

Iran in the Antarctica

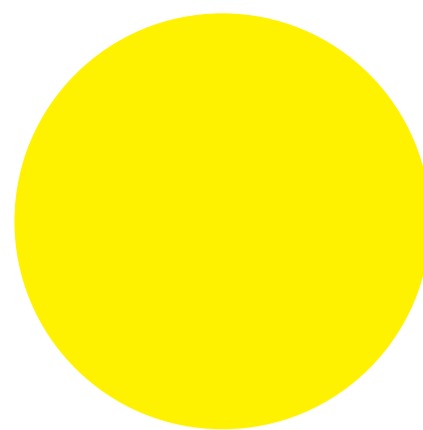
The naval force of the Islamic Republic of Iran's army intends to dispatch its own naval group to the Antarctica region for the first time in the near future

4-5 >

SPECIAL ISSUE



irandaily.ir | newspaper.irandaily.ir



Iran Daily

Vol. 7396 • Saturday, Sept. 30, 2023 • Mehr 8, 1402 • Rabi' al-Awwal 14, 1445 • Price 40,000 Rials • 8 Pages

Raeisi Opens 2nd Phase of Water Transfer Project

MSC power plant comes on stream

2 >

President Ebrahim Raeisi on Friday brought online two megaprojects during a one-day visit to Isfahan in central Iran. In one of the inaugurations, he broke the ground for the second phase of a major project that pumps seawater from the Gulf of Oman to Isfahan to supply the industrial sector of the province with water.



Sacred Defense works need to attract greater audiences:

Director

8 >



Discover majestic Furg Citadel

3 >



Olfati wins historic silver in artistic gymnastics

6 >



Bridges made out of words

OPINION 8 >



Iran arms setup at Belgrade's Partner 2023 turns heads



EXCLUSIVE

Iran's towering display of 16 weapons systems at the international arms fair, Partner 2023, in Belgrade, Serbia, drew the attention of experts, especially on its unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) produced for reconnaissance or shooting purposes.

7 >

NEWS IN BRIEF

Europe urged
to move faster
on energy
transition

AFP – Europe must invest more quickly and massively in its energy transition if it wants to remain a global industrial power, top policymakers warned on Friday. The plea was made at a conference on the clean energy transition hosted by the International Energy Agency, the European Central Bank and the European Investment Bank in Paris. The leaders said private sector investment faces barriers including policy uncertainty, bureaucratic red tape that delays projects, and higher energy costs.

Key US
inflation
measure
ticks up

CNBC – The key US inflation measure used by the Federal Reserve to set interest rates ticked up again in August, fueled by rising energy prices, according to government data published Friday. The Fed has raised interest rates 11 times since March 2022 in a bid to tame inflation and bring it firmly down to its long-term target of two percent.

Brazil tighten
cryptocurrency
regulation

REUTERS – Brazil's central bank governor Roberto Campos Neto said policymakers are aiming to tighten cryptocurrency regulation and subject brokerages to their supervision. Speaking during a hearing in Congress, Campos Neto emphasized regulators will scrutinize the backing of cryptocurrencies and associated activities, given the significant surge in cryptocurrency imports by Brazilians. Data released by the central bank this week revealed cryptocurrency imports jumped by 44.2% from January to August compared to the same period last year, totaling \$7.4 billion.

Raeisi opens 2nd phase of water transfer project

MSC power plant comes on stream

Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi visited the central province of Isfahan and launched the second phase of a large-scale national project that transfers water from the Sea of Oman to the drought-prone province.

Raeisi arrived in Isfahan on Friday and was briefed upon arrival by the provincial officials, contractors and workers on the latest stages of progress in the implementation of the 980-kilometer water supply project, according to president.ir.

"Reports indicate that the implementation period of this project has whittled down to a third," the Iranian chief executive said, stressing that water supply is a very important issue as it can help promote agriculture and industry in Isfahan Province.

"This project has gained further momentum and 50 percent of it has been completed so far and, on the whole, we are witnessing the implementation of a very good and valuable work," Raeisi added.

Expressing his gratitude to the entire personnel and

staff involved in the major project, Raeisi ordered the launch of the second phase of the water transfer scheme from the Sea of Oman to the central Iranian province.

The project was initiated in September last year, transferring 70 million cubic meters of water to Isfahan in the first stage, and 400 million cubic meters in the next stage.

The length of the water transfer route from the Sea of Oman to Isfahan is 980 kilometers, of which 520km have been completed, 420km have been excavated, and 214km have been laid with pipes. The water supply project is part of a plan to revive Isfahan's Zayandeh Rud (River) and provide water for drinking, agriculture and local industries.

Iran faces a race against time to tackle its serious water shortage, as water depletion in the country is one of the highest in the world, with studies expecting a 25 percent decline in surface water runoff by 2030.

The Iranian authorities



president.ir

have been toiling away at various projects to resolve this crisis, including schemes that economize on water consumption in the industrial field and state-of-the-art seawater desalination plans.

The first phase of Mobarakeh Steel Company's Shahid Kazemi power plant was another project put into operation by the president during his visit to Isfahan.

At the first phase, the MSC

power plant will have a capacity of 307 megawatts and, when completed, the output capacity of the plant will reach 914 MW. A sum of trillion rials (about \$402 million) has been invested by Mobarakeh Steel

Company to complete the project.

The project is the third power plant made by the industrial sector in Iran to supply their electricity needs during the peak consumption period.

BRICS to create competitor to SWIFT payment system



BRICS nations plan to create a money-transferring network to compete with the SWIFT international payment system, said Russian Finance Minister An-

ton Siluanov. Speaking to TASS, Siluanov said the creation of an alternative to SWIFT will be discussed next year within BRICS.

Talking to reporters at the Moscow Financial Forum, he said a number of BRICS countries had already developed their own payment systems.

"We are trying to implement our financial information transmission system. Other BRICS countries are either creating their own systems or have their own systems. Therefore, for now, this issue is a topic of discussion," he said.

The Russian official said

the economic bloc was looking for ways to replace international payment systems with mechanisms that will help promote trade between member states.

"This is on the agenda of next year's meeting at the level of financial authorities and administrators of BRICS member countries. It will be one of the standing issues. Today, Russia is rebuilding all relations from the West to the South-East, and this trend will continue," Siluanov explained.

