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Arbaeen; unity around the flag of Imam Hussein

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Report

Argentina must release all Iranian crew members, not just one!

By Saeed Azimi

TEHRAN — On Wednesday, Argentine officials confirmed the release of 12 of the 19 crew members of a Venezuelan cargo jet seized in June at Washington's request.

Argentina's courts concluded that the 11 Venezuelans and one Iranian on board the cargo jet may legally depart the country.

Officials have urged the investigation's judge, Federico Villena, to rule on the fate of the remaining seven crew members within the next 10 days.

According to local media, Villena was directed to expedite and complete "all pending proceedings, the characterization of the procedural situation, and the limits imposed on individuals and things."

This plane, which belonged to Iran's Mahan Air company until a year ago and was sold to the Venezuelans entered Argentina from Mexico on June 6 with 14 Venezuelan and five Iranian crew members. However, two days later, Uruguay refused to allow it to enter the country for emergency refueling and closed its airspace to the Venezuelan plane. The plane was forced to return to Argentina, where it has been taken hostage until now. ▸ Page 2

Iran's 5-month exports to ECO grows 40%

TEHRAN - Iran exported over $4.118 billion worth of commodities to the members of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) in the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-August 22) to register a 40-percent increase year on year, the spokesman of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) said.

According to Ruhollah Latifi, the Islamic Republic exported 7.315 million tons of commodities to the mentioned countries in the said period which also increased by 20 percent in comparison to the figure for the previous year's same time span, ISNA reported.

As reported, during the mentioned period Iran traded over 9,107,402 tons of commodities worth $6,839,869,451 with ECO member countries including Turkey, Afghanistan, the Republic of Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

He said major export destinations of the Iranian goods in the said union were Turkey with about $2.328 billion of imports, Afghanistan with $640.573 million, Pakistan with $474.751 million, and Azerbaijan with $269 million in the current year's first five months. ▸ Page 4

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Report

Heavy handed British crackdown against royal dissent

The disturbing images of peaceful protesters across the United Kingdom being arrested by police for simply criticizing the British monarchy is yet another reminder of how the UK is not a democratic society and freedom of speech is not respected in the country as its leaders claim.

The irony is that many people are being denied the right to speak out against an unelected and undemocratic institution, which represents the face of atrocities and war crimes practiced around the world during Britain's dark colonial past.

The heavy-handed crackdown has seen police in Parliament Square threaten a barrister from east London with arrest if he wrote "not my King" on the blank piece of paper that he was holding.

In Oxford a man was arrested after shouting during an accession proclamation event of King Charles: "Who elected him?"

In Edinburgh, a 22-year-old man was violently dragged to the ground and arrested by police officers after calling Prince Andrew "disgusting" - in reference to the prince's friendship with the convicted pedophile Jeffrey Epstein and allegations of rape made against him by a minor - has been charged by police.

Another person arrested was a 22-year-old woman carrying a sign calling for the abolition of the monarchy.

Free speech and protest are fined in the UK so long as you follow the rules about what you are allowed to publicly speak and protest about. ▸ Page 5

Iran eager to boost tourism ties with India

TEHRAN—The Iranian government is ready to boost ties with India in the tourism sector, the Iranian deputy tourism minister Ali-Asghar Shalbafian has said.

He made the remarks during a meeting with Iranian ambassador to India Iraj Elahi in Tehran on Wednesday, Borna reported.

"There are plans and a strong desire to enhance tourism ties between Iran and India," the official said.

Holding joint tourism events, organizing and participating in tourism fairs of the two countries, and holding B2B meetings are on the agenda, Shalbafian added.

Promoting Iran's tourist attractions by bloggers, influencers, and the private sector's activists as well as Iran's embassy and cultural offices are also parts of the plans, he mentioned.

Last year, the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts announced that tourism in the country was growing before the corona outbreak, its revenues reached $11.7 billion in 2019, which accounted for 2.8% of GDP, nearing the average share of tourism in the world GDP, which was 3.2 percent.

Iran was ranked as the second fastest-growing country in tourism based on data compiled by the World Tourism Organization. ▸ Page 6

Behrouz Ataei to remain Iran volleyball coach

TEHRAN – Head of Iran volleyball federation Mohammadreza Davarzani has supported National Team coach Behrouz Ataei.

Iran, under leadership of Ataei, showed a poor performance in the 2022 FIVB World Championship.

Many experts criticized the coach and showed their dissatisfaction with the team's results in the world championship.

Davarzani, however, supported Ataei in an interview with Varzesh3.com. ▸ Page 3

Trump fears Iranian revenge: book

TEHRAN — Donald Trump has reportedly told his pals in December 2020 that he was scared Iran might try to assassinate him in retaliation for the assassination of Major General Qassem Soleimani, an Iranian commander martyred in a U.S. drone operation in January of the same year.

The shocking revelation is detailed in a new book by Peter Baker and Susan Glasser, a husband-and-wife writing duo for the New York Times and the New Yorker.

Next week, The Divider: Trump in the White House 2017-2021 will be released in the United States. A copy was obtained by The Guardian.

The Guardian quoted Trump "I thought about it for a second and I said, 'You know what, they shot down an unmanned drone ... and here we are sitting with 150 dead people that would have taken place probably within a half an hour after I said go ahead.' And I didn't like it ... I didn't think it was proportionate."

Venezuela showcases Iranian knowledge-based products

TEHRAN – An exhibition of the technological achievements of 82 Iranian knowledge-based companies was held in Venezuela on Wednesday.

On Tuesday, representatives of more than 82 knowledge-based firms traveled to Caracas with the aim of exchanging experiences and holding meetings. The companies are active in the fields of oil, gas, petrochemicals, health, pharmaceuticals, information and communications technology, agriculture, and machinery, ISNA reported.

On the second day of the trip, an exclusive exhibition of Iranian knowledge-based and creative products was held, which was attended by Venezuelan ministers of industry, ICT, agriculture, health, and science and 350 representatives of technology companies. ▸ Page 7

Tehran metro art unfolds stories from history, literature

By Mostafa Mousavi Sabet

TEHRAN – The arts are inviting people at Tehran subway stations to enjoy their trips with food for thought during their daily commutes to work.

It's a given that in the hustle and bustle of riding the metro day in and day out, drowsy passengers in the early morning hours and weary commuters at the end of their workday are in no mood to admire and appreciate the fine artwork decorating metro stations. ▸ Page 8

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President Raisi visits Uzbekistan to attend SCO summit

TEHRAN— At the official invitation of his Uzbek counterpart, Iran's President Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi on Wednesday left for Samarkand in Uzbekistan for an official bilateral meeting and to participate in the 22nd summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

Raisi is accompanied by high-ranking political and economic officials. ▸ Page 2

President Raisi visits Uzbekistan to attend SCO summit

From page 1 ▶ The President was seen off by Mohsen Qomi, the deputy chief of the Office of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution for International Affairs, Mohammad Mokhber, his First Vice President, and a group of cabinet members.

