



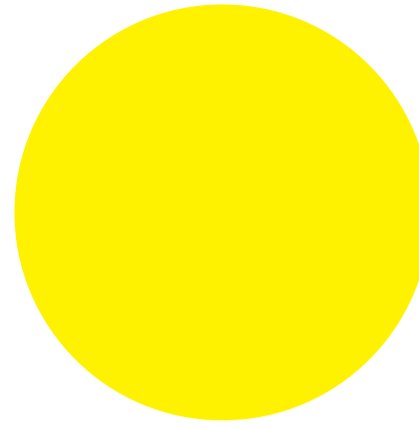
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# Iran Daily



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# British Cruelty!



Why terrorist attacks become 'incidents' the further South they happen? Double standards on display!

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## Iran-US military faceoff unlikely

By Ebrahim Beheshti  
Staff writer

### INTERVIEW

In a recent development, the United States has dispatched over 3,000 military personnel to the Red Sea, ostensibly with the stated goal of thwarting any potential attempts by Iran to commandeer oil tankers and to maintain the security of maritime trade routes. Adding to this display of military presence, the US disclosed its intentions to station a warship along with its complement of F-35 and F-16 fighter jets in the Persian Gulf. Furthermore, the US has floated the idea of deploying its armed forces aboard commercial tankers. These provocative acts come as Iran and the United States have recently agreed on a prisoner exchange and releasing the former's frozen assets in South Korea. Shedding light on this complex scenario, Iran Daily has talks to Abouzar Gohari-Moqadam, a professor of international relations. [Page 5 >](#)  
The interview explores the underlying objectives driving America's fresh military maneuvers.

## Iran starts gas production from South Pars Phase 11

**Economy Desk** Iran says it has begun gas production in Phase 11 of the giant South Pars Gas Field in the Persian Gulf. Iran's Deputy Oil Minister Mohsen Khojastehmehr said on Tuesday that the gas extracted in the gas field is now being transferred to an onshore refinery through a pipeline. Khojastehmehr added that the Phase 11 of the South Pars Gas Field will be inaugurated during a ceremony and in the presence of President Ebrahim Raeisi, Oil Minister Javad Owji, and other high-ranking officials in the near future. In 2017, the French company Total signed an agreement with Iran to develop Phase 11, but the company abandoned the multi-billion-dollar project after the US re-imposed sanctions against Iran in 2018. China National Petroleum Corp. (CNPC), which replaced Total, also suspended investment in Iran's South Pars natural gas project in response to US pressure. South Pars is the world's largest gas field. Despite being under illegal sanctions, Iran managed to develop the project with the help of Iranian experts.

## China strengthens military ties with Iran, SCO

**International Desk** China's Defense Minister, Li Shangfu, announced plans to strengthen military collaboration with Iran, Belarus, and member countries of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), which includes Russia. "We will continue to strengthen the mechanism of security cooperation within the SCO, actively deepen defense collaboration with the organization's newest member Iran, as well as Belarus, which will soon become an SCO member," TASS quoted him as saying. [Page 4 >](#)



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## NEWS IN BRIEF

## IMIDRO head appointed



IRNA - Minister of Industry, Mines and Trade Abbas Aliabadi appointed Mohammad Reza Movassaginia as the head of Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) board of directors on Tuesday.

IMIDRO is a major state-owned holding company active in the mining sector in Iran. IMIDRO has eight major companies and 55 operational subsidiaries active in steel, aluminum, copper, cement and mineral exploitation fields.

## UK joblessness climbs



AFP - UK unemployment increased in the three months to the end of June, official data showed Tuesday, as the economy struggles with high inflation.

The number of people out of work increased to 4.2 percent compared to 4.0 percent in the three months to the end of May, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) said.

The rise is "mainly due to people taking slightly longer to find work than those who started job hunting in recent months," said Darren Morgan, director of economic statistics at the ONS.

## Russian Central Bank jacks up rates to 12%



REUTERS - Russia's Central Bank hiked its key interest rate by 350 basis points, to 12% on Tuesday, an emergency move to halt the ruble's recent slide after a public call from the Kremlin for tighter monetary policy.

The extraordinary rate meeting came after the ruble plummeted past the 100 threshold against the dollar on Monday.

## Iran, Armenia extend gas-electricity swap deal



Iran and Armenia signed an agreement to extend the term of the existing contract under which Tehran exports natural gas to Yerevan in exchange for electricity until 2030.

The two countries have signed a new agreement to export Iranian gas to Armenia. The agreement was signed in a ceremony in the Armenian capital Yerevan with Majid Chegini, Iran's Deputy Oil Minister, Mehdi Sobhani, Iran's ambassador to Armenia, and Armenian Minister of Regional Management and Infrastructure Sanusian in attendance, reported Mehr news agency.

The Iranian Embassy in Yerevan said the initial agreement was reached during the visit of Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan to Tehran in November 2022, as the fi-

nal document was signed on Thursday.

Iran's gas exports to Armenia will be within the framework of an energy swap deal and the talks between the delegations of the two countries focused on the amount of gas exports and the exchange rate of electricity and gas.

Iran's pipeline to Armenia has the capacity to transfer more than one billion cubic meters of gas to Armenia per annum while only about one-third of the capacity has been used since it was launched.

Armenia exports electricity to Iran in return for importing gas. Following the completion of the third electricity transmission line from Armenia to Iran, the line's capacity will increase threefold, to hit 1,300 MW.

## PBO: Iran oil revenues up 42% since spring



The head of Iran's Plan and Budget Organization (PBO) said on Tuesday that the country's oil revenues have increased 42 percent since the beginning of the current Iranian year (March 21).

Speaking in Parliament, Davoud Manzour added, "As stipulated in the budget law, more than 1.4 million barrels of oil and gas condensates are exported per day," Shana reported. He hailed the constructive cooperation between the Parliament and the government and also between the Parliament's Plan, Budget and Audit Committee and the PBO.

On Monday, Iran's Oil Minister Javad Owji said his country's crude output has reached 3.19 million barrels per day, while one billion cubic meters of gas are produced per day, adding that Iran's oil production capacity stands at 3.85m bpd.

## Iran's food inflation rate drops by 50%: WB

The World Bank (WB), in its latest report on Tuesday, said the inflation rate of food in Iran has halved, to hit 42 percent.

In a report on the "Situation of Food" in 166 countries, including Iran, the World Bank said many low- and mid-income countries are grappling with the skyrocketing prices of food, reported Tasnim news agency.

Most of the countries are in Africa, North America, Latin America, South Asia, Europe and Central Asia, it noted. Introducing the top 10 countries in terms of annual food inflation rate, the World Bank added that Venezuela stands in first place, followed by Lebanon and Zimbabwe. The World Bank put Iran's inflation rate of food in July 2022 at 90.2 percent, which was caused by the elimination of the preferential exchange rate of basic foodstuffs.



