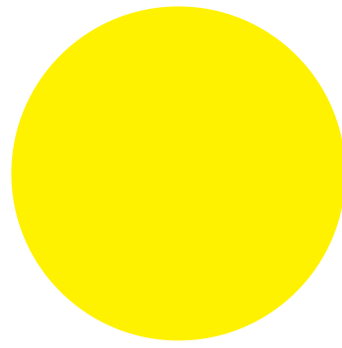


G7 slowly getting sidelined by BRICS

4-5 >



SPECIAL ISSUE



Iran Daily

Vol. 7588 • Monday, June 24, 2024 • Tir 4, 1403 • Dhu al-Hijjah 17, 1445 • 100,000 rials • 8 pages



irandaily.ir

newspaper.irandaily.ir

IranDailyWeb

By Seyyed Reza Sadrolhosseini
International affairs expert

EXCLUSIVE

About 40 delegations from Asian countries are scheduled to participate in the 19th Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) ministerial meeting in Iran's capital, Tehran, today. The forum was established in 2002

and its headquarters is based in Kuwait. Iran has assumed the rotating presidency of the 35-member forum since October last year. The foreign policy of government of the late president of Iran Ebrahim Raisi focused on the balanced expansion of relations with the countries in the world, for which appropriate measures were planned.

Page 7 >

Tehran hosts important Asian meeting

7 >



Campaigning in Full Swing as Election Day Nears

7-8 >



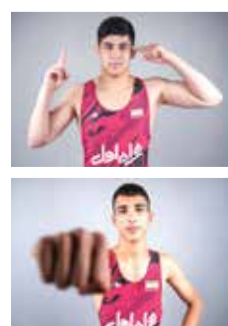
CBI unveils digital currency to strengthen payment system

2 >



Aash reshteh, a delicious dive into Iranian cuisine

3 >



Wrestling U17 Asian Championships: Karami, Izadi grab golds as Iran bags seven Greco-Roman medals

6 >

Iran's gold imports more than tripled in June quarter

2 >



Iran to launch two major satellites in coming weeks



Iranian Space Agency (ISA) chief said the country will carry out two major satellite launches in the coming weeks.

Hassan Salariyeh told IRNA that the launches are scheduled to take place in the calendar month to July 21.

Salariyeh said the ISA is carrying out compatibility tests between the satellites and launch rockets.

"The compatibility and joint tests between launches and carrying rockets are among important and sensitive issues which sometimes can face delays because of certain technical problems," he said.

The official said, however, that Iran will carry out the satellite launches after it is ensured of 100% success in the compatibility tests.

Iran has carried out successful satellite launches in recent years despite West's pressure and sanctions on the country's space sector. Tehran has rejected accusations its satellite launches are a cover for its missile program with authorities stating that the satellites are used for various scientific and development purposes in the country.

Iran has also stated repeatedly that peaceful technological advancement in the aerospace field is the country's legitimate right.

In January, Iran simultaneously launched three satellites for the first time using a modern satellite carrier developed by the Iranian Defense Ministry. The ISA-built Mahda satellite was unveiled during the launches.

It came more than a week after Iran launched its Sorayya satellite into orbit with a rocket designed and developed by the country's elite military force, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC).

Also in late February, an Iranian satellite was placed for a first time into an orbit of 500 kilometers. The Pars 1 research-sensing satellite was launched from Russia's Vostochny spaceport using the Soyuz rocket.



CBI unveils digital currency to strengthen payment system

Iran unveiled the digital currency "CBDC" in a ceremony on Sunday attended by Governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) Mohammad Reza Farzin and some senior CEOs of the country's banks.

The digital currency is similar to a banknote, committed by the Central Bank of Iran in an electronic form, wrote Press TV.

Earlier, the CBI said it is planning to introduce a digital currency to facilitate purchases for the clients of the banking network in the country.

According to the CBI, a pilot version of its digital currency was readied to be rolled out on the island of Kish, southern Iran, after several years of work and studies on the program.

The CBI hopes the pilot platform could enable the bank to finally launch a digital form of Iran's national currency the rial.

Iran's Mellat and Tejarat banks will contribute to the pilot project in Kish, which is to be launched in July. The Central Bank of Iran announced that the digital rial will be used for retail transactions, including purchasing goods and services. Iran initiated its digital currency program in 2021 after preliminary studies and approval from the country's High Council of Money and Credit. The CBI emphasized that the digital rial's launch aims to bolster Iran's digital economy and strengthen the resilience of its payment infrastructure.

Iran, India discuss development of Chabahar port

Secretary for Economic Relations of the Ministry of External Affairs of India Shri Dammu Ravi talked on the expansion of economic ties with his Iranian counterpart Mehdi Safari in Tehran on Sunday.

Speaking on the sidelines of the 18th Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD), both sides exchanged their views on the development of Chabahar port in southwestern Iran.

The meeting of senior officials of the ACD with the chairmanship of Safari was held in Tehran Sunday.

The meeting of senior officials of the ACD with the chairmanship of Safari was held in Tehran Sunday.



Iran's gold import more than triple in June quarter



The Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) has reported that 6.6 metric tons (mt) of gold worth \$476 million were cleared through customs ports and imported into the country during the first three months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20 - June 20).

That is three times more than the same period last year, when 2 mt of gold bullion worth \$130 million were imported into the country, according to IRICA figures reported by IRNA.

Imam Khomeini Airport Customs was the origin of over 91.64% of gold bullion imports in the first three months of this year.

Late in 2022, the Iranian government approved a plan to facilitate the import of gold as part of its anti-sanctions policy, allowing businesses to import gold to settle their export-related foreign exchange dues to the government.

Iran ranks world's 30th producer of nuclear electricity in 2023

Iran managed to produce 6.6 terawatt/hour of nuclear electricity last year, becoming the 30th producer of nuclear electricity in the world.

