# Iran Is Determined to Boost Regional Ties

Report

# **Campaign for** Scotland's independence from **UK launched**

The Scottish First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, has pledged to deliver on her party's "electoral mandate" arguing she won last May's election with a "clear commitment to give the people of Scotland the choice of becoming an independent country"

Speaking to reporters at a press conference in Edinburgh, Sturgeon says a discussion is essential on a referendum for Scotland's independence and argued a vote can be held legally with or without London's approval.

Publishing the first in a series of papers that will form the outlook for an independent Scotland, the First Minister said there was an "indisputable" mandate for another vote, pointing out how circumstances have changed since the first independence referendum in 2014.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson government is opposed to a vote and analysts say the road to a second Scottish Independence referendum will be a bumpy ride as the legislation that set up the Scottish parliament stipulates Westminster has to authorize any referendum affecting the UK constitution, under a so-called section 30 order.

Surgeon argues "if this UK government had any respect at all for democracy, the issue of legality would be put beyond doubt,"

Sturgeon says the path to a referendum would be a legal one "if that is what is required", and if the government of Boris Johnson refuses to grant a Section 30 order then she would set out her own legal path to the referendum, after pledging to hold the vote by the end of 2023. ▶ Page 5

Opinion



# Iran coach Dragan under pressure after loss against Algeria

### By Farrokh Hesabi

TEHRAN - Iran national football team head coach Dragan Skocic is under pressure from the critics and football fans after losing to Algeria in a friendly.

This week, the Croat was criticized in the media due to 2-1 loss to Algeria Sunday night in Doha. The disappointing performance by Skocic's men have risen the concerns over the future of the National Team.

The Croatian tactician feels it is unfair to judge him on a pre-World Cup friendly, given what he and his side have done well during the 2022 World Cup qualifiers.

"We all are under pressure for a defeat in a warm-up match and its' unfair, while we had an easy qualification for the World Cup," said Skocic upon arrival in Tehran on Monday.

Recently, there has been talking in the Iranian media about changing the national team's head coach as some football fans have questioned the Croatian's tactical acumen.

The names of Carlos Queiroz, the former head coach of the Iranian national team, and Javad Nekounam, the current coach of ▶ Page 3

# Tehran, Ashgabat explore avenues of energy, trade, transport co-op

TEHRAN - A high-ranking Turkmen delegation headed by Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers of Turkmenistan Atdayev Batyr Taganovich attended a meeting with Iranian Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Reza Fatemi-Amin to discuss ways of

In this meeting, held on Tuesday, the two sides stressed the need for the establishment of a Tehran-Ashgabat trade center, the

expanding trade ties. The attendees also emphasized supporting the businessmen of the two countries in order to facilitate and accelerate trade relations and decided to form a working group to draw a one-year roadmap for future cooperportal of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) reported. ation. > Page 4

# Trade between Iran, Oman expected to reach \$2b by March 2023

TEHRAN - Head of Iran-Oman Joint Chamber of Commerce said the trade between the two countries is expected to reach \$2 billion by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2023), IRNA reported.

"Considering the upward trend of trade with this country [Oman], it is predicted that by the

Iranian university

good health and

well-being

health and well-being.

tops world's list for

TEHRAN - Iran University of Medical

Sciences has ranked the world's leading

university for contributing to delivering the

UN's Sustainable Development Goal of good

The 2022 edition of the Times Higher Ed-

ucation Impact Rankings, based on univer-

sities' contributions to delivering the UN's

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),

show that universities worldwide are seiz-

ing the moment to double down on a long

tradition of public service of delivering sus-

tainable social and economic impact for their

Based on a series of more than 100 met-

rics and over 200 measurements, covering

universities' teaching, research, outreach

into the community, and the stewardship

of their own resources, the rankings show

universities from all over the world deliver-

ing real impact across all 17 SDGs – whether

that's Western University in Canada leading

efforts to help eradicate poverty (SDG 1) or

the University of Witwatersrand in South Af-

rica leading on work to provide decent work

and economic growth (SDG 8) ▶ Page 7

communities and society at large.

end of the year, we will record 1.2 billion exports and \$2 billion of trade," Mohsen Zarabi said in the annual ordinary general assembly of the mentioned chamber held at the place of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) on Wednesday.

Last year, the trade between the two

countries reached \$1.336 billion, indicating a growth of 57 percent compared to the preceding year, Zarabi said.

He said that in the first two months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-May 21), exports to Oman reached \$283 million ▶ Page **4** 

# Sanctions profoundly affected lives of Iranians: UN Special Rapporteur

Rights Council's Special Rapporteur, who recently visited Iran, spoke about the effects of sanctions on Iran, especially the lives of ordinary Iranians.

"Sanctions have had a profound effect on the lives of Iranians in many ways," she said in an interview with the French Weekly Le Point, which was republished by the Iranian foreign

She added, "The first impact is economic, because Iran is not able to do business. The economic situation of the country has deteriorated, especially for those working in the field of foreign trade. Therefore, all employees of foreign-invested companies have been affected by sanctions. Thus, some industries have been forced to reduce the number of their employees up to ten times. For example, in the handicrafts sector, which used to export many products abroad and has nothing to do with oil or the government. These jobs are mostly family-run, with five to twenty people but now only one person is hired. In the same way, many translators have lost their jobs because tourism and trade have stopped in this country."

Douhan traveled to Iran from May 7 to 18, 2022, to assess US sanctions against Iran. She is the first UN special rapporteur to visit Iran

TEHRAN - Alena Douhan, the UN Human after 17 years. Douhan is tasked by the UN Human Rights Council to examine the impacts of US unilateral coercive measures on Iran. During her 12-day visit to Iran, Douhan met with Iranian government officials, as well as representatives of civil society organizations, health experts, and financial institutions.

> Responding to a question on whether the sanctions affected people's daily lives, the UN official said, "Yes. I will give you a specific example in this regard. First of all, when we talk about people's lives, we have to keep in mind that a lot of people are affected by economic conditions. As a result, the poor people are falling below the poverty line, and the situation of many middle-class people has deteriorated. In the past, people had the opportunity to pay to private institutions to receive better health and educational services for their children. But as the economic situation worsens, their wages have dropped to such an extent that they now use only public services. Subsequently, the workload of public hospitals has increased significantly and in addition, there are tens of thousands of additional refugees that Iran receives daily and thus you will find that an incredible pressure is imposed on Iran's hospitals and educational system, especially since the country does not receive any new income for building hospitals and hiring staff." ▶ Page 3

# From Inside

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# Iran, Turkmenistan sign 9 cooperation documents

TEHRAN-- Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi officially welcomed his Turkmen counterpart Serdar Berdimuhamedow at Saadabad Palace on Wednesday. Later, the two presidents observed the signing of nine cooperation

Berdimuhamedow arrived in Tehran late on Tuesday.

Three of these cooperation documents were in the field of trade relations.

The two presidents held a joint press conference.

During the presser, Raisi expressed Tehran's firm determination to expand relations with Ashgabat, saying, "In the negotiations, it became clear that the two countries have a serious will to develop relations and implement the agreements reached. More importantly, the two countries are determined to sign a strategic document of 20 years of

He went on to reiterate Iran's long-held position on the Afghanistan crisis, saying, "We believe that a comprehensive government should be formed in Afghanistan that represents all political and ethnic groups, and this can create security for Afghanistan. Also, the continuation of discussions held at the meeting of foreign ministers of Afghanistan's neighboring countries was also emphasized by both sides."

Raisi further noted Iran and Turkmenistan's communal view on solving the regional crises without outside interference.

"The two countries share the view that the problems and issues of the region should be resolved by the countries of the region and any foreign presence in the region can be problematic. Our common belief is that the presence of outsiders is not a security-building factor but creates problems," the president stated. ▶ Page 2

# La Gacilly Photo Festival showcases works by Iranian photographers

TEHRAN - Works by four Iranians are on display at the La Gacilly Photo Festival, a vast international outdoor exhibition, which is organized every year in the northwestern

Collections by Maryam Firuzi, Gohar Dashto, Ebrahim Noruzi, Hashem Shakeri and photographers from across the world will be on view at the festival, which will be running until September 30.

Firuzi is attending the festival with photos from her series "Persian Identities". One photo from the collection decorates the homepage of the festival.

"In my opinion, all artistic media are intertwined," she previously said in an interview with Paris Photo, when the Silk Road Gallery in Tehran showcased her work. ▶ Page 8

# Ambassador outlines Iranian deputy FM's upcoming visit to Delhi

TEHRAN— In an interview with Borna news agency, Iran's ambassador to New Delhi has recounted the vast potential for cooperation between Iran and India, noting the pursuit of technical engineering activities and the regulation of the banking mechanism were among the goals of the foreign ministry economic team's visit to India.

Ali Chegini, Iran's ambassador to India, discussed the visit of the economic team of the foreign ministry to India, saying, "The visit of the Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Diplomacy, Mehdi Safari, has been on the agenda for a long time, but was postponed to after the holy month of Ramadan due to tight schedules. However, due to the coincidence of the foreign minister's visit to India, it was decided that he would travel to India after Mr. Amir Abdollahian to pursue the agreements between Iran and India."

He continued by saying that banking issues have already been on the agenda of the delegation. ▶ Page 2



### Shahreza, the national city of pottery

The city of Shahreza in the central province of Isfahan was named the national city of pottery last year as the production of earthenware and ceramics in Shahreza dates back to 700 years ago.

In 2016, the city of Lalejin in the north-central province of Hamedan, celebrated its registration as the world pottery capital.

# **POLITICS**

Straight Truth **TEHRAN TIMES** 

# Iran, Turkmenistan sign 9 cooperation documents



From page 1 ► For his part, Berdimuhamedow said that the energy and transportation sector are amongst the important and strategic sectors of relations between Tehran and Ashgabat. "We will focus our efforts to effectively use these potentials to expand interactions between the two countries," he

Prior to Berdimuhamedow's visit, a highranking Turkmen delegation had arrived in Iran on Tuesday to prepare the grounds for the two presidents' meeting.

On Tuesday morning, Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian met with his Turkmen counterpart, Rasit Meredow.

During the meeting, Amir Abdollahian once again offered congratulations to Turkmenistan on the successful holding of a presidential election and emphasized the significance of the Turkmen president's visit to Tehran on the 30th anniversary of the establishment of relations between the two countries.

For his part, Meredow thanked Iran for suitably organizing and hosting the meeting, saying the Turkmen president's trip to Tehran is of high importance for bilateral relations.

# Bhutto Zardari: I am a child of **Pakistan and Iran**

TEHRAN- In his meeting with the Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi on Tuesday evening, Pakistani Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that he considers himself Iran's child as much as Pakistan's.

"As much as I am a child of Pakistan, I am also a child of Iran," Bhutto Zardari remarked.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari is the grandson of Begum Nusrat Bhutto, who was an Iranian-Pakistani public figure of Kurdish origin.

Bhutto Zardari also expressed his satisfaction with the visit to Iran and thanked Iran for exporting electricity to Pakistan

"We are fully prepared to complete and conclude the previous talks in the fields of security, trade and energy," he pointed out.

Zardari, who is also the chairman of Pakistan's Peoples Party (PPP), referred to the depth of the Pakistanis' devotion to Imam Reza (AS) and emphasized his country's planning to facilitate

the pilgrims' journey to Mashhad. The senior diplomat also praised the Iranian government for its assistance in extinguishing the widespread forest fires in Pakistan's Baluchistan province.

# "Enhanced ties will lead to economic

During the conversation, the Iranian president also referred to deep ties between the two nations, saying these affinities are rooted in centuries of heartfelt ties.

The people of Iran and Pakistan are not just neighbors but relatives, Raisi remarked.

Raisi added, "Most foreign pilgrims to the



shrine of Imam Reza (AS) are Pakistanis and this is one of the areas of closeness between the two

The president also noted, "We consider Pakistan's security to be our own security," adding that some do not like the good relations between the two Muslim, neighboring, friendly and brotherly nations, but the development of relations will lead to "economic prosperity and more security for the nations of the region."

Emphasizing that Iran sees no restrictions to develop ties with Pakistan, Raisi added that Tehran is ready to promote comprehensive cooperation with Pakistan, as it has the necessary capacity to meet Pakistan's needs in various fields, "including oil, gas and electricity."

Raisi called energy, transit and regional issues as important areas for cooperation and stressed that dialogue on these issues should lead to making decisions and solidify cooperation.

# Iran says deportation of asylum seekers to Rwanda is shame for Britain

'Refugees have rights that must be respected under Convention 1951'

TEHRAN- The forcible repatriation of asylum seekers, including a few Iranians, from the United Kingdom to Rwanda has been described as a historical shame for London, according to the Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson.

Saeed Khatibzadeh on Tuesday underlined that the move is a shame not just for the British government, but also for all those who have worked hard to hide Britain's imperialist background and portray a clean face of London.