## Iranian experts develop solution to produce ferrovanadium

Experts at a research institute associated with Iran's state mining and metals company IMIDRO have developed a home-grown solution to produce ferrovanadium, an alloy that can harden steel and improve its anti-corrosive qualities. A report by IRIB News said that experts at Iran Mineral Processing Research Center (IMPRC) had managed to produce vanadium oxide with a high degree of purity from slag, which is a

by-product of steel manufacturing.

The report said that vanadium oxide can be used to produce ferrovanadium alloy, a hardener that is used to manufacture high-strength, anti-corrosion steel.

Iran is currently the seventh largest steel supplier in the world but it lacks the technology to produce vanadium from slag despite the fact that slag accounts for 20% of the weight of

the total steel production in the country.

That comes as more than 67% of the global supply of vanadium comes from steel slag.

Facing US sanctions that restrict its access to foreign technology and investment, Iran has increasingly relied on domestic resources to expand its manufacturing sector.

The IMPRC said its home-grown solution to produce vanadium oxide from slag

would significantly boost Iranian steel industry's environmental records and will enable the country to cut imports of high-strength steel.

It said the Mobarakeh Steel Company, which is the largest steel producer in Iran, had supplied slag samples and technical services to the project to produce vanadium oxide from slag.

The research center said it was now carrying out feasibility studies for semi-in-



dustrial production of ferrovanadium alloy in Iran. The IMPRC is located in

Kavosh Industrial Park, located some 60 kilometers to the northwest of Tehran.

## Turkmenistan welcomes expanding economic relations with Iran



## Economic Desk

The Turkmenistan market is ready to expand relations with Iranian traders to develop relations. The "Iran Project" exhibition has been held over the past 15 years to increase Iran's share of Turkmenistan's market, said Hassan Martaji, the

chairman of the Board of Directors of Iran International Exhibition Organizers Association (IEOA), according to IRNA.

The trade between the two countries increased from \$175 million in 2008 to \$1.7 billion in 2015, he added.

The exhibition has led to giant investments in var-

ious fields and has paved the way for signing several important contracts as well, Martaji stated.

The official added the exhibition will be held in the fields of oil, gas and petrochemical equipment, water, electricity and energy, construction and technical and engineering services.

He noted that Iran's trade with Turkmenistan has been more than the total exchanges with the Republic of Azerbaijan, Armenia, Kazakhstan and even Russia.

The "Iran Project" Exhibition will be held in the Turkmen capital of Ashgabat from October 24 to 27.

# Hand fan of Bafq, a handicraft registered as an intangible cultural heritage

## Iranica Desk

A type of handheld fan (*baad bezan* in Persian) produced in Bafq, a city in central province of Yazd, has recently been registered on Iran's Intangible Cultural Heritage List. The fan, on which the name of its owner is woven, is a unique handicraft known as *Esmi Baad Bezan* in the country (*esm* means 'name' in Persian).

Nasser Babaei Nodoushan, an official from Yazd Province's Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Organization, said that the hand fans, made of date palm fiber, are produced in various parts of the country. "People of Yazd Province, which is a center of date production, have a special skill in production of this type of hand fan," he noted.

In the past, merchants of Bafq put this type of fan, on which their own names were woven, among commodities offered to their customers. The fans were known among the people as the symbol of Bafq.

Babaei Nodoushan added that the history of *Esmi Baad Bezan*, which is linked to *hasir-bafi* (mat-weaving), dates back several centuries, to even before the advent of Islam in Iran, pointing out that the images of the handheld fans can be seen in historical documents.

Bafq was registered as the "National City of Mat-Weaving" in the Iranian year to mid-March 2022. *Jaroo-bafi* (broom-weaving), *paadari-bafi* (doormat-weaving) and *tanaab-bafi* (rope-weaving) are among the other Bafq handicrafts, which are made from date palm fibers.

Mat-weaving, or *hasir-bafi*, which traces back to a thousand years ago, is a kind of handicraft that is created differently in each region by using various kinds of leaves.

People in Bafq have long been practicing the art of mat-weaving. As one of the most ancient handwoven arts produced in the Iranian Plateau, mats are made by integrating herbal fibers into each other.

Palm fibers should first be soaked in water in order or make the fibers soft and flexible.

What makes this product unique is the artistic taste of the weaver and the utilization of different pigments.

It is not known when and where the craft was first created. But archeologists have discovered traces of mat-weaving on plaster pieces that belong to six thousand years ago.

Bafq has been recognized as the "National City of Mat-Weaving" to honor all craftspeople of the city and help preserve the valuable traditional art.



# Yalan Dunes become hottest spot in Iran



IRNA

## Iranica Desk

Hadi Shahroudi, the spokesman of South Khorasan Province's Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department, said that the Yalan Dunes have beaten the Lut Desert, becoming the hottest spot in Iran.

In June, 2022, the first time that ground temperature was recorded in Iran, the Lut Desert, which extends over three cities, and has been registered as the first natural heritage of Iran in UNESCO, was found to be the most sizzling spot in Iran.

What made this research different from NASA and international centers' previous reports, was the 24-hour supervision of the location.

"Based on recent investigations, the Lut Desert is no longer the hottest spot of the country, and our final research indicates that Yalan Dunes in Deh-e Salam village, is currently the hottest area in Iran," he said.

According to Shahroudi, the highest temperature in locations under supervision was recorded as 73.5° Celsius on July 17, at around noon.

"Registering the hottest spot of the country can be a source of tourist attraction, considering the fact that the Lut Desert also contains the tallest sand hills in the world, and in spite of the high temperatures, there is habitation nearby," he concluded.

# Development of Persian arts



A *lajvardina* star-shaped tile



A *minai* ceramic bowl

Apart from the creation of "miniature" painting, the western art historical canon was also applied for the taxonomy of Persian painting according to the "school." The painting school was often associated with a city or town, rather than the workshop managed by the master, due to the lack of information about named painters or masters in pre-modern Persian painting. This generated a certain bias towards periphery pictorial traditions.

Many Persian painting schools outside the main genealogical lines, such as the Shaybanids (1500-99) of Central Asia, the Aq Qoyunlu (1396-1508) of East Anatolia and West Persia, or the dynasties of the Delhi Sultanate (1206-1555), were for a long time overlooked; in some cases, these were categorized vaguely as the works of provincial schools under the more established dynastic names so as to justify their existence. By contrast, some

unusual features found in what was ought to be evocations of the "high school" of Persian painting, such as that of the Timurids and the Safavids, were rejected as non-Persian.

The same tendency can be said about the carpet — the bestselling cultural product of Persia. Realising its immense commercial value through western assessments, the carpet industry revived in late Qajar era, and the image of the "Persian" carpet steadily took shape. Silky carpets from courtly workshops began to be regarded as fine arts products, whereas roughly-woven rugs of Central Asian tribes were considered as ethnographical materials. Besides the aforementioned disciplines, namely art history and ethnography, archaeology also made a significant contribution to the shaping of our view towards Persian Islamic art.

Due to the theological aversion to burial rites, material

remains of Islamic Persia are mainly from urban sites, thus reflecting the life of not only the ruling class but also the working class. Such finds, especially ceramics, attracted little attention when they were initially discovered as sherds or fragments and mostly undecorated or uncoloured.