According to a report by the 'Statistical Review of World Energy', Iran accounted for one percent of the world's total nuclear electricity generated in 2023, reported Tasnim News Agency.

Iran generated 6.6 terawatt/hour of nuclear electricity in 2023, showing a one percent growth compared to a year earlier. Iran's generation of nuclear electricity had about five percent growth during the administration of the late president Ebrahim Raisi.

According to the statistics, Iran had generated 6.4 terawatt/hour of nuclear electricity in 2020.

Only 33 countries in the world produced nuclear electricity in 2023.

The report put that total nuclear electricity generated in the world in 2023 at 2,737 terawatts/hour, which showed a 2.2 percent growth compared to a year before.



Over 2m cellphone handsets imported in three months: IRICA

The head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) said more than two million mobile handsets entered the customs offices of the country in the first three months of the current Iranian calendar year (started March 20, 2024).

A total of 2,049,279 cellphone handsets were discharged and imported from March 20 to May 22, 2024,

Mohammad Rezvanifar said, reported IRNA.

The mobile handsets were imported either by passengers or for commercial purposes, he added.

More than one million of the mobile handsets were imported for commercial and trade purposes while 98,796 cellphone handsets were imported by passengers, he said.

He put the value of the cell-

phone handsets imported into the country in this period at over \$527 million.

Rezvanifar pointed out that the import of cellphone handsets registered a 27- and an 8-percent decline in terms of weight and value respectively compared to the same period last year.





AUCTION SJSCO. D140301
Hereby Sirjan Jahan Steel Company announces selling and export 25,000 MT DIRECT REDUCED IRON (DRI) on basis of FOB. Interested bidders are invited to get documents with send an email to sjsco_sales_info@gmail.com. All the documents will be sent VIA email. All bids on conformity to tender instruction should be submitted no later than Monday, July 01, 2024 (2024-07-01)

For more information, please contact us at:
Tel: +2186084642
SIRJAN JAHAN STEEL COMPLEX

Aash reshteh, a delicious dive into Iranian cuisine

In the rich tapestry of Iranian culinary traditions, few dishes have achieved the iconic status and beloved reverence as aash reshteh. This hearty noodle soup, a vibrant blend of flavors and textures, is more than just a mere meal – it is a celebration of Iran's diverse cultural heritage, a testament to the ingenuity of its people, and a comforting embrace that transcends generations. From the bustling kitchens of Tehran to the cozy homes of rural villages, aash reshteh has woven itself into the fabric of Iranian life, becoming a cherished emblem of the nation's culinary prowess and its unwavering spirit of hospitality.

Origins and evolution

The roots of aash reshteh can be traced back centuries, intertwined with the rich history of ancient Persia and the enduring traditions of its people. While its exact origins remain shrouded in mystery, many scholars believe that this nourishing soup emerged from the resourcefulness of nomadic tribes, who sought to create a filling and nutritious meal from readily available ingredients, amazingiran.media wrote.

Melting pot of flavors

Over time, aash reshteh evolved into a harmonious fusion of flavors, reflecting the diverse cultural influences that have shaped Iranian cuisine. From the aromatic spices of the Silk Road trade routes to the culinary traditions of neighboring regions, this beloved dish has absorbed and adapted to the ever-changing tapestry of Iranian society, creating a truly unique and distinct culinary experience. The preparation of aash reshteh is a labor of love, a culinary ritual that brings families and communities together in a shared celebration of Iranian heritage. Each step in the process is imbued with tradition and technique, handed down from generation to generation, ensuring that the authentic flavor and essence of this iconic dish are preserved.

Symphony of flavors

At the heart of aash reshteh lies a harmonious blend of carefully selected ingredients, each contributing its own unique flavor and texture to the final dish. The star of the show is the *reshteh*, a type of Persian noodle made from a combination of flour, eggs, and a touch of saffron. These delicate strands are complemented by a medley of herbs and greens, such as parsley, coriander, and spinach, adding a vibrant pop of color and a burst of freshness.

In addition to the noodles and greens, aash reshteh also incorporates a variety of legumes, including lentils, chickpeas, and kidney beans, providing a rich source of protein and depth of flavor. The soup is further enriched with the addition of caramelized onions, garlic, and a harmonious blend of spices, such as turmeric, cinnamon, and black pepper, creating a symphony of flavors that dances across the palate.

Cooking process

The preparation of aash reshteh is a ritual that has been passed down through generations, with each family or region adding their own unique twist to the recipe. The process begins with the careful soaking and cooking of the legumes, ensuring that they are perfectly tender and infused with flavor. Meanwhile, the reshteh noodles are expertly hand-rolled and cut, a testament to the skill and patience of the Iranian home cook. As the aromatic broth simmers, the various ingredients are added in a specific order, allowing their flavors to meld and harmonize. The final touch is the addition of a tangy ingredient, such as *kashk* (a fermented whey product) or vinegar, which provides a bright and refreshing counterpoint to the rich and hearty soup.

A celebration of community

Beyond its delectable flavors and comforting warmth, aash reshteh holds a significant place in Iranian culture, serving as a tangible link to the nation's rich heritage and traditions.

The preparation and consumption of aash reshteh are often communal affairs, bringing families and friends together to share in the joy of this beloved dish. In many Iranian households, it is customary to gather and contribute to the preparation process, with each person taking on a specific task, such as chopping herbs, rolling noodles, or stirring the fragrant broth. This collective effort not only strengthens familial bonds but also celebrates the spirit of community that is so deeply ingrained in Iranian culture.

Symbol of resilience

Aash reshteh also holds a symbolic significance in Iranian society, representing the nation's resilience and hope in the face of adversity. Traditionally served during the Persian New Year celebration of Nowruz, this nourishing soup is believed to bring good fortune and abundance for the year ahead. Its vibrant colors and hearty ingredients are seen as a metaphor for the renewal of life and the promise of a bountiful harvest.