"Forced deportation of the asylum seekers to a third country and the deadly silence of the self-proclaimed flag-bearers of human rights and the concerned international organizations is not only a shame for them all, but also obvious breaching of the asylum seekers' human rights,"

The ongoing process, according to the Foreign Ministry official, is the other side of London's deceit, which attempts to show an unrealistic, contrived face of Iran's reality through a systematic media campaign.

He asserted that London-based Persian language opposition media portray and construct a misleading picture of Iran, as well as a spectacular false image of living circumstances in Europe, paving the way for the risky and deadly exodus of certain Iranian individuals from their homeland.

Although those few people act unjustly against themselves and, as a result, against their own country, Khatibzadeh stated that the government of Iran, in the context of its sovereign responsibilities, emphasizes that those people have rights that must be respected under Convention 1951 and its related protocol, and that deporting them to a third country is a dangerous method that eliminates the remainder of the international regime to protect asylum seekers.

He reminded the international community that, despite Iran's economic difficulties, the country generously hosts millions of asylum seekers from various countries, including Afghanistan, but the self-proclaimed flag-bearers of human rights cannot tolerate the presence of a few thousand of them who have been duped and tolerated the hardships of homelessness.

Earlier on Saturday, Khatibzadeh condemned the British government's stated strategy as a retreat from the country's international duties.

He added that transferring persons outside of British territory is against the spirit and text of the Refugee Convention.

This British plan to shift responsibility for refugees to a third country exposes refugees to infringement of rights guaranteed by refugee treaties and human rights accords, and utterly disregards human and moral concerns.

# **Ambassador outlines Iranian deputy** FM's upcoming visit to New Delhi

From page 1 ▶ "There have been a series of very small dues between some banks in Iran and India that have been settled. The banking mechanism is Rial-Rupee, which has already been active and successful between the two countries," he explained.

Regarding the banking mechanism between Iran and India, Chegini noted that Indian banks, with the help of Iranian banks, have continued to provide this system to some extent in agricultural and pharmaceutical items, and will continue to do so in the case of some agricultural products. However, he noted, non-oil items have not been put on this list.

"One of the suggestions is to generalize this mechanism between all non-oil items between the two countries, which is in fact the technical basis of barter trade," the envoy said.

He added that due to SWIFT (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication) system, payments between the two countries are facing problems, but there are solutions to minimize these issues, and this is one of the goals of Safari's upcoming trip.

"Chabahar is another important topic of this trip. Naturally an official from Chabahar Free Zone or the Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization will accompany Mr. Safari on this trip to follow up on previous agreements or negotiate new agreements or correct some issues," Chegini said.

### Iran and India are complementary in agricultural exchanges

Elsewhere in the interview, the ambassador discussed agricultural exchanges between Iran and India.

The diplomat said that increasing agricultural exchanges between Iran and India is important and these two countries are complementary in this

"We have traditionally been a good customer of Indian tea and rice, and on the other hand in the last two years in regards to exporting agricultural



products such as apples, dates, saffron and kiwi to India we have had a very significant amount of export and in some products, we are the top exporter to India," he exemplified.

According to Chegini, Iran has taken a very large share of the Indian market through understanding and cooperation.

In return, products such as Indian apples, bananas and pineapples were able to take a share in the

Iranian market that previously monopolized some countries in Latin America, he noted.

visit Safari's intended pursue technical, engineering cooperation

Regarding goals of Safari's impending trip to

New Delhi, the envoy explained, "Some cooperation for exporting engineering services to India is on the agenda of this trip. Before the sanctions, we won very large projects by Iranian companies in Indian tender offers in the fields of ports and road construction."

He went on to note that due to the coronavirus pandemic and banking problems and some secondary issues, the brutal sanctions against Iranian companies kept Tehran away from the vast Indian market.

"Because most

U.S. voters vote on

domestic issues,

such as the high

price of oil and

other goods, it

would be a good

trade for Biden

to take a hit

the IRGC off the

terrorism list."

"As a result, the issue of exchange of technical and engineering services between the two countries are on the agenda," the ambassador reiterated.

### We saw the independent voice of India in the Russian-Ukrainian war

Elsewhere in the interview, the Iranian ambassador to India noted that Tehran does not look one-sidedly in economic relations.

"I believe that Iran and India have a complementary market and can

meet each other's "Trade between products and needs. At the same time, we Iran and India saw the independent voice of India on the can be expanded issue of Ukraine and through opening Russia and the crisis that the West is letter of credit putting pressure on," (LC) and based he noted. continued on the Rupee-

by saying that this Rial mechanism." independent voice of India encourages Iran

to amplify this voice.

"We can have new chapters of bilateral cooperation with India and even with third countries such as Russia and other countries, so one of the things to consider is to facilitate banking and interbank payments between the two countries," the diplomat noted.

"Many banks are not subject to primary and secondary sanctions," Chegini said, adding that the volume of Tehran-New Delhi's non-oil trade has multiplied during the sanctions-era and this shows that Iran has distanced itself from just selling crude oil.

"India is a very good market for agricultural products. By eliminating intermediaries, the two nations can benefit more. Trade between the two capitals can be expanded through opening letter of credit (LC) and based on the same Rupee-Rial mechanism, using the national currencies of the two countries," the ambassador said.

### Iran is ready to transfer energy to India without any restrictions

Regarding the current state of the Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline, otherwise known as the peace pipeline, Chegini said, "In addition to the fact that consumers or key stakeholders in the peace pipeline kept an eye on Western sanctions, there was also the issue of difference between intermediary countries and determining how to invest.

He then went on to note that this is a serious discussion and not much has changed so far. "If India and other related countries announce their readiness, Iran is ready to do its job in the field of energy without any restrictions or looking at third

The Iranian ambassador to India further stated that India, by supplying its oil needs from Russia, declared a kind of independence from Western

"Our Ministry of Oil continues to openly embrace contracts or venues or fields that we previously cooperated with India on energy issues. Therefore, we are willing to cooperate based on respect and mutual benefits, and we have no restrictions," he noted.

He concluded by saying that Iran is a country with high potential and a reliable customer for energy supply of the subcontinent, especially India, and "no supplier can be found with the confidence and ability of Iran in the field of energy for many friendly

# Biden should revive nuclear deal to lower oil price rather than begging Riyadh: National Interest

TEHRAN - A senior fellow with the Independent Institute urges President Joe Biden to take a political decision to remove the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps from terrorist list, saying it would help revive the 2015 nuclear deal which would instead allow Iran to export more oil.

Ivan Eland says since the Democrats are facing midterm Congressional elections and gas price is a determinant factor, excessive oil by Iran would help reduce global price and consequently reduce Americans' pain at gas stations.

"Iran has a lot of oil ready to go to market if Biden could reach a deal to reinstate the agreement President Donald Trump foolishly trashed," Eland wrote in the National Interest on June 12.

Eland believes such a move will be better than "begging" Saudi Arabia to pump more oil, believing it will not dramatically reduce oil prices in the

Following is the text of the article entitled "Groveling to Saudi Arabia Won't Bring Down Gas Prices":

Although during 2020 election campaign Joe Biden pledged to turn Saudi Arabia into a "pariah" for the brutal murder and dismemberment of Saudi dissident and Washington Post journalist Jamal Khashoggi, the White House announced last week that the president will go hat in hand to Saudi Arabia this summer to beg the Saudis to pump more oil and reduce politically explosive high gas prices at the pump. For decades, however, U.S. presidents

have assumed that the Saudis have more control over the world oil price than they do and have been excessively obsequious to their whims, desires, and transgressions, most infamously after predominantly Saudi hijackers killed almost three thousand Americans on 9/11 with evidence of at least some Saudi government culpability. Biden promised to be different and hold the Saudis to better account, but it seems he will fall into the same unneeded coddling behavior U.S. presidents have exhibited in the past.

Although Biden, like past presidents, is not very responsible for the high (or low) gas prices consumers are experiencing, he also has very limited means to do anything about the problem. So any presidential visit to Saudi Arabia or other executive actions, such as the ineffective release of oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve or unsuccessful pleading with American oil executives to drill for more oil, merely demonstrates before the upcoming midterm elections that he feels consumers' pain and is attempting to alleviate it. Such palliatives, however, will not dramatically reduce oil prices in the short term. Unfortunately for Democrats, political research shows that most voters vote on economic developments occurring only in the months before an election.

Despite the regular frenzy of U.S. presidents and other politicians when the oil price is high, a worldwide market for oil exists and works very simply. If a producer (or producers) anywhere in the world

reduces exports, the world price rises; if instead more oil is exported into the market from any source, the price decreases. Since the excessive hysteria surrounding the 1973 oil "crisis," politicians and the media have blamed collusion by the OPEC (and now OPEC Plus) oil cartel when prices surge, although most economists are skeptical that any natural resource cartel, including one producing oil, can elevate the long-term price of a commodity. The oil cartel has quotas for various countries to restrain overall politically by taking production and keep the price above the free-market equilibrium. If the world price goes up for any reason, however, cartel members have the opportunity to make windfall profits

but feel restrained by the quotas and thus, have an incentive to cheat on them by secretly pumping above their limits. When world production increases from cheating, the world price goes back down. Therefore, in the long-term, with high oil prices, all producers—whether cartel members or not—have an incentive to pump more oil to increase profits. Increased exports from producers pick up the slack when oil is taken off the market by economic sanctions or war—as is the case today with a portion

Biden's jawboning of American oil executives to drill for more oil has been unsuccessful because of their

all-too-recent memories of oil prices plummeting at the beginning of the pandemic, demonstrating that, depending on global events, oil prices can go down as fast as they can go up. (And low prices are no panacea either as they are usually a symptom of a world economic slowdown which is harmful to major U.S. industries.) Opening offshore areas and federal lands to exploration and loosening restrictions on pipeline construction to bring more Canadian oil into the United States will eventually help reduce the oil price, but it will also be politically costly for Biden within his own party because of possible environmental ramifications.

There is another action that Biden might take to mitigate high oil prices that also comes with political costs: loosen economic sanctions on Venezuela and Iran, thus allowing economically desperate petroleum producers to put more oil on the world market. To help alleviate pressure on the world price, the United States does not need to buy oil from those nations; Venezuela and Iran just need to be able to sell oil on the world market. Spain and Italy are seemingly ready to buy some Venezuelan oil. However, the Venezuelan oil industry has been crippled by U.S. sanctions and socialist economic policies and will likely take a long time to get production ramped up. However, Iran has a lot of oil ready to go to market if Biden could reach a deal to reinstate the agreement containing the Iranian nuclear program, which President Donald Trump foolishly trashed, in exchange for loosening economic sanctions. The only stumbling block to this double win for the United States is that Iran wants the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) taken off the U.S. terrorism list. Even if that happens, the IRGC would still be under other U.S. sanctions but, again, the main obstacle is politics: Republicans, Israel, and Saudi Arabia all would falsely accuse Biden of being soft on terrorism.

Because most U.S. voters vote on domestic issues, such as the high price of oil and other goods, it would be a good trade for Biden to take a hit politically by taking the IRGC off the terrorism list, restoring an agreement that constrains Iran's nuclear program and allowing Iran to unleash its oil supplies to compensate for reduced Russian production which would put downward pressure on the world oil price quickly. All of this would be more effective than Biden visiting Saudi Arabia, which has as bad a human rights record and beg Riyadh to pump more oil.

# Iran is determined to boost regional ties

TEHRAN - In a bid to strengthen regional ties, Iran exchanged visits with a number of regional countries with the purpose of putting the Iranian government's strategic neighborhood policy initiated by President Ebrahim Raisi into motion.

Nearly a year into his administration, Iranian President Ayatollah Ebrahim Raisi has come a long way in delivering on his campaign promise of cementing Iran's relations with neighboring countries and regional powers.

A flurry of diplomatic visits over the last few days indicated that Iran is forging ahead with what came to be known as "neighborhood policy," a foreign policy shift brought about by President Raisi that aims to shore up Iran's regional standing.

Over the last few days, Iran made great strides toward achieving that obiective. Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian traveled to India and held high-level talks with the Indian leaders. Pakistan's foreign minister arrived in Tehran. Turkmen President Serdar Berdimuhamedow also came to Iran and met with President Raisi and Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution of Iran.



Sanctions profoundly affected lives of Iranians: UN Special Rapporteur

because these patients have no income, they have

resold these drugs on the black market," she said.

According to the UN official, the "very wide and

Douhan also said that the sanctions have

contributed to killing Iranian people during the

Corona pandemic. "Sanctions have killed people

and there are several cases in my report. The

most convincing reason is the lack of access to

medicine. Yes, Iran produces more than 90% of

its medicines, but unfortunately for doing so, they

need to provide raw materials from abroad. This is

difficult because we know that it is very difficult

for this country to obtain, pay for and receive

these materials. Especially since the quality of raw

materials is not always good and these materials

are very expensive. The simplest example is

insulin," She said, adding, "There are many people

with diabetes in Iran, and when I talked about this

problem in Iran, I was told that this country was

able to produce a standard product of insulin but

with the significant difference because this drug

does not cure certain types of diabetes, therefore

heavy" sanctions imposed on Iran have affected

Iran's economy and intensified inflation.

