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# Iran Daily



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Every year, hundreds of thousands of visitors come to the "Musée de l'Homme" anthropology museum to experience prehistoric skeletons and ancient sculptures. However, they probably don't know that beneath this place, 18,000 skulls, including the remains of African tribal chiefs, Cambodian protesters, and indigenous Oceanic people, are kept. Many of these skulls were collected from former French colonies and are stored in cardboard boxes on metal shelves. They are also sensitive reminders of the past and have, as a result, been kept hidden. Information about the identity of the skulls and the background of the collection has never been made public. During the height of colonialism, French authorities engaged in practices of collecting and displaying these skulls as a means of asserting dominance and control over their colonial subjects. It was a grim symbol of power, intended to intimidate and dehumanize those who dared to resist French rule. These actions have been widely criticized for their inhumanity and disregard for the dignity of the colonized peoples. In recent years, there has been increasing pressure on France to repatriate these skulls to their countries of origin, as a step towards reconciliation and acknowledging the pain and suffering inflicted during the colonial era.

# End of French Colonialism

Why has Africa become the epicenter of anti-Western colonialism?

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

Turkey's  
inflation  
nears 60%

AFP - Turkey's annual inflation approached 60 percent last month, official data showed Monday, putting pressure on the central bank to further hike interest rates.

The state statistical agency said prices rose by 58.9 percent over 12 months ending in August compared to 47.8 percent in July.

Official data showed transportation prices rising by 70.2 percent and those of restaurants and hotels by 89.3 percent.

IMF urges  
tools to  
monitor  
payments

BLOOMBERG - Nordic and Baltic governments should consider mechanisms to keep track of their cross-border financial flows to better gauge risks following money laundering scandals over the past years, according to a report by the International Monetary Fund staff.

Danske Bank A/S agreed last year to pay \$2 billion to end a long-running US probe into money laundering through its Estonian branch while Swedbank AB was fined a record 4 billion kronor (\$360 million) by Swedish authorities in 2020 for failing to put a stop to illicit transactions.

Tesla, Chinese  
brands take  
center stage  
at Munich  
car show

REUTERS - Tesla and Chinese carmakers showed off their newest electric models at the Munich auto fair on Monday, throwing down the gauntlet to their European rivals as competition in the sector intensifies. The industry-wide shift towards electric vehicles (EVs) was on full display on the opening day of Germany's biennial IAA mobility show, one of the world's largest.

Second overseas DRI plant  
using Iranian technology  
to be built in Peru

## Economy Desk

The second abroad sponge iron factory using Iranian technology 'PERED' will be constructed in Peru.

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) to construct a direct-reduction iron (DRI) production plant through Iranian-developed method technology as well as a steelmaking plant was signed with a Chinese company, according to IRNA. The contract was made be-

tween the Chinese investor and the Iranian Mines and Metals Engineering Company (MME) as the developer of the PERED technology.

The annual capacity of the project is one million tons of sponge iron, which will be used in the steelmaking unit. Also, the construction of the steel factory will be carried out with the Iranian technology by the MMA in Peru.

The furnace part of the factory (DRI) will be de-

signed by the MME and part of its strategic equipment will be manufactured in Iran.

PERED technology is also known as 'Persian Reduction' technology. It is the direct reduction technology invented and patented by the MME in 2007.

The technology is carried out through scientific principles and experiences of the Iranian experts.

The unique advantage of the Iranian technology of PERED is using a spe-

cial catalyst which enjoys more durability under process of production along with acceleration in cracking process of reducing gases in steel reformers.

Once, four Iranian factories to produce sponge iron using the Iranian method 'PERED' were successfully constructed and also, the erection of first steel plant in China was prosperous as the world's largest steel producer, now foreign investors are

looking for the Iranian technology.

In addition, there are three other mega module projects including Kurdistan Steel, Simin Hormuz Steel Industry Company and Hormozgan Steel Company, are to be implemented via Iranian PERED method. One of the most important achievements gained through the past years is the optimization of the steel production process using the method of PERED.

NTBFs will help improve mazut quality: **NIORDC**

## Economy Desk

The National Iranian Oil Refining and Distribution Company (NIORDC) will enjoy domestic new technology-based firms' (NTBFs) cooperation to accelerate the implementation of a project for improving the quality of mazut.

NIORDC Managing Director Jalil Salari made the remarks in a ceremony to sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with an Iranian NTBF on the enhancement of the quality of mazut.

"We now possess the technical know-how to im-

prove the quality of mazut, and intend to carry out the project in low-capacity refineries and then other refineries of the country," Salari added.

The project has been implemented by domestic companies in Bandar Abbas Oil Refinery, which produces 95,000 barrels of mazut per day, and also in Shazand Imam Khomeini Refinery in a complicated process to upgrade the standards of mazut, he noted.

Shiraz Oil Refining Company is currently producing 1.3 million barrels of mazut per day on average, the NIORDC CEO said, add-

ing the MoU will be soon turned into a contract and its executive operation will start by mid-March 2024.

The deputy minister expressed hope that the implementation of the quality-enhancing project in the country's refineries will help export mazut.