The move comes as BRICS nations, namely, Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa – which have

complained about the Americans' use of the US dollar for politico-economic influence over other nations, damaging their economies – continue their de-dollarization efforts aimed at promoting trade in the economic bloc.

China launched the Cross-Border Interbank Payment System (CIPS) in 2015 to promote the use of Chinese currency, renminbi, in international trade. Currently, more than 4,200 banking institutions in 182 countries and regions around the world use the CIPS payment system either directly or through an institution besides the two primarily involved in

the transaction.

South Africa's Finance Minister Enoch Godongwana, who hosted his fellow BRICS finance ministers at the BRICS summit in Johannesburg last month, said the bloc would not be looking to replace international payment systems including SWIFT, but rather considers creating one that would strengthen trade in local currencies. The bloc's leaders announced at the three-day BRICS summit in Johannesburg that they would task their finance ministers to consider the issues of local currencies, payment instruments, and platforms and report back in a year.

Tripartite deal signed on construction of oil refinery in Syria

A senior official with the Iranian Ministry of Oil said that a tripartite agreement, signed among the Islamic Republic of Iran, Venezuela, and Syria, envisages the building of a new oil refinery in the Arab country's

Homs Province. Deputy Oil Minister Jalil Salari provided the information in an interview with Iran's Fars news agency. The deal foresees the construction of "a new 140,000-barrel refinery,"

whose required oil would be provided jointly by the Islamic Republic and Venezuela, he said.

"The fundamental studies and designing process [for implementation of the project] has been completed," the official noted.

The refinery would complement two already functioning ones, the Baniyas Refinery and the Homs Refinery, both located in western Syria. According to Salari, "The financing and construction [phases of the project] are on the agenda."

Iran and Syria have also signed a memorandum of understanding towards repairing the 110,000-barrel oil refinery that is located

in Homs, the Iranian official reported. Analysts say cooperation among the three states exemplifies their indifference towards the US-led campaign of sanctions that has similarly targeted them over their rejection of Washington's efforts at regional and global dominance.

The cooperation also comes amid the ongoing illegal presence of US forces in Syria, who are engaged in stealing the Arab country's direly needed oil resources.

US military trucks and tankers frequently carry tons of grain and crude oil from the northeastern Syrian province of Hasakah to the semi-autonomous

Kurdistan Region in northern Iraq as part of Washington's systematic smuggling of basic commodities out of Syria. The US military has for long stationed its forces and equipment in northeastern Syria, with the Pentagon claiming that the deployment is aimed at preventing the oilfields in the area from falling into the hands of Daesh terrorists.

Damascus, however, maintains that the deployment is meant to plunder the country's natural resources. Former US president Donald Trump admitted on several occasions that American forces were in the Arab country for its oil wealth.



Discover majestic Furg Citadel, relic of ancient beauty in South Khorasan Province



visitiran.ir



piniran.com

Iranica Desk

Furg village, located in the central district of Darmian, South Khorasan Province, is home to the magnificent Furg Citadel. Approximately 90 kilometers east of Birjand, the village is nestled in the foothills of Momenabad Mountain, and is renowned as one of the resort areas in South Khorasan Province, with a

cold mountainous climate. The main attraction of the village is its impressive citadel, which is considered one of the most beautiful in Iran, chtn.ir reported. The mountainous terrain in the region provided refuge for the Ismailis during their resistance against the Abbasid government. They built many fortified castles, not only in Furg, but also

in various areas of this region and other southern cities of old Khorasan. The construction of the Furg Citadel began during the reign of Nader Shah, initiated by Mirza Baqakhan, the ruler of the region. After him, his son Mirza Rafi'khan completed its construction. The citadel is made of stones, bricks, clay, plaster, lime, and *sarooj* (a traditional water-resistant

mortar used in Persian architecture). Its interior part consists of various sections such as servants' quarters, stables, ammunition storage, etc., surrounded by several walls and round towers. The walls and towers have battlements, and there are lookout points and defense positions. The main gate is located on the eastern side, while a smaller gate is positioned on the northern

part. The highest point of the castle houses *shahneshin* (the royal chamber), with various sections like stables, water reservoirs, two-story rooms, and a mosque. Furg Castle, a grand and unique architectural wonder, has fortunately remained relatively intact, escaping the ravages of natural disasters, human interference, and the passage of time. It stands as a dazzling gem among the an-

cient and historical treasures of South Khorasan Province. This structure is among the country's top 10 important historical citadels and is a significant and noteworthy heritage. In addition to its national status, Furg Citadel has the potential to be listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It was officially registered as a National Heritage Site in 2000.



Complied by
Sahba Saffary
Guest contributor

Rumi, master of love and Sama

Jalal al-Din Muhammad Rumi, who is widely recognized by the title Molana in Iran and affectionately referred to as Mevlana in Turkey, derives his name from Arabic roots, signifying "our master." He was born on September 30, 1207, within a Persian family residing in Wakhsh, a small village situated on the eastern bank of the Wakhsh River, which is now part of modern-day Tajikistan. Rumi's father, Baha al-Din Walad, was a preacher and a legal scholar. At the tender age of five years old, Rumi's family relocated to the city of Balkh, which was, during that period, a prominent hub of Persian culture and Sufism, boasting a rich history spanning several centuries. The most important influences upon Rumi, besides his father, were the Persian Poets Attar and Sanai. Rumi expresses his appreciation: **Attar was the spirit, Sanai his eyes twain, and in time thereafter, came we in their train** Or he mentions in another verse: **Attar has traversed the seven cities of love, we are still at the turn of one street** When the Mongols invaded Central Asia sometime between 1215 and 1220, Baha al-Din Walad set out westwards with his whole family and a group of disciples. According to hagiographical accounts, Rumi encountered one of the most famous mystic Persian poets, Attar in the Iranian



Shrine of Rumi

city of Nishapur. Attar immediately recognized Rumi's spiritual eminence. He saw the father walking ahead of the son and said, "Here comes a sea followed by an ocean." Attar gave the boy his *Asrar Nama*, a book about the entanglement of the soul in the material world. This meeting had a deep impact on the 18-year-old Rumi and later on became the

inspiration for his works. Baha al-Din Walad and his entourage from Nishapur set out for Baghdad, meeting many of the scholars and Sufis of the city. From Baghdad, they went to Hejaz and performed the pilgrimage at Mecca. On May 1, 1228, Baha al-Din Walad came back and finally settled in Konya in Anatolia within the westernmost territories of the Seljuk Empire of Rum.