Also, the speaker of the Armenian parliament and the Russian foreign minister are expected to visit Iran soon. In addition, Amir Abdollahian will

This kind of diplomacy is in line with the neighborhood policy, which is strongly backed by the Leader. In his meeting with President Ayatollah Khamenei said "it is the Islamic Republic of Iran's policy to expand ties with neighboring countries and this is a completely correct policy."

The enhancement of relations was the main goal of the cooperation documents signed between Iran and Turkmenistan. Nine documents of cooperation and a joint statement were signed between Iran and Turkmenistan

Raisi said the visit of the Turkmen

He added, "My visit to Ashgabat last year could further activate cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkmenistan, especially in the field of gas swap, transit, and transportation, and good steps were taken in these areas."

Appreciating the efforts of the former President of Turkmenistan in developing relations between the two countries, Raisi said, "I hope that the two countries will take good steps to develop relations in the new era."

Turkmenistan has acted as a springboard for more Iranian interaction with regional countries. Iran's membership in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) was made possible in a meeting in Ashgabat. In reality, the first breakthrough in the Raisi administration's neighborhood policy came when Iran was granted full membership of the SCO after having long been on the sidelines of the regional economic bloc with observer

Iran's membership in the SCO was quickly translated into more trade. The alue of Iran's exports to the members of the SCO increased 41 percent in the Iranian calendar year 1400 (March 21, 2021-February 19, 2022) compared to the corresponding time in the year

# **IRAN IN FOCUS**

Straight Truth TEHRAN TIMES

# Iran coach Dragan under pressure after loss against Algeria

Frome Page **1** ► Foolad and the former captain of the national team, have been suggested as options to replace Skocic.

When Skocic took over from Belgian Marc Wilmots in February 2019, Iran were on the brink of an early exit at the preliminary round of the Asian qualifiers, but Skocic was able to sort things out and steered Iran to an easy qualification for the 2022 FIFA World Cup.

However, some football pundits and fans have often criticized him for his decisions and his ability to lead the Asian powerhouses in the showdown in Oatar.

Skocic believes that the friendly match is an opportunity to test the players and coaching staff must review the tactics. He is right, and his words are pretty logical.

The current Iranian football situation is against him, and the Iranian football federation does not support him properly.

If you look at the steps he's made over the last couple of years in the national team, it seems a couple of bad results in warm-ups is not something we can judge him on.

# Iran's Solhipour takes gold at 2022 **Asia Oceania Open Championships**

TEHRAN - Iran's Hamed Solhipour won a gold medal in the up to 97 kg weight class of the 2022 Asia Oceania Open Championships on Wednesday.

He won the gold, lifting 225kg.

Yan Panpan from China took the silver medal with 217kg, one kilogram above Khusniddin Usmanov from Uzbekistan.

The Pyeongtaek 2022 Asia Oceania Open Championships take place from June 15 to 20. The event has brought 231 athletes from 33 countries across the six days of competition.

It is the first of four Regional Championships in the 2022 Para powerlifting season followed by the Americas, Africa, and European Open Championships.

The competition is divided in to 10 weight classes each in men's women's categories. Athletes compete in a single weight class. The event will end with the men's, women's, and mixed

Iran registered female athletes for the first time and powerlifters are on their journey towards Paris 2024

# Persepolis complete fifth signing

TEHRAN - Persepolis football team completed signing of Soroush Rafiei on Wednesday.

The 32-year-old midfielder has penned a twovear deal with the Reds for an undisclosed fee.

Rafiei has returned to Persepolis for the third stint.Persepolis have previously completed the signing of Alireza Beiranvand (goalkeeper), Morteza Pouraliganji (defender), Danial Esmaeilifar (right winger) and Mohammadmehdi Ahmadi (left winger).

The team have also extended Milad Sarlak's deal for one more season.

# played major role in boxing's development in Iran

TEHRAN – Iranian Boxing Federation President Hossein Souri has played a major role in the development of the sport in Iran, asbcnews.org

He became a new member of the Asian Boxing Confederation (ASBC) Board of Directors following the successful elections during the Extraordinary Congress in Amman, Jordan last March.

Souri started working in the field of boxing in the 1990s and has played a major role in the country's development, serving as a national boxing coach and toiling to achieve his International Boxing Association (IBA) 2-star level.

Prior to becoming head of the national federation, he worked as the chief of the Sistan and Baluchestan Province Boxing Association for 15 years and ensured the improvement in the region which saw its hosting of the Makran International Box Cup.

He was also the general director of the sports and youth department of the aforementioned province between 2012 and 2017 before getting elected as the president of the Iranian Boxing Federation later in 2017. His first international success came in 2019 when he was included in the ASBC Youth Commission.

Under his watch, the Iran national team boxers enjoyed a huge progress as mirrored by their commendable performance in the AIBA World Boxing Championships 2021. Their top bet Danial Shahbakhsh, a silver medalist in the ASBC Asian Boxing Championships, won a bronze, making it the first-ever medal of the country in the world

Souri was re-elected as president of the national federation in December 2021 and launched new programs aimed to find young talents and increase the number of boxers in Iran. In fact, he arranged the return of the national elite championships last month and he plans to host international events in the future.

# Iran into 2022 **FIBA U16 Asian Championship QF**

TEHRAN - Iran defeated Lebanon 73-56 Tuesday night to book a place in the 2022 FIBA U16 Asian Championship quarterfinals in Doha, Qatar on Monday.

The Persians had defeated Indonesia 66-37 in Group B.

Iran will meet the winners of New Zealand and Kuwait on Friday.

The FIBA U16 Asian Championship feature 13 teams. They are divided into four groups seeded automatically based on the FIBA World Ranking Boys.

The group stage concluded on June 14 and top teams in each group advanced to the Final Phase in the Quarter-Finals, starting on June 17. Teams that finished 2nd and 3rd in each group however, will play in the Qualifying Phase on June 16.

The second-ranked team in Group A will play the third-ranked team in Group B and vice versa Similarly, the second-ranked team in Group C will play the third-ranked team in Group D and vice versa as well.

After the Semi-Finals on June 18, the tournament will reach its climax on June 19 with the Final of the FIBA U16 Asian Championship 2022.

The four teams that advance to the Semi-Finals of the U16 Asian Championship will qualify for the FIBA U17 Basketball World Cup 2022 which will be played from July 2-10 in Malaga, Spain.

# Iran lose to Sweden at IHF **Youth Beach** Handball World **Championships**

TEHRAN - Iran lost to Sweden 2-0 (26-25, 24-21) in the International Handball Federation (IHF) Youth Beach Handball World Championships on Wednesday in Heraklion, Greece.

Iran had previously defeated the U.S. 2-0 (31-10, 20-8) and Qatar 2-0 (15-14, 15-14) in Group A.

Iran advanced to the next stage as the second

The 2022 IHF Men's Youth (U18) Beach Handball World Championships takes place between 14 and 19 June, while the IHF Men's Beach Handball World Championships are set to be played between 21 and 26 June in the same venue in Heraklion.

# embark on a tour of African countries in the coming days.

Berdimuhamedow,

in the presence of Presidents Raisi and Berdimuhamedow.

president to Iran "could be a turning point in relations between the two

certain patients cannot be treated in Iran and thus in Iran, the patients with this special diabetes die."

Douhan also touched on the protests in Iran over the elimination of government subsidies and said the reason for those protests were in part the U.S. sanctions

She said, "First of all, let me tell you that I cannot talk about protest and demonstrations that go beyond my duties. I can now tell you two things: The first is that when I was in Iran, the demonstrations took place after the reduction of basic food subsidies, and I asked the government about this decision that would most affect the deprived strata of the population. And the answer that was given to me is the answer that I have seen in other countries under sanctions, that is, with the reduction of government revenue due to sanctions, the government is no longer able to pursue its social programs for the people. So when you make less money, you cannot keep commodity prices down. I was also told that a review of the government aid system would make it possible to provide direct assistance to the poorest strata of the population."

# Ayatollah Khamenei meets Turkmenistan president

TEHRAN - Leader of the Islamic Revolution of Iran Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei met on Wednesday with Serdar Berdimuhamedow, the president of Turkmenistan, and his entourage.

Frome Page 1 > Douhan said the sanctions negatively affected the Iranian government's

ability to pay subsidies and aid. "It is natural that

since the government is not able to earn as much

as in the past, all government aid paid to the

people, such as food subsidies, essential goods

or medicine, is now reduced. This means that the

people who depend on these aid and subsidies

and who are the poorest strata of the population,

suffer the most. It should be added that some

patients with serious illnesses have been able to

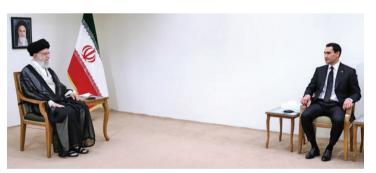
receive free medicines from the government. But

During the meeting, Ayatollah Khamenei called for deepening relations in the interest of both countries. "The policy of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran is to expand relations with neighboring countries, and this is a completely correct policy," he said.

He stressed that overcoming the obstacles depends on the serious determination of the two countries to expand relations. "Of course, friendly relations between Iran and Turkmenistan are opposed by regional and international opponents, but obstacles must be overcome," Ayatollah Khamenei added.

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution emphasized, "The Joint Cooperation Commission between the two countries should be seriously active and the agreements should be finalized with continuous follow-up."

The meeting was also attended by Iranian President Ayatollah Seyed Ebrahim Raisi



The Turkmen president, for his part, said, "The Turkmen government's priority is to expand relations with its neighbors, and we are working to further strengthen the good relations between the two countries in various fields, especially gas, electricity and freight, as well as the implementation of major projects, according to the cooperation documents signed today."

Referring to the 30th anniversary of the relations between the two countries. the Turkmen president addressed the Leader of the Islamic Revolution and said. "On behalf of myself and the people of Turkmenistan, I thank you for your constant support in deepening Iran-Turkmenistan relations."

Earlier in the day, President Berdimuhamedow met with Raisi and the two presidents then held a joint press conference.

"Your visit with a high-ranking delegation of the friendly, brotherly and neighborly country of Turkmenistan could be a turning point in relations between the two countries," Ayatollah Raisi said at the presser, addressing Berdimuhamedow, according to the official website of the Iranian presidency.

"We have had good relations with Turkmenistan for the past three decades," he said, adding, "My visit to Ashgabat last year could further activate the cooperation between the Islamic

especially in the field of gas swap, transit, and transportation, and good steps were taken in these areas."

Stating that the capacities for cooperation between the two countries are more than the current level of relations. Avatollah Raisi said. "In the fields of economy, trade, water, electricity and gas, there are good capacities and areas in the two countries to expand cooperation beyond the current level. The agreements and memoranda of understanding signed today between the two countries can enhance cooperation between the two countries to a higher level."

The president described the relations between Iran and Turkmenistan as more than just neighborly relations, adding, "The relations between the two countries are brotherly, civilizational, cultural and, in a word, very close. These deep relations between the two nations and the two countries can pave the way for many collaborations."

Appreciating the efforts of the former President of Turkmenistan in developing relations between the two countries, Ayatollah Raisi said, "I hope that the two countries will take good steps to develop relations in the new era."

# Republic of Iran and Turkmenistan,

### TEHRAN - The Iranian Ambassador to Iraq, Mohammad Kazem Al Sadegh, met with Sayyid Ammar al-Hakim, the leader of the National Wisdom Movement

"During our meeting with the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Baghdad, His Excellency Mr. Muhammad Kazem Al Sadiq, we discussed the latest developments in the Iraqi and regional political situations and ways to develop relations between Tehran and Baghdad," the media office of al-Hakim said in a statement.

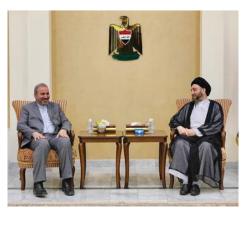
The statement added, "We reiterated that the stability of Iraq is in the interest and stability of the region, and that the stage requires the inclusion of all and achieving balance as a basic entry point for achieving stability."

Iran envoy meets Iraqi cleric

According to the statement, the two sides "recalled the role played by the fatwa of sufficient jihad of the supreme religious authority in responding to terrorism and achieving victory."

"We also called for cooperation between religious and governmental institutions to facilitate the participation of pilgrims of different Islamic nationalities in the Ashura and Arbaeen pilgrimages to Imam Hussein (peace be upon him) and the required procedures for that," the statement concluded.

Earlier this month, al-Hakim met in Najaf with Iranian Health Minister Bahram Nejatollahi.



# **Hossein Souri**

reported.

# **ECONOMY**

Straight Truth TEHRAN TIMES

# Trade between Iran, Oman expected to reach \$2b by March 2023



From page 1 > with a growth of 28 percent, noting that the figure in the import sector increased by 187 percent to \$128 million

According to Zarabi, the trade between the two countries reached \$331 million in the mentioned two months, registering a growth of 145 percent.