Raisi was officially welcomed by Shavkat Mirziyoyev, the President of Uzbekistan. The two held a joint meeting of high-ranking delegations, signing 17 cooperation documents in the presence of the two presidents. Later, the two presidents held a private meeting.

During the meeting, the Iranian president said despite severe sanctions imposed on Iran, Tehran has made great progress in these years.

"The nation turned threats into opportunities with determination. Today we are making progress in various fields and many capacities have been created in the Islamic Republic of Iran," Raisi underlined.

The president added that Uzbekistan's progress is considered as Iran's, stating, "We do not see any obstacles for the development of relations between the two countries, and there is readiness on our side. Bilateral relations in the field of commercial exchange, transit and transportation are other areas where we can increase the level of cooperation."

The Iranian president told Mirziyoyev that Tehran is ready to have good cooperation in the field of energy, considering the facilities that exist in Iran.

Referring to the conversation between the Iranian oil minister and Uzbek energy minister and the signing of a memorandum of understanding, Raisi expressed hope that good steps will be taken to develop relations in the field of energy.

"The signing of documents is a good manifestation of the will of the two countries to develop relations in various fields," Raisi underscored.

He then emphasized the will that exists at the level of the leaders of the two countries to develop ties, expressing hope that the level of trade relations between Tehran and Tashkent would increase from the current 500 million dollars to three times more.

The president then informed his Uzbek counterpart about Iran's readiness to export technical and engineering services and develop cooperation between the two countries.

In the continuation of his trip, Raisi will also address the 22nd summit of the member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), which will start in Samarkand on Thursday. He will also hold meetings with leaders of some participating countries on the sidelines of the summit.

Prior to leaving for Uzbekistan, Raisi spoke to the press at Mehrabad airport about the plans and goals of the trip, saying, "This trip is happening at the invitation of the honorable President of Uzbekistan for an official bilateral meeting and participation in the 22nd summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization."

The President said the purpose of his visit to Uzbekistan is to strengthen the neighborhood policy, regional integration and promotion of multilateralism.

"In the first step of developing the neighborhood policy, we were able to strengthen mutual political trust in the region, and in the second step, we are pursuing the effective role of the Islamic Republic of Iran and an active presence in the region."

In line with these efforts, Raisi continued, Iran is looking to put together the existing infrastructure in Asia and, first of all, in the neighboring countries. He cited strengthening economic interaction and launching monetary and banking systems as examples in this endeavor.

The President further described relations with Uzbekistan as good, noting, "Of course, this level of relations is not enough, especially in the field of commercial and economic exchanges. Currently, the trade relations and exchanges between the two countries are at $500 million, which is perhaps the highest level in the last three decades, but this amount is not enough from the point of view of the officials of Uzbekistan and our colleagues in the foreign ministry and economic sectors of the country, and it can increase to a much higher level."

Raisi then listed commercial and economic exchanges, transit, transportation and cultural cooperation among the capacities and fields of development of Iran-Uzbekistan relations, explaining that the common civilizational sphere of the two countries can have a constructive effect in improving the level of bilateral relations.

"With the negotiations between the authorities of Tehran and Tashkent, memoranda have been prepared to expand cooperation in various economic, commercial and cultural fields, which will be signed by the parties," he noted.

In summit of the SCO hosted by Tajikistan in September 2021, Iran's

request to become a full member of the organization in the coming years was endorsed. In the current round of the SCO summit, Iran is scheduled to sign a number of documents in the path to full membership.

noting, "In the one year that has passed since the change of membership status of Iran in the Shanghai Organization, it was necessary for the documents of this organization to be reviewed by the Foreign Ministry which has been done and the documents have been approved by the government and are currently undergoing legal procedures."

Raisi continued his remarks by saying that one of the important actions in the upcoming meeting of the SCO is to finalize these documents so that they can go through their legal path and be signed by the Iranian minister of foreign affairs and the foreign ministers of the member states.

The President also stated that on the sidelines of the SCO summit, bilateral and multilateral meetings are planned with a number of heads of state participating in the meeting. "Holding these meetings will definitely help develop the relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the countries of the region."

Concluding his remarks, the president opined, "In these meetings and negotiations, we will definitely have discussions about bilateral, regional and international issues and we will try to bring our views closer to each other so that the role of the Islamic Republic in the region and the world is further improved and the relations with neighboring countries improves as much as possible."

The trip comes while Iran is awaiting a U.S. response to Iran's amendments to the EU proposal intended to resurrect the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and remove the sanctions imposed on Iran.

In this regard, Mohammad Jamshidi, the deputy presidential chief of staff for political affairs, tweeted on Wednesday, "President Raisi's message from Samarkand to New York is: Shaping A Just International Order through Economic Multilateralism."

Iran emphasizes political resolution to Yerevan-Baku conflicts

TEHRAN- In his farewell meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian, Russian Ambassador to Iran Levan Dzhagaryan thanked the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs for supporting his work over the past few years and emphasized the importance of a political solution to disputes, citing the recent deadly Armenia-Azerbaijan border clashes.

The Russian diplomat was complimented by the Iranian foreign minister for his efforts during his diplomatic mission in Iran. The foreign minister said ambassadors play an important role in fostering relations between nations.

Amir Abdollahian underlined political resolution of differences while expressing support for comprehensive strategic partnership between Iran and Russia and bringing the current border clashes between Armenia and Azerbaijan to an end.

Additionally, he stressed the need to bring peace to the Caucasus region, saying that any geopolitical shift in any region is off limits and undesirable.

Dzhagaryan also highlighted his country's commitment to fostering bilateral cooperation.

Kazem Jalali, the Iranian ambassador to Moscow, recently stated on his Twitter account that Russia has nominated a new envoy to Iran to replace Dzhagaryan, one of Russia's longest-serving diplomats in Iran.

Argentina must release all Iranian crew, not just one!

From page 1 ▶ Iran and Venezuela have made extensive diplomatic and judicial efforts for the release of their citizens, asking the Argentine government to facilitate the release of their citizens and not to give in to American-Israeli lobbies.

The Israeli regime's lobby is extensive in Argentina, and the Tehran Times has learned that this lobby has disclosed to some MPs close to the Israeli circles that the plane boarding five Iranian crew members is a "booty" to them, urging two MPs close to the Israeli lobby to file a lawsuit against the plane and its crew members.

