peoples all over the world.

The thoughts of President Ho Chi Minh in the Declaration of Independence have become motivations for the entire Vietnamese nation to overcome all difficulties and challenges to build up the country. Vietnam has never

had the opportunity, potential, position, and international prestige like today.

Economically, Vietnam has been a development success story and now is one of the most dynamic emerging countries in the East Asia region. In recent years, its average growth has been about 7% per year. Vietnam has left the group of low-income countries since 2008. After basically controlling the COVID-19 pandemic, from the fourth quarter of 2021, Vietnam's economy has reopened and has taken steps to recover and grow strongly. In 2022, its GDP was about \$409 billion, its GDP growth reached 8.02%, and its GDP per capita was about \$4,110. Its export turnover reached \$371.85 billion, an increase of 10.6% compared to the previous year, and its import turnover reached \$360.65 billion, an increase of 8.4% over the previous year. The trade balance surplus was \$11.2 billion. Foreign direct investment in

Vietnam reached \$22.4 billion, an increase of 13.5% over the previous year. Vietnam now has trade relations with more than 230 markets and has engaged in more than 500 bilateral and multilateral agreements in various fields, including 17 FTAs.

In the international arena, Vietnam is a good friend, a reliable partner, and a responsible member of the international community. From the status of being isolated and embargoed, Vietnam has created and enhanced the foreign policy of openness, multilateralization, diversification, and creating favourable conditions for the country's renovation and development. Vietnam has expanded and elevated its diplomatic relations with all neighboring countries, major powers, important partners, and traditional friends. On the multilateral scale, Vietnam is an active and responsible member of over 70 important interna-

tional organizations and forums such as the United Nations, ASEAN, APEC, ASEM, and WTO.

The high-level foreign activities of the Party and State leaders remain active. Vietnam Communist Party has established ties with 247 political parties in 111 countries. Vietnam National Assembly has relations with the national assemblies and parliaments of over 140 countries. Its private organizations and agencies have

ties with thousands of private and non-governmental organizations from foreign countries.

Vietnam's international status and prestige in the region and the world remain enhanced as it actively and responsibly contributes to the maintaining of peace, cooperation, development, and progress in the world. During the past years, Vietnam has successfully organized major international conferences and completed many international tasks as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council (two terms: 2008-2009 and 2020-2021), the ASEAN Rotating Chair-

man, and the Host of ASEM high-level meeting, APEC Summit, World Economic Forum on ASEAN, etc. It has dispatched hundreds of officers and soldiers to join the Peacekeeping Organization of the UN in Africa. Recently, the new development of the situation, especially the COVID-19 pandemic, has impacted all aspects including politics and socio-economy. Vietnam has timely sent medical and financial support to over 50 countries and international organizations, clearly displaying the motto "a responsible member" in the international community.



Taremi to stay on at Porto as Milan move collapses



Sports Desk

Mehdi Taremi's summer-long transfer saga ended in despair for the Porto striker as his eagerly-awaited move to Serie A giant Milan fell through right at the death.

With the news suggesting earlier in the week that the Iranian had made his desire of a switch to the Italian league known to the Porto hierarchy, football fans in Iran were hoping to see the prolific forward unveiled with a the Rossoneri kit on Thursday as the two clubs had reportedly agreed on a €15 million fee plus add-ons. However, with one day left until Friday's transfer deadline, all the efforts made by both parties to secure the deal ended to no avail after Milan walked away from negotiations for what is believed a disagreement on the agents' fee. "Negotiations between AC Milan and Porto have officially collapsed," high-profile Italian journalist Fabrizio Romano wrote on X, formerly known as Twitter, late

on Thursday, citing a Porto Canal report.

"Following a meeting between [Porto president] Jorge Nuno Pinto da Costa and Mehdi Taremi on Thursday, it was decided that the Iranian striker will stay at Porto for the 2023/24 season," the Portuguese TV channel's website wrote of the player, who has bagged 80 goals and 49 assists in 151 appearances, helping the Dragons win five major domestic trophies, since joining the club in 2020.