The official further noted that agreements have been reached to increase Iranian exports to the Arab country, saying: "One of the ways to increase trade is to introduce Iranian commodities to Omani traders and raise awareness; This is possible by sending trade delegations and holding exhibitions in this

In late May, Head of Iran Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) Alireza Peyman-Pak and Omani Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion Qais bin Mohammed Al Yousef met and agreed on creating a roadmap for the expansion of trade relations and also discussed the establishment of an Iranian trade center in Muscat.

Speaking in this meeting, Peyman-Pak voiced the readiness of his organization and the Iranian Ministry of Industry, Mining, and Trade for providing the necessary infrastructure for expanding trade exchanges between the two countries.

Referring to the recent visit of an Iranian delegation to Oman for attending a business forum hosted by the Muscat Chamber of Commerce, and also holding Iran's pavilion Oman's International Construction Technology, Infrastructure and Building Materials Exhibition (Project Oman 2022), Peyman-Pak proposed that a joint committee would be formed at the deputy level to pursue the development of mutual economic and trade relations.

He also proposed signing a roadmap for trade cooperation between Iran and Oman, which was welcomed by the Omani minister.

Mentioning some of the challenges in the way of developing economic cooperation between Tehran and Muscat, Peyman-Pak said that talks were underway between the ministries and private institutions of the two countries to resolve the problems related to transportation and banking relations.

# Iranian heavy crude oil price rises 8.7% in May: OPEC

TEHRAN- Iranian heavy oil price increased \$9.2 in May to register an 8.7-percent rise compared to the previous month, according to OPEC's latest monthly report published on

Iranian heavy crude oil price followed its upward trend for the seventh consecutive month to reach \$115.48 per barrel in the mentioned month, compared to April's \$106.28 per barrel.

According to the report, the country's average heavy crude price was \$102.92 from the beginning of 2022 up to the report's publishing day, in comparison to \$61.94 in the previous year's same period.

The report put Iranian crude output for May at 2.544 million barrels per day indicating a 20,000-bpd decrease compared to the figure for the previous month.

Based on OPEC data, the country's average crude output in the first guarter of 2022 stood at 2.528 million barrels per day indicating a 46,000-bpd rise compared to the figure for the last quarter of 2021.

As reported, Iranian oil exports increased by 30 percent in the first quarter of 2022 compared to the previous year, to reach



870,000 barrels per day.

The jump in Iran's oil exports in Q1 was the fastest among all producers in West Asia, while the volume of exports is estimated to be the highest since former U.S. President Donald Trump withdrew from the so-called Iranian nuclear deal in 2018, the report said.

Back in April, Washington Free Beacon, an American conservative political journalism website, said in a report that Iran's "fleet of ghost ships" has been successfully sidestepping U.S. sanctions, delivering millions of barrels of crude oil and petroleum products to foreign destinations.

The report claimed that Iranian oil tankers have shipped at least \$22 billion worth of oil only to China since 2021.

From page 1 ▶ Welcoming the Turkmen side's proposal for establishing a joint business center, Fatemi-Amin said: "We have established business centers in 16 countries and this is a good way to expand economic relations.

He also stressed the need to define an action plan for the two countries' trade activities to determine products and goods for import and export.

Taganovich for his part called on the Iranian government to hold joint exhibitions with Turkmen companies.

The official also suggested that an agreement be signed to increase trade relations between the two countries. He also called for the development of border markets.

### Increasing Turkmenistan's gas swap to Azerbaijan

On the same day, Iranian Oil Minister Javad Oji held talks with the Deputy Chairman of the Turkmenistan Cabinet for Oil and Gas Affairs Shahin Abdul Rahmanov during which the Turkmen side asked Iran to increase gas swaps to Azerbaijan and other neighboring countries.

Speaking to the press after the meeting, Oji said the 13th administration under President Raisi has made good achievements in the field of energy diplomacy over the last 10 months, adding, "An agreement was signed on swapping gas from Turkmenistan to the Republic of Azerbaijan

economic co-op through Iran, and currently 1.5 to Azerbaijan and other neighboring two billion cubic meters of gas is countries, and the oil ministry has

announced its readiness to do so.

Referring to the existence of

Republic of Azerbaijan in line with the necessary infrastructure strengthening energy diplomacy, and extensive gas transmission and said, "During the visit, the network in the country to increase the swap, Oji said, "While Azerbaijani side asked us to double negotiating with the Turkmen side the gas swap from Turkmenistan, the increase of the gas swap, one of the highlights of my talks with the According to the minister, in the Turkmen official was the revival of meeting with Abdul Rahmanov, the Turkmen gas export contract the Turkmen side has also called with Iran." on Iran to increase gas swaps to

He stated that the payment of Iran's gas dues to Turkmenistan was one of the topics discussed with the Turkmen side, adding, "According to the negotiations, the receivables from the gas exports to Iraq for gas debts will be transferred from Iraq to the account of the Turkmen side."

Oii said that the export of petroleum and petrochemical products and the catalysts needed in the industry were other subjects discussed during the talks with the Turkmen official.

### Boosting transportation ties

Meanwhile, Iran's Minister of Transport and Urban Development Rostam Qasemi met with Director-General of the Agency for Transport and Communications Turkmenistan Chakyev Mammethan Berdimyradovich and negotiated the promotion of transport and transit ties between the two countries.

Speaking in the meeting, Qasemi referred to the 50 percent increase in transportation between Iran and Turkmenistan following the previous agreements between the two countries, saying: "By reviewing transportation tariffs and fulfilling agreements between the two sides, traffic between the two countries can be further increased."

Berdimyradovich for his part emphasized that there are no restrictions on the expansion of transportation ties between the

# Iran holds 55b tons of proven mineral reserves: GSI head

Tehran, Ashgabat

explore avenues

of mutual

being swapped annually."

which was welcomed by Iran."

He mentioned a recent visit to the

TEHRAN - Head of Iran's Geological Survey and Mineral Explorations Organization (GSI) Alireza Shahidi said on Wednesday that there are currently 55 billion tons of proven mineral reserves in the country, IRNA reported.

According to Shahidi, increasing the depth and expanding areas of the exploration operations could add to Iran's current mineral reserves.

"The GSI has been identifying hidden reserves across the country over the past two decades, which means that these reserves have no signs on the surface, so we hope to be able to identify them using aerial geophysics," Shahidi said.

Back in May, Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) announced that new mineral reserves worth over \$28.7 billion have been discovered across the country over the past eight years.

Having 81 different types of minerals, Iran is one of the top 10 mineral-rich countries across the globe. In this regard, the Iranian government has been seriously pursuing several programs for promoting the mining sector as a major contributor to the country's economic growth.

Iran's proven iron ore reserves are 2.7 billion tons, while the country's copper reserves are 2.6 billion tons. The country also has 11 million tons of

The total proven reserves of Iran's mines are expected to reach more than 100 billion tons with the implementation of the Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry's exploration programs over 500,000 square kilometers of new mineral zones.

Despite the country's huge potential in this area, due to some issues like the lack of necessary machinery and equipment and the lack of access

to financial resources and foreign investment because of the U.S. sanctions, the Iranian mining sector has been struggling to operate at its maximum capacity over the past few years.

So, the government programs for promoting this industry are mainly focused on relying on domestic sources for helping the mining sector overcome its current problems and hit its ideal targets.

# 7 fish farming projects to be implemented in Hamedan province

TEHRAN- As announced by a provincial official, seven fish farming projects will be implemented in Hamedan province by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2023).

Jafar Kaviani Delshad, the acting head of fishery affairs department of the province's Agriculture Department, said that 190 billion rials (about \$704.000) has been allocated to these projects which will create jobs for 22

He mentioned the most important of these projects as fish farming in cages and ornamental fish breeding and added: "Other measures are being pursued this year, including the establishment of ornamental fish parks in the cities of Hamadan province. In this regard, the first park will be set up in Hamedan city and then more parks will be created in other cities".

(about \$370,000) of facilities has been allocated to the mechanization in the fishery sector of the Kaviani Delshad further said that six idle fish

He also announced that 100 billion rials

farming units with the capacity of 120 tons were revived in the province during the past three months.

As stated by an official with Iran Fisheries Organization (IFO), production of 714,000 tons of fishery has been targeted for the current Iranian calendar year.

Morteza Afrasiabi, the acting head of the

IFO's fishery development department, said that of the mentioned figure, 277,000 tons will be fishes bred in cages and 70,000 tons will be

Achieving the targeted 714,000 tons of fishery requires infrastructure as well as credits and banking facilities, the official added.

Fishery production has increased noticeably in Iran in recent years.

Enjoying high quality, Iran's fishery products were sold easily in the export markets, and also some new export destinations welcomed these products in the past three years; as new markets including China, South Korea, and the Eurasian Union nations opened up for Iranian fishery products.

# Ports prepared for private sector's investment in loading, unloading operation

TEHRAN- Given the rise in import of basic goods, there is the possibility for the private sector's investment making in the field of loading and unloading of commodities in the ports of country, the head of Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) stated.

Ali-Akbar Safaei also said that it is necessary to have the equipment available in the ports ready to operate, stressing that the provision of integrated equipment to accelerate the process of unloading basic goods is seriously on the agenda.

Based on the data released by Transport and Urban Development Ministry, loading and unloading of goods in the ports of Iran rose 17 percent during the previous Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20), as compared to the preceding year.

The ministry's data show that loading and unloading of goods in the country's ports reached

152.91 million tons in the previous Iranian calendar year, while the figure stood at 130.69 million tons in the preceding

During the said year, loading and unloading operations in the container sector reached 2.1 million TEUs with a weight of 24.57 million tons, which was 13.5 percent more than the 1.85 million TEUs in the Iranian calendar year 1399, the report

The loading and unloading of goods during the previous year also grew by 12.8 percent in the dry bulk sector, while in the liquid bulk sector the figure increased by 12.6 percent, in the general cargo sector rose by 13.1 percent, and in the petroleum sector grew by 22.5 percent.

While Iran is combating the U.S. unilateral sanctions on its economy, the country's ports as the major gates of exports and imports play a significant role in this battle. This role makes all-



out support to ports and more development of them serious and vital.

Such necessity has led the government to define projects for more development of the ports and also take some measures to encourage investment making in ports, in addition, to facilitate loading and unloading of goods, especially basic commodities, there.

It is worth mentioning that Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization has defined a high number of projects to develop and improve the country's ports, as the country aims to double the capacity of its ports in a course of five years.

According to Ports and Maritime Organization, the capacity of the country's ports has increased from 180 million tons in the Iranian calendar year 1392 (ended in March 2014) to 250 million tons in 1399 (ended in March 2021).

## TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE) dropped 9,737 points to

close at 1.564 million points on Wednesday. As reported, over 5.215 billion securities

worth 35.478 trillion rials (about \$131.4

million) were traded at the TSE. The first market's index lost 10,002 points, and the second market's index dropped 10.706 points.

A market analyst believes that the Iranian stock exchange market can grow by 30 percent by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2023).

In an interview with IRNA on May 8, Ahmad Eshtiagi pointed to the growth of the stock market index and the factors affecting it and said: "It seems that the shares of companies still have room for growth and according to the forecasts, the stock market can grow by about 30 percent by the end of the year, but this growth will be gradual and slow."

The analyst noted that the shareholders' interest in the capital market over the past few years has been due to the value of companies' stock, so when the shares still have room to grow, the market index will

**TEDPIX drops 9,700 points on Wednesday** 

The capital market expert further mentioned another factor influencing the rise of the stock market index and continued: "World prices rose sharply after the Russia and Ukraine war and oil prices reached more than \$100, and this has affected the performance of some companies to some extent."

He stated that in addition to the crude oil prices, the prices of petrochemical products and metals like copper, zinc, and other commodities have risen.

Given that the stock market is commoditybased, therefore, the shares of the companies and refineries also experience significant growth in value, he said.

In addition to the above-mentioned factors, the offering of the shares of major Iranian car companies namely Iran Khodro and Saipa also helped to stimulate the growth in the capital

Asked about his view on the trend of the market in the current year, Eshtiaqi said: "According to the forecasts, it seems that the stock market index will reach the range of 1.8 million points by the end of 1401."

# Campaign for Scotland's independence from UK launched

From page 1 Sturgeon said she was ready to sit down and discuss the matter with British Prime Minister but noted "my duty, as the democratically elected First Minister, is to the people of Scotland – not to Boris Johnson or any Tory Prime Minister. This is a UK government that has no respect for democracy. And, as we saw again yesterday, it has no regard for the rule of law either."

She says the parties who argue about the legalities of a vote are the same parties that "don't want to engage on the substance of this debate, because they know how increasingly threadbare their arguments are. So they prefer to cast doubt on the process."

Sturgeon's first publication pamphlet did not present all the matters surrounding the path to a referendum. She says the next series of papers alongside her address to the Scottish parliament will make a credible case for Scotland becoming an independent country.