A global phenomenon

As the world becomes increasingly interconnected, the allure of aash reshteh has transcended bor-

ders, captivating palates and hearts across the globe. This beloved dish has become a culinary ambassador, introducing the rich flavors and traditions of Iranian cuisine to people from diverse cultural backgrounds.

Adaptation and innovation

While the traditional recipe remains revered, modern chefs and home cooks have embraced the challenge of putting their own spin on aash reshteh. From vegetarian and vegan versions to creative twists incorporating regional ingredients, this iconic dish has proven its versatility and adaptability, appealing to a wide range of dietary preferences and culinary sensibilities.

A catalyst for cultural exchange

As aash reshteh gains popularity around the world, it has become a catalyst for cultural exchange and understanding. Iranian diaspora communities have embraced the opportunity to share their beloved culinary heritage with their new homes, fostering connections and bridging cultural divides through the universal language of food. Restaurants and cooking classes dedicated to Iranian cuisine have sprung up in cities across the globe, providing a plat-

form for cultural immersion and appreciation.

Future of aash reshteh

As the world continues to evolve, aash reshteh remains a cherished part of Iran's culinary legacy, a testament to the enduring spirit and resilience of its people. While the recipe may adapt and evolve to suit changing tastes and preferences, the essence of this iconic dish – its rich flavors, comforting warmth, and deep cultural significance – will remain forever etched in the hearts and minds of those who have been fortunate enough to experience its delectable charms.

In the skilled hands of Iranian chefs and home cooks, aash reshteh will continue to be a source of pride and joy, a culinary masterpiece that connects generations and transcends borders. Each steaming bowl will be a celebration of Iran's rich cultural heritage, a reminder of the power of food to bring people together and to inspire wonder and appreciation for the diverse culinary traditions that make our world so vibrant and extraordinary.



G7 loses ground to BRICS



By M. K. Bhadrakumar
Former Indian
ambassador

OPINION

One hidden transformation of the international system in the most recent years has been the hijacking of the G7 by Washington as its 'kitchen cabinet' in the transatlantic system. The G8's 'shrinkage' to G7 in March 2014 following the coup in Ukraine was a defining moment that signalled that there wasn't going to be any post-cold war peace dividend. The G7, which was conceived as a group of countries charioting the world economy, ended up as the vehicle of big-power rivalry to preserve the US's global hegemony. Isolating Russia — and lately, China, too — became its leitmotif.



Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni (L) talks to the German chancellor as he and other G7 leaders watch a skydiving demo during their summit at Borgo Egnazia, Italy, on June 13, 2024.

DOMENICO STINELLIS/
AP



With the failure of the Western project to isolate Russia, the G7 is meandering and has lost its sense of direction. Italy, the G7 summit's rotating host this year, has made AI a key issue in the summit, and Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni invited an unlikely guest, the pontiff, to make an unprecedented appearance at the G7 event at the fashionable Italian hotel Borgo Egnazia to advocate for the regulation of artificial intelligence, a technology he's called potentially harmful. Pope Francis was a chemist prior to entering seminary and will apparently draw on his scientific training to inform his stances. Italy under Meloni's leadership has increasingly scrutinised AI technology, and temporarily banned ChatGPT in March 2023, becoming the first Western country to do so. Equally, G7 is desperate to go beyond a closed elite club of Western democracies by piloting an ambitious outreach and issued an unusually long list of invited leaders of the non-Western world to the summit. Aside from Ukraine, Meloni has invited the leaders of India, Brazil, South Africa, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Argentina, Algeria, Kenya, and Mauritania to attend the meeting. What the logic applied was impossible to tell. But this is realpolitik and G7 is hoping to bridge the 'West vs. the Rest' hiatus in the line-up

over the Ukraine crisis. In fact, the 'outreach guests' witnessed the nail-biting finale of a geopolitical drama, which forms the core of the G7 summit — the months-long attempt by the group's leaders to make a decision on using dividends from frozen Russian assets for Ukraine's military needs. To recap, as part of the West's 'sanctions from hell' against Russia in 2022, the European Union, Canada, the US, and Japan froze Moscow's assets in the Western banks to the tune of \$300 billion. (Some say, the actual figure is closer to \$400 billion.) Only about \$5–6 billion is located in the US, while \$210 billion is stored in Europe, but the decision to use the proceeds from Russian assets was initiated by Washington with a hidden agenda to make Europe pay for the war's consequences. There is no question that the G7 move to appropriate Russian money in Western banks was bad enough, but to use the profits out of them to fund the needs of Ukraine is, to put it mildly, an act of brigandage. The US gains if the current freeze in Russia-Europe ties reaches a point of no return, as Europe is sure to bear the brunt of Moscow's retaliation. Adopting such a move will weaken the global financial system. By brazenly violating international law, the G7 will be setting a precedent that undermines confidence in Euro-

pean institutions. It will be interesting to see how the G7 leaders explain that Russia is an exception and that such a practice will not one day be used against India, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, or some other state. To be sure, the spectre of the 16th summit meeting of BRICS at Kazan (16–18 October) under the chairmanship of Russian President Vladimir Putin haunts the G7. Moscow has let it be known that if the past three years ended with the expansion of the BRICS, the new phase going forward will ensure that the participants in an expanded format create a viable structure in which the member countries work purposively to develop a viable structure. An important topic at the BRICS summit meeting in Kazan will be the creation of a single currency within the grouping, which will significantly simplify and expand the economic relations of the member countries against the backdrop of mounting pressure from the West. Speaking at the SPIEF conference in St. Petersburg, Putin announced that such an independent payment system would be created. Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov later confirmed that a platform for payments in national currencies is being developed. The BRICS countries have realised that the creation of a single