Yet to get off the mark for the new campaign, Taremi netted 22 strikes to finish as the leading marksman in the Portuguese top flight last season, while his five-goal contribution saw Porto win the Champions League group before being knocked out by Inter in the round of 16.

Having parted ways with key midfielder Otavio, who joined Saudi side Al Nassr last week, Porto manager Sergio Conceicao will be thrilled to have the Iranian talisman at his disposal for

the newly-started campaign, despite the club facing the prospect of losing him for free when the 31-year-old's contract ends next summer.

Beaten to the title by Benfica in May, Porto will be looking to lift a 16th league trophy, while fancying its chances of progressing beyond the group stage of the Champions League for a fifth time since the 2016/17 campaign.

Thursday's draw pitted Porto against La Liga champion Barcelona, Shakhtar Donetsk of Ukraine, and Belgian side Royal Antwerp in Group H of the European elite clubs competition.

Iranian fans, meanwhile, will have to settle for watching another fellow countryman in Sardar Azmoun, who joined AS Roma from Leverkusen on a season-long loan deal, in Serie A this season, though the striker will face tough competition from newly-signed Belgian Romelu Lukaku, as well as Andrea Belotti, Tammy Abraham, and Stephan El Shaarawy for a place in the starting XI.

● GETTY IMAGES

Iranian girls crowned world taekwondo cadet champions

Sports Desk

Iran bagged three gold and silver medals apiece to claim the girls' title at the World Taekwondo Cadet Championships in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Hana Zarrinkamar brought the curtain down on a glorious campaign for the Iranian girls in the Bosnian capital on Thursday, coming out on top against Australian Akon Baak in emphatic fashion in the final showpiece of the +176cm class.

The Iranian eased to a first-round victory with 30 seconds left on the clock and then landed two consecutive head kicks in the first 10 seconds of the second period and went on to win by a point gap.

Ayla Jalil, meanwhile, had to settle for a silver in the girls' -176cm event after suffering a final defeat against Serbian Vanja Rankov. Thursday's results came after Rojan Soufi (-168cm) and Seyyedeh Kimia Mohammadi (-172cm) had walked away with the ultimate

prize of their respective classes earlier in Sarajevo, with Helia Ebrahimian (-164cm) and Kowsar Ojaqlou (-156cm) adding a couple of silvers to Iran's medal haul.

Iran was followed in the girls standing by South Korea and Kazakhstan, while there was further glory for the country as Niloufar Saffarian was named the Best Female Coach in the fifth edition of the competitions.

Elsewhere on Thursday, Mohammad-Hossein Taqipour outclassed Russian Nikita Gubanov, representing the Individual Neutral Athletes, in straight rounds (12-5, 11-3) in the +180cm final, capturing a first gold for Iran in the boys' contests.

Seyyed Mir-Abbas Hosseinifar (-172cm) and Yasan Ja'fari (-160cm) had finished their campaigns with double bronzes as Iran finished fifth in the boys table.

Kazakhstan won the boys' title, with Uzbekistan, Italy, and South Korea in the following spots respectively.



Iranian gold medalist Hana Zarrinkamar (red) lands a head kick on Australian Akon Baak in the final bout of the girls' +176cm class at the World Taekwondo Cadet Championships in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, on August 31, 2023.

● WORLD TAEKWONDO

First Announcement

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

TENDER NO.: 40-32-97101-62-021

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

items	Material Description	Quantity
01	Pipe layer with rear winch	02

Vendors who intend to participate in aforesaid tenders are requested to send their "Intention To Participate" letter via fax to the following number along with their resume according to Qualitative Assessment Form no. 1, available at: www.nisoc.ir, not later than 14 days after the second announcement, otherwise, their requests for participation in the tender will be disregarded.

The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of 68,446/45 EURO or 27,928,000,000 RIAL, in favor of NISOC.

Tender documents including the materials through technical specifications and Qualitative Assessment Forms can be accessed via: www.nisoc.ir-material-procurement-management-tab.