When Baha al-Din Walad died in 1240, Rumi was 25 years old and inherited his father's position as the Islamic authority. He became an Islamic jurist, issuing fatwas and giving sermons in the mosques of Konya. He also served as an Islamic teacher and taught his adherents in the madrasa. During this period, Rumi traveled to Damascus and it was his

meeting with the dervish Shams Tabrizi on November 15, 1244, that completely changed his life. From an accomplished teacher and jurist, Rumi was transformed into a mystic. Nobody knows what enlightened Shams Tabrizi to Mevlana that he was completely infatuated with him and how much he was enchanted by Shams that left all his followers and lost to

him in the gamble of affection. After his deep affinity with Shams, a big change appeared in his attitude about life's purpose and acquired a new angle for recognition of life. Shams greatly encouraged him to scrutinize the world in more depth. As a result of this transformation, he abandoned his monotonous and uninspiring sermons to the people, and he turned away from religious rituals and loud debates within the madrasa. Instead, he embraced the practice of Sufi dancing and music, which is commonly referred to as *Sama*. From now on, Shams was the most ideal and matchless guide for him and they had a mentee and mentor relationship because Shams was the man who showed the route to adoration. In fact, Shams Tabrizi was so influential in Rumi's life that it seemed as if they were two bodies sharing one soul, making Shams Rumi's alter ego. Rumi's love for Shams is found in an outpouring of lyrical poems, *Divan-e Shams Tabrizi*. **My Shams is as excellent as my God, I admit it openly and I am proud of what I say** Shams acquainted Mevlana with love's limitless land: **Whatever I try to give a complete explanation about the glamorous land of love, I will melt with Shame when I reach love's borders** Rumi died on December 17, 1273, in Konya and was interred beside that of his father and a splendid shrine was erected over his place of burial. His epitaph reads: **When we are dead, seek not our tomb in the earth, but find it in the hearts of men.**

Iran in the Antarctica

Despite the significant achievements of the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Army and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, few are aware of the extent of these accomplishments. What is occasionally reported in the media represents only a small portion of these achievements. Furthermore, the intermittent release of news prevents a comprehensive and accurate understanding of the maritime capabilities of Iran's military forces. The naval force of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Army intends to, in the near future, send its own naval group to the Antarctica region for the first time. It appears that this has been one of the primary objectives of the mission of Iran 86th Naval Fleet during its recent long-term voyage around the Earth.

The history of the Iranian Navy

The Iranian Navy has its origins in the era of Reza Shah. During that time, the Iranian Army's Navy had a presence in the Persian Gulf region. However, in the year 1941, when the Allied forces invaded Iran, Iranian ships in the Persian Gulf were sunk, resulting in the near-paralysis of the Iranian Navy. Later, under the reign of Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, substantial military acquisitions were made, including the purchase of warships from the United States and other countries,

with the aim of modernizing and equipping the Iranian Navy. Nevertheless, throughout this period, which spanned 57 years of Pahlavi rule, the Iranian Navy remained primarily a coastal force. In maritime literature, bodies of water are categorized into three types: brown water, green water, and blue water. Brown waters refer to riverine areas where patrol boats operate. Green waters are coastal regions. Blue waters, on the other hand, refer to international open waters, such as oceans. A nation's ability to navigate in these open waters signifies the strength of its navy, and a country capable of

operating in blue waters possesses a highly formidable naval force.

Today, the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran comfortably operates in international open waters, conducts various maritime operations, and deploys its units for missions lasting several months. This is in stark contrast to the Pahlavi era when the Iranian Navy primarily operated in coastal waters. Similar to the navies of Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the UAE, and other Gulf nations, even today, their navies are categorized as coastal forces, meaning they primarily operate within their coastal waters. During the Pahlavi era,

the Iranian Navy was primarily coastal and did not possess the capability or the ambition to venture into international open waters. This was largely influenced by the leadership style of Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, who tended to avoid selecting strong leaders for fear that they might pose a threat to his own power. He also discouraged interactions among commanders of different military branches, fearing conspiracies against him. Consequently, during that time, the Iranian Navy did not have the capability or the aspiration to navigate in international open waters, and it did not see itself in that capacity.



The Iranian Navy after the Islamic Revolution

After the revolution, the situation underwent a significant transformation, particularly in terms of the overall command, which now falls under the purview of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution. His Eminence, the Leader, brings several essential components to the command and management of the Armed Forces. One of these key managerial facets is unwavering determination. It means that he never rests within the horizon he defines for the military's activities. If the armed forces manage to achieve the objectives he sets, he does not merely declare success and remain stagnant; instead, he contemplates the next goal and subsequent objectives.

His visionary leadership has proven to be remarkably forward-thinking for

the military, contributing significantly to Iran's advancements. Another crucial element is the belief in the principle of 'We Can.' The Leader firmly believes that the domestic forces 'can,' and this belief is not merely a slogan; it is a call to action. These components have precipitated a profound transformation within the Iranian Navy. In the post-revolutionary era, the naval power can be analyzed from two perspectives: self-sufficiency and missions.

During the 57 years of Pahlavi rule, they had the ease of acquiring equipment without facing any sanctions. Americans would come and provide them with training. In fact, the Iranian Navy used to rely on foreign training as there were no native institutions within the

country dedicated to naval education. However, over the past 40 years, Iran has made significant advancements without any assistance from other nations, despite not only receiving no help but also facing sanctions.

It's remarkable to contemplate how the Iranian Navy has evolved from a coastal force to its current status. They have harnessed their indigenous talent for training and strengthened their educational infrastructure. The military capabilities of their personnel have allowed the Iranian Navy to confidently navigate the open seas and become a formidable presence, even turning into a concern for the Americans.