NIORDC will hopefully take another crucial step toward protecting the environment by desulfurizing the product, he concluded.

The Iranian government has spent heavily in recent years to carry out major renovation projects in refineries, helping boost fuel quality in the country.

MP says energy  
diplomacy has  
increased oil exports

The incumbent administration's effective diplomacy has increased oil exports, said a member of Parliament.

Mansour Shokrollahi added the rise in crude oil exports shows that the energy diplomacy exercised by

the government and the Oil Ministry has worked, Shana reported.

The member of Parliament's Energy Committee pointed to the recent inauguration of Phase 11 of the South Pars gas field as another achievement

of the current administration.

He said the Oil Ministry has demonstrated Iranian experts' ability to do the job despite sanctions.

"We have great capacities in the oil sector and have so far signed good con-

tracts with different countries," said the lawmaker, predicting a bright future for the Oil Ministry.

Not only have oil production and exports jumped, but also debts have been collected, concluded Shokrollahi.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist

Iran's five-month pistachio  
exports near \$110m: **Official**

Iran exported around 16,000 tons of pistachios, valued at about \$110 million, to 44 countries in the first five months of the current Iranian year (March 21 to August 22), announced the head of the foreign trade office of the Central Organization for Rural Cooperatives of Iran.

During the period, 15,981 tons of quality pistachios, valued at \$109.714 million, were exported from Iran to 44 countries, showing a six percent

growth in weight, and a one percent decline in value, compared to the same period last year, said Rouhollah Latifi, according to Tasnim news agency. About 23 percent of the total pistachios exported from Iran in the five months to August 22 was destined for the Russian Federation, he noted.

Other major target markets of Iran's pistachios were Germany, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Kyrgyzstan, and China, Latifi added.

# Zanjan Province excels in traditional handicrafts



By Sadeq Dehqan  
Staff writer

The northwestern province of Zanjan has secured the prestigious national seal of excellence in an array of traditional handicrafts. These include: *Malileh-kari* (filigree art), manufacturing copper utensils, *namad-mali* (felt beating), jewelry making, *pelas-bafi* (weaving specific patterns using metallic threads), *charuq-duzi* (weaving a type of traditional footwear), *giveh-duzi* (weaving a type of traditional footwear), engraving and embossing on copper and decorative stones, woodworking, making traditional instruments and knife-making, said the deputy head of the province's Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Organization.

Speaking in an exclusive interview with Iran Daily, Seyyed Mikaeil Mousavi added that a total of 11 handicrafts of the province, including nine *malileh-kari* works, one knife-making work, and one traditional instrument have proudly received the prestigious international UNESCO Seal of Excellence.

Referring to the process of awarding the National Seal of Excellence, he remarked that each year, the handicrafts of the province undergo provincial and national assessments. The process commences with the Cultural Heritage, Tour-



Charuq-duzi  
visitiran.ir

ism, and Handicrafts Organization issuing a call for artists to submit their artworks. Once the artworks are collected, experts evaluate them and choose several pieces to be further appraised at the national level.

Mousavi pointed out that in the past, the handicrafts were sent to Tehran for evaluation. However, for the past few years, regional assessments have been conducted on them. This means that the artworks created by artists from five to six provinces, located in a specific region, are collectively reviewed by experts.

He added that earlier this year, a call has been initiated by this organization for the collection of artworks crafted by the talented artisans of Zanjan Province. These exquisite handicrafts will

undergo evaluation in Tabriz, the capital of East Azarbaijan Province, in October. Following this, the chosen masterpieces will be sent abroad for further assessment by UNESCO.

Mousavi noted that the first criterion of this evaluation is the authenticity of the artwork. It should embody a national and regional identity, with patterns and decorative elements showcasing its unique originality.

The official added that the next parameter is the quality of the product. It means that the raw materials and components of the handicrafts should be of top-notch quality, and they should possess a perfect balance and captivating appearance.

He noted that innovation and creativity are other key evaluation

criteria, indicating that a successful work should possess both visual coherence among its elements and originality. Additionally, the work should demonstrate a strong presence in the market.

"Zanjan Province, strategically positioned along the vital east-west route, has become a highly sought-after destination for both domestic and international travelers. Throughout the year, tourists flock to the province from all corners of the country, enticed by its strategic location and diverse offerings. This influx of visitors has not only elevated the province's tourism industry but has also provided invaluable exposure for its flourishing handicraft sector. As a result, local artisans are finding increased opportunities to showcase and sell their

unique products," he said. Mousavi continued that there are currently 55 active branches of handicrafts in Zanjan Province, involving nearly 15,000 individuals who are busy working in this sector and earning income.

He believes that one of the finest and most significant handicrafts in the province is *malileh-kari*. The World Crafts Council officially recognized Zanjan, the capital of Zanjan Province, as the World City of Filigree in 2020.

"Eleven cities throughout Iran have been designated as world craft cities, placing our country among the top nations in the world in this regard," he noted.

Mousavi noted that around 200 artists are engaged in production of filigree works in Zanjan. Approximately two tons of filigree works are crafted each year in the city. A portion of these delicate artworks gets showcased and sold at prestigious international exhibitions, while the rest finds its way into the hands of enthusiastic domestic and international tourists.

