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TEHRAN TIMES



Iran set to unveil production of stable isotopes at industrial scale

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Ex-Iranian intelligence chief reveals talks with Saudis over Syria

POLITICS TEHRAN — The former Iranian intelligence minister has revealed that Iran once took the initiative to hold talks with Saudi Arabia over Syria before the situation began to deteriorate in the country but the monarchy did not seize it and vowed to fight Iran's "Islamic revolution".

"Sessions were held at the (Supreme) National Security Council and it was decided to dispatch a group to Saudi Arabia for negotiation," Heidar Moselehi said on Thursday.

Tehran and Saudi Arabia are backing opposing sides in Syria and disagree on a list of other regional issues, including what is going on in Yemen, Bahrain, and Iraq.

The two, also, have no diplomatic ties since the attack on the Saudi Arabia embassy in Tehran in January which followed protests against executions in the caliphate, among them the pro-democracy Shia cleric Nimr Baqir al-Nimr.

The Iranian negotiation team had even visited Saudi Arabia during which Moselehi sat down with then crown prince Nayef bin Abdulaziz, but reached no tangible outcome but hatred and animosity. ➔2

IDRO, Renault ink joint venture deal

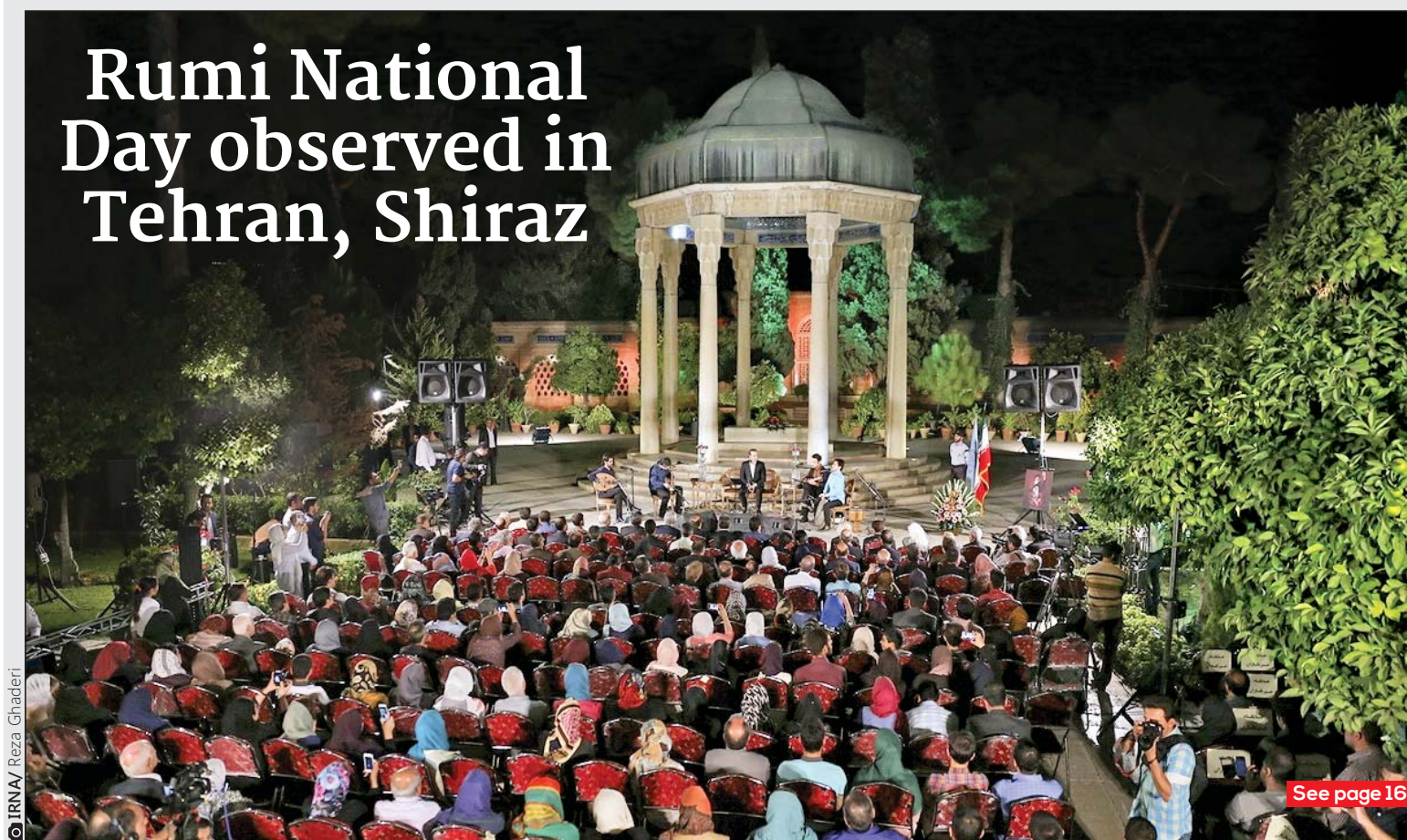
ECONOMY TEHRAN — Industrial Development and Renovation Organization of Iran (IDRO) and French multinational automobile manufacturer Renault signed a deal

on making joint venture in Iran, IRNA reported on Friday.