Rear Admiral Shahram Irani, the commander of the Islamic Republic of Iran Navy, made these obser-

vations during a meeting with the personnel and families of Iran 86th Naval Fleet, which took place in the summer of this year. He reported on the achievements of Iran 86th Naval Fleet's mission:

"In the naval operations of Iran 86th Naval Fleet, young individuals, with an average age of 30 and an average of 15 years of service, have proven themselves with unprecedented maritime daring in the history of Iran. Their unwavering belief in their capabilities, coupled with a reliance on domestic potential, has resulted in breaking numerous barriers. These achievements include covering a maritime distance of approximately 35,000 nautical miles, setting records in Iran's maritime history in terms of distance and time in operational

areas, transiting the Strait of Magellan, active and coordinated international diplomacy, executing world-class oceanic missions, and actively engaging with effective diplomacy. This has expanded and secured the strategic naval missions of the Iranian Army, broken the taboos of deep-sea navigation in the world's oceans by testing the resilience and capability of Iranian-built ships in confronting high and tumultuous waves in the Pacific, Indian, and Atlantic Oceans. In addition to obtaining precise information and operational data from Asian, African, and American continents, the deepening of Iran's strategic presence in the maritime domain, as well as introducing itself as an inexhaustible, non-sanctionable power, have been

among the other achievements of this complex maritime operation. We have demonstrated that the Islamic Republic of Iran and its people are indomitable and impervious to isolation and sanctions."

It's worth noting that Iran 86th Naval Fleet, comprised the combat ship Dena and the logistics ship Makran. During their recent mission, they circumnavigated the Earth, passing through the Strait of Magellan, which is the closest point to the Antarctica, and they tested the steel hull of the Iranian ship Dena in the cold waters, which is one of the main candidates for participating in the Antarctica expedition. The Antarctica is one of the world's most strategically important regions, attracting the attention of many nations.

The future strategy of the Army's Navy entails a presence in the Antarctica

Rear Admiral Amir Irani, the Commander of the Iranian Army's Navy, in the "Good Morning, Iran" program, commemorated the Sacred Defense Week. He highlighted that Ayatollah Khamenei referred to the Army's Navy as a strategic force, signifying its potential within the military. The Commander of the Army's Navy pointed out that foreign nations had always attempted to obstruct Iran's maritime

presence, but they had overcome these barriers. In the face of foreign conspiracies, the successful mission of Naval Group 86 in international waters stands as a significant achievement, challenging the hegemony of global powers.

Amir Irani elucidated the future plan of the Army's Navy, which includes a presence in the Antarctica. He emphasized that they have command over

the coasts of Makran, asserting their ownership and aspiring to raise the Iranian flag high. He envisions not only military activities but also scientific endeavors taking place in this region, with Iranian scientists prepared to contribute. While 52 countries are signatories to the Antarctic Treaty, around 30 nations, including the United States, Russia, Chile, France, Argentina, India, Pakistan,

and Brazil, currently maintain research stations in the area. Russia leads with ten research stations. According to Abolfazl Saleh, the head of the Marine Sciences Research Institute at the National Institute of Oceanography, "The presence in the Antarctica is of paramount importance from scientific, legal, political, geostrategic, economic, capacity-building, and access to cutting-edge tech-

nologies perspectives. In the future, this region will become a major international issue, considering its abundant resources. Its strategic significance lies in asserting sovereignty over the Southern Hemisphere and addressing unparalleled scientific issues. A review of the Antarctic Treaty is highly likely."

The establishment of a permanent base in the the Antarctica by the Islamic

Republic of Iran, aimed at enhancing nation's strategic depth, has garnered attention in recent years. Plans have been announced to realize this vision.

Iran's direct access to the the Antarctica from the coasts of Makran, without the presence of any landmass in its path, allows it, under international laws, to make territorial claims in a portion of the Antarctica.

Napoli 'never meant to offend or mock' Osimhen

BBC – Napoli said they “never meant to offend or mock” Victor Osimhen in a social media post but stopped short of publicly apologising to him. The club shared a video on their TikTok account of Nigeria’s Osimhen missing a penalty, dubbed with a high-pitched voice saying “gimme penalty please”. The 24-year-old’s agent has threatened legal action against the club. A Napoli statement said it was “never the club’s intent to offend Victor” should he “have perceived it that way”.



Napoli striker Victor Osimhen reacts after missing a penalty during a goalless draw against Bologna in Serie A in Bologna, Italy, on September 24, 2023. ● SSC NAPOLI

The social media post has since been deleted. “So as to avoid the topic being manipulated in any way, Napoli points out that it never meant to offend or mock Victor Osimhen, who is a technical asset of the club,” a statement on the club’s website read. “Proof of this is the fact that the club firmly rejected all the offers it received for the attacker’s transfer abroad.”

Napoli boss Rudi Garcia said Osimhen is “invested 100%” in the Serie A club after he scored in a 4-1 win over Udinese on Wednesday – the first game since the incident. Osimhen scored his side’s second goal in a comfortable win but made no attempt to celebrate before he was mobbed by his team-mates.

Nigeria international Osimhen joined Napoli for a club-record 81.3m euros (£70m) in the summer of 2020 and he was integral to helping them win a first Serie A title in 33 years last season, scoring 26 goals in 32 league appearances.

“I can assure you that Victor loves this jersey,” Garcia said. “He is invested 100% in our project. “I have a very good relationship with Victor. I am happy for him because he scored tonight. After the match in Bologna, we were all frustrated, angry, Victor in particular, because he missed the penalty.

“On the sporting aspect and on other levels, especially on TikTok, there have been a lot of things to manage in recent days.”

Hangzhou Asian Games: Olfati wins historic silver in artistic gymnastics

Sports Desk

Iran’s Mahdi Olfati won a historic silver on the sixth day of the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China – a first-ever artistic gymnastics medal for the country in the history of the event.

Representing Iran in the men’s vault competition, Olfati scored 14.783 to finish second to Japanese Wataru Tanigawa – a silver winner in Tokyo Olympics – who tallied 15.016 for the ultimate prize. Aimy Muhammad Sharul of Malaysia took the bronze with 14.466. “I’m thrilled to win this silver after years of Iranians’ unfortunate failure in the Asian Games,” Olfati said.