She says the "refreshed case for independence" will help people across Scotland "suffering the impacts of the soaring cost of living, low growth and increasing inequality"

She again highlighted how Brexit has made Scottish people suffer more, in reference to the fact that the majority of people in Scotland voted in favor of staying inside the European Union but were forced to leave the EU because the majority of people in England voted to leave.

The SNP leader noted Scotland faces "constrained public finances and the many implications of a Brexit we did not vote for."

"Brexit has ripped us out of the EU and the single market against our will, with massive damage to

trade, living standards, and public

Thanks to Brexit, the cost of living crisis is worse here than in any other G7 country – inflation in the UK is double that of France." she said

"These problems have all been made worse or, most obviously in the case of Brexit, directly caused by the fact we are not independent," she added.

Laying out her case as Scottish first minister she asked "do we stay tied to a UK economic model that consigns us to relatively poor economic and social outcomes which are likely to get worse, not better, outside the EU?"

She compared the economies of other small European countries with the UK, "countries that, in many cases, lack the abundance of resources that Scotland is blessed with. But all of them independent and, as we show today, wealthier and fairer than the UK" she said.

"Ten comparator countries – Ireland, Switzerland, Norway, Denmark, the Netherlands, Iceland, Sweden, Austria, Belgium, and Finland.

The evidence is overwhelming that these countries – now and over time – perform better than the UK."

When Scotland held an independence referendum in 2014, in which 55 percent of Scots voted in favor of staying in the UK, one of the main talking points was the state of Scotland's future economy if it separates from the UK. Opponents of an independent Scotland argued the country's economy would suffer.

Sturgeon claims the economic situation has changed since 2014 arguing that "Scotland now has

our own tax and social security agencies, an independent fiscal

investment bank."

She pointed out "substantial parts of the infrastructure that an independent country would need, and which did not exist in 2014, are now in place.

commission and a national

Scotland now is even more prepared for independence than we were in 2014."

She further argued how "with independence [Scotland] can build a more sustainable economy and therefore stronger public finances, pensions and social security, EU membership and trade, and defense and security."

During the launch of her independence campaign, Surgeon hit out at Boris Johnson saying "we have a Prime Minister with no democratic authority in Scotland and no moral authority anywhere in the UK."

But she expressed her willingness to sit down with Johnson and discuss the matter and that although they disagreed on the substance of independence, she hoped as a democracy they will be able to agree on the process of how the Scottish people should decide their future.

The Scottish government says it will now publish a series of documents detailing how it will approach important matters around independence including how Scotland may rejoin the European Union, and how the flow of people, goods, and services would work in practice across the border between Scotland and England after independence.

She concluded her speech by pointing out the vast energy resources (90% of the UK's oil resources are considered under Scottish jurisdiction), invention, engineering, industries, not being under the influence of Westminster any longer, and "governments we don't vote for and which are taking us in the wrong direction."

Sturgeon was joined at the press conference by the co-leader of the Scottish Green Party and a member of the Scottish cabinet. The SNP and the Greens are both pro-independence and struck a power-sharing arrangement at Holyrood (Scotland's devolved parliament) after last year's election.

Responding to Sturgeon's announcement, a Downing Street spokesman said: "The UK government's position is that now is not the time to be talking about another referendum. We're confident that the people of Scotland want and expect their governments to be working together to focus on issues like the global cost of living challenge"

Critics say the timing of the announcement was not right ahead of the General election, however supporters say the people of Scotland voted for a renewed push for independence by voting for the SNP.

Last year, The SNP won 64 seats in the Scottish Parliamentary election, one seat short of a majority but one seat more than it won in 2016. Sturgeon hailed her party's fourth consecutive victory as a "historic" result paving the way for her independence mandate.

The first minister said she had been elected "on a clear commitment to give the people of Scotland the choice of becoming an independent country."

# INTERNATIONAL

JUNE 16, 2022
Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

# Maritime dispute with Lebanon threatens Israeli natural gas drilling

After five weeks of traveling at sea, the natural gas platform Karish FPSO arrived June 5 at its designated location, off the shores of Israel. Shortly after its arrival, operation teams began connecting the rig to the gas wells and piping networks. The floating platform should serve for production, storage and offloading of drilled natural gas. Energean said the new rig will start operating by September. The new rig was commissioned by the Greek Energean firm, which holds gas production licenses for the Karish and Tanin reservoirs.

Energean CEO Mathios Rigas said after the arrival of the rig, "This marks a major step forward in delivering first gas from Karish. ... We look forward to continuing our progress through Karish first gas, the commercialization of the newly defined Olympus Area and contributing to energy security and competition of supply for the region."

Israel hailed the arrival of the rig, which advances efforts of drilling and exporting Israeli natural gas. In fact, already on May 30, Energy Minister Karine Elharrar tweeted, "We're embarking on the fourth Israeli natural gas exploration. Israel engages in efforts to assist Europe which now finds itself in a severe energy crisis, while preserving and protecting its [Israel's] local economy. ... We have a real opportunity to export Israeli gas."

The arrival of the platform to the Karish gas field rekindled an old debate between Israel and Lebanon over the two countries' maritime boundary. Or more precisely, about the right to These talks ground to a halt in May 2021. The arrival of Energean's drilling platform to the Karish reservoir raised the issue yet again. A diplomatic source in Lebanon told Al-Monitor that in a roundabout way, this provided Aoun and Mikati with an opportunity to renew the negotiations. In order to do this, however, they would need to appear determined when dealing with Israel. This could explain the harsh statements they released about the situation. Mikati said that Israel was "encroaching on Lebanon's maritime wealth, and imposing a fait accompli in a disputed area," calling this "extremely dangerous." Hezbollah Secretary-General Hassan Nasrallah threatened to strike the rig

Israel did not wait for these threats. A joint statement by Elharrar, Defense Minister Benny Gantz and Foreign Minister Yair Lapid read, "The State of Israel prioritizes the protection of its strategic assets, and is prepared to defend them and the security of its infrastructure, all in accordance with its rights. At the same time, we call on the State of Lebanon to accelerate negotiations on the maritime border. Locating gas-based energy sources can greatly assist Lebanon's economy and its citizens, and it is in the interest of the State of Lebanon to advance the dialogue on this matter. We hope that this will occur."

Rigas told Al-Monitor that the joint statement by the three ministers says it all. "This [the diplomatic dispute] is not an issue for Energean. It is a matter for the governments.



of Naqura, on June 11, 2022, days after Israel moved a gas production vessel into an offshore field, a part of which is claimed by Lebanon. (Mahmoud ZAYYAT / AFP)

# On Biden's likely visit to Riyadh:

# U.S. has to accept insanity of its policies toward Iran, Venezuela

Stating that Biden needs Iran and Venezuela besides Saudi Arabia's oil, Prof. Hossein Askari says the U.S. will have to eventually come to terms with the insanity of its policies toward Venezuela and Iran.

Riyadh-Washington relations soured after Biden entered the White House in January 2021. In his election campaigns Biden had vowed to turn Saudi Arabia into a "pariah" state. Relations between the two countries have soured over issues such as human rights, Jamal Khashoggi's assassination and the Yemen war.

While Biden focused on human rights issues in Saudi Arabia at the beginning of his presidency, U.S. political analysts now expect the situation to change and other issues to be addressed by the president.

Now analysts say Washington's view of Riyadh has changed, and the U.S. president is seeking to strengthen ties with Saudis to achieve a number of specific goals during his upcoming visit to the Saudi Kingdom.

Although U.S. President announced at a press conference that his trip to Saudi Arabia has not been finalized, the American media insisted that the trip would take place and the reports on his imminent visit to Saudi Arabia and talks with Saudi Arabian leaders have sparked analyses and reactions in the world.

While the American media focuses on human rights issues and sees Biden's trip as contrary to his election promises, the media and analysts in the Arab world are paying attention to the goals of the U.S. President during the visit.

To know more about the issue, we reached out to Hossein Askari, an economist, emeritus professor of business and international affairs at George Washington University.



Following is the text of the interview with him:

U.S. president Biden is likely to visit Saudi Arabia in order to mend ties with the kingdom despite his campaign slogans and claims against Riyadh. Why has Biden decided to put aside his previous stance toward the kingdom?

Inflation is devastating Biden's poll numbers. He is sinking rapidly and as he sinks he is pulling down the chances of Democrats in November's elections. As of now, the Democrats would certainly lose their majority in the House and maybe even the Senate. He needs to slow inflation down. It's that simple. But remember as the U.S. Fed raises interest rates to also lower inflation, Biden has two more problems looming. A recession. Also, a tumbling stock market is reducing people's savings and retirement income. Biden is in a bind!

Was Biden's previous stance toward the kingdom regarding democracy and human rights just a tactic to put pressure on Riyadh to get milk from the cow as Trump said, or the recent developments in Ukraine have forced him to do so?

I think Biden meant what he said before. He

and most Americans abhor the Saudi regime. He was being honest, but given the war in Ukraine and the limitations of NATO sanctions on Russia, as a politician, he has little choice but to beg. Trump is dying to say that Putin would not have invaded if he were still president and that MBS would have listened to him long ago and increased oil output to the maximum.

# If Saudi Arabia increases oil production, how will it affect U.S. policy towards Venezuelan oil?

Look, just Saudi Arabia increasing output by less than 1 MBD will not do much at the U.S. pump. And even then, it will take a few months for pump prices to come down in the U.S., Biden needs to get a total output increase of about 3-4 MBD. From where? Besides 2 MBD from Saudi Arabia, he needs Iran, UAE and Venezuela. But Venezuela will be slower to come on line. I think it all depends on what happens with output elsewhere before Biden realizes that the U.S. needs to be more realistic about Iran and Venezuela. But please remember that the U.S. producers are also not willing to increase their output. They love the higher prices!

The U.S. will have to eventually come to terms with the insanity of its policies towards Venezuela and Iran. I think Iran will the more difficult problem because of the Israeli lobby, and even the Arab lobby in the U.S. but it is Iran that can ramp up its oil output over the next two or so years by over 2 MBD and most important it is Iran that can supply piped natural gas to Europe and expand its LNG exports dramatically. But U.S. politicians are subject to intense lobbying and I am afraid that Biden and the Democrats don't have the mettle to stand up to them.

(Source: Mehr News Agency)

explore maritime zones for economic profits. Israelis claim that the specific location of the platform is not in the disputed area, but this does not hinder diplomatic tensions from simmering.

The remarkable success of Israel's natural gas development program, and the relatively low costs of energy as a result, brought considerable revenues to Israel and the companies involved in gas production. This has not escaped regional players. Still, because of the maritime boundary dispute, major international corporations are reluctant to get involved on the Lebanese side. That being said, Tel Aviv estimates that the growing demand for natural gas in Europe as a result of the war in Ukraine on the one hand, Lebanon's dire economic crisis on the other, could push Beirut into resuming talks to resolve the dispute.

As a reminder, Israel marks its maritime border with Lebanon with a line stretching out of the last coast land border point at a simple 90-degree angle. Lebanon prefers to map the border as a direct continuation of the land border. The disputed area constitutes a triangular-shaped region of about 850 square kilometers (328 square miles).

Unprecedented negotiations between the two sides began in October 2020.

The October 2020 talks got off to a bumpy start. Then, at the start of 2021, U.S. President Joe Biden's adviser, Amos Hochstein, was appointed to mediate talks. Hochstein had served as a consultant to American energy companies before being appointed to his position in the Biden administration. He offered the two parties a creative solution, and met with Lebanese President Michel Aoun and Prime Minister Najib Mikati several times to discuss it.

We have full confidence in the government of Israel and trust that it will defend its strategic assets and national security. Anyone who invests here is fully aware that their investment will be protected by the Israeli government. I myself will fly out to the Karish platform and spend the night there. I feel very safe about it," he said.

For Energean and for Israel, stakes are huge. On May 9, Energean revealed that it made another gas discovery in Israeli waters, within the Athena exploration well, which is the fifth successful exploration of Energean some 20 kilometers (12 miles) from Karish. Israel's natural gas revenues hit a record of \$380 million in 2021.

Hochstein will be arriving in Beirut this week for talks with Aoun and Mikati about ways to resolve the dispute. According to American and Israeli sources involved in the matter, Hochstein made his arrival incumbent on Lebanon retreating from what he called most extreme position it adopted in its negotiations with Israel (known as Line 29).

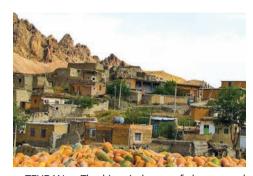
Discussions will center on the original line that Lebanon originally submitted to the UN, known as Line 23, and the line that Israel submitted, known as Line 1. "Without this commitment from Lebanon, Hochstein would not be arriving in Beirut," an Israeli diplomatic source told Al-Monitor on condition of anonymity.