ONLY ACCEPTABLE DELIVERY TERM IS D.D.P., NISOC'S WAREHOUSE, AGHAJARI, IRAN

PAYMENT TERM IS C.O.D., SUBSEQUENT TO NISOC'S MATERIAL APPROVAL

FOREIGN PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
Bldg. No. 104, Material Procurement Management Complex,
Kouy-e-Fadaeian Islam (New Site), Ahvaz, Iran
Tel. No.: 061 34 12 24016
Fax No.: 061 34 45 74 37

Public Relations
WWW.SHANA.IR WWW.NISOC.IR <http://IETS.MPORG.IR> WWW.SETADIRAN.IR 1558084

First Announcement

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

TENDER NO.: 08-21-0140005

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

items	Material Description	Quantity
01	TUBING 4-1/2", API 5CT, GRADE L-80, SMLS "VAM", "N.VAM", PSL:2, 13.5 PPF, DRIFT: 3.795 IN.	20,000LE
02	PUP JOINT 4-1/2 IN., 13.5 PPF, 10 FT, PIN & BOX	15 NO
03	PUP JOINT 4-1/2 IN., 13.5 PPF, 7 FT, PIN & BOX	15 NO

Vendors who intend to participate in aforesaid tenders are requested to send their "Intention To Participate" letter via fax to the following number along with their resume according to Qualitative Assessment Form no. 1, available at: www.nisoc.ir, not later than 14 days after the second announcement, otherwise, their requests for participation in the tender will be disregarded.

The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of 239,358/79 EURO or 97,328,549,642 RIAL, in favor of NISOC. Tender documents including the materials through technical specifications and Qualitative Assessment Forms can be accessed via: www.nisoc.ir-material-procurement-management-tab.

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Premier medical destination:

Patients from 164 countries choose Iran

Social Desk

Health tourism, a thriving sub-branch of the tourism industry, involves seeking medical services in foreign countries. This rapidly growing sector has become a significant player in global economics, offering a lifeline for countries like Iran which is currently grappling with economic challenges caused by harsh sanctions. Through generating revenue and creating employment opportunities, health tourism contributes to sustainable development and economic dynamism.

According to Iran's Ministry of Health, out of 1,100 hospitals in our country, 250 have been granted the license to accept health tourists. Saeed Karimi, the deputy director of the Ministry of Health, recently announced the streamlining of health tourism licensing for medical centers, Tasnim News Agency reported. He explained that the process, "from document submission to license approval", takes approximately one month.



While 27 provinces in our country have centers capable of providing inpatient services to health tourists, there is still a need to increase the number of centers with health tourism licenses. This is because the influx of foreign currency resulting from the growth of health tourism significantly boosts the financial turnover of our medical facilities.

Karimi emphasized the importance of health tourism licensing, highlighting the unique standards and benefits offered by licensed centers. For instance, many foreign clients lack proficiency in Farsi, the official language of Iran, which can pose challenges in unlicensed centers. However, licensed centers provide translators, technical officers, and dedicated

medical staff in order to ensure that foreign patients receive high-quality services. Iraq stands out as the top source of health tourists coming to Iran, followed by patients from 164 other countries, including those from Europe, North and South America, Asia, and neighboring countries such as Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Armenia, Pakistan,

and Turkey. Moreover, infertility treatment is the most common reason for referrals of foreign patients, closely followed by ophthalmology, orthopedics, cosmetic and pediatric surgery, and heart diseases.

Despite having enormous potential to attract health tourists, Iran has yet to fully capitalize on these opportunities and maximize its income. According to Karimi, last year alone, 1.2 million foreign patients sought medical treatment in Iran, generating one billion dollars in revenue. However, the country has the capacity to earn ten times that amount if it strategically harnesses its potential to attract tourists. The World Trade Organization classifies health tourism into three types: medical tourism, health tourism, and preventive tourism. Medical tourism involves seeking treatment and undergoing surgeries in medical centers or hospitals. With over 1,100 hospitals and 55,000 beds, Iran boasts substantial capacity to accommodate a large number of foreign pa-

tients. Remarkably, approximately 25 percent of hospital beds in the country remain unoccupied, providing a solid foundation for welcoming international patients.