Abed Haqdadi, the chairman of the Iranian Gymnastics Federation, was full of praise for Olfati, saying: “No one thought he would win a medal in a contest that featured some world-class athletes from Japan and South Korea.” Reigning Olympic champion Shin Jea-hwan missed out on the podium on Friday as a 14.149 score saw the South Korean settle for a fourth-place finish.

“I’m sure this medal is just the beginning of a successful run for Iran in the future world and Olympic events,” added Haqdadi.

Table tennis

Elsewhere in the Games on Friday, Alamian brothers, Nima and Noshad, rallied from two games down to beat the Chinese Taipei duo Huang Yan-Cheng and Liao Cheng-Ting 3-2 (7-11, 8-11, 11-6, 11-9, 11-4) for a place in the men’s doubles quarterfinals.

“It was truly a stressful contest. We didn’t know much about the opponents beforehand, but we had a



Iran's Mahdi Olfati is seen in action in the men's vault event of the artistic gymnastics competitions at the Hangzhou Asian Games in China on September 29, 2023. ● hangzhou2022.cn

change of tactics after the first two games and found our way back into the match,” Iranian coach Jamil Lotfollah Nasabi said afterwards.

Nima Alamian said the pivotal moment of the match came in the fourth game.

“When it was tied at 9-9, I told my

brother: ‘Let’s hit risky servers,’ and thank God the risk paid off,” said the Iranian, who will be looking to secure a second medal in

the Games in today’s last-eight encounter against Japanese duo Tai-sei Matsushita and Mizuki Oikawa. It has already been a memorable campaign for Alamian brothers, who were part of the Iranian trio, alongside Mirhossein Hodaie, that beat Tokyo Olympic bronze medalist Japan before falling to South Korea in the semifinals to win the team bronze – Iran’s first table tennis medal in the Asian Games in 65 years.

Wushu glory

Friday’s results came after Iran capped off an impressive wushu campaign in Hangzhou with seven medals – including double men’s sanda golds for Afshin Salimi and Yousef Sabri – on the preceding night.

Salimi defeated Indonesian Samuel Marbun in the 65kg final, while Sabri came out on top against Macau’s Cai Feilong for the 75kg gold. This year’s event would probably be one to forget for five-time world champion Mohsen Mohammad-seifi as the Iranian sensation, who was after a fourth successive gold in the Asian Games, suffered a final defeat against the host’s He Feng and took the 70kg silver.

Shoja Panahi also came short against a Chinese opponent in Wang Xuetao and settled for the 60kg silver.

There were further glories for Mansourian sisters in the women’s draw, with Elaheh taking the 52kg silver – after a final setback against Chinese Li Yueyao – while five-time world champion Shahrbano finished on the third podium of the 60kg class.

Zahra Kiani had bagged a women’s talou silver in the jianshu/qiangshu contest on Wednesday.

Barca under investigation for suspected bribery in refereeing case

REUTERS – Spanish soccer club Barcelona are under investigation for suspected “active bribery” as part of a probe into suspected corruption spanning two decades at the refereeing committee, according to a court document seen by Reuters on Thursday.

Police also searched the offices of the Spanish refereeing committee (CTA) inside the football federation (RFEF) headquarters in Madrid on Thursday, the Barcelona court said, as part of the ongoing inquiry into “possible systemic corruption” within the CTA.

Spanish football and the RFEF in particular are going through a moment of reckoning amid allegations of sexual abuse against former RFEF chief Luis Rubiales.

Rubiales kissed World Cup winner Jenni Hermoso on the lips on Aug. 20, setting off a furore that largely overshadowed both the women’s team triumph in Sydney and the refereeing scandal. Rubiales has since quit.

The refereeing investigation has now been widened to include Barcelona as a suspect. Investigating judge Joaquin Aguirre



● GETTY IMAGES

Lopez said earlier in September the club may have benefited from graft.

In March, prosecutors filed a complaint over alleged payments of more than 7.3 million euros (\$7.8 million) over 17 years to firms owned by Jose Maria Enriquez Negreira, who was vice-president of the RFEF’s refereeing committee from 1993 to 2018.

Reuters has been unable to reach Negreira. RFEF was not immediately available for comment.

A Barcelona source told Reuters the club will not issue an official statement, adding its criminal lawyers “had already contemplated this hypothesis and ... have been preparing for it from day one, working on all aspects related to this case”.

La Liga champions Barcelona have denied any wrongdoing, saying in a statement in February that the club had paid an external consultant who supplied it with “technical reports related to professional refereeing”,

which it said was a common practice among professional football clubs.

Barcelona’s arch-rivals Real Madrid had joined the prosecution in the lawsuit as a damaged party.

According to judge Aguirre, Negreira was responsible for ranking and evaluating the referees. However, no evidence has been found so far of Negreira paying referees to influence match results, Aguirre said in early September.

Police also searched the offices of the Spanish refereeing committee (CTA) inside the football federation (RFEF) headquarters in Madrid on Thursday, the Barcelona court said, as part of the ongoing inquiry into “possible systemic corruption” within the CTA.

Iran arms setup at Belgrade's Partner 2023 turns heads

The photo shows Iranian anti-tank missiles and the M-6 UAV displayed at 11th International Armament and Military Equipment Fair Partner 2023 in Belgrade, Serbia, on September 26, 2023.