He said *malileh-kari* falls under the category of metalworking arts, where thin silver wires are used to craft decorative vessels like trays, sugar bowl, cup handles, brooches, etc.

Producing and making traditional copper utensils is another handicraft industry in the province. These products are utilized for both culinary and decorative purposes.



Knife-making  
apochi.com



Malileh-kari  
shopipersia.com

## Astara's ancient tombstones transferred for preservation, study

### Iranica Desk

In an effort to preserve and study the rich historical heritage of Astara, a city in Gilan Province, five ancient tombstones were relocated to Rasht, the provincial capital, according to the head of the city's Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Department.

Hassan Kazemi told to ISNA that Astara boasts of numerous ancient cemeteries and mounds, some of which are adorned with tombstones dating back to the pre-Islamic era.

"However, these tombstones have suffered from their dispersed state and, as a result, a comprehensive and in-depth study of them has been lacking," Kazemi highlighted.

He said that recognizing the

significance of these ancient artifacts, the department has taken action to transfer some of the tombstones to a museum in Rasht. Following the completion of necessary administrative procedures and correspondence, the five selected tombstones, originally situated in an open area, have been successfully relocated. The move aims to ensure the proper conservation and understanding of these historical treasures as they shed light on the cultural, artistic, and historical values embedded within Astara's ancient past.

Kazemi exclaimed, "After undergoing restoration, refurbishment, and meticulous documentation, these magnificent stones will finally be unveiled and displayed in a prestigious museum

of Gilan Province, proudly representing the border city of Bandar Astara.

Astara is an Iranian port and border city with several tourist attractions. It is an economic center and the main city for domestic and international tourists on the western coast of the Caspian Sea. This city is the last border point between Iran and the Republic of Azerbaijan.

When you walk on the streets of this city, you will notice that the architects have used clay in the construction of house roofs. This type of roof has a decorative aspect; architecturally, it makes the house temperature cooler in summer than the pitch-insulated flat roofs.

Astara is located 75 kilometers from the city of Ardebil.



ISNA



ISNA

## Comprehensive plan for Hormuz Island announced

### Iranica Desk

Head of the Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department of Hormuzgan Province in southern Iran has announced a comprehensive plan for the island.

Hormuz Island is an Iranian island in the Persian Gulf, located in the Strait of Hormuz, eight kilometers (five miles) off the Iranian coast. With an area of 42 square kilometers (16 sq. mi), it is covered by sedimentary rocks and layers of volcanic materials on its surface.

As part of Hormuzgan Province, the island is sparsely inhabited, but some development has taken place since the late 20th century.

Mohammad Mohseni said the comprehensive plan for this island will determine the investment capacity and public services' ability for future tourists, who will choose this island as a destination, pointing out the island's natural and historical potential.

He said the purpose of this plan, which should first be verified by the island's governor, is to improve the island's quality of life and stabilize its population.

"Building infrastructures will cause new careers to rise and help enhance local life in the area," he added.

"This plan will help us use all of our capacities to the utmost and take a big step toward tourism development," he concluded.

respina24.ir





# End of French colonialism

Why has Africa become the epicenter of anti-Western colonialism?

By Faezeh-Sadat Yousefi  
Guest contributor

**OPINION  
EXCLUSIVE**

After the coup in Niger, this time the military took control of the government in Gabon, located in Central Africa. The second wave of military coups, which led to eight military coups on this continent in two years from 2021, indicates that coups are spreading and expanding throughout Africa. Perhaps the fear of this situation led the President of Rwanda on August 30th to retire or dismiss a significant number of senior officers and troops, including young forces seen among them. Therefore, Africa has now become, alongside Ukraine, a focal point of global developments, as the outcomes of these events are not confined to geographical borders, and Africa has turned into the center of anti-colonial movements, especially for Western countries, particularly France.

French colonialism began in the 16th century and lasted for approximately 300 years, primarily in West and North Africa, where about 35% of Africa's landmass fell under French control, marked by violence and crime. As the President of Algeria declared, during 123 years of French colonialism (1830-1962), meaning up to Algerian independence, nearly half of the country's population fell victim to crimes that will not be forgotten over time. These crimes were so heinous that the French, during the Algerian War of Independence, would decapitate freedom fighters and put them on display with them, and today, the skulls of 18,000 Algerians are held in French museums.

France also ruthlessly suppressed the uprisings of the peoples of countries that had participated in World War II with promises of independence from that country. During both World Wars, millions of Africans were displaced due to the policies of both England and France. They were also used as forced labor to rebuild war-damaged

European cities. France's history in Africa is filled with the plunder of natural resources, torture, mass killings, and blatant human rights abuses, to which no international organization or institution has yet provided a constructive response.

After a round of coups in the 1970s and 1980s, and the fear of France and its Western accomplices losing their influence, a more modern form of colonialism was devised for Africa, under the guise of democracy and African governance, to deceive the people.

The West, led by France, attempted to place puppet governments under the banner of their legitimate civil authority, to deepen their growing influence. If a government adhered to French laws, Paris allowed it to remain in power. However, it is clear that this strategy has failed to resonate with the public and has lost its effectiveness. This period, which can be referred to as the transition period from democracy for interventionist countries like France, is coming to an end, and undoubtedly, a change in their strategy will occur.