The suit against the Venezuelan plane is ridiculous as the claimants change their accusations on a daily basis. First, they stated that the plane transmitter was switched off. The claim was rejected by the Argentine judge. The trend of accusations then continued with the MPs accusing the pilot, who is a veteran Iranian captain training the Venezuelan pilots of flying to Damascus and smuggling weapons to Syria.

However, the Tehran Times has learned that the pilot in

question, Gholamreza Ghasemi has had over 1000 flights over the past 40 years, and during his career as a pilot, he flew 6 times to Damascus, all flights being commercial jets transferring Iranian pilgrims.

Since the Venezuelans did not have a pilot and a technical team in order to use the aircraft, based on a contract signed between Tehran and Caracas, Iranian pilots were to undertake the training of Venezuelan pilots and technical teams.

Based on the contract, pilot Gholamreza Ghasemi along with another person are the only master pilots who had the license and knowledge of the aircraft to transfer knowledge and provide training, according to informed sources. Therefore, they were sent to Caracas.

The aircraft was sold to Venezuela by the Civil Aviation Organization of Islamic Republic of Iran.

Delegacion de Asociaciones Israelitas Argentinas (DAIA) as well as other Israeli institutions in Argentina have repeatedly instructed the prosecutor to wait until Tel Aviv, London and the FBI conduct their evaluation reports. They have also pushed for comments from the Uruguay security ministry, which is an unprecedented action in similar cases.

Upon the arrival of the plane, the Argentines took the passports of the Iranian crew which has never happened in the aviation industry!

An informed source told the Tehran Times correspondent, "One week after the passports of the Iranian crew were taken, the Argentine security forces strangely attacked the residence of the Iranian crew and seized all their electronic equipment and told them that they do not have the right to leave the country, imprisoning them in their rooms."

This happens while the government of Argentina and its president have declared that a mistake has been made, but since the judiciary is independent, the government cannot interfere in the case.

In response to the incident, the president of Venezuela emphasized that the United States has kidnapped an Iranian pilot as well as four crew members in Argentina and violated all ICAO rules.

The trend of Israeli lobby interference in the Argentinian judicial process is worrisome. If not resolved, this could lead to similar incidents in other countries. The Argentine government must immediately release all Iranian crew members, not just one!

Ex-FM: US calls economic terrorism sanctions, weaponizes food, medicine

TEHRAN - Iran's former foreign minister Mohammad Javad Zarif on Tuesday pointed to remarks by UN Special Rapporteur Alena Douhan who has confirmed the U.S. bans on Iran is causing civilian deaths, saying Washington's "economic terrorism" that is falsely called "sanctions" is killing Iranians, including children.

Zarif also said the United States is sacrificing its own interests by "weaponizing" food and medicine for the sake of Israel.

"UN Special Rapporteur @AlenaDouhan confirms US #EconomicTerrorism—speciously named 'sanctions' for appearance of pseudo-legality—hurt & kill Iranians, including children. US is sacrificing its own interests in weaponizing food & medicine @ Israel's behest," Zarif tweeted.

Israel, especially its former prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, was one of the main provokers of the Trump administration to abrogate the 2015 nuclear deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Trump quit the JCPOA in May 2018 in line with his "maximum pressure" campaign against the Islamic Republic. Trump acknowledged that the sanctions against Iran were unprecedented in history.

In September 2019, Zarif also wrote, "Escalating US economic WAR on Iranians, @realDonaldTrump ordered SoT 'to substantially increase sanctions against the COUNTRY of Iran! ?It's admission that US is DELIBERATELY targeting ordinary citizens: ?#EconomicTerrorism, illegal & inhuman. Stop war & terror. #Security4All."

Trump was not even ready to loosen sanctions against Iran when the country was hit severely the Covid-19 pandemic. At the time Zarif said economic terrorism has been supplanted by "medical terrorism".

UN Special Rapporteur says delivery of medicines to Iran was 'severely undermined'

Douhan, who visited Iran from May 7 to 18, 2022, has called for the removal of unilateral sanctions on Iran in a report that details the effect of embargos on the Islamic Republic.

In the report, published on Monday, Alena, whose role is focused on the negative result of the sanctions, said that they had affected nearly every aspect of life in Iran, and called for them to be lifted.

According to Douhan, even as medicines and food are supposed to be exempt from sanctions, general licenses issued by the U.S. Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) aimed at ensuring exemptions "appeared to be ineffective and nearly non-existent".

She said delivery of medicines and medical equipment to Iran was "severely undermined" by the effects of sanctions on finance, trade, shipping, insurance and over-compliance on the part of foreign businesses and suppliers, Al Jazeera reported.

"These constitute serious impediments to the enjoyment of the right to the highest attainable standard of health by all Iranians."

Sanctions have been imposed on Iran since 1979, when the country's Islamic revolution took place.

The overwhelming majority of the many layers of sanctions have been imposed by the United States, but others including the European Union, Australia and Canada also have a history of blacklisting Iran and are mentioned in the report.

Since 2018, when Trump unilaterally reneged on the UN-backed 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, Washington has enforced a "maximum pressure" campaign of harsh sanctions that have been expanded by President Joe Biden, even as efforts continue to restore the accord.

Iran, Oman FMs exchange views on Vienna talks

TEHRAN— In a phone conversation on Wednesday, the foreign ministers of Iran and Oman exchanged views on the latest developments in the negotiations aimed at removing the sanctions imposed on Iran.

During the conversation, Iran's top diplomat Hossein Amir Abdollahian emphasized Tehran's commitment to the process of talks and exchanges of messages for securing a complete removal of the sanctions by reviving the 2015 nuclear agreement.

He pointed to efforts exerted by all sides over the past several months, saying the key to achieving the desired point for an agreement under the current circumstances is for the U.S. to be realistic and show the necessary will.

He also referred to the meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Board of Governors in Vienna, adding, "Issuing unconstructive statements in Vienna will bear no fruit."

Amir Abdollahian further reiterated Iran's will and good faith to reach the last step aimed at securing a good, strong, and lasting deal.

For his part, Omani Foreign Minister Sayyid Badr al-Busaidi emphasized the importance of reaching an agreement and

the return of all sides to their commitments.

He thanked Iran for its constructive role in the process of negotiations and stressed the necessity of making efforts toward achieving positive results from months of talks.

An advisor to the Iranian negotiating team has emphasized that despite the external pressure imposed on the United States administration, Tehran and Washington are still close to reaching an agreement.

Mohammad Marandi made the remarks in an interview with the Al Jazeera news network on Monday.

According to the media advisor, Tehran is not one iota worried about the quarterly meeting of the IAEA board, which started on Monday afternoon.

Marandi also emphasized that U.S. President Joe Biden should make decisions to solve the existing issues on the way to reviving the nuclear deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Actions (JCPOA).

The comment comes while U.S. Secretary of State Anthony Blinken who was in Mexico for economic consultations said on Monday that Tehran's response to Washington's amendments to the EU proposal is "a step back."