RT BALKAN/JELENA MARKOVIĆ



National Desk EXCLUSIVE

Iran's towering display of 16 weapons systems at the international arms fair, Partner 2023, in Belgrade, Serbia, drew the attention of experts, especially on its unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) produced for reconnaissance or shooting purposes. Placed center stage in Iran's installation were anti-ship cruise missiles, air defense systems, and small-scale prototypes of the M6, Karar, and Shahin drones. Models included the AD-75 air defense missile, with a maximum range of 75 kilometers, the CM-35 anti-ship cruise missile, with a 130-kg warhead, and Shahin vertical take-off and landing unmanned aerial system, fitted

with multi-rotor propellers by China-based company T-Motor, defense news.com reported. Shahed drones, however, were not shown as a model at the Iranian installation at this year's arms fair. Months ago, it was speculated that Serbia would buy kamikaze drones of the Shahed-136 type from Iran. Military analyst Andrej Mlakar explains to RT Balkan that the kamikaze drones that Serbia was interested in cannot be seen at the moment, but that does not mean that the Iranian stand is any less interesting. "Unfortunately, Shahed kamikaze drones are not here, unlike variants of Iran's reconnaissance drones as well as quadcopters used in reconnaissance and various transport activities. We can

also see equipment capable of throwing smoke bombs. It is possible that they can be used to aid ground forces, either for reconnaissance or attack purposes," explains Mlakar, showing the unmanned quadcopters. International experts and buyers also got the opportunity to see the Karar drone, another of Iran's kamikaze drones, which is significantly more advanced than the Shahed, and has stirred a lot of debate. "There was speculation that the Russians bought the Karar, but for now there is no confirmation of that. It is a long-range kamikaze drone, much faster than the classic Shahed because it has turbojet propulsion," he noted. Next to the Karar in Iran's stand was the pioneering

Iranian drone M6, which has been claimed by Westerners to resemble the American drone "The Predator". "Iran has the ability to make great copies of American drones, thanks to the fact that they got hold of radio jamming and a large number of American drones," Mlakar stressed. Experts were surprised to see on display Iran's anti-tank missiles inspired by American technology, admitting it gives them strength in action against the US Army. "Toofan is an Iranian copy of the American TOW missiles. Iran has weapons that can act against the US military. The Toofan missile is a laser-guided artillery projectile for 155mm howitzers. Iran also has the Paladin M109 artillery sys-

tem, which is an American self-propelled cannon-howitzer. It has a range of approximately 20 kilometers, but there is the possibility of it operating at longer ranges," a military analyst told RT Balkan. In addition to this, Iranian versions of the Strela are on display — a complete assortment. "Iran has an extremely developed dedicated arms industry that can produce anything from drones to anti-tank missiles and tanks," Mlakar pointed out. An official representing the Iranian Ministry of Defense said that the Iranian delegation was invited to the fair because of good Serbian-Iranian relations. "We export products to more than 40 countries and are here to showcase our

capabilities," Ali Siavash told Sputnik, adding that what was shown at the Belgrade Partner 2023 arms fair is only the tip of the iceberg. According to him, the sanctions have pushed the Iranian military industry to stand on its own feet. "I think that without sanctions we would not have been able to reach this level of development," maintains Siavash. According to Iranians, Tehran's shopping list at the fair included navigation systems for guided artillery. Commanders typically use those munitions for targeting military vehicles or high-value assets like command posts or reinforced structures. The 11th International Armament and Military Equipment Fair Partner 2023 took place in Belgrade from September 25-28.

NEWS IN BRIEF

MP: UAE legal action over isles will fail



ISNA – An Iranian lawmaker said the UAE will not get any result if it files a complaint in the international legal bodies against Iran over the three Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf. Abolfazl Amouei, the spokesman for the National Security and Foreign Policy Committee of the Iranian Parliament, underlined that the three islands — Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb, and Abu Musa — are part of Iran's territory.

BRICS bank could help offset sanctions: Qalibaf



ISNA – Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf said Iran's membership in BRICS' New Development Bank will help Iran nullify sanctions imposed by the Western countries. He made the remarks upon his arrival in Tehran from a trip to South Africa to participate in the 9th BRICS Parliamentary Forum.

Fire at Tehran battery factory doused



IRNA – Iran's Defense Ministry says it has extinguished a fire in one of its factories north of the capital, Tehran. The ministry said the fire broke out on Thursday at a car battery factory for the second time in less than a week. No one was injured in the blaze, which erupted in an area where plastic waste is stored.

Iran condemns Pakistan's terrorist attacks 'Terrorists aim to sow discord among Muslims'

International Desk

Iran has strongly condemned twin terrorist attacks on mosques west of Pakistan on Friday, saying that the "blind" actions indicate that "the terrorists aim to sow discord among Muslims". Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi, in a message to his Pakistani counterpart Arif Alvi, expressed his sympathy with the government and people of Pakistan. Raeisi expressed hope that the perpetrators of the attacks would be identified and punished as soon as possible. He said that Tehran is ready to cooperate with Islamabad in the fight against terrorism and extremism. He also asked the

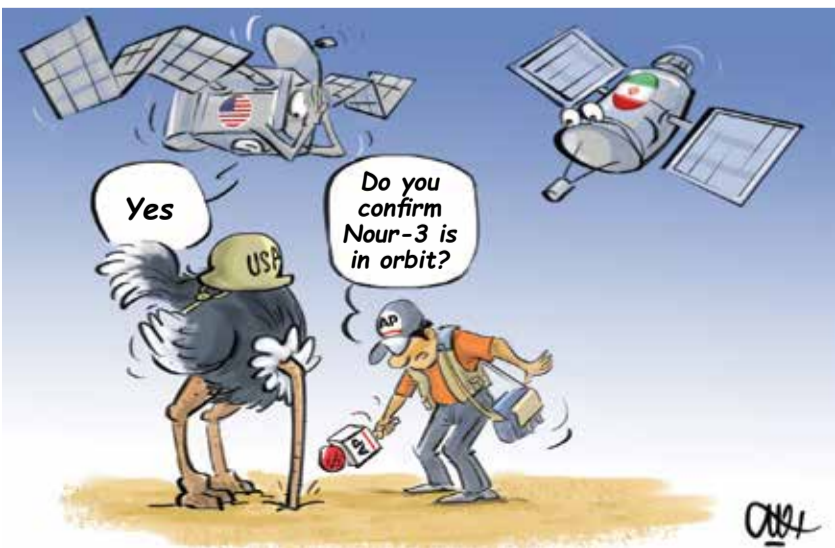
international community, especially Islamic countries, to seriously react to this criminal act and prevent the repetition of such tragic events. At least 57 people were killed and more than 60 others were injured after suicide bombings ripped through two mosques in Pakistan, police and health officials said. No group has claimed responsibility for the blasts, one of which trapped dozens of people under rubble, media said, according to Reuters. The first blast, in the southwestern province of Balochistan, killed 52 people, according to a district health official, Abdul Rasheed. "The bomber detonated



Volunteers carry a victim of a suicide bombing on a stretcher at a hospital in Quetta, Balochistan Province, Pakistan, on September 29, 2023.