Thousands of protesters gathered to support the putschist soldiers in the capital Niamey, Niger, on August 3, 2023. The sign reads 'France must go'.  
Image: Mahamadu Hamidou/Renews

### The African Uprising Against Colonialism and Exploitation

Despite being marginalized in global equations, Africa today seeks to establish its position on the world political stage. The coups also tell the tale of a collective will in Africa against the new French colonialism and its allies. Africa, despite its rich resources and strategic mineral reserves crucial for modern technologies, has been subjected to exploitation and poverty, aimed at depriving its people of progress and plundering its natural resources through increasing influence. For instance, Gabon, a country rich in major oil wells and vast uranium reserves for nuclear fuel production in France, finds its cities in darkness.

The common denominator in these coups has largely been anti-French sentiments and a quest for liberation from Western imperialism. After coming to power, coup leaders, especially in Niger, canceled military agreements with France, cut off radio and television networks, demanded the departure of this country's diplomats, and even legally ordered the expulsion of the ambassador by the country's supreme court.

Africans are striving in every way to present themselves as independent decision-makers in the global governance system, and what are called coups are part of these efforts. Coups may be named after military actions, but in essence, they are movements based on the desire for freedom to cast aside governments linked to France and with the support of the people. Supportive marches for coups and anti-French slogans validate this. Therefore, these military actions can be assessed as protests against colonialism and efforts to regain the independence of these countries.

### Power Blocs as Threats to the West and Future Scenarios

What concerns Western-influenced countries like France right now is not just the shortening of their reach; it's the direct effects that the domino effect of coups has on the perception of other African societies and the motivation it will instill in them. Hence, France, along with its allies, is working to prevent the spread of coups to other countries.

The first threatening effect of these coups is that the performance of colonial governments involved in coups makes their intentions more transparent than before, leading to greater enlightenment among the African public. Therefore, Paris is trying to address the issue diplomatically. Secondly, the support of other countries, especially in the military domain, for the coup in Niger, indicates the increasing growth of coups, which can form powerful anti-Western blocs in Africa. This, alongside the coup development, can pose a serious threat to the West, especially since the fear is that blocking their influence might facilitate the infiltration of rival countries. Countries like Burkina Faso and Guinea have announced that they will face any military intervention by ECOWAS alongside Niger. Furthermore, influential countries like Algeria and Mali are also seriously opposed to military intervention.

The scenarios currently pursued by the West, primarily France, focus on military intervention under the umbrella of ECOWAS, which they are currently seriously considering. This is because a country like France, despite having thousands of military personnel in Niger, cannot overtly carry out military intervention due to a change in its intervention strategy, so they act indirectly by supporting military interventions. In this context, ECOWAS, a group of African countries, can prevent any future coups in Africa, but

the problem is that military support from other countries such as Guinea and Burkina Faso to Niger can ignite a war with unpredictable dimensions, leading to detrimental outcomes for the West, especially as these disputes may trigger other coups in the midst of them, with rival actors playing roles, ultimately leading to proxy wars, especially as the Ukraine war has become an unfinished conflict, and the West is now entangled in it. On the other hand, some countries like the United States are trying to place the coup path in their plans to stabilize governments, aiming to exploit the power vacuum. Some time ago, the American media attempted to cast doubt on the anti-colonial intentions of key figures in the Niger coup who had spent time studying in the United States, creating uncertainties.

Observing transcontinental political developments in Africa also indicates that this continent is on the path to aligning itself with a multipolar world and distancing itself from Western hegemony. The lack of alignment with the United States and NATO in the Ukraine war, which even led to the presentation of a peace plan, as well as the presence of representatives from about 40 African countries such as Mali and Guinea at the Russia-Africa summit, signifies this change. Therefore, the United States is trying to reduce the created space and strengthen its influence by establishing its strategy based on moderating interactions with Africa. To the extent that even Joe Biden, the President, introduced the "Africa-America Partnership" as a new approach of the United States.

In conclusion, the recent coups send a clear message about the end of Western hegemony in French colonies, which, with stability, can create a strategic shift for this continent alongside other developments.

# Why Africans hate France?

By Syed Ali Hassan  
Iran Daily's correspondent in Pakistan

In July 2023, General Abdourahmane Tchiani overthrew the government of President Bazoum of Niger on the grounds that he was weakening the army in alliance with France.

The president has been accused of conspiring with foreign governments against the United States' military and any such attempt would lead to the riots he was supposed to prevent. Economically, it is a uranium-rich country and produces seven percent of the world's supply.

Despite this, the people of Niger are considered among the poorest people in the world, while the United States and France have established military bases in this country as a basis for the war against terrorism.

France has not recognized this military coup and plans to overthrow the new military government through continued pressure and intervention. Niger's military rulers have revoked the diplomatic immunity of the French ambassador and ordered police to expel him from the African country. In the latest message sent by Niger's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, French Ambassador Sylvain Ette does not enjoy the privileges and immunities attached to his status as a member of the diplomatic staff of the embassy.