"I can't give you a timeline except to say, again, that Iran seems either unwilling or unable to do what is necessary to reach an agreement," Reuters quoted Blinken as saying.

Prior to Blinken's statements, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani told the press on Monday, "As you know, we submitted our response a while ago and we are waiting to receive the official answer from the other side."

He continued by saying that Iran has always emphasized that the other parties to the negotiations, especially the Americans, should take constructive actions to reach an agreement.

The U.S. is a country that has withdrawn from the JCPOA and imposed illegal and unilateral sanctions on the Iranian government and people, the spokesman noted, adding, "Due to this behavior, it does not have the right to be a claimant. It is the U.S. that must prove that it is a reliable member and is not a troublesome regime in order to return to the agreement process. It is Washington that must prove that it adheres to international norms and respects international norms."

Kanaani added that Iran, in its response, has not raised any new issues that would hinder the formation of an agreement and the fruitful conclusion of the negotiations.

"Tehran will not give in to the excessive demands of the opposite parties, nor will it retreat from its red lines," he underscored.

Iran ready to participate in investigation into Albania's cyberattack: statement

TEHRAN – A high-level Iranian cyberspace center has rejected allegations about Iran's involvement in a cyberattack against Albania, saying it is ready to dispatch a technical team to the European country to investigate the attack.

Iran's National Center for Cyberspace (NCC) said in a statement on Tuesday that Iran was not involved in the alleged cyberattack against Albania. It rejected "baseless accusations" against Iran with respect to Albania's cyberattack.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran, while underlining that it pursues peaceful goals and purposes in cyberspace and information and communication technology by all countries, rejects baseless accusations against it with respect to alleged cyberattacks against Albania and expresses readiness to coordinate the dispatching of a technical delegation to investigate the issue and exchange information among computer emergency response teams (CERTs)," the NCC said in the statement.

Albania severed diplomatic relations with Iran in early December and ordered all Iranian diplomats and embassy staff out of the country in 24 hours. The apparent reason for that was an alleged Iranian cyberattack against Albanian government institutions and agencies.

The move, announced by Albanian Prime Minister Edi Rama in a video statement, raised eyebrows in the world as Tehran has been on good terms with Tirana. "The government has decided with immediate effect to end diplomatic relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran," Rama said, adding, "This extreme response ... is fully proportionate to the gravity and risk of the cyberattack that threatened to paralyze public services, erase digital systems and hack into state records, steal government intranet electronic communication and stir chaos and insecurity in the country."

The alleged cyberattack apparently took place in mid-July and is said to have disrupted government services and agencies.

The Albanian prime minister alleged that his government had what he called "indisputable evidence" of an Iranian role in the cyberattack.

"The in-depth investigation provided us with indisputable evidence that the cyberattack against our country was orchestrated and sponsored by the Islamic Republic of Iran through the engagement of four groups that enacted the aggression," he claimed.

"Cyber Iranophobia"

The NCC said the accusations against Iran in this regard are part of "cyber Iranophobia" and aims to lay the ground for hostile cyber and non-cyber moves against Iran.

"The National Center for Cyberspace assesses this move to be within the framework of cooking up a scenario with the purpose of tarnishing the country's international image, exerting pressure, justifying and laying the groundwork for cruel and illegal unilateral measures [against Iran]. It considers such measures as a politicized trend based on fabricated allegations," the NCC statement added.

It also said that Iran is among the biggest victims of cyberattacks aiming to disrupt services to the public. According to the NCC, such cyberattacks have taken place against Iranian institutions such as the fuel distribution network, ports and railway systems, the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB), municipality management systems, and nuclear facilities.

"While we have witnessed heavy political and media propaganda after leveling baseless allegations [against Iran], we witnessed deadly silence on the part of claimants with regard to destructive cyber incidents and attacks against the vital infrastructures of the independent countries," the NCC statement said.

Iran has strongly rejected the allegations concerning Albania. Head of Iran's mission to the UN Amir, Saeid Iravani, also sent a letter the UN secretary-general and the president of the UN Security Council about the Albania cyberattack on September 10.

Following is the text of the letter:

Upon instructions from my Government and in response to the letter dated 7 September 2022 (S/2022/677) from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Albania to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council and the Secretary-General, in which my country was falsely accused of a cyberattack, and the Republic of Albania declared its unilateral termination of diplomatic relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran as a result of this unsubstantiated accusation, I would like to bring the following to your attention:

1- The Islamic Republic of Iran categorically rejects and denounces any kind of unwarranted attribution for the alleged cyber-attack on Albania's infrastructure; the accusations leveled against it in the letter are completely unfounded and are hereby rejected and condemned.

2- Such fictitious and false claims are based on fabrications and wrong assumptions leveled only for political agendas. Furthermore, given the nature and technical characteristics of cyberspace and the challenges of attribution in the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) environment, Iran warns of the negative consequences of falsified and forged attribution to the States.

3- The Islamic Republic of Iran reiterates once again its persistent position that cyberspace and the ICT environment must be used exclusively for peaceful purposes and that States must act cooperatively and in full compliance with applicable international law. In view of this, Iran has been actively participating in the relevant intergovernmental negotiation processes under the auspices of the United Nations in the interest of the rights of and establishing adequate responsibilities for all," the letter said.

4- The Islamic Republic of Iran has long been the primary target and the main victim of cyberattacks against its vital infrastructure, which have disrupted the delivery of public services and governmental functions. Attacks by Stuxnet on Iran's peaceful nuclear facilities and Duqu, as well as recent attacks on industrial infrastructures, such as steel and petrochemical industries, gas stations as well as municipal public services systems, are a few examples of these cyber-attacks. The Israeli regime has repeatedly admitted its involvement in these internationally wrongful acts using the ICT environment, which has received unwavering US support.

5- The so-called "Mujahedin-e Khalq Organization" (MKO), is a terrorist organization, currently located in Albania, which has martyred numerous Iranian officials and civilians through bombings and assassinations and since 1981 has claimed the lives of almost 17,000 Iranian citizens. This Israeli- US-backed terrorist organization is continuously planning and carrying out cyberattacks on other countries' infrastructure, knowingly within Albania territory. The MKO has already carried out several cyber-terrorist attacks against Iran's critical infrastructure, with the assistance and support of certain States. With the potential technology they have been provided with, they can now carry out different techniques in order to attribute cyberattacks to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

6- While warning against any provocative and unwarranted measure taken under the guise of alleged claims, the Islamic Republic of Iran reserves its inherent right to respond, in accordance with international law and the United Nations Charter, to any threat, attack, or wrongful act that targets its interests, critical and civilian infrastructure, decisively and proportionately and whenever it deems necessary.