himself near a police vehicle near Madina Mosque where people were gathering for a procession," added senior police official Munir Ahmed. The second attack, in neighboring northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, killed five people at a mosque, according to rescue officials.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Iran calls for regional cooperation on Afghanistan's future

Russia to keep helping Afghanistan

International Desk

Iran's special envoy for Afghanistan highlighted the necessity of increased cooperation among neighboring countries to help resolve the issues in Afghanistan without relying on foreign states. Hassan Kazemi Qomi made the remarks addressing a meeting on the developments in Afghanistan in the Russian city of Kazan on Friday, IRNA reported. He criticized the US interventions in the region and deemed its policies in Afghanistan over the past years as incorrect. The Iranian envoy pointed out that 20 years of continuous and unjustified occupation by the United States and its allies, along with the creation of foreign-backed fronts, are not in line with the national interests of Afghanistan. He expressed hope that the caretaker government of Afghanistan would implement a neighboring policy that is based on mutual benefit and harm prevention, coupled with consultations with neighboring countries. Representatives from Taliban and 15 countries gathered in Kazan for talks on regional threats and creating an inclusive government, TASS reported. President Vladimir Pu-

tin's Special Representative for Afghanistan Zamir Kabulov attended the gathering and said Russia is inclined to keep helping Afghanistan independently through the World Food Program of the UN. A letter from Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov was read at the talks, accusing Western countries of "complete failure" in Afghanistan, saying they should "bear the primary burden of rebuilding the country." The Taliban seized power in Afghanistan in mid-August 2021 as the US and NATO troops were in the final weeks of their pull-out from the country after 20 years of war.

US quietly acknowledges IRGC satellite blastoff

The US has quietly acknowledged that Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Aerospace Force successfully put an imaging satellite into orbit this week. The launch of satellite Noor-3 (Light-3) into orbit on Wednesday resembled others previously criticized by Washington, as it claims it helps Tehran's ballistic missile program, AP reported. According to AP, the US military has not responded to repeated requests for comment from the news agency since Iran announced the launch of the Noor-3 satellite, the latest successful launch by the IRGC after Iran's civilian space program faced a series of failed launches in recent years. Early Friday, however, data published by the website space-track.org listed a launch Wednesday by Iran that put the Noor-3 satellite into orbit. Information from the web-

site is supplied by the 18th Space Defense Squadron of the US Space Force, the newest arm of the US military. It put the satellite at over 450 kilometers (280 miles) above the Earth's surface, which corresponds to Iranian state media reports regarding the launch. It also identified the rocket carrying the satellite as a Qassed, a three-stage rocket fueled by both liquid and solid fuels first launched by Iran in 2020, when it unveiled its then-secret space program. Speaking on Thursday, Space Commander of the IRGC Aerospace Force Ali Jafarabadi described the satellite as having "image accuracy that is two and a half times that of the Noor-2 satellite." Noor-2, launched in March 2022, remains in orbit. Noor-1, launched in 2020, fell back to Earth last year.

Bridges made out of words



There is a well-known story among linguists of how an ill-chosen translation of a Japanese word led to the decision to drop the world's first atomic bomb on Hiroshima in order to make Japan yield. In July 1945, during a meeting in Potsdam, allied leaders presented Japan with surrender terms and anxiously awaited their response. The terms included a warning that a negative answer would result in "prompt and utter destruction." Allied leaders expressed hope that Japan would agree to an unconditional surrender to prevent further devastation.

Japanese Premier Kantaro Suzuki, when questioned by reporters in Tokyo, chose to withhold comment, using the word 'mokusatsu,' which means 'silence' in Japanese. However, this word has various meanings, and international news agencies wrongfully interpreted it as the Japanese government deeming the ultimatum as "not worthy of comment."

This angered US officials, who saw it as a sign of Japan's fanatical spirit, leading to the decision to drop the atomic bomb, resulting in the devastation of Hiroshima.

Since that tragic mistranslation brought about overwhelming destruction and huge loss of lives, there could hardly be any better example to show how immensely important translation is for our world. Translation should never be considered the mere act of converting words from one language into another. Rather, it should be revered as an intricate art form that requires a deep understanding of not only languages, but also cultures and the nuances present in each and every one of them. Those worthy of the title translator should possess the remarkable ability to capture the essence of a text and convey its meaning accurately, thus allowing true understanding. This very ability ensures that not only political stances, but also ideas, stories, and knowledge can transcend linguistic barriers.

In our ever-more interconnected world, translation is without a doubt a vital tool that makes communication possible. In a way, the work of a translator could be compared to that of a bridge-maker, who allows us to step into a different terrain and explore a different perspective.

Without translation, we wouldn't be capable of appreciating different cultures or engage in meaningful dialogue across borders and, therefore, remain susceptible to misunderstandings and misinterpretations.

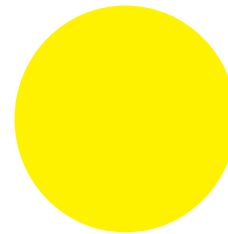
In order to recognize the role of professional translation in connecting nations, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution in 2017 to declare September 30 as International Translation Day.

● License Holder:
● Managing Director
● Editor-in-chief
● Int'l & National Desk

● Economy Desk
● Sports Desk
● Iranica Desk
● Arts & Culture Desk
● Social Desk
● Language Editor

Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA)
Ali Kakadezfali
Mostafa Shirmohammadi
Javad Mohammad Ali, Zohreh Qanadi,
Ebrahim Beheshti, Amir Mollaei Mozaffari
Reza Abesh Ahmadi, Sadeq Dehqan
Amirhadi Arsalanpour
Leila Imani
Hamideh Hosseini
Ali Amiri
Ali Mehran

Address: #22, Hosseini-Rad Alley, South of
Shahid Motahari St., Vali-e Asr Ave., Tehran, Iran
● Editorial Dept. Tel: +98 21 88913453
● Editorial Dept. Fax: +98 21 88930684
● ICPI Publisher: +98 21 88548892, 5
● Advertising Dept. Tel: +98 21 88500617
& Email: irandaily@iranagahiha.com
● Website: www.irandaily.ir
● Email: newspaper.irandaily.ir
● Printing House: irandaily@icpi.ir
Iran Cultural & Press Institute



Iran Daily



irandaily.ir | newspaper.irandaily.ir | IranDailyWeb

Vol. 7396 ● Saturday, Sept. 30, 2023 ● Price 40,000 Rials ● 8 Pages

Sacred Defense works need to attract greater audiences: *Director*



By Hamideh Hosseini
Staff writer

Hamed Mokammeli, a young theater director, writer, and actor known for his artistic works on various themes, including the Iraqi-imposed war in the 1980s, known as "The Sacred Defense", shared his thoughts in an exclusive interview with Iran Daily. He expressed a deep interest in exploring topics such as identity, culture, homeland, and ideology in his works, emphasizing their significance in exploring the human psyche.