The document also states that diplomatic cards and visas of the ambassador's family have been revoked.

The army has said in a recent statement that the visas of the ambassador and his family have been cancelled. The growing influence of Russia and China is giving the former imperial colonies of African countries a chance to rise from poverty and independence. But at this point, the African people have to find their own way forward because the imperialist and arrogant forces are only looking out for their own interests.

African people have to take the path of hard work and education to prog-

ress towards development. Niger's new military rulers say the ambassador refused to meet General Tchiani, who says that the behavior of the French government is against the interests of Niger.

President Emmanuel Macron has said that France's ambassador to Niger has been ordered to stay in the rebellion-hit African country, which could lead to further escalation of the conflict.

In early August, the military rulers scrapped several of Niger's cooperation agreements with France to end the French military presence across the country and the resulting looting of the impoverished nation's resources. France has between 1,000 and 1,500 troops in Niger, claiming to be fighting the so-called war on terrorism.

Niger's neighboring countries Burkina Faso and Mali have already expelled French troops, and now Niger has also ordered foreign troops to leave the country. The negative sentiments against France in Niger and other African countries are due to historical, political and social factors. The exploitation of resources, forced labor, imposition of French culture and language during the French colonial period on Niger are deep wounds left by colonialism.

Not only Niger, the hatred of the people of other African countries against France has increased while Russia and China continue to support them.

Niger is a landlocked country in West Africa. In 2021, President Mohamed Bazoum took office after winning the presidential election earlier in the year. Niger has experienced periods of political instability and military coups in its history, but in recent years it has made progress towards democratic governance.

The impression of French imperialism on the various governments of the French colonial country has been prominent and French interests have been dominant in the policies of Niger governments. Consequently, there has been a distance between the people and the governments.



## Iranians win double Asian junior taekwondo golds



● taekwondo.ir

### Sports Desk

Iranian girls captured three medals – including double golds – at the Asian Junior Taekwondo Championships, taking the country's medal count to 10 in Beirut, Lebanon.

Sogand Shiri came out on top in straight rounds against Patcharakan Poolkerd of Thailand for the ultimate prize of the -44kg contests, while Fereshteh Fat'hi bounced back from a first-round defeat to beat China's Chengyi Wang in the -68kg final.

Rojan Goodarzi, meanwhile, had to settle for the -49kg silver after suffering a final loss to Thai contestant Natkamon Wassana – a reigning world junior champion.

Ghazal Houshmand, Niush Shadlou had bagged a couple of women's golds for Iran earlier in the competitions, with Amirmohammad Rahmani-Rad and Mohammad-Matin Hosseini also finishing on the top podium in the men's event.

# IWF World Championships: Iranians eyeing Paris berths in Riyadh



Mirmostafa Javadi will represent Iran in the men's 89kg contests at the IWF World Championships in Riyadh. ● IRNA

### Sports Desk

Iranian weightlifters will be looking to take a major step toward securing a berth in next year's Paris Olympics when taking part at the IWF World Championships in Riyadh in the coming days.

The Asian powerhouse is represented by a 10-man squad as well as four female athletes in the Saudi capital.

The competition serves a

mandatory event to qualify for the Games in Paris, which will be held across five men's and women's categories apiece in August next year.

Replacing high-profile countryman Kianoush

Rostami, Mirmostafa Javadi will be the Iranian contestant in the men's 89kg class – starting Sept. 11. Javadi, a double world silver winner in 2021, will be hoping to build on the clean & jerk and total Asian

bronzes he won in a new weight class in May in pursuit of the Olympic berth. Reza Dehdar will be joined by fellow Iranian Rasoul Mo'tamedi in the 102kg event – also an Olympic category – with the former among the favorites for a podium finish in Riyadh, having four world medals – including two golds – under his belt.

With Georgian sensation Lasha Talakhadze as well as Armenia's Varazdat Lalayan and Gor Minasyan of Bahrain all present in the Saudi capital, the +109kg event will be the one to watch.

Ali Davoudi and Ayat Sharifi are the two Iranian superheavyweights at the competitions, with both fancying their chances for glory, though Talakhadze will likely make a clean sweep of triple golds for a sixth year running to add to his double Olympic triumphs.

Having finished second to the Georgian in Tokyo two years ago, Davoudi will be aiming at a second Olympic medal in Paris.

More than 700 weightlifters will competing at the World Championships until September 17.

## Sancho says he is 'a scapegoat' after being dropped against Arsenal

**BBC** – Jadon Sancho says he has been “a scapegoat for a long time” after Manchester United boss Erik ten Hag said he was dropped for Sunday's game at Arsenal because of poor training performance.

The England forward did not travel to Emirates Stadium for the game, which United lost 3-1.

Ten Hag said Sancho had not reached the “level” required to be included.

“Please don't believe everything you read,” Sancho wrote on social media.

“I will not allow people saying things that is completely untrue, I have conducted myself very well in training this week.

“I believe there are other reasons for this matter that I won't go into, I've been a scapegoat for a long time which isn't fair!”

Sancho, 23, moved to Old Trafford from Borussia Dortmund for £73m in 2021.