Israel claims it is willing and ready to reach a solution, including even what it claims fair division of gas reservoirs lying on the border with Lebanon. The general assumption in Israel is that Aoun and Mikati's readiness to advance a solution could result in a renewal of negotiations, particularly if Hochstein offers a proposal that is especially appealing.

# **TOURISM**

JUNE 16, 2022
Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

# Stepped village in Zanjan being restored



TEHRAN – The historical core of the stepped village of Golabar in northwestern Zanjan province has undergone some rehabilitation works, the provincial tourism chief has said.

The project involves flooring and repairing the damaged parts, which is being carried out with indigenous and local materials, Amir Arjmand explained on Wednesday.

A budget of one billion rials (\$3,400) has been allocated to the project, the official added.

The project aims at preparing the village as a tourist destination, he noted.

Such projects could eventually lead to reverse rural-urban migration, he mentioned.

Zanjan is one of the cities founded by Sassanid King Ardashir I (180-242 CE). The province makes a base for wider explorations with the architectural wonder of Soltaniyeh, the subterranean delights of the Katale-Khor caves, colorful mountains, and the UNESCO-registered Takht-e Soleiman ruins are nearby.

Iran, home to several stepped villages

Iran is home to several magnificent stepped

villages, of which the most popular ones are Masouleh, Uraman, and Kang, which could be included on the World Heritage list.

Roughly a millennium old, Masouleh is one of the most famous villages in Iran, and hence one of its most touristic ones.

Also known as the historical city of Masouleh, it features the earth-colored houses that are stacked photogenically on top of one another like giant Lego blocks, clinging to a mountainside so steep that the roof of one house forms the pathway for the next.

The existence of numerous graveyards inner and outside of the city proves its old texture. The storied and terracing plan of the city is parallel to the mountain slope.

Kang in the northeastern province of Khorasan Razavi, which has been recently inscribed on the national heritage list, with an antiquity of more than 3,000 years, is situated at a distance of some 30 km from Mashhad, the provincial capital.

The village, located on the highlands of Mount Binalud, is also adjacent to Nishabur, known for its turquoise handicrafts and mines.

Uramanat in the west of the country is also another stepped village, which is considered a cradle of Kurdish art and culture from the days of yore.

Stretched on a steep slope in Uraman Takht rural district of Sarvabad County, the village is home to dense and step-like rows of houses in a way that the roof of each house forms the yard of the upper one, a feature that adds to its charm and attractiveness.

In 2021, UNESCO added the Uramanat cultural landscape to its list of world heritage sites.

# TEHRAN -A team of Iranian archaeologists has commenced a survey on the east of the Iranian plateau to find proof of Pleistocene humans, ILNA reported on Wednesday. A survey and identification of Paleolithic sites along the Shotoran-Paleolithic sites along the Shotoran-Paleolithic stress along the

A survey and identification of Paleolithic sites along the Shotoran-Paskuh corridor are currently being undertaken for long-term planning and purposeful studies in the field of tracing human populations of the Pleistocene era in the east of the Iranian plateau, said Ali Sadrai, who presides over the project.

In Paleolithic studies, the east of the Iranian plateau, with its ecological and geological potential, has long been considered a pioneering area by numerous researchers and archaeologists, he added.

However, these studies have gone forgotten over the past few decades, and only in recent years have case studies been conducted in this area that hasn't been as thorough or as helpful as they should have been, he explained.

Recent studies uncovered a significant number of Paleolithic sites, confirming the high potential of this region for Paleolithic research, he noted.

In an article published in the International Research Journal of Modernization in Engineering Technology and Science (IRJMETS) in April 2021, Iranian researchers concluded that the Iranian plateau served as a human migratory pathway in the Pleistocene.

The study reinforces a hypothesis that the Iranian plateau was like a bridge between East and West during the Pleistocene epoch, which began about 2.6 million years ago and lasted until about 11,700 years ago.

"Increasing Paleolithic finds in this region and neighboring countries (Pakistan and Afghanistan) reinforces the hypothesis that the Iranian Plateau has been used as a human migratory pathway in the Pleistocene linking East and West."

"The results of the archaeological

height hills of Quaternary river terraces or flat alluvial deposits.

The survey zone also included part of the volcanic band of south-eastern Iran which is contained mainly of igneous rock formations. Therefore, according to the authors, as the results of the geology of the region, except for a few examples, various types of igneous rocks have been used for the production of chipped stone artifacts.

The researchers found that the abundance and relatively large size of the available raw material blocks in the region demonstrate easy access to primary and secondary sources of raw material.

Among collected stone artifacts, core-tool/core-chopper and Levallois core and flakes are the most frequent types. A large unifacial point and heavily retouched flake are between the collected pieces.

All of the stone artifacts that the researchers studied were covered with a natural post-depositional surface alteration called gloss patina, which caused smoothness, pronounced luster, and, reduction of surface topography of stone artifacts.

This type of patination is considered to be typical of desert areas. However, striking platforms, core removals, bulbs of percussion, and, flake negative removals are obviously visible on many stone artifacts.

"Overall, based on preliminary techno-typological observations of the stone artifacts, direct percussion using Levallois technique mainly applied for making cores and stone tools. Therefore, it is possible to propose both Lower and especially Middle Paleolithic dates at least for five localities. However, these are the first Lower and Middle Paleolithic finds reported from the systematic survey of southern margins of Lut Desert and make this area an important and very promising area for further Paleolithic investigations," the study revealed.

"Our knowledge about the Paleolithic of Iran is still little," the authors say although, Iran in general and south-eastern Iran, in particular, has been considered as one of the major hominin dispersal corridors during the Pleistocene connecting East and West.

Since the early 20th century, the Iranian plateau has undergone several Paleolithic-based research. The German geologist Reinhold von Huckriede discovered a late Mesolithic site near Kuhbanan in Kerman in the framework of his geological investigations.

In 1964, Gary W. Hume at the request of Joseph R. Caldwell, director of the Kerman project explored the potential for Paleolithic sites in Bardsir valley near Kerman. Moreover, a later archaeological investigation in the Bam-Narmashir region of Kerman province revealed several archaeological sites dating from the Neolithic period to the Iron Age.

# Finland's ambassador visits Ferdowsi Mausoleum, praises Persian poet

TEHRAN – Ambassador of the Republic of Finland to Tehran Kari Kahiluoto visited Ferdowsi Mausoleum in the city of Tus, northeastern Khorasan Razavi province, on Wednesday, CHTN reported.

"Ferdowsi is a unique poet in creating epics," the ambassador said.

Ferdowsi is a world-renowned poet whose mythical poems are translated into various languages, he added.

"I plan to travel to different provinces of the country, and in my trip to Khorasan Razavi, I want to interact with the industrial sector and address the situation of Afghan immigrants in Iran," the news agency quoted the envoy as saying.

The garden-mausoleum of illustrious Persian poet Ferdowsi is located in Tus, near the provincial capital of Mashhad, which is one of the top tourist attractions of the country. Tus has been



the birthplace of some important cultural and scientific Iranian figures in the past centuries.

Many Iranians regard Ferdowsi as the greatest of their poets. Down through the centuries they have continued to read and listen to recitations from his masterwork, the Shahnameh.

Tus and its historical gates, citadel, and ramparts were registered on the National Heritage list in

# Rosewater festival to be held in Kerman

on Iranian plateau

presented

emphasized the great potential and

the importance of south-eastern

Iran in general and southern margins

of Lut Desert in particular, for the

understanding of the Pleistocene

culture history of this region," stated

During the summer of 2020, and in

the framework of a Paleolithic survey

in the southern margins of the Lut

Desert, one of the authors collected a

series of surface stone artifacts and

as a result of this, 12 new Paleolithic

The surveyed area with a semi-

arid to the arid climate has a mean

elevation of 700 meters above sea

level and is limited to the northwest,

south, west, and east by volcanic

mountains. Alluvial sedimentary

deposits of Quaternary origin have

covered the region between these

mountains. All of the recorded sites

are located either along the low-

the authors of the research.

localities were identified.

TEHRAN –A rosewater distillation festival, commonly known as "Golab-giri", is planned to be held in the city of Lalezar, the southern province of Kerman, on Friday, the provincial tourism chief has said.

Performing traditional music, playing local games, and displaying and selling handicrafts will be parts of the festival, CHTN quoted Fereydun Faali as saying on Wednesday.

Organizing this festival will create a suitable cultural environment as well as economic benefits for the region, the official added.

He also noted that the eco-lodge units of the area are ready to host tourists and the festival's visitors.

Golab or rosewater is obtained from a particular kind of Rose, known as Mohammadi roses in Iran. Harvesting flowers seems to be the most important part of the process. They should be picked from dawn through morning very carefully. The petals are put into massive copper pots and boiled, and then the extracted water is kept in special bottles. The longest the distillation is, the better will be the quality of the rosewater.

Golab is used nationwide in diverse traditional dishes to flavor them or consumed as a religious perfume as well. The holy month of Ramadan is one of the bestselling months for the product.

The distillation of flowers and herbs has a deep history in Iran. Many believe traditionally distilled rosewater is of higher quality than that produced in factories probably due to shorter time intervals between the harvest and distillation practices.

Harvesting damask rose flowers is somewhat intensive work. It is mostly performed from dawn through the morning. Delay in harvesting or transport to distillery results in decreased essential oil quantity and quality.

To extract the rosewater people first amass their petals to put them into the massive copper pots. Then the pots are put on traditional ovens made from bricks, stones, and mud.

Almost every 30 Kg of rose petals plus 80 liters of water is poured into each pot that is connected to metal pipes for the steam moving through to obtain the hydrosol. The waste of distillation is used for feeding livestock or composting.

Handicraft course to help create jobs for inmates



The big and sprawling Kerman province has been a cultural melting pot since antiquity, blending Persians with subcontinental tribe dwellers. It is home to myriad historical sites and scenic landscapes such as Bazaar-e Sartasari, Jabalieh Dome, Ganjali Khan Bathhouse, Malek Jameh Mosque, and Shahdad Desert to name a few.

Kerman province is bounded by the provinces of Fars on the west, Yazd on the north, South Khorasan on the northeast, Sistan-Baluchestan on the east, and Hormozgan on the south. It includes the southern part of the central Iranian desert, the Dasht-e Lut.

# Quake inflicts no harm to historical sites in Hormozgan



TEHRAN – A magnitude 5.3 earthquake rattled parts of the city of Bandar Charak, Hormozgan province, on Wednesday, but fortunately caused no damage to historical sites across the southern

Based on field visits by experts of the province's Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Department, no damage to historical relics and monuments has been reported so far, the provincial tourism chief has said.

However, experts are on standby to inspect the possible harm to historical sites and aging structures of the province due to several aftershocks, Sohrab Banavand explained.

Bordering the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman on the south and bounded by Bushehr and Fars provinces on the west and northwest, Kerman on the east and northeast, and Sistan-Baluchestan on the southeast, Hormozgan is widely renowned for having incredible culture and heritage, stunning

sceneries, and above all its warm and hospitable people.

It embraces arrays of islands among which Kish, Hormuz, Hengam, and Qeshm are the most popular ones and top tourist destinations in the southernmost parts of the country.

Over the past couple of decades, the coral Kish Island has become a beach resort where visitors can swim, shop, and sample a laid-back and relatively liberated local lifestyle. It is home to free-trade-zone status, with ever-growing hotels, shopping centers, apartment blocks, and retail complexes

Hormuz, which is mostly barren and hilly, is situated some eight kilometers off the coast of the Strait of Hormuz, which attracts many tourists by its colorful mountains, silver sand shores, and great local people.

Hengam Island has scenery rocky shores, serene sunset, and kind natives, which can attract travelers who enjoy a relaxing trip by spending time on this tranquil island.

Qeshm Island is a heaven for eco-tourists as it embraces wide-ranging attractions such as the Hara marine forests and about 60 villages dotted mostly across its rocky coastlines. The island also features geologically eye-catching canyons, hills, caves, and valleys, most of which are protected as part of the UNESCO-tagged Qeshm Island Geopark, itself a haven for nature-lovers.

TEHRAN – A training course in the field of toreutics is currently being held in a prison in the city of Abhar, Zanjan province, Abhar's tourism chief has said.

The course aims at providing job of income mentioned.

The course aims at providing job opportunities for the prisoners after their release as well as motivating them and promoting handicraft fields as sources of income, Davud Abian explained on Wednesday.

Prisoners should not fall behind in their skills development during their prison sentences, as this is one of the ways in which they can be empowered, the official added.

Last August, Zanjan's deputy provincial tourism chief Elnaz Khodaifard announced that prisons across the northwestern province have offered handicraft training courses in a bid to empower the inmates.

The courses consisted of practical workshops in the fields of leatherwork, traditional jewelry, as well as cutting precious and semi-precious stones, she explained.

The courses, which have been held by the experienced handicrafts masters, are also intended to generate employment for inmates in the post-prison period and become a source of income for them, the official mentioned.