7- Despite the Republic of Albania's hasty, unwarranted, and unilateral decision to sever its diplomatic relations, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in good faith, stands ready to cooperate and engage constructively to clarify the unfounded accusations leveled against Iran.

8- Furthermore, following the unilateral termination of bilateral diplomatic relations by the Albanian Government on September 7, 2022, the police forces of the Republic of Albania breached the obligations under international law and used force for entering Iran's diplomatic missions in Tirana, without Iran's consent. While strongly condemning such unlawful acts, the Islamic Republic of Iran re-emphasizes that such intrusion is a flagrant violation of international law, specifically the principle of inviolability of diplomatic and consular premises, as well as States' obligations under the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and the 1963 Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, which required all States to take all appropriate steps to protect diplomatic and consular premises from any intrusion or damage and to prevent any disturbance of the peace of these missions or impairment of their dignity and any attack on diplomatic premises, agents and consular officers.

Arbaeen; unity of nations around the flag of Imam Hussein

By Mehran Shamsuddin

TEHRAN – Millions of Iranian pilgrims who headed to Iraq for the spiritual journey of Arbaeen started to go back home in their millions, carrying with them unforgettable memories of unity and altruism.

This year's Arbaeen will be marked on September 17 but the religious occasion is far from being a single-day holiday. Arbaeen (literally means the 40th day) arrives 40 days after the Day of Ashura, which marks the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussein (AS), the grandson of the Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) who was martyred in the Battle of Karbala on October 10, 680 (Muharram 10, 61 AH), nearly 14 centuries ago.

Although Arbaeen is deeply rooted in the traditions of Shiite Islam, it draws people from various faiths as evidenced by the previous years' Arbaeen. In the run-up to Arbaeen, millions of people flock on foot to the highly revered city of Karbala, which embraces the holy shrines of Imam Hussein and his brother Abu al-Fadl Abbas. This has come to be known as the Arbaeen Great Walk. Because the pilgrims head to Karbala on foot.

After the fall of Saddam, the Iraqi Shia started making pilgrimage freely on foot from all over the country to Karbala. They plan their walk so that they reach Karbala on the Arbaeen day or the days close to it. In the days before Arbaeen, all the ways leading to Karbala are full of pilgrims moving towards this city. According to statistics from previous years, about 20 million people attend this event every year, the Khamenei.ir reported.

Since 2003, the Arbaeen walk has turned into a magnificent phenomenon, uniting peoples of all hues.

Since then, during each year's Arbaeen, millions of Iranians travel to Iraq and are often offered accommodation in ordinary Iraqis' homes, which would have been unbelievable only two decades ago. The magic and blessings of Arbaeen were one of the key factors in helping the nations of Iran and Iraq move past the consequences of the 1980s war. Today, Arbaeen has become an emblem of unity between the Iranian and Iraqi peoples.

It also helped neutralize plots by those who don't want to see Iran and Iraq have good relations. Some media outlets have sought to drive a wedge between the peoples of Iran and Iraq by accusing Iran of meddling in Iraq. But Arbaeen showed that these efforts have come to naught.

Arbaeen has also been a source of inspiration in terms of fighting oppression and arrogance. The root cause of Imam Hussein's uprising was that he refused to pledge allegiance to a corrupt caliph called Yazid. The caliph did everything in his power to force the Imam into pledging allegiance. But the Imam was steadfast in his opposition to Yazid.

When Yazid ramped up pressures, Imam Hussein decided to depart for Iraq, where he was promised support from Iraqis. Unfortunately, those who had vowed to support the Imam, failed to keep their promise, leaving the Imam alone in the face of the Umayyad caliph.

The Imam was keen to indicate that his uprising was to revive the ideals of Islam and humanity. "If don't believe in a religion, then at least be free," the Imam told the army of Yazid.

This message, among other things, has inspired countless numbers of people over the course of Islamic history to rise up against oppression and corruption.

Iran president to visit New York

TEHRAN – Iranian President Ayatollah Seyed Ebrahim Raisi will soon travel to New York to attend the annual United Nations conference.

Gholamhossein Esmaili, chief of staff of the Iranian president, told reporters on Wednesday that President Raisi has a visit to New York on his agenda.

"Mr. President intends to travel to New York," Esmaili said.

He didn't give further details as to when the Iranian president intends to visit New York but he said that the details of the visit will be announced at "a certain time."

Earlier in August, government spokesman Ali Bahadori Jahromi had said that Raisi will attend the UN General Assembly in New York.

"Preliminary plans have been made in this regard," Bahadori Jahromi told reporters.

The annual UN conference will be held in September. It will be Raisi's second visit to New York to attend the largest international conference as he enters his second year of his presidency. Raisi started his work in August 2021.

SPORTS

Behrouz Ataei to remain Iran volleyball coach

Frome Page 1 ▶ "Ataei needs more time. Julio Velasco got the good results with Team Melli in a four-year term. We will hire a good foreign assistant coach soon," Davarzani said.

Ataei was named as head coach of Iran volleyball team in August 2021 as Vladimir Alekno's replacement.

He inspired Iran to win 2021 Asian Volleyball Championship in Japan.

Iran will have to participate in the 2024 Olympic Games qualification next year.

Iran U17 football team to participate in Japan tournament

TEHRAN – Iran U17 football team traveled to Japan to participate at the 24th International Youth Soccer.

The four-team tournament will be held in Niigata, Japan from Sept. 17 to 19.

Hossein Abdi's boys will meet Japan U17 team on Sept. 17, while U17 Niigata Selection are to face U17 Comoros.

Iran will take part in the competition as part of preparation for the AFC U17 Asian Cup Bahrain 2023 qualification in October.

Iran are drawn in Group I along with the teams of Hong Kong, Kyrgyz Republic (hosts) and Laos.

David Taylor vs Yazdani: The greatest rivalry

TEHRAN - David Taylor is one of the greatest American wrestlers, Hassan Yazdani is one of the greatest Iranian wrestlers.

Both have won World and Olympic titles. They have competed at the highest level and appear destined to collide at the 2022 World Championships.

Iranian reigning world champion Yazdani is the No.1 seed, having seen more success on the mat since the Tokyo 2020 Olympics which were won by the U.S. No. 2 seed Taylor.

It would take a seismic upset to not see the pair clash in the final.

Since 2017, every world or Olympic gold medal at 86kg was won by either Hassan Yazdani or David Taylor, flowrestling.org reported.

Yazdani won world titles in 2017, 2019, and 2021 while Taylor won world gold in 2018 and Olympic gold in 2021. Yazdani and Taylor's rivalry might be the greatest in all of wrestling right now and they will likely lock horns in this year's world finals.