However, he has struggled for consistent form and has scored nine league goals and provided just six assists in his 58 appearances.

Explaining his decision not to pick Sancho for his squad to travel to Arsenal, Ten Hag said: “Jadon, on his performances in training we did not select him.

“You have to reach a level every day at Manchester United and we can make choices in the front line. So for this game he was not selected.”

Sancho insisted he would continue to fight for his place at the club, adding: “All I want to do is play football with a smile on my face and contribute to my team.

“I respect all decisions that are made by the coaching staff, I play with fantastic players and grateful to do so, which I know every week is a challenge.

“I will continue to fight for this badge no matter what.”

In February, Ten Hag spoke of his pride in “magnificent” Sancho after the winger made a goalscoring return to the Premier League.

He had spent three months battling physical and mental issues, with Ten Hag at one point saying the England international was not fit enough to play.

## FIBA Basketball World Cup: Defending champions Spain knocked out by Canada

**REUTERS** – Canada eliminated defending champions Spain 88-85 in a thriller in Jakarta on Sunday to book their place in the FIBA Basketball World Cup quarter-finals in Jakarta, while the United States were beaten by Lithuania in their final preliminary game.

The final day of preliminary games in Japan, Indonesia and the Philippines offered surprising results as the quarter-final line-up was completed.

Lithuania, ranked eighth in the world, will face Serbia while the U.S. will play Italy in the last eight.

Germany will meet Latvia and Canada will lock horns with Slovenia.

Canada's Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, an NBA All-Star with the Oklahoma City Thunder, scored a game-high 30 points, the most for a Canadian player since 1994.

“We're willing to do whatever it took and we ended up getting it done,” said Gilgeous-Alexander, who scored Canada's last eight points including six clutch free throws to complete a comeback win.

Canada beat Spain for just the second time in the tournament's history, snapping a 49-year winless streak against the top-ranked European powerhouse.

Spain's Alex Abrines missed a potential game-tying three-pointer at the buzzer. Spain, missing 2019 World Cup's most valuable player



● FIBA

Ricky Rubio who stepped away from the sport to focus on his mental health, suffered their first back-to-back tournament defeats since 1990.

Canada also qualified for the 2024 Paris Olympics, their first since 2000.

In Manila, Team USA lost to Lithuania 110-104 in a quarter-final seeding game.

Lithuania led throughout, building a 54-37 advantage by halftime through three-pointers, second-chance points, and buckets from Team USA turnovers.

“They tried to be aggressive against us but we stayed calm and we take the win,” Lithuania's Donatas Motiejunas, who scored nine points, told reporters.

Seven Lithuanians scored in double-digits, led by Vaidas Karinauskas' 15 points. Anthony Edwards of the NBA's Minneso-

ta Timberwolves led the scoring for the U.S. with 35 points. Team USA narrowed the gap to four points with 30 seconds to go in the third quarter, and Edwards tried to lead a comeback in the final frame.

“Lithuania obviously just came out of the gates on fire,” Team USA head coach Steve Kerr said. “We are fortunate that the loss doesn't hurt us in terms of our goal which is to win the gold medal.”

In other games with quarter-finals implications, Serbia routed the Dominican Republic 112-79 in Manila, and Italy defeated Puerto Rico 73-57 for a return to the quarter-finals after 25 years. Germany outlasted Slovenia 100-71 in Okinawa while Latvia won against Brazil 104-84.

FIBA's flagship event, co-hosted by the Philippines, Japan, and Indonesia, will run until Sept. 10.

● GETTY IMAGES



# Raeisi: Iran ready to share its experiences with African countries

## National Desk

President Ebrahim Raeisi said on Monday that Iran is ready to share its experiences and achievements with friendly countries,

especially in the African Continent.

Raeisi made the remarks in a meeting with visiting foreign minister of Burkina Faso, Olivia Rouamba in Tehran.

The Iranian president underscored the need for the creation of a joint commission between the two countries in order to facilitate and expedite trade exchanges between

Tehran and Ouagadougou. Raeisi also praised the African nations' fight against colonialism and terrorism, describing it as a sign of vigilance and attention to the needs of the day.

For her part, Burkina Faso's foreign minister described Iran as a friendly country, saying that Ouagadougou is interested in strengthening mutual cooperation with Tehran.

Back in July, the Iranian president visited the three African countries of Kenya, Zimbabwe and Uganda to strengthen economic and trade relations with those countries.



Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi (R) meets Burkina Faso's Foreign Minister Olivia Rouamba (L) in Tehran, Iran, on September 4, 2023.

president.ir

## Possibilities of culinary diplomacy in Iran



By Abed Akbari  
International affairs expert

### OPINION EXCLUSIVE

Food diplomacy is the use of food as a tool to promote cultural exchange, mutual understanding, and cooperation among nations. Food diplomacy can take many forms, such as culinary festivals, food aid, gastronomic tourism, and cultural diplomacy programs that showcase the cuisine and culture of a country. Food diplomacy can also serve as a means to enhance the image and soft power of a country in the international arena. Food diplomacy works by creating opportunities for people from different countries and backgrounds to interact and communicate through food. Food can be a common ground that transcends political, religious, and cultural differences and can foster a sense of curiosity, respect, and appreciation for other cultures. Food can also be a way to express one's identity, values, and traditions and to share one's stories and experiences with others. Food can also be a source of pride and joy as well as a catalyst for creativity and innovation.