Health tourism, on the other hand, encompasses the post-treatment recovery period, where patients enjoy medical supervision while utilizing various therapeutic resources such as hot springs, salt lakes, mud therapy, and climate-based treatments. Iran's favorable climate, rich history, pristine natural landscapes, salt lakes, and diverse climatic conditions make it an attractive destination for health tourists seeking rejuvenation and recuperation.

Lastly, preventive tourism involves traveling to health villages and areas featuring mineral water springs and spas, providing an opportunity to escape the stresses of daily life and revitalize one's well-being without medical interventions. Unfortunately, the development of such health villages, despite the existence of suitable urban and rural locations with favorable climates, has been

neglected, representing a missed opportunity in attracting health tourists.

However, there are notable challenges facing foreign patients seeking medical care in Iran. The lack of easily accessible information regarding medical centers, services offered, and associated costs remains a significant hurdle. Additionally, lack of a comprehensive system suitable for following up with patients after they return to their home countries is another issue. Efforts should be made to provide foreign patients with up-to-date information, mobile-friendly platforms, and dedicated support to ensure a seamless experience.

Health tourism, undoubtedly, could serve as a catalyst for economic growth in Iran, providing a lifeline amidst challenging times. Through embracing this industry and leveraging our country's strengths, we can attract a larger number of health tourists, gain substantial revenue, and establish Iran as a premier destination for high-quality medical services and holistic well-being.

Boredom silently kills academic performance

According to a recent international study, students often feel bored during exams, which can harm their performance.

The study, led by Thomas Götz from the University of Vienna, focused on this overlooked phenomenon of "test boredom" and uncovered some significant findings. The research revealed that students do experience considerable boredom while taking exams. Moreover, the study found that extreme boredom can have a negative impact on test results. These findings were recently pub-

lished in the Journal of Educational Psychology. Interestingly, while boredom has been extensively studied, test boredom has been completely ignored until now. This study, conducted by psychologists from various universities, including the University of Vienna and the University of Konstanz, sheds light on the occurrence of test boredom and its detrimental effect on performance.

The main causes of test boredom were found to be both under-challenging and over-challenging exam con-

ditions. Additionally, when the exam content lacked personal relevance to the students, test boredom was significantly higher. The study concluded that high levels of test boredom have a negative influence on exam outcomes. The researchers introduced the "abundance hypothesis" in their study, which they were able to confirm. According to this hypothesis, boredom has a particularly negative impact on exam performance when students are over-challenged, as all their mental resources are focused on completing the tasks. This

leaves fewer resources available for experiencing boredom and working on the tasks. Conversely, when students are under-challenged, they have an abundance of resources available for task processing.

To combat test boredom, the researchers recommend that teachers design exam tasks that relate to students' real-life experiences. Additionally, tasks should be appropriately challenging, neither too easy nor too difficult. Parents or guardians can also play a role by discussing potential challenges

or lack of challenges with their children. Prompt action is necessary to prevent boredom and its negative consequences, such as a decline in performance.

This study not only sheds light on test boredom but

also opens up a new area of research. The researchers' work contributes significantly to understanding the detrimental effects of boredom in school. Previous studies have shown that boredom not only affects learning and

performance but also mental and physical health. By focusing on exams, which are a central aspect of students' school lives, this study expands our understanding of boredom's impact on children and adolescents.



The will to overcome

Story of a disabled boy who believed in his abilities and went beyond the limits



Mahdieh Qazvinian
Staff writer

Seyyed Esmail Nasrollahi, a student from Sari (capital city of the northern province of Mazandaran), who was capable of getting the 25th rank in the national entrance exam in the humanities major. Although Esmail suffers from complete paralysis, through his achievement he proves that "when there is a will, there is a way." Achieving the 25th rank is not something we can easily ignore. It indicates all the efforts that he made despite his difficult condition and disability. We also witness the love and sacrifice of a mother who has encouraged her son to achieve anything that may seem impossible. "Since my son was born in 2004, I noticed that he was really talented," said his mother, Pari Hajizadeh. "Because he was really extraordinary," said his mother,

"I never punished him or got tired of his condition. I would always encourage him to gain his life's goals."