Far from this original context, however, examples of various mediaeval Persian fine wares, such as *minai* and *lajvardina*, with the perfect shape and vivid colour, began to appear in the western art market, and gradually lost much of their archaeological profiles.

Furthermore, the boom of Persian objects in the art market was, inevitably, linked to the growth of suspicious excavations and trading as well as the rise of fakes and forgeries of Persian objects in the late 19th and early 20th centuries; the commercialization of Persian art had an unwelcome impact on the academia as well.

Finally, various 19th-century Eurocentric views to the art of the nonwestern world served to create a distorted, complicated timeline and hierarchy of Persian Islamic art. While the great mediaeval and post-mediaeval Islamic dynasties were viewed as equivalent to European Renaissance courts, modern Persian artistic production was almost deliberately excluded from the history of Persian art.

The objects of the latter were defined as the traditional crafts of Persia, although earlier examples of the same crafts acquired their honourable status as fine artworks.

The study of Qajar art made a significant advancement in the last few decades, partially rectifying this situation. Yet post-Safavid Persian art in general still remains bound to the category of Islamic or Middle Eastern art instead of the global discourse of modern art, and it continues to suffer from neglect.

The above is a lightly edited version of part of a chapter entitled, 'Why Persian art needs to be studied and collected', from a book entitled, 'The Shaping of Persian Art: Collections and Interpretations of the Art of Islamic Iran and Central Asia' edited by Yuka Kadoi and Iván Szántó, published by Cambridge Scholars Publishing.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Holy Qur'an desecrated again in Sweden



**TASNIM** – A copy of the Qur'an was desecrated again in Sweden's capital on Monday as two men kicked and burned portions of the Muslim holy book. The incident, which took place near the Royal Palace, unfolded with a substantial police presence. Following the desecration, under police escort, the two men left the area.

## Albania imposes exit ban on MKO terrorist ringleader

**MEHR** – In continuation of the Albanian government's restrictions on the Mujahedeen Khalq Organization (MKO) terrorist cult, it was announced on Tuesday that the group's chieftain has been banned from leaving the country. After the media reported a few days ago that Maryam Rajavi was banned from entering Albania, where the camp of the terrorist MKO is located, the media cited informed security sources on Tuesday that the MKO chieftain is also banned from leaving Albania if she enters the country. Rajavi, who has a record of entering Albania from unofficial borders, has now faced an exit ban.

## London should 'admit role' in 1953 coup



Iran's ousted Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi (R) and David Owen

**THE GUARDIAN** – David Owen, a former British foreign secretary, said the UK should finally acknowledge its leading role in the 1953 coup that toppled the democratically-elected government of Iranian Prime Minister Mohammad Mosaddeq. The US formally admitted its role 10 years ago with the declassification of a large volume of intelligence documents, which made clear that the ousting of Mosaddeq 70 years ago this week was a joint CIA-MI6 endeavour.

Strong global condemnations pour in

## Shiraz terror attack takes another life



People help the medical staff rush an individual injured during the terrorist attack on Shah Cheragh Shrine in Shiraz, southern Iran, to hospital on August 13, 2023.

● IQNA

## International Desk

The death toll from Sunday's terrorist attack on Shah Cheragh Shrine in the southern Iranian city of Shiraz has risen to two, as a man who was critically injured during the attack has succumbed to his gunshot wounds.

Chief Justice of Fars Province Kazem Mousavi said on Monday that the man,

who was in critical condition, passed away earlier in the day, according to Press TV.

On Sunday night, a terrorist went on a shooting spree in the holy shrine in Shiraz, killing one and injuring 10 people.

Early on Monday morning, Mousavi said several suspects linked to the incident had been arrested, adding that they are all of foreign

origins.

He added that the main terrorist, who started shooting at people in the shrine and was immediately arrested, has been handed over to investigators for further interrogation.

Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi on Sunday ordered Interior Minister Ahmad Vahidi and Governor of Fars Province Mohammad Hadi Imaniyeh to swiftly identify

and punish the perpetrators of the terrorist attack.

## World continues to condemn

Reacting to the terrorist act on Monday, Secretary General of the United Nations António Guterres strongly condemned the Sunday attack on the holy site, which was the second of its kind in the last 10 months, his spokesman told reporters. "Acts targeting religious sites, [and] places of worship are abhorrent," Stéphane Dujarric said.

The UN chief emphasized that the perpetrators of the criminal act against civilians, who were exercising their right to practice their religion freely, should be brought to justice.

According to the spokesman, Guterres conveyed his "deepest" condolences to the bereaved families and the Iranian people, wishing a speedy recovery for those injured.

In another development also on Monday, the lead spokesperson for the external affairs of the European Union, Peter Stano, strongly condemned the terrorist attack at the Shah Cheragh holy Shrine in Shiraz.

"The attack, claimed by #Daesh, is yet another example of terrorists targeting innocent civilians," Stano said in a post on X social media platform, formerly known as Twitter.

He also expressed the EU's condolences to the families of the victims.

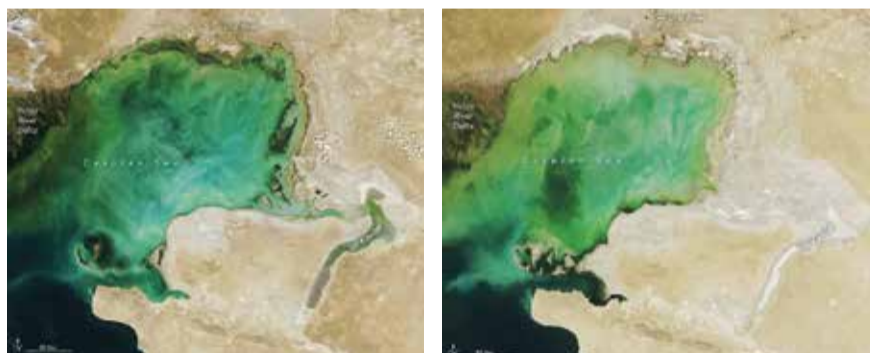
Meanwhile, France's Foreign Ministry posted an online message in English on X social media platform in condemnation of the terrorist attack "on a religious shrine" in the Iranian city of Shiraz, which had experienced a similar attack on October 26, 2022.

Secretary General of the Lebanese Hezbollah resistance movement condemned the terrorist attack on Shah Cheragh Holy Shrine in Shiraz, blaming the US.

"It seems that there is an American decision to unleash the terrorists again in many regions," the secretary general said in a televised speech on Monday, IRNA wrote.

Countries of the region including the UAE, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Syria, and Azerbaijan have also condemned the deadly Sunday terrorist attack in separate statements.

## Iran warns about dropping of Caspian Sea's water level



Satellite images of the Caspian Sea in 2006 (L) and 2022, showing the dropping of its water level

● NASA

Iran's mission to the UN office in Geneva has warned about the dropping of the

Caspian Sea's water level. In a post on X, the Permanent Mission of Iran to the

United Nations Office in Geneva cautioned against the shrinking coastline of the

Caspian Sea.