Tourism ministry helps empower inmates

In October 2020, the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts signed a memorandum of understanding with the Prisons, Security, and Corrective Measures

Organization to create jobs and make income for prisoners.

The MOU also aimed at implementing special educational and promotional programs, identifying talented prisoners, and improving their social status.

The former deputy tourism minister Pouya Mahmoudian said that handicraft products made by prisoners have been

displayed in various exhibitions, and the income generated from selling these products has been returned to the prisoners and their families.

With 14 entries, Iran ranks first globally for the number of cities and villages registered by the World Crafts Council, as China with seven entries, Chile with four, and India with three ones come next. For instance, Shiraz is named a "world city of [diverse] handicrafts", Malayer is a global hub for woodcarving and carved-wood furniture, while Zanjan has gained the

title of a "world city of filigree".

In addition, the ancient city of Shiraz has been chosen to host the 39th General Assembly of the World Crafts Council-Asia Pacific Region (WCC-APR) in May 2023. Shiraz has a remarkable amount of handicraft pioneers. With an average age of 70, some of these pioneers are still active at their workshops. The occupational records of about 100 pioneers are collected and are annually praised by the custodians of the WCC General Office.

It is publicly notified that Shirin Darou Co. (Public Joint Stock Co) intends to sell two types of its products, including licorice extract powder and licorice extract block through international auctions. Therefore, the applicants are hereby invited to refer to the seller's website at the following address at most within 15 days from the date of publication on the advertisement in order to receive the auction documents and also, to obtain further information contact telephone Nos.

 $(+98)71\text{-}37441151\ (+98)71\text{-}37442301\text{-}5\ (Ext.\ 423)$ 

(+98)9024284832 www.shirindarou.com

# Iran, France confer on environment, SDSs

TEHRAN - Iranian Department of Environment Chief Ali Salajegheh in a meeting with French Ambassador to Tehran Philippe Thiebaud emphasized the need for international cooperation on sand and dust storms (SDSs) control.

The two officials stressed the need to pay attention to the environment in the global context, noting that the issue of the environment is a global issue, which should be prioritized for all countries.

The issue of the environment in our country is subject to oppressive sanctions imposed by the U.S., and we call on the French government, as the current chair of the European Union, to cooperate in establishing interaction between other countries and Iran on the environmental issues, Salajegheh stated.

He called for the lifting of sanctions and the creation of the necessary conditions for receiving international financial assistance for the implementation of environmental projects in Iran.

He also cited another effect of the brutal sanctions on the Iranian nation as preventing the transfer of environmental equipment and technologies, such as pollution monitoring stations.

Dust storms and the impact of this environmental problem on the European Union have doubled the need for international and regional cooperation, and all countries must play a constructive role in this regard.

Fortunately, Iran has a wide variety of climatic conditions and biodi-



versity, and this capacity can play a valuable role in the exchange of information and students.

Thiebaud also for his part said that the cooperation between Iran and France has a long history, expressing hope for the development of bilateral cooperation on various issues, including in the field of environment.

Emphasizing the need for global convergence and action to implement climate change programs, he said that we hope by reducing and lifting sanctions, Iran can join the Paris Agreement.

### **Dealing with SDS**

Holding joint

scientific

conferences can

pave the way

for developing

bilateral

relations.

The SDSs phenomenon has been plaguing the country for several years and has caused problems in many provinces. According to experts, natural and human factors are involved in the occurrence and severity of this phenomenon which is mainly caused by excessive consumption of water and drying up

Tehran will host an international meeting on controlling sand and dust storms (SDSs) in July, with the presence of the ministers of 12 countries that give rise to the highest amount of dust, IRNA reported.

It is therefore planned to implement a regional action plan for the Persian Gulf, especially for the countries with the highest dust emissions, Ali Mohammad Tahmasebi, head of the national working group for SDS mitigation,

"There are numerous bilateral and multilateral agreements with

neighboring countries, including Iraq, Syria, and Turkey, but no operational action has been taken, so the agreement alone is not enough and this issue should be resolved with the help of international insti-

Tehran will host an international meeting on controlling sand and dust storms in July. with the presence of the ministers of 12 countries.

Straight Truth TEHRAN TIMES

# Iranian university tops world's list for good health and well-being

Iran University

of Medical

Sciences

also won the

seventh rank

in the field

of Quality

Education.

From page 1 > or Fudan University in China heading up the table of universities' contribution to delivering affordable, clean energy (SDG 7).

Among more than 1,400 universities from 106 countries, 17 different universities from 14 countries top one of the 17 individual rankings for each SDG - a diverse global community ready to hold itself accountable for the delivery of the global goals, sharing data, and benchmarking progress.

During the last four years, Iran University of Medical Sciences has been the first and top university in West Asia (the Middle East) in this ranking.

In the Times Impact Rankings 2022, Iran University of Medical Sciences, in addition to gaining the top rank in the Health and Wellbeing Index, won the seventh rank in the field of Quality Education.

### Academic quality

Most recently, fifty-eight universities from Iran were listed among the top universities in Asia, according to the 2022 Asia University Rankings of the Times Higher

The 2022 edition of the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings, based on universities' contributions to delivering the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), listed 27 Iranian universities.

The Webometrics Ranking of World Universities 2022 has ranked 694 Iranian institutions among 30,000 top universities across the world.

Also, 59 Iranian universities have been listed among the top 3,000 institutions in the world in terms of academic quality, according to the 2021-2022 report released by University Ranking by Academic Performance (URAP).

The Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) Graduate Employability Rankings 2022 list has been released,

which included three Iranian universities out of a total of 550 institutes worldwide that highlighted graduate employment processes.

Meanwhile, 41 Iranian universities in engineering sciences and 12 universities in computer sciences have made a place among the top 1,188 universities in the world with the announcement of Higher Education World University Rankings 2022 by subject.

It also has introduced 59 Ira-

nian universities among the top institutions in World University Rankings 2022.

The THE Education Young University Rankings 2021 listed 26 Iranian institutions among the world's best universities that are 50 years old or younger.

Moreover, 34 Iranian universities and institutions were listed among the top 1,000 in the world, according to Shanghai Ranking's Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) 2021.

# Tehran, Ashgabat discuss enhanced co-op on health, labor

TEHRAN - Iranian Health Minister Bahram Einollahi and Labor Ministry Caretaker Mohammad Hadi Zahedi met separately with Turkmen Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers Sapardurdy Toylyev, discussing ways to expand cooperation in the fields of health and labor.

Toylyev visited the two officials in Tehran on Tuesday.

In a meeting with Einollahi, Toylyev expressed readiness to cooperate with Iran, especially in the field of health; Because there are great scientists in Iran and the people of Turkmenistan come to Iran to receive medical services.

Referring to the formation of a joint working group to promote health cooperation between the two countries, he stated that the

can be expanded, he added.

a good position.

Over the past month, three pharmaceutical factories have been opened in Turkmenistan, and medical cooperation between the two countries

Holding joint scientific conferences in the two countries can pave the way for the progress of Iran and Turkmenistan in the field of health, he highlighted.

Toylyev also in a meeting with Zahedi inked a

memorandum of understanding (MOU) to cooperate in the fields of social welfare and business development.

Under the MOU, joint entrepreneurship and employment development packages will be developed between the two countries.

> Zahedi also announced Iran's readiness to share its valuable experience in the fields of welfare, technical and vocational training, and social security, with Turkmenistan.

It was also decided to hold joint seminars between the two sides to explain the capacities of the two neighboring countries.

# Health, social welfare

The issue of health has always been one of the main inpharmaceutical industry of the two countries is in dicators of social welfare and attention to the health of the workforce has been on the agenda

> The Iranian labor law also emphasizes the importance of observing safety and health at work: According to a note in Article 96 of the Labor Law, the Ministry of Health is responsible for planning, controlling, evaluating, and inspecting occupational health and is obliged to take the necessary

With the cooperation of employers, 110 occu-

measures in this regard.



pational health houses have been set up and are providing health services to 500,000 workers.

There are currently 3,777 occupational health centers across the country, covering one million workers in the field of physical and mental health.

Based on innovative indicators of health technology development in 2021, Iran was ranked 60th among 132 countries, which shows an improvement of 60 steps compared to 2014, the deputy health minister for research and technology, has announced.

A total of 1,670 knowledge-based firms are operating in the health sector, ISNA quoted Younes Panahi as saying.

He added that there are 13 science and technology parks and 95 technology growth centers in the field of health, while 343 technological products have so far been licensed, and 335 inventions in medical sciences have been patented.

# **Birds In Iran**

Finally, there are nine species of sea-bird and shorebird of the Indian Ocean, which breed on islands in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz.

Eight major habitat types may be identified, each with its own characteristic bird fauna:

## True desert and semidesert

The desert environment occurs throughout the central desert basin from the region of Tehran through the great Dasht-e Kavir and Dasht-e Lut deserts to the Jazmurian basin in central Baluchestan and locally along the southern coastal lowlands from northwestern Khuzestan to Baluchestan.

Rather few species occur in true desert, and densities are very low, but most of those species which have become adapted to this hostile environment have large ranges both in Iran and in the southern Palearctic as a whole.

Examples include: Houbara bustard Chlamydotis undulata, cream-colored courser Cursorius cursor, spotted and coronated sandgrouse Pterocles senegallus and P. coronatus, desert and bartailed desert lark Ammomanes deserti and A. cincturus, hoopoe lark Alaemon alaudipes, desert warbler Sylvia nana, desert wheatear Oenanthe deserti, hooded wheatear O. monacha, and trumpeter finch Rhodopechys githaginea.

Although Iran possesses no true endemic species, one species, Pleske's ground jay Podoces pleskei, which occurs widely in the deserts of central and eastern Iran, is almost confined to the country, and is known elsewhere only from extreme western Pakistan.

## Semiarid steppe of the desert rim and foothills

Much of Iran's land surface, lying between 1,500 and 2,000 m in elevation and with an annual rainfall of between 100 and 300 mm, supports a steppe vegetation dominated by the low shrub Artemisia herba-alba.

Large tracts have been modified by man, either through the grazing of domestic animals or irrigation and cultivation, particularly for cereals. The resulting patchwork is now the home of many of Iran's commonest and most widespread birds.

Characteristic species include: long-legged buzzard Buteo rufinus, Eurasian kestrel Falco tinnunculus, black-bellied sandgrouse Pterocles orientalis, roller Coracias garrulus, bee-eater Merops apiaster, several species of lark alaudidae, including the ubiquitous crested lark Galerida cristala, isabelline wheatear Oenanthe isabellina, and black-headed bunting.

> Source: Encyclopedia Iranica To be continued

# **ENGLISH IN USE**

## LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

# \$4m budget allocated to promote non-motorized transport

A total budget of 170 billion rials (around \$4 million) has been allocated to promote bike lanes across the capital city of Tehran, encouraging the residents to ride bicycles, Sakineh Ashrafi, deputy mayor of Tehran for planning, urban development and council affairs has said.

One of the main issues taken into consideration through the next year's budget bill, was development of non-motorized transportation, which focuses on active transportation and human powered transportation including walking and bicycling, she explained.

According to Tehran third development plan, biking as a green transport has been taken into consideration in order to mitigate traffic congestion and air pollution, she further noted, ISNA reported on Sunday.

# تصویباعتبار ۱۷میلیاردی برای توسعه دوچرخهسواری همگانی در پایتخت

سکینه اشرفی معاون برنامهریزی، توسعه شهری و امور شورای شهردار تهران از تصویب حدود ۱۷۰ میلیارد ریال اعتبار برای توسعه دوچرخهسواری همگانی در پایتخت خبر داد. وى اظهار كرد: يكى از موضوعاتي كه در بودجه سنواتي سال آینده شهرداری تهران به آن توجه شده، موضوع توسعه حمل و نقل عمومی غیرموتوری از جمله دوچرخهسواری

به گزارش روز یکشنبه برگزاری ایسنا وی ادامه داد: در برنامه سوم توسعه شهر تهران ، موضوع توجه به دوچرخهسواری به عنوان یک حمل و نقل پاک برای کاهش ترافیک و آلودگی هوا مورد توجه و تاکید قرار گرفته است.

# COVID-19 UPDATES ON JUNE 15

New cases	179
New deaths	4
Total cases	7,034,221
Total deaths	141,357
New hospitalized patients	44
Patients in critical condition	332
Total recovered patients	7,059,738
Diagnostic tests conducted	52,473,502
Doses of vaccine injected	150,173,217

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**JUNE 16, 2022** 

### GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

He who is deserted by friends and relatives will often find help and sympathy from strangers.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:13:04

Evening: 20:42

Dawn: 4:02 (tomorrow)

Sunrise: 5:48 (tomorrow

# Persian art: Drawing

Dart 1

Paintings and drawings for albums (moraqqas) began to overshadow manuscript illustrations in importance as sources of patronage spread outward from court circles; more affordable drawings were increasingly in demand among discerning but less affluent collectors.

Patrons sought the drawings of individual artists, who became increasingly aware of their own worth and began to sign their works more frequently.