"When he was nine months old, we recognized my son's disability. Ever since I tried so hard to prove that he is gifted. One of the most important characteristic qualities of Seyyed Esmail is his compassion, perseverance, and strong will." Hajizadeh spends her days nursing her son at home, and her nights nursing patients at Imam Khomeini Hospital in Sari.

"I don't want to retire. I am willing to continue nursing my son and the patients in the hospital. Given how busy I was, it didn't occur to me that I could remain as a nurse for my son - and this is nothing more than a mother's love." Although the genius teen has been dealing with paralysis for ages, he neither lost hope nor ambition.

During the years he was studying, he did not attend any school. He was self-ed-

ucated, studying at home, without a teacher or an adviser. His physical condition was really difficult to overcome. He was not even able to turn the pages of a book.

He would lie down to study. He worked so hard to achieve good grades.

All his efforts and hard work finally paid off and, at the age of 18, he managed to get the 25th rank in the national entrance exams. In addition, he is adept in chess.

He succeeded in winning many championships, and winning official positions at national chess competitions. Esmail owes his success to his mother's love. He said, "I should write a book to appreciate my mother's passion and patience. My mother is full of kindness and sacrifice, and she is my friend."

He has had a meeting with Hossein Kamali, the Minister of Science of Mazandaran Province, and has applied for virtual learning in the field of philosophy at the University of Tehran.



Esmail Nasrollahi (R) posing for a memorial photo with his favorite singer-songwriter Mohsen Yeganeh

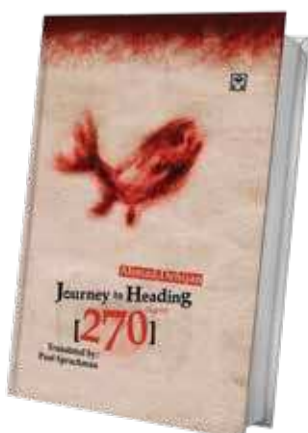
COURTESY OF NASROLLAHI FAMILY

**Iranian
resistance
literature
showcased at
Moscow
Book Fair**



The 36th International Moscow Book Fair commenced on Thursday, August 31, and will continue until September 3, welcoming visitors. The Islamic Republic of Iran experiences its eighth presence at this event by introducing and presenting 600 book titles and hosting various cultural sessions and workshops. One of the cognitive components of contemporary Iran is the concept of resistance and resilience. The victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979, led by Imam Khomeini, created new boundaries for freedom-seeking fronts, turning Iran into the foremost stronghold of the oppressed against the arrogant powers. This situation subjected the global hegemonic system to its harshest attacks, including military, economic, cultural, and political pressures. These attacks have persisted in various forms to this day. Therefore, from the early days of the revolution's victory, the front against global arrogance has always remained open, giving rise to various epic events. These epics have significantly contributed to the development and richness of the literature of resistance and resilience. For this reason, studying and reviewing these sources are considered one of the best ways to understand the culture of contemporary Iran.

The concepts promoted in Iranian resistance literature are approved by all free people around the world and are not limited to political borders due to their universality and transcendent nature. For this reason, translating and publishing these works in other languages will be a crucial step in advancing Iran's cultural diplomacy. The Islamic Republic of Iran's booth at the 36th International Moscow Book Fair presents important works from Iranian resistance literature.



Ahmad Dehqan's 'Journey to Heading 270 Degrees' is a novel set during the Iran-Iraq War and focuses on the experiences of a high school student who participates in several operations named Naser, and it is one of the best examples of Iranian resistance literature.