"August 12 is celebrated in Azerbaijan Republic, Iran, Kazakhstan, Russia and Turkmenistan as Caspian Sea Day," the mission said. "On this day the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea 'Tehran Convention' entered into force," it added.

Iran's ambassador to Azerbaijan has also warned that the Caspian Sea's ever-decreasing water level has put it at risk of an environmental disaster.

In an online post on X on Saturday on the occasion of

the International Day of the Caspian Sea, Abbas Mousavi urged the littoral states to figure out a solution before it is too late.

August 12 is the day of the Caspian Sea, which, unfortunately, faces the serious risk of water loss and an environmental catastrophe in the future, the Iranian ambassador said.

On Saturday, the Iranian Space Agency (ISA) confirmed a significant decline in the water level of the Caspian Sea over the past years.

ISA studies based on satellite images over a period

of about 10 years demonstrate that during the said period, not least the past 24 months, the northern part of the Caspian Sea has seen an advancement of the coastline due to diminishing water levels.

According to the agency, the southern part of the Caspian Sea, bordering the Iranian territories, remains little changed probably due to the slope or depth of the sea in that section.

Measured by surface area, the Caspian Sea is the world's largest inland water body, spanning about 371,000 square kilometers.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist



## China strengthens military ...

The announcement came during Li's address at the 11th International Security Conference in Moscow, The Rio Times reported.

Li emphasized China's commitment to diplomatic conflict resolutions: "We are devoted to fostering peace talks and facilitating a broader international consensus to address issues, whether in Afghanistan, Syria, the Korean Peninsula, Ukraine, or regarding Iran's nuclear situation." Founded in 2001, the SCO

comprises nations such as Russia, China, Iran, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, India, and Pakistan.

It was announced at the summit of the SCO Council of Heads of State that was held virtually in India in July that Iran joined the group. Also, Belarus signed a memorandum of commitment, which set off the procedure for acquiring full membership in the organization.

After the Moscow conference, Li will visit Russia and Belarus. During

his Belarus visit, he will engage in discussions with Belarusian national and military leaders and inspect some of the nation's military units, as conveyed by Wu Qian, the spokesperson for China's Defense Ministry.

In a recent joint statement following a Kremlin meeting between Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping, both nations affirmed their intent to bolster military cooperation, highlighting mutual trust enhancement amongst their armed forces.

# Georgia charges Trump, former advisers in 2020 election case

Former US president Donald Trump was hit with a sweeping fourth set of criminal charges on Monday when a Georgia grand jury issued an indictment accusing him of efforts to overturn his 2020 election loss to Democrat Joe Biden. The charges, brought by Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis, add to the legal woes facing Trump, the front-runner in the race for the Republican nomination for the 2024 presidential election, Reuters reported.

The sprawling 98-page indictment listed 19 defendants and 41 criminal counts in all. All of the defendants were charged with racketeering, which is used to target members of organized crime groups and carries a penalty of up to 20 years in prison. Among the other defendants were Mark Meadows, Trump's former White House chief of staff, and lawyers Rudy Giuliani and John Eastman.

"Trump and the other defendants charged in this indictment refused to accept that Trump lost, and they knowingly and willfully joined a conspiracy to unlawfully change the outcome of the election in favor of Trump," the indictment said.

The case stems from a Jan. 2, 2021, phone call in which Trump urged Georgia's top election official, Brad Raffensperger, to "find" enough votes to reverse his narrow loss in the state. Raffensperger declined to do so.

Trump's supporters stormed the US Capitol four days later in an unsuccessful attempt to prevent lawmakers from certifying Biden's victory.

The indictment cites a number of crimes that Trump or his associates allegedly committed, including falsely testifying to lawmakers that election fraud had occurred and urging state officials to violate their oaths of office by altering the



Republican presidential candidate and former US President Donald Trump campaigns at the Iowa State Fair in Des Moines, Iowa, US August 12, 2023.

● EVERLYN HOCKSTEIN/  
REUTERS

election results.

Prosecutors also cited the breach of a voting system in a rural Georgia county and the harassment of an election worker who became the focus of conspiracy theories.

It also mentions an alleged scheme to subvert the US electoral process by submitting false slates of electors, people who make up the Electoral College that elects the president and vice president.

The indictment reaches across state lines, saying that Trump advisers, including Giuliani and Meadows, advanced the conspiracy by calling officials in Arizona, Pennsylvania and elsewhere seeking to change the outcome in those states.

Trump has denied any wrongdoing, and accuses Willis, an elected Democrat, of being politically motivated.

Trump has already pleaded

not guilty in three criminal cases.

Georgia, once reliably Republican, has emerged as one of a handful of politically competitive states that can determine the outcome of presidential elections.

Trump persists in falsely claiming he won the November 2020 election although dozens of court cases and state probes have found no evidence to support his claim.

## Iran-US military ...

**Iran Daily:** Is the recent deployment of new military forces to the Middle East, apparently to secure maritime trade, indicative of a shift in the United States' strategy? This comes in the context of a perceived effort by the US to reduce its presence in the region over recent years.

**Gohari-Moqadam:** It is worth contemplating the perspective that the United States might not be entirely scaling back its engagement in the Middle East. The US continues to regard the Middle East as a strategically vital region, owing to its geopolitical positioning and substantial energy reservoirs. The evolution of American priorities appears to be at play here. There was a time when West Asia held primary significance for the US, followed by Europe and East Asia. However, the present landscape has shifted, with East Asia, particularly concerning China, now occupying a central role in America's hierarchy of priorities, leaving Europe and West Asia in subsequent tiers. Nonetheless, this shift doesn't translate to an outright abandonment of West Asia or a lack of strategic intent toward it. Consequently, there hasn't been a fundamental alteration in the US overarching strategy; rather, there has been an adjustment in how they manifest their presence within the West Asian theater. The recent introduction of new US military forces into the Persian Gulf, purportedly to bolster maritime secu-

rity, is a tactical maneuver rather than a wholesale strategic shift. Israel and several Arab allies are exerting pressure for a sustained American presence in the region, coupled with heightened commitments to them.

It appears that, in response to these appeals, the United States has recalibrated the nature of its military involvement – transitioning from a prolonged and multi-base presence to one that is short-term and temporary in nature.

**How does this shift in American foreign policy priorities correlate with the evolving realities on the ground? Has the rise of new global players like China played a role in shaping this shift?**

The recalibration of American foreign policy priorities finds its roots in the dynamics of interplay among major global powers. In the aftermath of the Cold War, the United States pivoted its primary strategy toward countering terrorism, leading to invasions of Iraq and Afghanistan. However, the conclusion of the Obama administration and the subsequent tenure of Trump marked a transformative period, wherein the focus shifted from combating terrorism to a renewed emphasis on confronting major powers.