Taylor owned the first three matches against Yazdani winning at the 2017 world cup, 2018 world championships, and Tokyo Olympics. While Taylor came out on top each time, every match was a back-and-forth battle with one or two exchanges being the difference in the outcome.

Mirzazadeh seizes silver at 2022 World Wrestling Championships

TEHRAN – Iranian Greco-Roman wrestler Amin Mirzazadeh claimed a silver medal at 2022 World Wrestling Championships in Belgrade, Serbia on Tuesday.

He lost to Turkish wrestler Riza Kayaalp in the men's Greco-Roman 130kg.

Kayaalp collected his fifth world championship gold medal as he won gold in 120kg at 2011 Istanbul and three golds in 130kg at 2015 Las Vegas, 2017 Paris and 2019 Nur-Sultan.

Romanian Alin Alexuc-Ciurariu and Mantas Knystautas from Lithuania claimed the bronze medals in the weight category.

"It is a very nice feeling," said Kayaalp"Hearing the national anthem is our goal. I am proud to represent my country. I think I will lie down for a few minutes because I am so exhausted."

Kayaalp, who won the European gold earlier this year, said he had been battling a shoulder injury and other ailments over the past two months during his preparation for Belgrade.

"Preparing for the World Championships with the injuries was very hard for me, especially in the last training camp it is very important to stay injury free," Kayaalp said. "I knew that the injuries will affect me in the final fight, so I changed my tactic a little bit. My defense is very good and we knew that."

Iran wrapped up the competition with two silver medals and one bronze.

Mohammadreza Geraei in the 67kg seized a silver and Mohammadhadi Saravai also claimed a bronze in the 97kg.

Iran's Saadat to reach agreement with Tursad

TEHRAN – Iran international opposite spiker Bardia Saadat has reached an agreement to join Turkish volleyball club Tursad.

The 20-year-old player has most recently played in Italian club Top Volley Cisterna.

Saadat was a member of Iran national volleyball team in the 2022 Volleyball Nations League.

Tursad are volleyball club from Bitlis, Turkey and play in the Türkiye Erkekler Voleybol Ligi 2022/23.

Mehrdad Mohammadi joins Al-Sailiya

TEHRAN – Iranian international winger Mehrdad Mohammadi joined Qatari football club Al-Sailiya.

Mohammadi parted ways with Qatari side Al-Arabi last week and joined Al-Sailiya on loan until the end of the season.

The 28-year-old player joined Al-Arabi in 2020 from Portuguese team Aves and scored 12 goals in 27 matches for the team.

Mohammadi started his playing career in Tehran-based club Rah Ahan in 2014 and has also played in Sepahan.

Al-Sailiya sit 11th in the Qatar Stars League 12-team table.

Andy Carroll rejects Tractor's move: report

TEHRAN - Ex-Newcastle United striker Andy Carroll has reportedly turned down a big-money move to Iranian club Tractor.

Carroll, who played for Reading and West Brom last season, has reportedly turned down huge money to Tractor.

According to the MailOnline, ex-England, Liverpool and West Ham man Carroll has rejected a move to Iranian side Tractor after he was offered a one-year contract on around £20,000 a week.

Carroll has been without a club since his seven-month stay at West Brom came to an end in the summer.

Tractor currently sit sixth in the table in the Iranian top flight, after an indifferent start to the season with two wins, two draws and two losses to start the campaign.

The club get their name from the Iran Tractor Manufacturing Company, who founded the team in 1970, and have twice won the Hazfi Cup, lifting the trophy in 2019-20 and 2013-14.

Carlos Queiroz arrives in Tehran

TEHRAN - Iran's newly-appointed coach Carlos Queiroz arrived in Tehran early Wednesday.

The Portuguese coach was welcomed by Iranian fans at the Imam Khomeini International Airport.

"First of all, I would like to thank the Iranian fans for coming to the airport. I feel like I've returned to my home. I hope that we do our job together and fulfill the fans' dream in the 2022 World Cup," Queiroz said.

Iran are scheduled to play Uruguay on September 23 in a friendly match in Austria and will meet Senegal four days later.

Iran have been drawn in Group B of the 2022 FIFA World Cup along with England, the U.S. and Wales.

Iran's 5-month exports to ECO grows 40%

From page 1 ▶ Meanwhile, the country imported 1.791 million tons of goods from the ECO member countries, with Turkey, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Azerbaijan being the top sources of imported goods.

Despite a two percent fall in terms of weight, Iran's imports register a 38 percent hike in terms of value.

The Economic Cooperation Organization or ECO is an Asian political and economic intergovernmental organization that was founded in 1985 in

Tehran by the leaders of Iran, Pakistan, and Turkey.

IKCO begins exporting passenger cars to Armenia

TEHRAN – Iran's top automaker, Iran Khodro Industrial Group (IKCO), has started exporting two passenger vehicle brands to Armenia, IRNA reported.

Following the visit of IKCO Head Mehdi Khatibi to the Republic of Armenia and signing a contract for the distribution of IKCO's products in that country, the first shipment of the company's passenger cars named Tara and Dena has been sent to the Armenian market, the company said in a statement.

The shipment consisted of eight automatic cars, along with the spare parts needed for after-sales service.

As reported, with the re-entry of IKCO's products to the Armenian market, the way has been paved for the company to export its products to the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU).

Concurrent with the export of products, IKCO's representative office in Armenia has been equipped with the necessary facilities in order to offer quality after-sales services to customers in accordance with IKCO's standards.

Earlier this month, Head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) Alireza Peyman-Pak announced that the Islamic Republic is ready to set up a car production line in Armenia in order to use there as an export platform for the products to other member countries of the EAEU.

During a meeting with Armenia's Deputy Minister of Economy Narek Teryan in Tehran, Peyman-Pak pointed out the interest of IKCO in setting up a production line in Armenia and said, considering Armenia's membership in the EAEU this can have exemplary achievements for both countries.

For his part, the Deputy Minister of Economy of Armenia welcomed the presence of Iranian companies in the road construction projects of Armenia and the production of Iranian cars in the country.

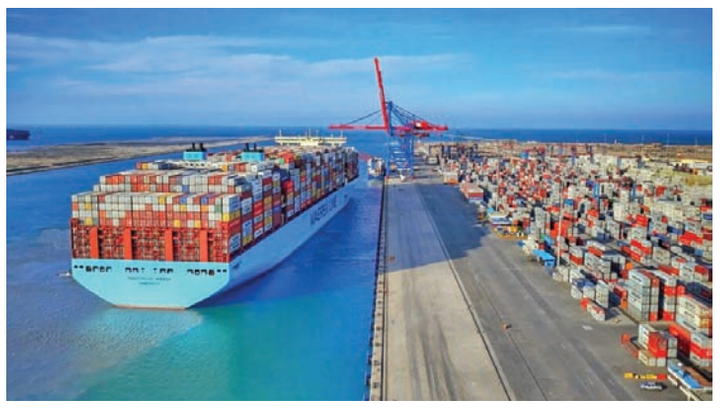
IRISL transits 27,500 TEU of goods along INSTC in 4 months

TEHRAN - The Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines (IRISL) has transported 27,500 TEUs of container commodities along the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) over the past four Iranian calendar months (March 21 to July 22).