One example of a country that has been using food diplomacy to improve its image and relations with other countries is Iran. Iran has a rich and



diverse culinary heritage that reflects its history, geography, and culture. Persian food is known for its use of fresh herbs, spices, fruits, nuts, and rice as well as its variety of dishes such as kebabs, stews, soups, salads, breads, pastries, and desserts. Persian food is also influenced by the cuisines of neighboring countries such as Turkey, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Central Asia.

Iran has been organizing and participating in various food diplomacy initiatives to showcase its cuisine and culture to the world. For instance, Iran has hosted several international food festivals in Tehran and other cities, inviting chefs, journalists, and diplomats from different countries to taste and learn about Persian food. Iran has also sent delegations of chefs and culinary experts to attend food events and competitions in other countries, such as the World Food Festival in Malaysia, the International Culinary Cup in Thailand, and the World



Iranian chef Najmieh Batmanghelich puts out a spread of Iranian foods from at the White House Nowruz party in Washington, D.C., US, in April 2016.

TWITTER

Pastry Cup in France. Iran has also supported the establishment of Persian restaurants and cultural centers in foreign countries, such as the Iranian Cultural Center in London, which offers Persian cooking classes and cultural events. By engaging in food diplomacy, Iran hopes to create a positive image of itself as a country with a rich and diverse culture as well as to foster dialogue and friendship with other nations. Food diplomacy can also help to counter the negative stereotypes and misconceptions that some people may have about Iran due to its political and economic situation. Food diplomacy can thus be seen as a way for Iran to share its values, traditions, and identity with the world through the universal language of food.

## 'Postcards from Mexico, Iran' highlights identity preservation



By Sadeq Dehqan  
Staff writer

An exhibition of photographs titled 'Postcards from Mexico and Iran' is currently on display at the Iranian Art Museum Garden, showcasing a collection of 80 photographs capturing the essence of both countries' cultural treasures.

According to organizers, this exhibition aims to offer a visual exploration of the less-explored facets of Mexico and Iran, emphasizing their enduring cultural identities amidst evolving landscapes. The exhibition, which opened on September 4 and runs until September 13, features the works of prominent photographers Manuel Cerón from Mexico and Patrick Ringgenberg from Switzerland. Their photographs, measuring 30 by 45cm, provide an intimate perspective on landscapes, religious sites, and everyday life in both countries. These photographs shed light on the daily lives of people in Mexico and

Iran, often focusing on environmental and anthropological themes. They capture architectural marvels and offer a unique and profound view of the two nations. Mexico's ambassador to Iran, Guillermo Alejandro Puente Ordorica, in an exclusive interview with Iran Daily, expressed the exhibition's significance in fostering cultural cooperation and strengthening bilateral relations between the two nations. He noted that the exhibition is the result of over 20 years of exploration by photographers, showcasing moments often overlooked by tourists and tour guides while highlighting the authenticity of both countries. Ordorica also highlighted the importance of cultural and artistic endeavors in enhancing bilateral relations. He revealed plans by the Mexican Embassy to organize significant cultural programs in Iran, including writing workshops and traditional handicraft exhibitions, along with Mexican film screenings.



Ebrahim Kamali, the director of the Iranian Art Museum Garden, emphasized the museum's commitment to hosting international cultural and artistic events, facilitating interaction and collaboration between Iranian and foreign artists. He stated that this exhibition, with its diverse perspectives and themes, exemplifies the cultural connections shared between Iran and Latin American countries like Mexico. Kamali also pointed out the exhibition's juxtaposition of different frames and scenes, allowing viewers to compare similar landscapes from both

countries, a feature that adds to its attraction, especially through the lens of non-Iranian photographers.

He added, "In this exhibition, we encounter various frames and scenes, each of which has its counterpart in the opposite country. For instance, we witness a beach landscape in Mexico that resembles a similar scene captured in Iran."

In addition, Kamali noted that the exhibition provides an opportunity for people to witness how foreign photographers view the attractions in Iran, offering a positive and enriching perspective on the country's diverse landscapes and culture.

The 'Postcards from Mexico and Iran' exhibition is not only a testament to cultural cooperation, but also an invitation to delve deeper into the shared cultural heritage of Mexico and Iran. It celebrates the enduring identities of these two nations despite the changes they have undergone throughout history.

## Iran slows its enriching uranium: Report

Iran has slowed the pace at which it is enriching uranium, according to a report by the United Nations' nuclear watchdog seen by some Western media on Monday. While Iran has slowed enrichment, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) reported other problems with trying to

monitor its program. The report from the watchdog claimed that Iran had denied visas for agency officials and affected their ability to work in other ways as well. Iran has not acknowledged the visa denials. The IAEA said in its report that Iran has 121.6 kilograms of uranium en-

riched up to 60%. That means its stockpile of the fuel is growing at its slowest pace since 2021. A report in May put the stockpile at just over 114 kilograms. Iran's production of uranium enriched to up to 60% has slowed to around 3 kg a month from about 9 kg a month previously, a senior

diplomat said. Overall, the IAEA report estimated Iran's total enriched uranium stockpile at 3,795.5 kilograms. That's a drop from the last IAEA report, which put the stockpile at 4,744.5 kilograms. The stockpile reportedly declined because Iran diluted some of its enriched uranium.