In this revised paradigm, the primary spotlight is now cast upon engagements with formidable global actors. Foremost among these is China, emerging as a major power and a strategic adversary to the United States. Consequently, the Biden

administration is presently aligning itself with a doctrine reminiscent of its Cold War stance against the former Soviet Union, colloquially termed the "containment policy." In this context, the US is adopting a multifaceted approach to rein in China, encompassing military cooperation, economic entanglements, and diplomatic affiliations with its network of allied nations.

**How do you assess the US recent military deployment with the aim of upholding maritime trade security while also making several accusations against Iran?**

This appears to be an American blame game. Over the past years, the US has been the main source of maritime instability, posing palpable threats to the interests of nations across the world, particularly within the Middle East. The allegations leveled against Iran in the Persian Gulf can be best described as pretexts, bereft of tangible manifestations in reality. This initiative seems to have been prompted by Israeli pressure.

Israel, wrestling with internal discord and aiming to divert public attention away from domestic developments, is pressuring US to augment its presence within the region. This move is strategically aimed at veering the focus away from Israel's internal crises.

Iran, on the other hand, has adhered to a steadfast policy over the last four decades, advocating for regional security to be overseen by regional stakeholders without external

interventions. During this span, Iran's potency has multiplied, underpinned by a host of augmented military capabilities, particularly those encompassing naval power to maintain regional security.

**Could the recent deployment, following two years of indirect talks between the US and Iran as well as a recent prisoner exchange breakthrough, be interpreted as a strategic move to exert influence in upcoming negotiations on significant matters such as the nuclear issue and potential sanctions relief?**

The US actions carry a provocative undertone and, as per your interpretation, can be seen as a display of force against Iran, although its intended outcomes might not be fully realized. This show of power serves dual purposes within the context of the Biden administration's domestic narrative. It functions as a signal of authority, geared toward countering criticisms from the Republicans, who accuse Biden of exhibiting weakness in the face of Iran. President Biden is seeking to project a resolute stance.

Concurrently, this move appears to be influenced by Israel's pressure and its objective of diverting attention from internal dilemmas. Simultaneously, it could be construed as a veiled admonition to Iran. Throughout the protracted years of nuclear negotiations with Iran, the United States has never refrained from uttering its military threats, operating under the premise that such dis-

plays could potentially yield favorable bargaining leverage. However, it is pertinent to note that these threats have yet to impact Iran's stance.

**Experts suggest that the military deployment might be a reaction to Arab countries strengthening ties with China and Iran. The United States, in response, aims to encourage these nations to remain loyal while dissuading them from aligning more closely with Eastern powers, particularly China. What's your take on that?**

The international geopolitical landscape is in a state of flux, witnessing a transformative shift where the sole centrality of the United States is no longer indisputable. China's rise as a robust player within East Asia, alongside other influential regional entities, contributes to these dynamic changes. Notably, America's regional partners are attuned to these global shifts, prompting them to pursue associations with China, Russia, and regional players like Iran. In this context, the recent dispatch of additional forces appears to carry a message to US allies: affirming continued commitment to their security interests while concurrently discouraging them from forging deeper connections

with China and Russia. Nevertheless, this maneuver might not yield substantial success in achieving the desired outcomes.

**Although talks between Iran and the US over sanctions and the 2015 nuclear deal haven't yielded a final solution, both sides appear to be handling the tensions. In light of this, do you believe that the fresh military deployment, which you've termed provocative, could exacerbate tensions between the two nations?**

No, I have no worries about the eruption of a military confrontation. The US has consistently maintained a presence within the region. Additionally, as I previously mentioned, the influx of new military personnel is of a transient nature rather than a permanent fixture. The US finds itself in a position that doesn't favor the initiation of military tensions.



## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Armenia: Azerbaijan fired on EU observers

AFP – Armenia said on Tuesday that Azerbaijan's military had opened fire on EU observers monitoring the volatile border between the Caucasian former Soviet republics, which have long-standing territorial disagreements. "Units of the Azerbaijani armed forces opened fire from small arms targeting EU observers patrolling near Verin Shorzha and their vehicle," Armenia's Defence Ministry said. There were no casualties from the gunfire that started in the east of the country at around 12:20 pm (0820 GMT), it added.

### W Africa military chiefs to discuss Niger crisis



AFP – Military chiefs from the West African bloc ECOWAS will meet in Ghana on Thursday and Friday to discuss possible military intervention in Niger, regional military and political sources said Tuesday.

The meeting – originally scheduled for Saturday but then postponed – came after ECOWAS leaders last week approved deployment of a "standby force to restore constitutional order" in Niger, whose elected president Mohamed Bazoum was toppled on July 26.

### Clashes hit Libyan capital: Residents

REUTERS – Clashes broke out in the Libyan capital Tripoli late on Monday, residents said, and flights to the city's main airport were suspended, after the reported seizure of a powerful armed faction commander by a rival force. "We have heard gunfire for almost two hours now and we do not know what will happen. We fear for our safety," said one of the residents in Furnaj district. Mahmoud Hamza, head of the 444 brigade that controls much of Tripoli, was detained at Mitiga airport by the Special Deterrence Force, local media and a source in the 444 brigade said.

## Late drama sends Spain to first Women's World Cup final



● AP

BBC – Spain beat Sweden to reach their first Women's World Cup final in a dramatic finish in Auckland. Captain Olga Carmona scored an 89th-minute winner to spark wild scenes of jubilation among their supporters at Eden Park.

Sweden – who have now lost back-to-back World Cup semi-finals – had equalised through Rebecka Blomqvist just 93 seconds earlier and it looked like the match would be going to extra time.

A game of few chances had sparked into life when substitute Salma Paralluelo, 19, gave Spain the lead with just 10 minutes remaining. They will face England or hosts Australia in the final in Sydney on Sunday.

While Spain's players celebrated wildly on the pitch at full-time, Sweden's dropped to the floor as their World Cup dream came to an end.

There was little evidence of what was to come during a tight and cagey opening 80 minutes.

Spain boss Jorge Vilda opted to recall two-time Ballon d'Or winner Alexia Putellas, whose minutes on the pitch have been limited as she returns from a serious knee injury.

And it was Putellas who brought the biggest cheer of the opening half from the sell-out 43,217 crowd when she nutmegged Manchester City's Filippa Angeldahl.

It took until the 42nd minute for the first shot on target, Sweden's Fridolina Rolfö denied her third goal of the tournament by her Barcelona team-mate Cata Coll.

Spain dominated possession but Sweden's defence, which has been solid and resolute for the past month, frustrated their opponents for long periods, while the Swedes once again used a familiar weapon to try and find a breakthrough.

Seven of their 11 goals at this tournament before the semi-final had come from set-pieces but Coll, who had not started a senior game for Spain prior to the World Cup, stood up well to Sweden's inswinging corners, which had caused havoc in previous matches.

Then came the explosive finish. Paralluelo, who scored the winner in the quarter-final against the Netherlands, kept her composure to fire Spain ahead before substitute Blomqvist poked home the equaliser.

With extra time looming, Carmona sent Spain through with a shot which went in off the bar following a corner.