currency has become a necessity today due to the ongoing sanctions from the US and the European Union. Lavrov noted that "recent international events have thrown off the masks" of the West, which has tried to impose its own values on other countries under the guise of universal ones and replace equal dialogue with "narrow coalitions" that assign the right to speak on behalf of the whole world. BRICS, Lavrov underscored, implies a completely opposite type of partnership — that is, anything but a bloc structure, and on the contrary, a fundamentally open format, which involves working only in those areas that are of mutual interest to all participants, big and small. Reports suggest that around 30 countries have sought BRICS membership. Meanwhile, in 'systemic' terms, G7 is entering uncharted waters. Far-right parties are storming the power centres of Europe. With an eye on the G7 summit, Politico wrote: "Dream on. The G7 summit in the southern Italian coastal resort of Borgo Egnazia features arguably the weakest gathering of leaders the group has mustered for years. Most of the attendees are distracted by elections or domestic crises, disillusioned by years in office, or clinging desperately to power. "France's Emmanuel Macron and Britain's Rishi Sunak are

both fighting snap election campaigns they called in last-ditch efforts to reverse their flagging fortunes. Germany's Olaf Scholz was humiliated by far-right nationalists in last weekend's EU Parliament election and could soon be toppled himself. Justin Trudeau, prime minister for nine years in Canada, has spoken openly about quitting his 'crazy' job. Japan's Fumio Kishida is enduring his lowest personal ratings ahead of a leadership contest later this year. And then there's Joe Biden. The 81-year-old US president's son, Hunter, was found guilty of gun charges, barely two weeks before his father's first crucial debate with a resurgent Donald Trump in a presidential campaign the Democrats are in serious danger of losing." Above all, the angst in the European mind is palpable that if Trump wins in a democracy-altering climax in the November election, he may not even have time or patience to tolerate an archaic forum like G7. Surveying the bleak landscape, it comes as no surprise that Meloni took matters into her own hands and decided to use the summit for her purposes by designing an agenda that cleaved to Italy's strategic interests — Africa, migration, and the Mediterranean.

The full article first appeared on Indian Punchline.



Only about \$5–6 billion of Russia's frozen assets is located in the US, while \$210 billion is stored in Europe, but the decision to use the proceeds from Russian assets was initiated by Washington with a hidden agenda to make Europe pay for the war's consequences.

US piloting of G7 endangers world



By Syed Ali Hassan
Iran Daily's
correspondent in
Pakistan

The US and UK have successfully convinced the G7 group to use the interest earned on profits

from Russia's frozen assets to provide \$50 billion in financial aid to Ukraine. In essence, a betrayal of trust, this plan was announced at the end of the G7 annual summit on Thursday. The US administration believes this decision will force Russia to halt its war in Ukraine.

The G7 summit, comprising the US, the UK, Germany, Italy, Canada, Japan, and France, plus "the non-enumerated member", the European Union, was held in Puglia, Italy. However, the summit did not consider any plans to end the Israeli blockade and genocide in Gaza, despite the UN Security Council's resolution calling for a cease-fire. Israeli brutal military operations against the populace continue, yet the G7 countries have taken no practical steps to stop them. It is impossible to ignore how the US has subordinated the NATO military alliance and wealthy European nations, and works to ensure its imperialist dominance rather than prevent wars.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky welcomed the G7 plan to use profits from Russia's frozen assets to provide \$50 billion in financial aid to Kyiv. Invited as a special guest to the G7 summit, Zelensky described the support package as crucial for Ukraine's victory against Russia. However, a few hours after the plan's announcement, Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova indicated that Moscow would respond to this betrayal, warning that the US and its European allies would face

severe consequences. Zelensky's provocative actions led Russia to take punitive measures against Ukraine in 2022, prompting several Western countries to freeze Russian central bank assets worth approximately \$300 billion, which yields an annual profit of \$3 billion. Most of these frozen assets are managed by the European Union. If the plan to earmark the profits for backing Ukraine is implemented, European countries will most likely bear the brunt of Russia's retaliatory actions.



Western businesspeople with billions in Russia are concerned that Moscow might freeze their assets in retaliation.

The US President Joe Biden (L) shakes hands with his Ukrainian counterpart, Volodymyr Zelensky, at the G7 summit in Hiroshima, Japan, on May 21, 2023.
● SUSAN WALSH/AP

Western businesspeople with billions in Russia are concerned that Moscow might freeze their assets in retaliation. Thus, the US is sacrificing Europe by escalating Russia-Europe tensions, potentially leading to further crises.

American officials claim that the profits from frozen Russian assets are not owed to Russia under existing agreements. The G7 sees this as a way to support Ukraine without directly seizing Russian assets, though Russia can challenge this in European courts.

US President Joe Biden and his administration aim to put pressure on Russia's economy by extending the Ukraine conflict rather than seeking a lasting resolution. Shortly after the G7 summit agreed to lend \$50 billion to Ukraine, Biden and Zelensky signed a 10-year security agreement, with Zelensky calling it a historical day. Biden also stated that the G7 measures signal to Putin that he cannot defeat them. The agreement stipulates that in the event of a future Russian attack, the US and Ukraine

must consult at the highest level within 24 hours, and that includes commitments to stabilize Ukraine's military, provide training, and support its domestic arms industry. Zelensky sees this agreement as a bridge to NATO membership, though the current conflict with Russia makes immediate membership unlikely, as it would obligate NATO countries to go to war with Russia. Yet, the Americans are using Russian funds to encourage war with the 10-year security agreement.

The decision to allocate the interest generated from frozen Russian assets for Ukraine has significant geopolitical implications and is expected to provoke a strong response from Russia. Moscow may target Western companies operating within its borders, with President Putin already authorizing the seizure of American companies' assets in retaliation for any foreign seizure of Russian assets. The US actions regarding Ukraine are likely to exacerbate rather than extinguish the conflict.

Why more Southeast Asian countries signalled interest to join BRICS



By Asyraf Kamil
Journalist

PERSPECTIVE

A desire to diversify their options in the global economic arena is among the reasons why a growing list of Southeast Asian

states are keen to join the BRICS group of emerging economies, say analysts, with Malaysia the latest to express interest.