A number of talented artists, most notably Shaikh Mohammad, Mohammadi, and Sadeqi Beg, became fascinated by the innovative possibilities of line drawings. Unlike their manuscript illustrations, their drawings tend to be of single or paired figures and occasional scenes unrelated to any narrative.

Stimulated by one another's work, they developed a fluid, calligraphic style at the court of Qazvin before migrating to Khorasan in search of princely patronage there.

Shaikh Mohammad, for example, was also a calligrapher who exploited the calligraphic line in his drawings. After leaving Shah Tahmasb's atelier he accompanied Ebrahim Mirza to Mashhad, remaining in his employ from about 1556 to about 1576, then serving at the court at Qazvin until the accession of Shah Abbas I (1588–1629).

As Welch noted, "Shaykh-Muhammad's spirited drawings were eagerly sought after... It could be argued that he was responsible for the surge of interest in drawing for its own sake..."

Mohammadi is admired today principally for his delicately rendered pastoral drawings heightened with colored washes and for graceful figures derived from those of his predecessors in Tahmasb's atelier.

Sadeqi Beg worked at the court of Esmail II (1576-78), moved on to Khorasan, then served as head of the royal library of Shah Abbas for approximately ten years. He was an exponent of the calligraphic line, which swells, diminishes, disappears, re-emerges, yet defines form, face, and drapery.

The "Qazvin style" influenced the greatest artist of the late 16th and early 17th centuries, Reza Abbasi (d. 1635), also known as Aqa Reza, son of the painter Ali-Asghar and universally recognized not only as the greatest artist of the reign of Shah Abbas I but also as one of the most talented in the history of Persian painting and drawing.

Even as a young man his influence on his contemporaries was profound, and his style and subject matter dominated the 17th century.

His drawings reveal not only his mastery of fluid line contrasted with sputtering strokes but also nuances of form, drapery folds, and textures, as well as psychological depth. Among his preferred subjects were studies of single figures, especially graceful youths and contemplative older men, often darvishes.

He also drew closely observed genre scenes. That Reza drew from life is known from his sketch of a bald man holding his turban and scratching his head; according to the inscription, it was drawn in Mashhad on Friday, 10 Muharram 1007/13 August 1598 in the house of Mirza Khajegi, from which it can be deduced that the figure was a pilgrim to the holy city, that the evening was uncomfortably warm, and that Reza's host on this anniversary of Shia martyrdom was a pious man.

Reza copied works of Behzad and was familiar with those of Mohammadi and Shaikh Mohammad. Sadeqi Beg in turn imitated Reza's calligraphic line.

What may be a self-portrait of Reza's son Mohammad-Shafi' Abbasi is mounted next to a portrait of his father in the so-called "Reza Abbasi album" in the Freer Gallery; it shows a sharp-featured youth absorbed in a flower drawing.

A remarkable early drawing (dated 1627-28) of Yusof at the court of Zolaykha, filled with figures, architecture, and landscape elements, appears to have been a cartoon for a mural like those in the Chehel Sotun in Isfahan; if so, it is the only one

surviving from the Safavid period.

Although Shafi' Abbasi could produce fine drawings in the accepted 17th-century mode, he is particularly noted for bird and flower paintings and drawings, a departure from the usual subjects of the time.

The vogue that he introduced lasted into the 20th century. The largest extant collection of his works, in the so-called "Cobb album" in the British Museum includes drawings dated from 1640 until his death in 1672.

The European source for at least one of them was verified by Basil Gray, who concluded that the floral drawings were designs for textile patterns (1959). No doubt designs of this sort were transferred to other media, but many of the pieces from this album are finished drawings inscribed by the artist, in the manner of Reza, a practice unlikely in pattern books.

The drawings of three of the most prominent artists working in the mid-17th century "style of Isfahan," where the Safavid capital had been moved, grew directly out of the work of Reza.

Mohammad-Qasem, Mohammad-Yusof, and Mohammad-Ali evolved a style that, despite individual differences, was fluently linear, though somewhat mannered, with repetitive patterns of lines creating both decorative and dynamic effects. The same single figure types, particularly of contemplative older men and idealized androgynous young men and women, are generally shown at ease in landscapes with touches of washed color and occasional brighter accents.

Mohammad-Qasem was the most innovative of the three, but all were highly accomplished. By far the most gifted of Reza's students was Mo'in Mosawwer, whose career lasted from the 1630s to the end of the century.

He was extraordinarily prolific, producing manuscript and detached illustrations and drawings of single figures or small groups. His famous painted portrait of Reza, begun, according to the inscription, in 1635, shortly before the master's death, and completed forty years later, confirms his sure and sensitive draftsmanship.

Mo'in adopted Reza's habit of jotting notations on his drawings, some of which reveal that the sketches were spontaneous, if not drawn from life.

A drawing of the unusual subject of a youth carrying a rooster attests his powers of observation; according to the inscription, it was drawn in haste for his son Aqa Zaman on 15 Dul-Hejja 1066/4 October 1656. The most detailed notation by the artist appears on a drawing made at the end of February 1672 in his own home, in order to distract himself from the extreme rigors of winter.

At the palace gates a lion, a royal gift to Shah Solayman (1666-94), had suddenly attacked and killed a youth, tearing away half his face. Mo'in was probably not present at this event, but his drawing has the drama of an eyewitness rendition, except that the lion has been adorned with tiger stripes. Mo'in was active until about 1697 and appears to have had many pupils.

The 18th century was a turbulent period in Persian history, and the production, or at least survival, of works of art on paper diminished dramatically.

Artists seem to have turned away from manuscripts and album pages to produce lacquer paintings on penboxes and other luxury objects. Nevertheless, surviving works by Mohammad-Baqer and others demonstrate that there was still a market for drawings and artists who were fine draftsmen.

Mohammad-Baqer carried on the tradition of Shafi' Abbasi in painting and drawing flowers, birds, and insects. During the 19th century Qajar patrons preferred oil painting and portraiture, but artists of the 19th and 20th centuries continued to draw subjects evolved in the 15-17th centuries.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica Concluded

# La Gacilly Photo Festival showcases works by Iranian photographers

Frome Page 1 • "My photography is influenced by all of these art forms in different ways: calligraphy taught me discipline and self-dedication, painting taught me freedom of expression, and literature taught me how to develop ideas and articulate them."

Women take center stage in her works, which explore her world, namely present-day Iran, in which the place of women is inevitably complex.

Works from different series by Dashti are on display in a collection named "Fragments of

Born in Iran near the border with Iraq, 42-year-old Dashti represents elements of the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war in her works.

"This conflict had a strong symbolic influence on the emotional life of my generation," she said.

In her series "Today's Life and War", Dashti captures moments illustrating a duality: that of life going on despite the ravages of war.

"In a fictional battlefield, I show a couple in their daily lives: they represent the power of perseverance, determination and survival," she noted.

Noruzi's photos are on view



A photo from Iranian photographer Ebrahim Noruzi's series "Deceptive Daydreams" on view at the La Gacilly Photo Festival, France.

under the title of "Deceptive Daydreams".

Winner of several World Press Photo Awards, Noruzi is an established journalist and a staunch defender of the environment.

Two series by Noruzi are on view at La Gacilly, demonstrating a photographic style that could be described as a reverie on the ravages of global warming.

The first takes us to Lake Tehran because of the soaring Urmia, one of the largest salt price of land and increasingly

lakes in the world, which is in danger of disappearing in the near future.

The second series looks at the relationship between people and water resources in his country.

Shakeri is exhibiting his photos in a collection named "Sandy Landscapes". Most of the pictures are from one of his series, which features the new satellite cities emerging from the desert to house Iranians forced to leave Tehran because of the soaring price of land and increasingly.

difficult living conditions.

Created in 2004, the La Gacilly Photo Festival offers its annual visitors an immersive and strolling experience in the heart of some thirty open-air galleries and in large format, presenting the best of contemporary photo creation in a permanent concern for high artistic standards.

The canvases, sometimes around 70 square meters, adorn the streets, gardens and alleys of La Gacilly, transforming it into a "Village in Images".

# IRIB to air sequel to Farhadi's TV series "A Tale of a City"



Ali Dehkordi (1st R), Danial Ebadi (2nd R) and an unidentified actress in a scene from "A Tale of a City 3".

TEHRAN – Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) has made a sequel to the popular TV series "A Tale of a City", whose first and second instalments were directed by Asghar Farhadi over twenty years ago.

Written by Payman Abbasi and directed by

Mohammadreza Ahanj, the new series will begin airing on IRIB Channel 5 in July, producer Farshid Mahmudi told the Persian service of IRAN on Wednesday.

Farhadi wrote and directed the series in 61 episodes based on "Dar Shahr", which literally means "In the City", a TV program that covered events and social and public disorders in and around the capital city of Tehran.

In its episodes, the series focused on topics such as poverty, migration and drug addiction to raise people's awareness of these issues and to alert public officials about the problems.

"In the new season, stories on fire, robbery and cyberspace issues have been dealt with," said Mahmudi, who was working for "Dar Shahr" when Farhadi directed the first season of the series during the late 1990s and early 2000s.

Mahmudi, who is also the producer of brought him his second Oscar in 2016.

"Dar Shahr" at present, said that despite the fact that the IRIB holds the copyright on the TV series, he has sent a letter to Farhadi via a mutual friend to obtain his approval and possible comments.

"Farhadi, in response, wished the series good luck," Mahmudi noted, and added that the new season has thanked the previous seasons' cast and crew in its credits.

Danial Ebadi, Helia Emami and Amin Imani

portray reporters in the news series also staring Ali Dehkordi, Iraj Nozari and Sorush Jamshidi.

Farhadi split from the IRIB in 2002 after writing "The Notes of Childhood", a TV series directed by his wife Parisa Bakhtavar.

He made his debut feature "Beautiful City" in 2003 and his 2011 break-up drama "A Separation" won him an Oscar. "The Salesman" brought him his second Oscar in 2016.

# David Harvey's "Anti-Capitalist Chronicles" published in Persian

TEHRAN – "The Anti-Capitalist Chronicles" by British scholar David Harvey has been published in Persian.

Afkar is the publisher of the book rendered into Persian by Hossein Rahmati and Maryam Vahdati.

Amidst waves of economic crises, health crises, class struggle and neo-fascist reaction, few possess the clarity and foresight of world-renowned theorist, David Harvey.

Since the publication of his bestselling "A Brief History of Neoliberalism", Harvey has been tracking the evolution of the capitalist system as well as tides of



Front cover of the Persian edition of David Harvey's book "The Anti-Capitalist Chronicles".

radical opposition rising against it.

In "The Anti-Capitalist Chronicles", Harvey introduces new ways of understanding the crisis of global capitalism and the struggles for a better world.

While accounting for violence and disaster, Harvey also chronicles hope and possibility.

By way of conversations about neoliberalism, capitalism, globalization, the environment, technology, social movements and crises like COVID-19, he outlines, with characteristic brilliance, how socialist alternatives are being imagined under very difficult

circumstances.

In understanding the economic, political and social dimensions of the crisis, Harvey's analysis in "The Anti-Capitalist Chronicles" will be of strategic importance to anyone wanting to both understand and change the world.

Harvey is a Marxist economic geographer, podcaster and a Distinguished Professor of Anthropology and Geography at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York.

He received his Ph.D. in geography from the University of Cambridge in 1961.

# In "Shina's Daughter," the war is seen from a different perspective

### An interview with Behnaz Zarabizade

"Shina's Daughter" was one of those books that quickly became famous, and the warmth of the dialogues within the book, as well as the author's honesty, Behnaz Zarabizade, can be credited with its success

# \* How did you come across the story of Shina's daughter?

I needed a solid topic, so I searched through the files and came across the details of the martyr's family, which sparked my curiosity, and after reviewing it, I came to the conclusion that these memories are so deep that they should be turned into a novel. Another consideration for me was that I wanted to write about women's support behind the line, and I felt compelled to describe how families lived throughout the war, what issues they faced, and what kinds of activities women participated in.

\*When exactly did you start writing this book? In May 2009, I began writing the book, which lasted until September of that year, and editing began in October of that year. However, a series of events conspired to cause the book's completion to be postponed. Mrs. Mohammadi and I had not spoken for several months until I heard that she had been hospitalized in a coma and had died. Her death had a negative impact on me because she never got to read the book.

# \* What do you think the current challenges with books are?

These days, there are a lot of professional book readers. I know groups that read books together and discuss, analyze, and critique them, and I believe we need to provide both good books and proper introductions to the audience. Our work's weakness, in my opinion, is its lack of suitable introduction and distribution. People will read books if we have the proper distribution and can even bring books to the villages.

\* How would you describe "Shina's Daughter"?
"Shina's Daughter" is primarily a construction,



patience, and life training course. Our youngsters are less patient these days, and the couple's obligations in living have decreased. This couple, who coped admirably with their five children and the wartime conditions, can serve as ideal role models for us.