# Asian Volleyball Championship: Iran eager to restore reputation on home soil



Iranian players are seen in a training session in Ghadir Arena, Urmia, Iran, on August 14, 2023.  
● SALAR MALEKI/volleyball.ir



### Sport Desk

Head coach Behrouz Ataei will hope the upcoming Asian Volleyball Championship in Urmia will bring an end to months of turmoil for the Iranian seniors' national team.

Ataei's men will head into the continent's flagship volleyball event in northwest Iran – starting Saturday – on the back of a disastrous run at the Volleyball Nations League in June and July.

Iran suffered 10 defeats in 12 outings to finish third from bottom in the 16-team table of the preliminary round, while Asian foe Ja-

pan took the event by storm to win 10 games, including victories over volleyball giants France and Brazil, before a triumph over reigning world champion Italy sealed a precious bronze medal for the Japanese – adding to the misery for the Iranian fans. When Ataei, who led the country to the world under-21 crown in 2019, took over from high-profile Russian Vladimir Alekno following a disappointing Olympic campaign two years ago, he embarked on a rebuild project, with his ultimate goal being a successful run at the 2024 Paris Games.

Ataei, a first domestic coach on Iran's bench in more than a decade, became an instant success by steering his young, rejuvenated side to a fourth Asian title with two months into his new job – thanks to a straight-set victory over host Japan in the final showpiece.

His team then recovered from a slow start to progress to the 2022 VNL Finals – before falling to a last-eight setback against Poland – promising an even better run in this year's Volleyball Nations League.

However, the recent VNL fiasco resulted in Ataei's descent from a hero to a

villain, with a considerable part of the Iranian pundits and former players questioning his coaching skills and man management, urging the chairman of the federation Mohammadreza Davarzani to replace him with a top-notch foreign coach if Iran is to book a place in next year's Olympics.

Ataei will be thrilled to welcome Milad Ebadipour back into the Iranian squad after the outside hitter missed the VNL campaign for family reasons.

The bad news for the Iranian coach, however, is that Philippe Blain, Ataei's

French opposite number on Japan's bench, has named a full-strength squad, including the formidable trio of Yuki Ishikawa, Ran Takahashi, and Yuji Nishida, for the visit to Urmia as the outcome of the tournament will contribute to the teams' status in the FIVB World Ranking – a decisive factor in the qualification process for Paris Games.

"Our main objective will be to secure a berth in Paris but first we will have to win the Asian title in emphatic fashion to keep up the momentum going into the Olympic qualifiers [in late September]," Ishikawa said

in a recent interview.

Iran will begin its title defense with a game against Hong Kong on Sunday before capping the Pool A fixtures against Iraq a day later, while Japan is pitted against Thailand and Uzbekistan in Pool B.

The Japanese, who came out on top against both Iran and China at the VNL, will surely be the favorites to lift the trophy in Urmia but Ataei and his men will hope the home support in the volleyball-mad Iranian city will help them reestablish their reputation as the dominant force of the sport in the continent.

## Persian Gulf Pro League preview: Tractor looking to bounce back against champion

### Sport Desk

Tractor will be chasing a first victory in the new season of the Persian Gulf Pro League when taking on defending champion Persepolis at home today. Having enjoyed an impressive run in the second half of the previous campaign under Spanish head coach Paco Jémez, the Tabriz-based club was among the busiest teams in the close-season transfer window, hoping to improve on last May's fourth-spot finish in the league.

Things, however, did not quite go planned in the season opener last Wednesday as Tractor suffered a 3-1 defeat against Sepahan, with all new signings failing to impress. Persepolis, meanwhile, began its quest for a seventh title in eight years with a narrow 1-0 victory over Iralco – courtesy of a



New Tractor fullback Mohammad Naderi (c) is in action during a 3-1 defeat against Sepahan in the Persian Gulf Pro League at Naqsh-e Jahan Stadium, Isfahan, Iran, on August 10, 2023.  
● RASOUL SHOJAEI/IRNA

fullback Ali Nemat's first-half strike – at Tehran's Azadi Stadium – in a game that the Reds struggled to create clear-cut chances. Tractor will be without integral holding midfielder Safa Hadi for today's

encounter after the Iraqi player received his marching orders for a second bookable offense against Sepahan.

The eagerly-anticipated contest will also see some of ex-Persepolis players

in Shoja Khalilzadeh, Siamak Nemat, Saeed Aqaei, and Mehdi Shiri reunite with their former club. Elsewhere in the league, Sepahan will be looking to maintain the perfect start to the season against Zob

Ahan in the Isfahan derby. Newly-promoted Shams Azar will host a first top-flight fixture in history of the club in Qazvin against Havadar, while Nassaji Mazandaran plays away to Mes Rafsanjan.

Two southern Iranian clubs Foolad Khuzestan and San'at Naft Abadan, which left the game empty-handed against Golgozar Sirjan and Esteghlal respectively last time out, will go head-to-head in Ahvaz's Foolad Arena in Wednesday's late fixture. The final game of the second round of fixtures will see Esteghlal play Malavan FC at the Azadi Stadium on Thursday.

For all the pre-season turmoil facing the Tehran Blues, Javad Nekounam led his team to massive 3-0 win at San'at Naft on his competitive debut on Esteghlal bench, but will still be desperate to see the club bolster his squad in the ongoing transfer window. New striker Mehrdad Mohammadi will be eyeing a first start for the Blues outfit after making a cameo appearance against San'at.

# British Cruelty! Call it by its name

Why terrorist attacks become 'incidents' the further South they happen? Double standards on display!



By Ali Amiri  
Staff writer

On the evening of August 13, 2022, Shah Cheragh holy shrine in Shiraz, Iran, came under the second terrorist attack in less than a year. A gunman barged into the shrine and started shooting at people, killing two and wounding several others. The specifics of the recent terrorist attack have similarities with the previous one that occurred on October 26, 2022, where an armed terrorist killed 15 civilians, including women and children, with dozens more injured.

The main point of similarity is that Daesh, which is widely recognized as a terrorist group, has claimed responsibility for the fatal attacks. Another similarity is that in both cases, the gunmen had enablers, indicating that the attacks were premeditated and carried out in a way that generates as much fear as possible. It seems that everything about these two attacks prompts one to call them as they really are: terrorist attacks. Yet, many Western media and political figures are reluctant to call them by their name, and instead use terms such as "incidents" or "violent attacks"

to describe them. One such figure is the British Ambassador to Iran Simon Shercliff, who came under fire from Iranian social media users for calling the Sunday's terrorist attack "yesterday's incidents in Shiraz" on X — formerly known as Twitter. This begs a very important question: What should happen for the Western media and political personalities to recognize an act of terror for what it is? On the tragic evening of Sunday, innocent, unarmed civilians were shot dead or critically wounded inside a religious, historical place — also one of Iran's landmarks — where large gatherings of people take

place in times of prayers. It was, again, carried out by a Daesh terrorist, who opened fire on people without any motivation except to terrorize the masses. The British Ambassador would do well if he studies the "terrorism" entry in Encyclopaedia Britannica, wherein it is clearly defined as "the calculated use of violence to create a general climate of fear in a population and thereby to bring about a particular political objective." Perhaps Shercliff wanted to exercise the same old British rule of thumb, "divide and rule," thinking he can exploit political differences between Ira-

nians — a natural part of any healthy society — to the UK's advantage. His calculations proved wrong, as even the sternest critics of the Iranian government's policies roasted him online for failing to recognize that it was indeed an act of terror and that there will be no compromise among Iranians when it comes to the country's territorial integrity and terrorist attacks against its civilians. Or, perhaps, the ambassador's miscalling of the terrorist attack could have another reason. Rumors are that the UK supports some thousands of Daesh militants in Syria. However, from all that we know of