Experts CNA spoke to also believe that leaders of those countries may want to use their standing in the international community in a bid to appeal to their electorate.

Dr. Joseph Liow, dean of the College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore, told CNA that countries that have expressed interest in joining BRICS are attracted to its "collective potential".

"It is part of their own calculations of their national interests, and desire to diversify their options in the global economic arena," he said.

However, with more Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) states expressing interest in and considering joining BRICS, analysts have also raised concerns that this may lead to an overdependence on China.

Meanwhile, in an interview with the Chinese news portal Guancha posted on June 16, Malaysia Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim said that his country has "made a decision" to join BRICS and "will be placing the formal procedures soon".

Anwar's comments came before Chinese Premier Li Qiang made a three-day official visit to Malaysia from June 18 to June 20. Li, who is China's second most powerful leader after President Xi Jinping, is the first Chinese premier to visit Malaysia since 2015.

And in January, Indonesia's Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi said that her country "is still studying the benefits that can be gained from joining BRICS".

Others such as Myanmar and Laos have previously expressed interest in joining the bloc while Vietnam had said they were "closely monitoring the process of BRICS member-



China's Premier Li Qiang (L) shakes hands with Malaysia's Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim during their meeting in Putrajaya, Malaysia, on June 19, 2024.
● REUTERS

Possible overdependence on China

However, Bhima warns of the implications of ASEAN countries joining BRICS, believing that it may give China a bigger role in the United States-China trade war as well as the conflict in the South China Sea. Beyond that, Bhima said that there may be concerns about an overdependence on China in various ways, especially from an economic perspective.

"It is actually very risky because China is experiencing slowing domestic demand for at least the next two to three years and still struggling with its property crisis. China's economy, which is expected to slow down, will also have an impact on the economic growth of countries in the ASEAN region," he said.

Liow, meanwhile, said that politics within BRICS itself could prove to be a hindrance.

"There are major obstacles as well, like the membership of countries whose own bilateral relationships face challenges, like China and India, or Saudi Arabia and Iran. Politics can easily come into the picture in a way that makes the potential (of the grouping) difficult to realise," he said.

While some Southeast Asian countries have expressed interest

ship". Meanwhile, Singapore and the Philippines for example, have yet to make their positions known.

BRICS' appeal

Bhima Yudhistira, executive director of the think-tank Centre of Economic and Law Studies (CELIOS) in Indonesia, said that countries are "influenced by the potential for cooperation in terms of investment, trade, and infrastructure financing, especially by China and India".

"Most countries in ASEAN consider China and India as potential traditional markets," he said. BRICS was established in 2006 and initially comprised Brazil, Russia, India, and China, with South Africa joining the grouping in 2010. Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) were invited to become members from January 1, 2024.

in joining BRICS, there are others that have kept mum on the topic. Bhima believes that it boils down to the relationship between the countries and those within the BRICS bloc.

"Singapore feels that without joining BRICS, it has already become an investment and financial hub for many Chinese companies. (It) may also be concerned about the duplication of bilateral and multilateral agreements with China and other BRICS countries. Meanwhile, the Philippines is more influenced by the issue of the South China Sea conflict. So, it is keeping its distance from China," said Bhima.

Chong, the senior fellow at RSIS, said that while China may hold an "informal" voting power within the bloc, it would hope that "its association with Russia will not translate into a negative position within BRICS." However, Bhima believes that the bloc's appeal will continue to see to its expansion for the economic benefits it may potentially yield.

"Many countries will be interested in joining BRICS if major countries such as China and India offer real investment packages, lower various export barriers to BRICS countries, increase the knowledge exchange event between political party leaders, and provide more certainty about mega-project loans that are in line with the national agenda," he said.

The full article first appeared on CNA.

Wrestling U17 Asian Championships: Karami, Izadi grab golds as Iran bags seven Greco-Roman medals

Sports Desk

A prolific first day at the U17 Asian Championships saw Iranian wrestlers collect seven Greco-Roman medals in Amman, Jordan – including double golds for Abolfazl Karami and Danial Izadi.

Representing the country in the 51kg contests, Karami rounded off a dominant run with a technical-superiority victory (9-0) over Uzbekistan's Khojiakbar Kuchkarov in the final.

Izadi, meanwhile, took Iran's gold tally to two thanks to a thrilling 10-9 win against Adilet Toishy of Kazakhstan in the 92kg

showdown.

Elsewhere, Ahmad Badradini suffered a 14-3 loss to Uzbek wrestler Umidjon Karomov in the 45kg final and settled for the silver.

Alireza Amiri was also the second best against an Uzbek opponent, Khusniddin Abdulkarimov, falling to a 10-0 defeat in the 48kg final.

Amirali Heidari bounced back from a last-four setback to beat China's Ma-oxian Liao 8-0 for a joint bronze in the 55kg class.

Abolfazl Shiri also finished his campaign with a consolation bronze in the 60kg event, courtesy of a 10-8 win against Nodirjon

Sangov of Tajikistan.

Ayoub Hosseinvand claimed a third bronze medal for Iran when he outmuscled Kazakhstan's Aidos Kairatov 8-0 in the third-place bout of the 110kg contests.

The Asian under-17 event will be followed by the U23 Championships in the Jordanian capital until next Sunday.

Iran's Abolfazl Karami (L) and Danial Izadi won double Greco-Roman gold medals on the first day of the Wrestling U17 Asian Championships in Amman.
● ADIB MOHMADI/IAWF



Volleyball Nations League: Iran ends dreadful campaign with Germany defeat



German outside-hitter Moritz Reichert (5) hits a spike during a straight-set victory over Iran in the Volleyball Nations League in Manila, Philippines, on June 23, 2024.
● SEPIDE ABDOLHAY/volleyball.ir

Sports Desk

A horrible Volleyball Nations League campaign came to an end for Iran with a straight-set loss (25-20, 25-23, 25-20) to Germany in Manila, Philippines, on Sunday.