## Syrian minister calls for further cooperation with Iran



IRNA – Syrian Minister of Culture Lubanah Mshaweh underscored the importance of strengthening cultural ties with Iran, describing Iran as a friendly and brotherly nation.

Mshaweh emphasized the need for both countries to establish a more precise framework for cultural collaboration.

During a meeting with Iranian Ambassador to Syria Hossein Akbari and Cultural Attaché of the Iranian Embassy in Damascus Hamidreza Asgari, Mshaweh highlighted the numerous memoranda of understanding already signed between Iran and Syria in various cultural domains, including artist exchanges, cultural production, and a pact between their national libraries.

Mshaweh expressed Syria's keenness to continue collaborating with Iran in fields such as visual arts and cinema, stressing their readiness for joint initiatives and the development of new agreements. She emphasized the necessity of innovative and efficient approaches to cultural endeavors.

Furthermore, Mshaweh proposed the establishment of a structured framework for future collaborations, with regular assessments conducted through expert-level sessions.

She emphasized the importance of continuous evaluation in maintaining productive cultural relations.

## 'Larva' ready for global screening



IRNA – The short film, 'Larva', written, produced, and directed by Leila Fardad, is now prepared for international screening.

According to media project consultants, 'Larva' created by Leila Fardad, is set for worldwide presentation and participation in national and international film festivals following post-production.

'Larva' is a single-character film, starring Mostafa Darabi, shot over the course of one day inside a prison. The film's storyline is summarized as follows: "A man, weary of the outside world, seeks refuge in his narrow, dark room, where unexpected answers await his questions."

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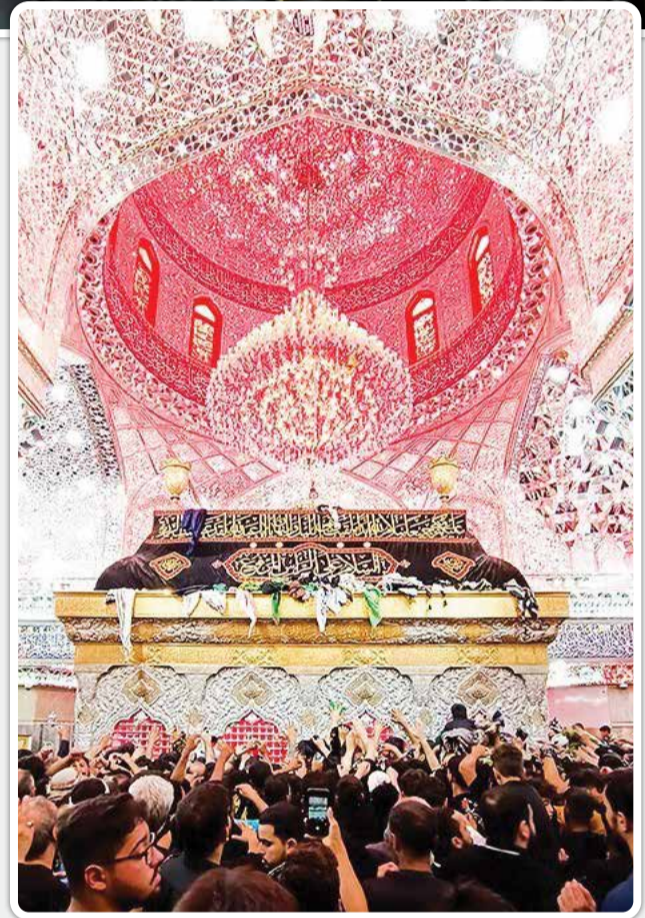
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# On the threshold of Arbaeen



Arbaeen, that comes 40 days after the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussein (PBUH), holds a prominent place in the teachings of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the late founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran. These insights have been compiled in a book titled 'Sahifeh-ye-Imam,' which includes all the speeches of Ayatollah Khomeini. Following is a handpicked selection of his words on this epic event.



If it hadn't been for the uprising of His Holiness, the Doyen of the Martyrs, even today we could not have become victorious. All this unity of the word, which became the source of our victory, was due to these mourning ceremonies, and the ceremonies for the promotion and propagation of Islam. The Doyen of the oppressed made available the means for our nation to congregate.

● Sahifeh-ye-Imam, Vol. 17, page 51



Ashura is the day of the seekers of justice, of a small band of followers armed with big faith and love in the face of palace-residing oppressors and plundering arrogance.

● Sahifeh-ye-Imam, Vol. 9, page 403



Weeping while mourning for Imam Hussein, keeping alive the movement and keeping alive the meaning that a small group stood up against a big empire is the message.

● Sahifeh-ye-Imam, Vol. 10, page 221



Keep Muharram alive. Whatever we have is from this month of Muharram.

● Sahifeh-ye-Imam, Vol. 17, page 53