Daesh and Daesh terrorists know of themselves, even they would not be very pleased with Shercliff's attempt to lessen the weight of their heinous crime. There is a power in naming things, as names make things real for us and allow us to communicate about them. All of us Iranians are deeply horrified by the recent "terrorist attack," and our thoughts and prayers go with the families of its "victims". It would be almost impossible for us to even think about calling them things that they are not. The question remains: Why can't Simon Shercliff and the likes of him do the same?

The terrorist attack on August 13, 2022, in Shah Cheragh shrine in Shiraz, Iran, left two civilians dead and several other wounded.  
MEHR NEWS AGENCY

## First-hand narratives of two heroes at Shah Cheragh Holy Shrine

### Social Desk

On the tragic evening of August 13, when terrorists once again targeted the holy shrine of Shah Cheragh in Shiraz, Iran, Mohammad-Mobin displayed immense bravery and selflessness as he stayed by his wounded father's side. Now, his name



ISNA

is forever etched in Iran's history as a hero. Mohammad-Mobin Qodraty, a soon-to-be second-grader from Tasuj village in Fars Province, has become the youngest individual to be recognized for courage and sacrifice in Iran's history. In an interview with ISNA, Mohammad-Mobin recounted his experience: "It was close to prayer time when my father and I went to Shah Cheragh for pilgrimage and prayer." With a trembling voice, he continued, "As we entered through the door, there was a loud noise. Panic ensued as everyone started running; in the midst of

everything, I became separated from my father." The young boy added, "I saw a man with a gun shooting; I got scared and tried to run towards the courtyard along with others. My father reached me first but then got hit by a bullet in his leg and fell down. Despite being terrified myself, I knew I had to stay by his side." This eight-year-old student expressed emotionally, "The armed man was still behind us while I clung onto my dad's shirt trying desperately to pull him away. The situation overwhelmed me—I couldn't hold back tears. Eventually, after

the attacker left, several people came forward to help. They bandaged my father's injured leg before rushing him off to the hospital." Currently receiving specialized care at Namazi Hospital, following surgery on his injured leg, the student's father is continuing on his path toward recovery. The terrorist attack on the evening of August 13 at Shah Cheragh Holy Shrine claimed two lives and left seven others injured. Another hero, Farzad Badpa, deserves recognition for his courageous act of sacrificing himself to stop the terrorist who target-

ed Shah Cheragh Holy Shrine. As a member of the shrine's service forces for about 14 months, he vividly describes the moment when the attacker entered: "That night, many pilgrims were present in the shrine. When I heard gunshots initially, I thought it was just firecrackers. Rushing outside, I noticed a female



FARS

pilgrim on the ground with her leg bleeding." He continued, "The terrorist had a Kalashnikov weapon and was attacking people. Without hesitation, I chased him down and tackled him until operational forces arrived." When asked if he felt afraid when facing off against the terrorist, Badpa replied, "In that moment, I looked at the dome of the shrine, and my heart found solace. I sensed someone behind me pushing me forward, telling me to keep moving. I firmly believed that Shah Cheragh's divine presence stood by my side." This dedicated hero add-

ed, "Upon reaching him, the terrorist fell after I struck him with my knee. He remained silent as I restrained his hands behind his back. I brought him down near an area where we lay carpets in the evenings for resting pilgrims. There were around fifty to sixty people there. The attacker intended to harm them, but upon seeing me, he pointed his gun at me. Miraculously, the will of God ensured he didn't shoot. I reached him swiftly, pinned him down, and threw his gun aside. Eventually, the security department colleagues arrived and took control of the assailant."

## IRCS volunteer conveys a message of peace to 56 countries

### Social Desk

A member of the Iranian Red Crescent Society has conveyed the message of peace and friendship to 56 countries, by bicycle touring the countries. After sending the message of peace and friendship to 56 countries of the world, Mohammad Tajran, a volunteer of the Red Crescent Society, is now biking in Latin America, Mehr news agency reported. Tajran planted saplings of peace and friendship in the specialized hemodialysis center of the Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran in



MEHR

the city of Cochabamba, Bolivia, the report added. On his recent trip, the volunteer held talks with Bolivian students on peace and friendship

and carried out educational and civic activities, promoting tree-planting culture and environmental protection by planting trees.

## Huge fire at Tehran's Grand Bazaar causes financial losses

### Social Desk

A large fire broke out at Tehran's Grand Bazaar early Tuesday morning, leaving 30 warehouses and shops destroyed and six people injured, two provincial officials said. In the early hours of Tuesday morning, the fire broke out in Qaisar passage of the grand bazaar, during which six people were injured, said the head of Tehran's Medical Emergency Organization. Mohammad Esmaeil Tavakoli added that all the injured were treated at the site, Tasnim news agency reported. According to the spokesperson of the Tehran Fire Department Jalal Maleki, the fire set ablaze about 30 ware-



IRNA

houses and shops. He said that the fire erupted in the basement of the passage. The official said that firefighters had managed to control the massive fire

without any serious injuries but many financial losses are expected. According to the official, the expert team will begin its investigation to find the cause of the accident.

Criticizing the safety situation in Tehran Bazaar, Maleki also said that the bazaar has always had safety problems and safety warnings have been issued many times.

## Iran's art community condemns Shah Cheragh terrorist attack

The Cinema Organization of Iran and art community strongly condemned the recent terrorist attack on the revered Shah Cheragh Shrine, which occurred on Sunday. This act of terror, which targeted a place of worship and devotion, has drawn worldwide condemnation.

The organization expressed its heartfelt condolences and solidarity with the families of the martyrs who lost their lives in this tragic incident. The statement reads:

"The vile and cowardly assault on the sacred Shah Cheragh Shrine has once again exposed the extent of malice, malevolence, and barbarism harbored by the enemies of this land. This is not the first time that the hands of these adversaries have been stained with the blood of our free compatriots, while the purported champions of human rights remain silent. Over the past four decades, the enemies of the Islamic Republic of Iran have constantly endeavored to wound the towering tree of our revolution from various angles, but they have always been met with the resilient tide of revolutionary people, retreating in defeat.

The attack on the holy Shah Cheragh Shrine serves as a clear testament to the failure of the deceitful, and inhumane policies of Western leaders who, under the pretense of human rights and peace, resort to violence and crime against the oppressed and noble Iranian nation.