A 10th defeat in 12 outings meant Iran finished second from bottom in the 16-team table of the preliminary round – a lowest-ever finish for the team that had reached the VNL Finals twice since the competi-

tion was first introduced in 2018.

Outside-hitter Moritz Karlitzek contributed with a game-high 21 points for the Germans, while opposite spiker Amin Esmaeilnejad chipped in 19 for Iran – followed by Pouria Hossein-Khanzadeh, whose quiet night yielded 10 points.

"We put our all into the game as we desperately wanted to finish with a victory. I just hope the Iranian people will still give us their support so that we can make

amends for the setback next year," Hossein-Khanzadeh, who signed for Italian giant Lube on Saturday, said after the match.

Stepping into the event, Iran was hopping to embark on a new era under Brazilian coach Mauricio Motta Paes and put in a last-ditch effort to secure a place in July's Paris Olympics through the FIVB Ranking by the end of the preliminary round.

However, the Brazilian's time was cut short after seven successive defeats

for what was described by the Iranian federation as the 61-year-old's failure in "unleashing the players' potentials", with the decision aimed at protecting "the international reputation of the Iranian volleyball."

Paes's No. 2 Payman Akbari took over from the Brazilian but his appointment did little to change the team's fortunes, though Iran still managed a couple of consolation victories over USA and the Netherlands – both in five sets – in Week 3.

Golmohammadi named new Foolad head coach

Sports Desk

Former Persepolis manager Yahya Golmohammadi was appointed as the new head coach of the Persian Gulf Pro League side Foolad Khuzestan on a two-year contract, the southern Iranian club announced.

Golmohammadi, 53, had been without a team since parting ways with the Tehran Reds in January.

An ex-boss at Iranian top-flight sides Zob Ahan and Naft Tehran, Golmohammadi came close to taking over from Spanish Paco Jémez in Tractor in the closing stages of the newly-finished season but a deal eventually fell through.

The Iranian

center-back in the 2006 World Cup enjoyed a glorious four years on Persepolis bench, steering the Reds to three top-flight crowns – including a league and cup double in his last full season in charge – as well as the AFC Champions League final in 2020, before a falling-out with the club CEO Reza Darvish and long-term injuries to

key players led to a run of inept results and performances in the previous campaign.

Having had four coaches on the bench on the bench over the past 12 months, Foolad will be looking forward to a fresh start under the new manager, who played for them for three seasons in the early 2000s.

A two-time champion since the Iranian Pro League was introduced in 2021, Foolad finished 11th in the 16-team table last term – courtesy of seven wins and 15 defeats in 30 games – with the club having a Sasan Ansari's late winner at Nassaji on the final day to thank for avoiding relegation.

Portugal keep it simple after Martinez's experiment

REUTERS – Portugal coach Roberto Martinez seems to have settled his selection dilemmas for Euro 2024 by reverting to a more conventional shape in a comfortable 3-0 win over Turkey on Saturday. After fielding an experimental team in Portugal's often chaotic 2-1 opening win against the Czech Republic on Tuesday, Martinez went for a back four protected by Joao Palhinha who returned in midfield for the second group game.

Portugal arrived in Germany billed as one of the tournament favourites buoyed by 10 wins in their 10 qualifying matches. But the abundance of talent in the squad has created the temptation to tinker for Martinez.

He started the match against the Czech Republic with three full backs, including Joao Cancelo who roamed all over the pitch, and ended it with five strikers as Portugal chased – and got – a last-gasp winner.

On Saturday, the stability provided by Palhinha – and his half-time replacement Ruben Neves – plus the more familiar roles for the rest of his side provided the foundation for a solid Portugal performance against a disappointing Turkey for whom star winger Arda Guler only appeared as a substitute.

Asked by reporters about the shape-shifting appearance of Por-

tugal, Martinez said he was able to change his approach thanks to the strengths of his players.

"It is important to have a tactical flexibility so we can balance the individual talent that we have," he said.

Guaranteed top spot in Group F, Martinez can rest some of his key personnel for Wednesday's game against Georgia after which Portugal will take on a third-placed side from another group in the last 16.

Despite the impressive qualifying campaign, some critics have continued to question the credentials of Martinez – a Spaniard who took

over as Portugal coach in January last year – after he failed as coach to turn Belgium's best crop of players in a generation into a tournament-winning side.

While Saturday's display against Turkey went almost without a hitch, Portugal did not match the scintillating football displayed by their Iberian neighbours Spain who beat Croatia and Italy in their opening two matches in Germany. One issue which dogs the Portugal team is whether Cristiano Ronaldo, 39, should remain an automatic choice up front.

On Saturday, Ronaldo went some way to quieting that debate when he generously rolled the ball to Bruno Fernandes to make it 3-0 when he could have scored himself, taking his number of assists in Euro tournaments to a record eight.



Portugal players celebrate a goal during a 3-0 win against Turkey in Euro 2024 in Dortmund, Germany, on June 22, 2024.
● EFE

Campaigning in full swing as election day nears



With Iran's presidential election being only five days away, the six candidates running for the high office have already faced off in three rounds of nationally televised debates

to exchange their views on economic and cultural issues, defend their plans and critique those of their rivals. The candidates are doing their utmost to galvanize

public opinion and attract the electorate by campaigning in various cities across the country in the run-up to the June 28 vote. Masoud Pezeshkian, a former health minister and

seasoned lawmaker, had a hectic day with a tight schedule on Saturday as he visited Iran's western city of Sanandaj, Kordestan's provincial capital, the city of Shiraz, the capital of Fars Province and the southwestern city of Ahvaz, Khuzestan's provincial capital. Pezeshkian held meetings with various groups and representatives of a number of unions, universities and institutions during his one-day trip. He also had in-person talks with the public and heard their viewpoints and demands. Saeed Jalili, a former lead nuclear negotiator and head of the country's top security body, traveled to the central province of Isfahan on Saturday and was welcomed by crowds of people before paying an evening visit to Ahvaz. Pre-election campaigning took Mohammad Baqer