The deal was on the establishment of an engineering and sales office in Iran to support Irani-

an auto part manufacturers and also setting up a manufacturing plant in the country with the initial capacity of 150,000 cars per annum. The plant is scheduled to start production in 2018. ➔4

Rumi National Day observed in Tehran, Shiraz



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PERSPECTIVE

By Mehdi Sepahvand, Ali Kushki

Aleppo-educated Rumi, Messiah missing to an extremist world

September 30 was the birth anniversary of Jalal ad-Din Muhammad Rumi, Persian poet and Sufi master born in 1207, and the Rumi Day named in his honor as a globally acclaimed poet.

Born in Balkh, then part of eastern Iran but now in Afghanistan, Rumi went to Aleppo and Damascus, today's Syria, to study. From there, he went to Konya, in Turkey, where he spent the last 50 years of his life.

After over eight centuries, Rumi continues to appeal to many. A host of traditional Iranian musicians and singers have ventured extensively into his words, coming out with great works of music that maximize the passion in his letters.

A young generation of musicians and vocalists have also been putting lines from the Masnavi into pop tunes, making again pieces that capture the sensations of Rumi in a modern-world setting.

In Turkey, where he was buried, Rumi draws many lovers almost as a sanctity. Rumi's tomb lures reverent followers and heads of state each year for a whirling dervish ceremony on 17 December, the anniversary of his death.

Even in the New World, the Persian mystic's magnum opus the Masnavi has sold millions of copies in recent years, making him the most popular poet in the U.S.

In early 2016, Oscar-winning screenwriter David Franzoni and producer Stephen Joel Brown said they were going to make a biopic of Rumi, even conveying inclination to Leonardo DiCaprio to act as Rumi.

The cineaste were not the only ones well-disposed to Rumi. In May 2014, it went viral that actor Brad Pitt had tattooed his arm with a variation of part of a Rumi poem, reading "There exists a field, beyond all notions of right and wrong. I will meet you there."

Shortly after, renowned master of Persian literature and Iranist Mir Jalaeddin Kazzazi found the line to be a translation of Ruba'i 158 of Rumi. "Right and wrong," Kazzazi said, match religion and atheism in the original Persian text. ➔13

Tehran to take serious decisions to uphold rights: Shamkhani

POLITICS TEHRAN — The Supreme National Security Council secretary said on Thursday that Iran will take more serious decisions to uphold its rights if the U.S. violates its commitments under the JCPOA, the official for the nuclear pact.

"If we are supposed to witness stonewalling by the U.S. for small jobs like buying airliner, we will take more serious decisions to uphold our rights," Ali Shamkhani said in a ceremony hosted by the Energy Ministry in Tehran.

He condemned the U.S. for its delay in

implementing its obligations on the basis of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

"It has been proven to us by various experiences in the nuclear talks and regional developments that trust on the U.S., be it in Syrian truce or removal of economic sanctions, is example of moving

towards mirage," the top security official remarked.

Iran and the 5+1 group - the United States, Britain, France, China and Russia plus Germany - finalized the text of the JCPOA in Vienna in July 2015. The deal took effect in January 2016.

Academic calls UN a highly politicized entity

INTERVIEW

By Javad Heirannia

TEHRAN — Professor Nader Entessar from South Alabama University tells the Tehran Times that "the United Nations is a highly politicized entity" and that it "depends too much on the largess of a handful of political and financially powerful countries".

Entessar blames the structural deficiencies which has made the UN incapable of settling bloody conflicts in the world.

"The problems is with the organization's structural deficiencies and not necessarily with the concept of the United Nations," Entessar says.

Following is the text of the interview:



■ How do you assess the role of the United Nations in settling international conflicts?

A: The United Nations has not been very successful in managing or resolving major global crises. Of course, the United Nations

cannot act as an effective supranational entity by itself as it depends on both the financial and political will of its member states. The problems is with the organization's structural deficiencies and not necessarily with the concept of the United Nations.

■ In the current time that Ban Ki-moon is leading the UN has the international body been able to play an effective role?

A: Ban Ki-moon has not been the most dynamic Secretary General in the history of the United Nations. He has deferred too much to the wishes of powerful states, especially those in the West, and has not been innovative in approaching major global crises. ➔13

Iran rejects allegations it transfers arms to Yemen

By staff and agency

Tehran's ambassador to the UN has rejected allegations by Saudi Arabia that Iran has been transferring weapons to Yemen.