The Cinema Organization of Iran, while condemning this act as an embodiment of the enemies' eradication schemes against this land and nation, calls upon Iranian filmmakers, artists, and documentarians to portray and depict the dimensions of such crimes, showcasing the authenticity and oppression of the Iranian people in the face of the hegemonic system."

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## Journey into the enchanting world of dolls



● TASNIM



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In the heart of Tehran, a two-story building holds within its walls a mesmerizing realm that beckons visitors to embark on a unique journey – the International Doll Museum. This extraordinary museum isn't just a collection of dolls; it's a living tapestry of cultures, stories, and histories woven into each meticulously crafted figurine. As you cross the threshold, you're welcomed into the enchanting world of dolls – a world where every doll holds a piece of a story, every display a window to another corner of the globe.

### Dolls from every corner of the globe

The first floor of this captivating museum boasts an array of French dolls, each proudly representing 86 countries. Guiding your exploration is Ali Golshan, the passionate director of the museum, who seamlessly transforms your visit into a journey of storytelling. Among the many enchanting tales, the American Latin dolls take center stage. Here, you'll discover the world's tiniest dolls – the "worry dolls". Golshan recounts their heartwarming origin: Guatemalan mothers handcraft these diminutive dolls out of wood and fabric, entrusting them with their children's nighttime worries. Placed under pillows, the dolls magically absorb their worries, ensuring peaceful sleep.

Wander through the exhibits and you'll find Kachina dolls crafted from the stalks of linen plants, a testament to Native American spirituality. A Mexican Day of the Dead Doll, the vivacious Catrina shares the poignant lesson that life's beauty transcends mortality. A faceless

Ukrainian mother and child stand as sentinels at the entrance of homes, while historical figures like Emperor Jimmu of Japan and Nicolaus, the last Polish King, assert their presence. Dive deeper into history as British Royal Guard soldiers stand tall, accompanied by Turkish Ottoman women, all eloquent storytellers in their own right.

### Symphony of culture and friendship

According to Golshan, dolls symbolize peace and friendship; they're storytellers that don't deceive or steal. With each display, narratives come alive, offering windows into diverse cultures. The museum houses 3,000 dolls from around the world, although space constraints allow only a fraction to be exhibited. Golshan, a steadfast presence at the museum, explained, "These dolls have become family to me." On Fridays, you see children becoming cultural guides for their families over the weekends, enriching perspectives and expanding horizons. As you traverse the museum, your senses are invigorated by the vibrant array of colorful hats from Germany, India, Japan, Africa, and beyond. The passion behind this collection emanates from Golshan and Masoud Nasser Daryaei, who have traveled the world for 15 years, gathering dolls and photographs. Their dedication culminated in a collection so vast that even their own storage couldn't contain it all. Inspired by a visit to Delhi's Shankar's International Doll Museum, they decided to share this treasure trove with their nation. A book penned by Golshan on this odyssey is set to grace shelves soon, offering

further insights into this fascinating realm.

### Iranian dolls

The second floor unveils a tapestry of Iranian culture. Dolls adorned in regional attire, each intricately sculpted by artist Sara Hosseini, stand as proud representatives of 26 Iranian regions. These dolls capture the essence of the nation's diversity, with a bride from Isfahan, a Turkmen bride from Golestan, and a bride from Khuzestan, standing shoulder to shoulder, each unique in attire and heritage.

A separate section of the museum serves as a time capsule, showcasing toys from Iran and the world. Memories flood back as visitors encounter familiar childhood playthings. Stereo cameras, view-masters, and the enduring legacy of teddy bears unfold before your eyes. Azadeh Bayat, curator of the toy section, shares captivating stories behind these cherished objects that have stood the test of time.

As you stroll through the museum's corridors, it's impossible not to smile, to reconnect with the child within you. The International Doll Museum transcends its role as a repository of artifacts; it's a portal to the past, a gateway to cultures, and a celebration of stories. In a world often hurried and disconnected, this museum stands as a testament to the enduring power of human creativity, imagination, and the universal appeal of dolls that transcend borders and generations.

Step into this magical realm and let the dolls guide you through the intricate tapestry of cultures, history, and friendship that make up the International Doll Museum in Tehran.

## Iran's visual arts exhibition underway in Istanbul

An engaging visual arts exhibition, titled 'Peace,' commenced on August 14 in the city of Istanbul.

The curator behind this thought-provoking showcase is Helia Salmani, a distinguished figure in the art world. The event, showcasing an impressive collection of 43 distinct works crafted by 38 accomplished artists, promises to be a feast for the senses, Mehr News Agency wrote.

Among the featured artists, Azam E'temadi, Almas Ferdowsi, Elaheh Golmohammadi, Armila Hosseini Yar, and Pariya Nezarati have their remarkable creations on display. Each

artist brings a unique perspective to the theme of peace, contributing to the rich diversity of interpretations that patrons can explore.

Set against the backdrop of Istanbul's bustling cultural scene, the exhibition provides a captivating space for both art enthusiasts and the general public to contemplate the nuances of peace through a myriad of artistic expressions. The 'Peace' exhibition, a harmonious blend of creativity and inspiration, will be open for visitors to enjoy until August 17. This limited-time opportunity allows art aficionados and curious minds alike to

immerse themselves in a world of visual narratives that transcend boundaries and speak to the universal human desire for peace.



## 'The Museum of Unconditional Surrender' published in Iran

A Persian translation of the renowned Yugoslavian writer Dubravka Ugresic's 'The Museum of Unconditional Surrender' recently appeared in Iranian bookstores.

Nashrenow Publications released the Persian translation of the book by Azar Aalipour, Mehr news agency wrote.

Written in a variety of literary forms, "The Museum of Unconditional Surrender" captures the shattered world of a life in exile. Some chapters re-create the daily journal of the narrator's lonely and alienated mother, who shops at the improvised flea-markets in town and longs for her children; another is a dream-like narrative in which a circle of women friends are visited by an angel. There are reflections and accounts of the Holocaust and the Yugoslav Civil War; portraits of European artists; a recipe for Car-

away Soup; a moving story of a romantic encounter the narrator has in Lisbon; descriptions of family photographs; memories of the small town in which Ugresic was raised.

Addressing the themes of art and history, ageing and loss, the book is a haunting and extremely original novel. In the words of the Times Literary Supplement, it is vivid in its denunciation of destructive forces and in its evocation of what is at stake.

Dubravka Ugresic (27 March 1949 – 17 March 2023) was a Yugoslav-Croatian and Dutch writer. She majored in comparative literature and Russian language at the University of Zagreb's Faculty of Arts, pursuing parallel careers as a scholar and a writer.

Ugresic published novels and short story collections. Her novella 'Steffie Speck in the Jaws of Life' was published in 1981. Her novel 'Fording the

Stream of Consciousness' received the NIN Award in 1988, the highest literary honor in former Yugoslavia, whose winners include Danilo Kis and Milorad Pavic; Ugresic was the first woman to be awarded the prize.