Qalibaf, a veteran political figure and parliament speaker, to Karaj in Alborz Province and the nearby city of Qazvin, where he addressed people from various social strata and outlined his blueprints. Alireza Zakani, the mayor of Tehran and former lawmaker, met with groups of sportspeople, athletes and medalists in the capital Tehran on Sunday. Amir-Hossein Ghazizadeh Hashemi, a former lawmaker and a second-time presidential hopeful, attended a gathering of students at Tehran University and Mostafa Pourmohammadi, a former minister who also held senior posts in the Judiciary, partook in a press conference to field questions on his plans for presidency. In remarks on June 22, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei called on the

presidential candidates to avoid making statements during their televised campaigns that would gratify the enemy. "The assumption is that all candidates love Iran and the Islamic Republic, that's because they aspire to become president within this system and in order to serve the people," the Leader said. The election campaign period began on June 9 and will run until June 26, while the nationwide presidential election will be held on Friday, June 28. The new administration, the 14th one after the victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979, will assume power in late June or early July and hold office for four years after the snap election on Friday, which was held following the passing of late president Ebrahim Raisi in a tragic helicopter crash on May 19.

Iran to list Canadian army as terrorist entity

Iranian lawmakers denounced the Canadian government's decision to blacklist the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), demanding a countermeasure against the North American country's armed forces. On Sunday, a group of 250 Iranian legislators introduced a motion that requires the administration to designate the Canadian Army and federal police forces as terrorist organizations, Press TV reported. They expressed their strong support for the IRGC and hailed its defense of Iran's national security and territorial integrity in the years following the 1979 Islamic Revolution. Canada's Public Safety Minister Dominic LeBlanc Ottawa on Wednesday listed the IRGC as a "terrorist entity" under the Criminal Code and called on Canadians in Iran to leave.

Tehran hosts important ...

The presence of a large number of Asian delegations in Tehran, especially officials from countries with fledgling economies, has created ample opportunity for different sectors in Iran, especially the economic sectors, over the past years. Bilateral talks with foreign delegations as well as consultations on important issues of the ancient continent would be a remarkable achievement for the Iranian government. An economic development is taking place in the continent. So, there are good opportunities for the ACD member states during the Tehran forum to expand their relations in the fields of trade, industry, agriculture as well as technical and engineering exchanges. Especially for Iran, which has achieved self-suf-

ficiency or relative self-sufficiency in some areas, can share its capabilities, specifically in the field of engineering and technology, with other countries. Iran, as one of the main members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, has the potential to play the role of a bridge between the ACD member states. Asia, the world's largest continent of the world, is also grappling with problems such as terrorism and drug trafficking, which can also be discussed by the delegations present in Tehran. Tehran can grasp the great opportunity of hosting the ACD conference to hold bilateral and multilateral meetings with the visiting delegations to discuss capacities for cooperation. Owing to the efforts of the late chief executive's government, the regional and international po-



sition of Iran has been strengthened - an issue that has persuaded Asian countries to further cooperate with Tehran. Asia has been witnessing significant progress in various fields over the past two decades. The countries of the continent, especially the members of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue, can consolidate the status of the great continent and the role of the Asian countries in global developments by adopting interactive approaches. Tehran and the countries present at this forum should make the most of the forum to resolve the problems of the continent and improve their relations.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



INVITATION TO TWO STAGE PUBLIC BID – SECOND NOTICE

Phase one of Parsian Combined Cycle Power Plant (500±10% MW) on EPCF Basis

Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) Parsian Jonoub Energy Intensive Industries Development Company (PEIICD)

INVITATION NO: 2003090246000001

Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) with representation of Parsian Jonoub Energy Intensive Industries Development Company (PEIICD), intends to international two stage public bid for Parsian Combined Cycle Power Plant Project. To do this first a short list of eligible experienced companies will be prepared and on next stage they will be invited to technical evaluation. This second notice of invitation for renewal of first stage of Bid is based on the sub-clause 10-B of "Clause C, Article 12, tenders formalities law" dated 16/07/1385 Iranian calendar date.

Herewith, we are inviting eligible candidates (Applicants) to refer Bid No 2003090246000001 on Iran Public eProcurement System (SETAD) available on www.setadiran.ir, should they to be i) a company duly organized, registered, existing and having grade one certificate of EPC for power generation sector from Iran Plan and Budget Organisation for local Applicants or similar certificate from pertinent authorities in their countries, which to be verified by the respective consulate of the Islamic Republic of Iran, for overseas Applicants; or ii) to be a Consortium comprising of two or more companies (members), whose members are organized, registered, existing and collectively having grade one or two certificate of design/engineering for power generation sector and grade one certificate of construction for power generation sector with aforesaid procedure for such certificates as well as valid HSE certificate from Ministry of Cooperatives, Labour, and Social Welfare.

After preparation of the pertinent short list of qualified Applicant, we invite them for second stage of the Bid. As specified before, participating in the Bid as Consortium is allowed.

Bid in brief:

1) Company/Client: Parsian Jonoub Energy Intensive Industries Development Company (PEIICD) on behalf of Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) with the following address: Bids Department, Parsian Jonoub Energy Intensive Industries Development Company (PEIICD), No. 1713, 1st floor of National Iranian Steel Company building, Vall-e-Asr Avenue (Above Vallasr Sq.),

Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Postal Code: 1594643118, Tel: +98-21-88906133
Email: parsian_ccpp_tender@psez.ir

2) Invitation subject: Selecting the EPCF contractor for Parsian Combined Cycle Power Plant (500±10% MW) project on EPCF Basis (phase one)

3) Project's estimated price: Two hundred eighty-five million (285,000,000) Euros.