As Tasnim reported, IRISL registered a new record of transporting transit shipments along INSTC in the mentioned four months.

The weight of the transported containers stood at 337,000 tons, according to IRISL.

At the beginning of the revival of the INSTC project, only two transit routes were defined between the ports of India, United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Russia and now the number has rapidly been increased to 14 routes in different ports of the world in the last two months.



IRISL has announced the Commonwealth Independent States (CIS) and Russian Federation as the main transit destinations and has emphasized that the goods are delivered to their destinations in DOOR-TO-DOOR form using the facilities of the Group.

IRISL formed an operational working group for the development of transportation along INSTC in early April and the company allocated 300 vessels to the transportation of goods through this corridor.

The north-south corridor was primarily launched with the aim of transiting goods between India and Europe through Iran; however, it remained in the early stages of execution for many years.

The conflicts between Russia and Ukraine and the special geopolitical situation of Iran in the region have once again laid a suitable ground for the revival of the mentioned corridor; so, this has created a great business opportunity for the Islamic Republic of Iran on the international stage.

Currently, most of the commodities that are transported through Iran along the INSTC are shipments from Russia for India.

To be transited through the north-south corridor, cargos enter northern Iranian ports on the Caspian Sea shores and then transferred by road to the southern ports of the country on the Persian Gulf. From there they are loaded onto a ship and sent to their destinations in East Asia.

Trade with Africa exceeds $520m in 4 Months

TEHRAN – Iran traded 890,287 tons of non-oil commodities worth $526.35 million with African countries during the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-July 22), data released by the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) showed.

As Mehr News Agency reported, South Africa with 255,471 tons worth $152.94 million, Nigeria with 129,437 tons worth $80.63 million, and Mozambique with 82,462 tons worth $57.195 million were Iran's main African trade partners during the said period.

Iran exported 864,027 tons of goods worth $495.51 million to the African continent during the mentioned four months.

Iran's main export destinations in Africa were South Africa with 255,101 tons worth $149.57 million, Nigeria with 129,437 tons worth $80.63 million, and Mozambique with 82,462 tons worth $57.2 million.

Iran has been seeking to expand trade ties with Africa over the past few years.

Back in June, Head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) Alireza Peyman-Pak said the country was taking the necessary steps to

increase annual trade exchanges with Africa to $5 billion by the Iranian calendar year 1404 (begins in March 2025).

Peyman-Pak said the trade with the mentioned countries is expected to reach $2.5 billion by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2023).

Referring to the preparation of the country's trade development roadmap at the beginning of the work of the 13th administration, the official said: "In this roadmap, major factors including exports and the share of different sectors is specified, and in the case of Africa, the priorities and targets for trade with different countries and the requirements for reaching these targets are determined."

Peyman-Pak put the share of African countries in Iran's export basket at $1.2 billion, saying: "Africa's annual imports amount to about $580 billion and our share of this figure is still small despite all the efforts. We have managed to export $1.2 billion to this market."

He further mentioned the capacities of the mentioned continent for the export of technical and engineering services and said: "The total exports of technical and engineering services to Africa is currently $300 billion; But our share last year, despite a slight increase reached only $200 million, which is still small."

According to the TPO head, in order to increase the level of trade with Africa certain infrastructure including transportation and direct shipping lines, as well as proper legal, commercial, monetary, and banking relations must be provided, and TPO has been recently focusing on providing such requirements to facilitate trade with Africa.

"To solve the transportation problems, four countries have been selected in East, West, South, and North of Africa, to launch air and shipping lines," he said.

Iranian heavy crude oil price falls 5% in August: OPEC

TEHRAN - Iranian heavy oil price decreased by $5.39 in August to register a five-percent fall compared to the previous month, according to OPEC's latest monthly report published on Tuesday.

Following the increase in oil supply by OPEC members in the second consecutive month, the Iranian heavy crude oil price settled at $102.24 per barrel in August, compared to July's $107.63 per barrel.

According to the report, the country's average heavy crude price was $105.06 from the beginning of 2022 up to the report's publishing day, in comparison to $65.70 in the previous year's same period.

The report put Iranian crude output for August at 2.572 million barrels per day (bpd) indicating a 5,000-bpd

increase compared to the figure for the previous month.

Based on OPEC data, the country's average crude output in the second quarter of 2022 stood at 2.556 million bpd indicating a near 27,000-bpd rise compared to the average figure for the year's first quarter.

As reported, OPEC basket prices also fell $6.65 or 6.1 percent to settle at $101.9 a barrel in August from the previous month.

Iranian heavy crude oil price had followed an upward trend from the beginning of the current year up to June.

Despite the negative impacts of the U.S. sanctions, Iran has been ramping up it's oil production and exports over the past few months.

Earlier this month, Iranian Oil Minister Javad Oji said the global energy market needs an increase in the supply of Iranian oil, saying: "As a major producer of oil and petroleum products, we are always ready to play our role in maintaining global energy security away from politics."

"Although the Europeans are trying to compensate for the lack of energy and reduce the severity of the crisis with some changes in their energy policies, the stable and reliable supply of energy sources is a necessity for European consumers as the fall and winter seasons approach," the minister said after an OPEC+ meeting on September 6.

Iran-U.S. 7-month trade rises 27% yr/yr

TEHRAN - The value of trade between Iran and the U.S. reached $29 million in the first seventh month of 2022 to register 27 percent growth year on year, according to the latest report released by American Statistical Association (ASA).

According to ASA data, the two countries' bilateral trade during the first seven months of 2021 stood at $22.8 million.

During January-July this year, the U.S. exported $24 million of goods to Iran, seven percent more in comparison with the same time span in 2021, when the figure was more than $22.4 million.

The country's import from Iran was $5 million in the said time, 12 times more than the $0.4 million for the same period in 2021.

TEDPIX drops 4,000 points on Wednesday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), fell 4,047 points to 1.389 million on Wednesday, IRNA reported.

As reported, over 7.964 billion securities worth 66.518 trillion rials (about $231.4 million) were traded at the TSE.

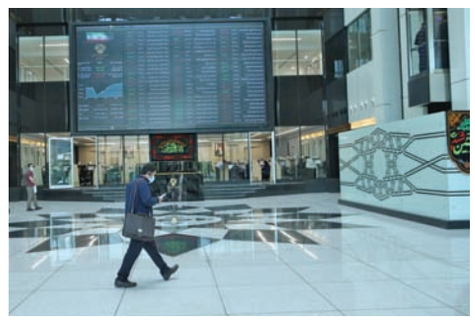
The first market's index dropped 2,081 points, and the second market's index fell 10,796 points.