"The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran firmly rejects the pure fabrications and unsubstantiated allegations, contained in the afore-mentioned letter concerning the alleged transfer of weapons to

Yemeni Ansarullah fighters and the violation of the UN Security Council Resolutions," Gholamali Khoshroo said in his letter to the UN Security Council on Tuesday.

Following is the full text of the letter published by IRNA:

Upon instructions from my Government, and with reference to the letter dated 16 September 2016 from the Permanent Repre-

sentative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2016/786), I wish to bring the following to your attention:

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran firmly rejects the pure fabrications and unsubstantiated allegations, contained in the afore-mentioned letter concerning the alleged transfer of weapons to

Yemeni Ansarullah fighters and the violation of the United Nations Security Council Resolutions.

This letter and the claims contained therein are at the same time quite astounding as the claimant is the representative of a government that has invaded Yemen and used, for about a year and half, a full variety of lethal weapons against Yemen's civilians and civilian infrastructure. ➔13

South Korea, Iran to collaborate on film industry

ART TEHRAN — South Korean producers plan to make joint films and TV series in collaboration with the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB), South Korean Ambassador Kim Seung-ho said on Thursday.

He made the remarks while visiting the joint photo exhibition by South Korea's largest news agency, Yonhap, and IRNA, the Islamic Republic News Agency, now underway at the Iranian Artists Forum.

"14 Korean producers have held talks with IRIB and 30 Iranian filmmaking companies in Tehran to make joint productions," he added.

A collection of 100 photos covering different political, social, historical and tourism aspects of the two countries are on display in the exhibit, which opened on Tuesday and will be running until October 3 at the forum located on Musavi St., Taleqani Ave.



KISH FOOD EX 2016 hosting 110 companies

ECONOMY TEHRAN — Iran's Persian Gulf island of Kish is hosting 50 Iranian and 60 foreign companies in the first edition of International Food, Beverage and Related In-

dustries Exhibition (KISH FOOD EX 2016), IRNA reported.

Companies from Italy, Germany, Switzerland, Turkey, Malaysia, the Netherlands, India, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Poland,

Japan, France, Oman, Austria, Belgium and Singapore are showcasing their latest products and achievements in the exhibit which opened on September 28 and will wrap up on October 1.

The exhibition is aimed at inviting foreign companies to make investment in the Iranian growing food market, transfer of technical knowledge to Iran and elevation of exports from the country.

Goldman says OPEC deal to add as much as \$10 to H1 2017 oil prices

Goldman Sachs said the deal reached by OPEC crude producers on Wednesday to curb output should add \$7 to \$10 to oil prices in the first half of next year.

Members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) agreed on Wednesday to modest oil output cuts in the first such deal since 2008, with group leader Saudi Arabia softening its stance on arch-rival Iran amid mounting pressure from low oil prices.

"Strict implementation of today's deal in 2017 would represent 480,000 to 980,000 barrels per day less output," Goldman analysts said in a note dated Wednesday.

"Longer term, we remain skeptical on the implementation of the proposed quotas, if ratified," the analysts said.

Still, the bank reiterated its year-end and 2017 oil price forecasts, given the uncertainty of the OPEC proposal.

Goldman kept its end-2016 forecast for U.S. West Texas Intermediate crude (WTI) at \$43 per barrel and its 2017 forecast at \$53 per barrel.

WTI was trading around \$47 a barrel, after gaining more than 5 percent on Wednesday on OPEC's planned output cut. ➔5

ARTICLE

By Chung Kwan-Joo
Vice Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism of South Korea

Prospect of cultural cooperation between Korea, Iran highly bright

As the vice minister for culture, sports and tourism of the Republic of Korea, I am going to arrive at Tehran in a few days for the first time in my life with a large cultural delegation. I am eager to see with my own eyes the cradle of human culture and meet the Iranian people who deserve to be praised for their contribution to the humanity achievements, be it literature, philosophy, art, architecture, and many others. And I am also delighted to introduce many aspects of Korean culture to Iranian friends during my stay in Tehran.

A large scale Korean non-verbal performance on the legendary love story of Persian prince and Korean princess will be performed at the Milad Tower on the 1st and 2nd October along with the Korean modern painting exhibition and try-out activities of various Korean culture to be held from 27th September. Particularly, the non-verbal performance shows how old our two countries relations can trace back, despite geographical remoteness and cultural difference. In addition to these performances during my stay, throughout October, a series of cultural events will continue such as Korean music night with Tehran Orchestra, Iranian calligraphy contest on Korea-Iran friendship, Korea seen by Iranian photographer exhibition, Korean Ambassador's Cup Taekwondo competition, and so on.

My visit to Iran and all ensuing cultural activities are good evidence of how much importance Korean government puts in the relation with Iran. That importance does neither come from any sense of competition, nor expectation of support for commercial activities. Why Korean government is so keen about cultural cooperation with Iran is because the bilateral relations of the two countries could be much more strengthened through enhanced cultural ties. 16 ➔