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Nobel reverses policy to include Iran, Russia, Belarus

The Nobel Foundation which administers the prestigious awards has reversed its invitation policy and invited Iran, Russia, and Belarus, as well as the leader of a far-right Swedish party, who had previously been banned. Vidar Helgesen, the executive director of the private foundation, said in a statement that there was a global trend in which "dialogue between those with differing views is being reduced," according to TRT World. To counter that, he said, "We are now broadening our invitations to celebrate and understand the Nobel Prize and the importance of free science, free culture and free, peaceful societies." The foundation said that invitation for the 2023 events was extended to all countries with diplomatic missions in Sweden and Norway and parties "that have parliamentary rep-

resentation via democratic elections," adding that "this common approach promotes opportunities to convey the important messages of the Nobel Prize to everyone, and in future this practice will be common to the entire organization." Last year, the diplomatic envoys of Russia and Belarus were barred from attending the glittery prize ceremonies and banquets, which always take place on December 10, because of the war in Ukraine, and the ambassador of Iran was also excluded because of "the serious and escalating situation" in the country. All the Nobel Prizes are handed out in Stockholm other than the Nobel Peace Prize, which is awarded in Oslo. The foundation also extended the invitation to the Sweden Democrats party leader Jimmie Akesson, who declined it, saying

on Facebook that "unfortunately I'm busy that day". Swedish political party leaders are traditionally invited to the banquet but Akesson, who heads a nationalist party with far-right roots, has been snubbed in the past. The Sweden Democrats, which are seen by some as a threat to fundamental values in the Scandinavian country's society, including tolerance toward asylum-seekers from conflict zones in the Middle East and Africa, came second in the 2022 parliamentary elections. Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson said Friday he would not have allowed



Russia to attend if it had been his choice. "To isolate Russia in every possible way — militarily, economically — it is neces-

sary," he told the TT news agency. "In that situation, I would not have invited to a purely social celebration." The Nobel Prize winners will be announced in October.

Iran, Russia need to work together over children's books

Arts & Culture Desk

The focus of the 36th International Moscow Book Fair (from August 30 to September 3) is children's and young adult's books. Thus, organizers of the event have included the first-ever International Moscow Children's Book Fair as part of this exhibition. Children's books are an irreplaceable component of education and upbringing in any society. Human social life is deeply rooted in the kind of education received in early years. Social stability and evolution have a two-way relationship with culture, and achieving progress highlights the importance of education and nurturing. Throughout history, established and evolving societies have placed a significant role on educational and nurturing institutions. On the other hand, studying the history of human thought reveals that education and upbringing have always been the focal point of prominent thinkers in all societies, serving as the most essential and foundational issue on the path to social development and the



● IRNA

creation of an ideal city. In contemporary times, researchers can compare the educational ideas of prominent intellectuals in their own society with those of other societies to enrich educational discourse. Undoubtedly, children's books published in each country reflect the intellectual and major educational discussions among thinkers and cultural figures of that nation. Therefore, one of the crucial features of international book fairs in different countries can be the ex-

change of experiences and achievements in the realm of children's literature, consequently promoting educational and nurturing accomplishments. Both Iran and Russia possess rich and significant cultural and civilizational backgrounds. The classical culture and literature of both countries have many admirers worldwide, and cultural exchanges between Iran and Russia have always brought great benefits to human heritage. The exchange of Iranian and Russian experiences in

the field of children's books can also mark significant events since it involves the exchange of educational ideas to some extent. Cultural centers in both countries can play a vital role in facilitating this exchange and introducing valuable resources for translation and publication to each other. A search in the database of Iran's House of Books and Literature reveals that in the past four decades, 231 titles of Russian children's books have been translated into Persian. Additionally, sta-

tistics show that these resources have been reprinted 346 times. In total, 146 translators have published 577 children's books, by 140 publishers in Iran. The International Moscow Book Fair provides an excellent platform for fostering cultural exchange, especially in the realm of children's literature, and the collaboration between Iran and Russia in this regard holds the potential to enrich the educational landscape and promote cross-cultural understanding.