According to Mokammeli, these themes and concepts are necessary because they define our sense of self and unity. Certain factors can threaten the authenticity and unity of these concepts, making it crucial to address issues such as identity disruptions and the deterioration of homelands, often caused by war. To him, war encompasses more than just physical battles; it disrupts matters that are highly important to individuals.

Mokammeli stressed that losing any of these core concepts, including identity and homeland, equates a loss of dignity. He acknowledges that people tolerate hardships and challenging circumstances to survive, even when it means sacrificing their



A scene from 'Jaleh Ambush' ● CAP

dignity. From his perspective, the meanings of words have become vague and require redefinition in contemporary times. He noted historical eras in Iran when words like war, identity, country, people, and culture were redefined, emphasizing the importance of evolving language to reflect current conditions. This redefinition is particularly necessary when discussing topics like war and the Sacred Defense, in the context of today's world.

Mokammeli also explored the genre of dark comedy as a means to talk about bitter subjects like war, believing that humor can make the seriousness of war more tolerable to the audience, even though it ultimately involves life and death.

Regarding the engagement

of audiences, he suggested that deconstruction and changes in approach are essential. Exploring new angles and perspectives can lead to a new understanding of topics like war. Mokammeli's portfolio includes works like 'Sweet Soil,' 'This Photo Will Remain,' 'Beyond the Dream,' and 'Jaleh Ambush,' where he offers diverse perspectives on war. For instance, 'Sweet Soil' considers the theme of love amid war, highlighting the choices people make under pressure.

He noted that as discussions evolve, audiences gradually come to terms with themes, even connecting with them from the beginning. 'Jaleh Ambush' exemplifies how this deconstruction has allowed younger individuals without direct war experiences

to engage in discussions about war, touching on common human issues like love, success, family, and the future. Mokammeli finds heroism to be a complex and subjective concept, where individuals in ordinary lives, faced with anger, war, and pressure, can be considered heroes when they make courageous choices, even at the cost of their lives.

He emphasized recognizing and remembering those who defend their homeland and contribute to its growth and excellence, mentioning figures such as Ferdowsi, Bahram Beyza'i, and Mohammadreza Shajarian among others.

Mokammeli is currently working on a project related to Ariobarzanes of Persis, the last Persian general who defended his home-

land against Alexander the Great, emphasizing the significance of this historical defense. In Mokammeli's view, artists must adapt to their current context, redefining traditions and concepts to remain relevant. Sticking to past definitions and words leads to stagnation, making it essential to redefine and evolve with the times. He highlighted the necessity of redefining words and concepts to continue offering meaningful contributions. Discussing challenges in producing artworks, including those related to the Sacred Defense, Mokammeli acknowledges that limitations and personal preferences cannot force all artistic works into a single form. Attempting such uniformity only results in delays and increased challenges.



On Iran's national Firefighting and Safety Day, TFD spokesperson:

Untold heroism of firefighters in Plasco inferno

Social Desk

The spokesperson for the Tehran Fire Department talked about the high number of accidents occurring in Tehran on Iran's national Firefighting and Safety Day, and highlighted a recent incident where a fire broke out in a 500-square-meter warehouse.

"Thanks to the quick response of our colleagues, the fire was contained and no one was injured," said Jalal Maleki, according to Mehr news agency.

A firefighter for 27 years, Maleki shared his experiences and mentioned that he and his colleagues often take on leadership roles due to their extensive experience. He recalled his early days in the Fire Department,

explaining that he chose this career over a desk job, as he had always been fascinated by the work of firefighters. Expressing his passion for the job, Maleki admitted, "I enjoy being a firefighter more with each passing day."

He also paid tribute to the brave firefighters who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty, highlighting the difference in response between the Plasco Building incident in Tehran and the Grenfell Tower fire in England.

"I was present inside the Plasco Building until a few minutes before the collapse. My colleagues fought the fire, even to save the citizens' property, but we did not witness such attitude during the Grenfell Tower fire in En-

gland. Although no firefighter would deliberately neglect their duties, we saw that at least 80 people died in that incident. If my colleagues had not acted swiftly in the Plasco Building fire, it would have been likely that around 400 people would have lost their lives. The rescue operation went well, but the firefighters paid the price," said Maleki.

Maleki emphasized the physical demands of being a firefighter, especially when tackling fires in tall buildings.

"Firefighters have to climb multiple floors carrying heavy equipment weighing at least 20kg, as there are no elevators especially for them. Physical strength is crucial for performing such tasks effectively," he said.



● MIZAN

Maleki also spoke about the issue of insurance for firefighters, explaining that while social security insurance covers most firefighters in the country, those in the Tehran Fire Department are covered by municipal insurance. This presents some challenges, as the law regard-

ing retirement benefits for hard jobs does not apply to them.

"Efforts are being made by the mayor, city council, and organization CEO to address this issue," the spokesperson said.

When asked about encounters with relatives and friends at fire scenes,

Maleki said that it rarely happens in residential areas, but sometimes he does come across acquaintances in commercial buildings.

He also addressed the calls received by the Fire Department to rescue animals, advising citizens to avoid approaching any animals, including wild cats, as they can be dangerous. The Fire Department delivers rescued animals to designated parks and the Department of the Environment. Maleki shared instances where they rescued a monkey and three lion cubs.

Finally, he expressed appreciation for the support and understanding of the firefighters' wives and families, who stand by their loved ones in this challenging profession.