4) Bid Bond: The Bid Bond shall be in the form of a bank guarantee in the amount of 2,055,000 € (two million fifty-five thousand euros) issued by an Iranian bank acceptable to the Company According to related circular (governmental transactions guarantees regulation) dated 24/08/1394 as per Iranian calendar (15/11/2015) No. H50659 T/123402. The Bid Bond shall be extendable and shall be valid for six (6) months after the Bid Closing Date. The bank guarantee shall have SEPAM number without any conditional statement.

5) Source of Fund: IMIDRO's internal resources
6) Prequalification Documents obtaining: The Prequalification Questionnaire will be available on the portal of government's electronic procurement system (www.setadiran.ir) from 2024 June 23, Sunday, 08:00 AM until 2024 June 29, Saturday, 04:00 PM.

7) Prequalification Documents submission: The Prequalification Documents shall be uploaded on the portal of government's electronic procurement system, available on www.setadiran.ir website before 2024 July 20, Saturday, 04:00 PM.

8) Bid Opening Date and Place: on the 2024 July 21, Sunday at a/m address.

9) Bid Validity Period: Bids shall remain valid for a period of one hundred eighty (180) days after the date of Bid opening.

10) Invitation notice date: The invitation will be noticed on 2024 June 23, Sunday through the portal of government's electronic procurement system (www.setadiran.ir).

All Bidding stages from beginning, i.e. noticing of this invitation, sending/ delivering of Bidding Documents up to opening of the Bids will be conducted via Iran Public eProcurement System (SETAD) available on www.setadiran.ir. Therefore, Applicants shall be registered in the mentioned system and receive the electronic signature certificate in order to participate in the Bid if they have not been a member before.

- License Holder
- ICPI Caretaker
- Managing Director
- Editor-in-chief
- Int'l & National Desk
- Economy Desk
- Sports Desk
- Iranica Desk
- Arts & Culture Desk
- Language Editor

Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA)
 Ehsan Salehi
 Ali Kakadezfuli
 Mostafa Shirmohammadi
 Javad Mohammad Ali, Zohreh Qanadi,
 Ebrahim Beheshti, Amir Mollaei Mozaffari
 Reza Abesh Ahmadlou, Sadeq Dehqan
 Amirhadi Arsalanpour
 Leila Imeni
 Hamideh Hosseini
 Mehdi Ebrahim

- Editorial Dept. Tel
- Address
- ICPI Publisher
- Advertising Dept. Tel/Email
- Website
- Email
- Printing House

+98 21 84711226
 208, Khorramshahr Ave., Tehran, Iran
 +98 21 88548892-5
 +98 21 88500601/irandaily@iranagahiha.com
 www.irandaily.ir/newspaper.irandaily.ir
 irandaily@icpi.ir
 Iran Cultural & Press Institute



Presidential campaigns through camera lens



The presidential candidate, Amir-Hossein Qazizadeh Hashemi (L), attends a student gathering at the University of Tehran on June 22, 2024.
 ● ALIREZA SOTAKBAR/ISNA



Qazizadeh Hashemi greets the audience at the University of Tehran on June 22, 2024.
 ● ALIREZA SOTAKBAR/ISNA



Qazizadeh Hashemi delivers a campaign speech at the University of Tehran on June 22, 2024.
 ● IRNA



The presidential candidate, Saeed Jalili, is seen interacting with the public in Ahvaz, Khuzestan Province, on June 22, 2024, as part of his election campaign.
 ● MOHAMMADREZA ALIMADADI/IRNA



Jalili meets students at Sharif University of Technology in Tehran on June 22, 2024.
 ● MOHAMMADREZA ALIMADADI/IRNA



Jalili addresses a gathering in Isfahan on June 22, 2024.
 ● MOHAMMADREZA ALIMADADI/IRNA



The presidential candidate, Masoud Pezeshkian, greets the audience during his meeting with the Tehran Chamber of Commerce on June 23, 2024.
 ● ALI SHARIFZADEH/IRNA



Pezeshkian pays respect to a woman as he meets with a group of artists and families of martyrs in Tehran on June 23, 2024.
 ● ALI HADDADI ASL/MEHR



Pezeshkian is seen addressing the public in Kurdistan Province, on June 22, 2024, as a part of his election campaign.
 ● KEYVAN FIROUZEI/TASNIM



The presidential candidate, Mostafa Pourmohammadi, attends a press conference in Tehran on June 23, 2024, as part of his election campaign.
 ● AHMAD MOEINI JAM/IRNA



The election campaign poster of Mostafa Pourmohammadi, with the slogan "Justice, Power, Wealth" features the presidential hopeful on a street in Tehran.
 ● AMIN JALALI/IRNA



Pourmohammadi attends a press conference in Tehran on June 23, 2024.
 ● AHMAD MOEINI JAM/IRNA



The presidential candidate, Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, delivers a campaign speech among a group of people in the city of Qazvin on June 22, 2024.
 ● ALI SHARIFZADEH/IRNA



Qalibaf pays respect to martyrs during his visit to a cemetery in Qazvin on June 22, 2024.
 ● ALI SHARIFZADEH/IRNA



Qalibaf meets (3rd R) with the members of the Tehran Chamber of Commerce on June 23, 2024, as part of his election campaign.
 ● MEHR



The presidential candidate, Alireza Zakani, meets with Tehran athletes on June 22, 2024 at the Hijab Sports Complex, as part of his election campaign.
 ● AKBAR TAVAKOLI/IRNA



Zakani delivers a campaign speech among a group of people in Tabriz, East Azarbaijan Province, on June 18, 2024, as part of his election campaign.
 ● MARYAM YOUSEFI/ILNA



Zakani meets with Tehran athletes on June 22, 2024 at the Hijab Sports Complex.
 ● AKBAR TAVAKOLI/IRNA