TSE is one of the four Iranian stock exchanges, the other three ones are Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME), Iran Energy Exchange (IRENEX), and Iran's over-the-counter (OTC) market, known as Iran Fara Bourse (IFB).

Stock market analyst Mostafa Safari believes that global economic stagnation and inflation have negatively affected stock markets all around the world including the Iranian capital market.

According to Safari, the outlook, however, is positive for the next two years and the Iranian stock market is expected to get back on track and continue its upward trend within the next two years.

"It seems that for the next two years, we will see an upward trend in the capital market; Because some statistics show that the market follows a two-year pattern; it has been facing



two years of recession from August 2019 to August 2022, now it is time for the market to experience two years of prosperity," he explained.

The expert said the capital market needs political and economic stability for growth, which can be achieved by restoring the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

"We should not expect the economic impact of the nuclear deal in the short term, and it may take more than a year for the positive effects to be manifested in the market," he stressed.

According to the expert, global inflation, the increase in interest rates, as well as the inflationary pressure caused by increasing costs, have all resulted in the stock markets across the world facing serious challenges.

Govt. begins preparing 7th National Development Plan

TEHRAN - Following the announcement of the general policies of the Seventh Five-year National Development Plan (2022-2026) by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, President Ebrahim Raisi has tasked the Planning and Budget Organization (PBO) to officially start the compilation of the plan, IRIB reported on Wednesday.

According to Babak Afghahi, the acting head of PBO's Parliamentary Affairs Department, the organization has already started the process and since the previous year numerous meetings have been held for the preparation of the country's Seventh Five-year National Development Plan.

Earlier this week, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei outlined the general policies of the seventh development plan.

The mentioned policies were mainly focused on economic development and the promotion of justice as the major priorities.

The Leader set an average economic growth of eight percent as the goal for the duration of the mentioned plan, emphasizing the increase in the efficiency of all production factors including human resources, capital, technology, and management.

Establishing stability in the prices of consumer items and forex rates, reaching a single-digit inflation rate, as well as directing liquidity and bank credits towards productive sectors are also among the major policies set by the plan.

Reforming the structure of the government budget was also among the major policies stressed in the Seventh National Development Plan.

Transforming the country's tax system with the approach of turning taxes into the

main source of government revenues is also another major policy set by the plan.

Establishing a comprehensive social security system that encompasses relief, support, and insurance at the basic, surplus, and supplementary levels to provide fair services was the final economic policy that the executive bodies are obliged to follow in the said five years.

Heavy handed British crackdown against royal dissent

From page 1 ▶ Joanna Cherry, an MP with the Scottish National party, said on social media "I'm concerned by reports in Scotland & England of seemingly legitimate protesters being arrested."

Anti-monarchy campaigners say the intimidating police approach has been backed by a 24-hour media campaign with royal family propaganda.

The police now have new powers under the controversial Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act which allows the police to arrest lone protesters if the officers think their actions are a disruption. The criteria is very broad and in essence means anyone staging a protest now faces the risk of arrest.

Campaigners say there appear to be some fear among authorities that the public anger over King Charles's accession to the crown will grow if dissent is allowed during the funeral services of Queen Elizabeth, who died last Thursday at the age of 96.

The arrest campaign has prompted a backlash from rights groups, republican movements and politicians.

"If people are being arrested simply for holding protest placards then it is an affront to democracy and highly likely to be unlawful," Big Brother Watch said in a statement.

"Police officers have a duty to protect people's right to protest as much as they have a duty to facilitate people's right to express support, sorrow, or pay their respects."

Jodie Beck, from the Liberty campaign group, said the right to protest was "a vital part of a healthy and functioning democracy."

"It is very worrying to see the police enforcing their broad powers in such a heavy-handed and punitive way to clamp down on free speech and expression," she said in a statement.

Graham Smith with the campaign group Republic said "we condemn these arrests in the strongest possible terms. Free

speech is fundamental to any democracy. At a time when the media is saturated with fawning over a king appointed without discussion or consent, it is even more important."

"We will be writing to police forces around the country, raising these concerns. We intend to organize protests at the coronation and will expect those protests to be allowed to go ahead peacefully."

He adds that "despite wall-to-wall coverage by broadcasters, in which the monarchy has been debated without republican voices being heard, republicans are being galvanized by the accession of Charles to the throne."

"With support for the monarchy already falling - and support for abolition now over 25% - we expect this movement to grow rapidly over the next few years."

The police arrests seem to have energized the anti-monarchy sentiment as different groups say they will be staging fresh protests in the lead up to Elizabeth's state funeral next Monday and King Charles's accession events. In response to the crackdown on non-violent protests, blank banners or white pieces of paper have been seen in new protests as concerns are mounting about the behavior of police.

Climate Camp Scotland, which protests against fossil fuels and for climate justice, said a protest on Tuesday was held because of the people who had been arrested in Scotland for simply holding a placard.

They said supporters of the group "quietly held up blank banners and placards in solidarity with people arrested in Edinburgh and elsewhere in the UK for protesting the monarchy."

The anti-imperialism group Global Majority VS, which is supporting one of the arrested protesters in Scotland, accused police of criminalizing freedom of speech, saying there was a "concerted effort to silence the voices of the masses".

In a statement via the anti-imperialism group, a Mexican native who is a student in Edinburgh said: "on the morning of the 11th of September 2022, I was wrongfully arrested while exercising my right to protest at the Proclamation of King Charles III in Edinburgh. Silently holding a sign ... I condemn the centuries of colonial injustice, genocide and unlawful extraction that have been and continue to be carried out in the name of the British Crown.

"As a Mexican person living in the UK, I strongly opposed the continuous resource extraction and exploitation of racialized bodies in the global south that has been made possible through systems of imperial oppression. However, I do not act alone.

"The arrest and subsequent charging are a symptom of the ongoing movement to criminalize true freedom of speech and all human and people's rights.

"This is a struggle of all colonized peoples against the ruling classes' ongoing colonization of our lands, resources.

Furthermore, the group argues that "calling for the abolition of the monarch is as old as the monarchy itself and a cornerstone of freedom of speech in the UK. This establishment is committed to repress our true people's power to call out the ongoing human rights violations perpetrated by the Crown and the establishment."

Many more have voiced their criticism on social media posting material objecting the role of the monarchy on the basis of Britain's disgraceful colonial past.

A lot of media focus has been put on the Nigerian linguistics professor at Carnegie Mellon University in the U.S., who used strong language in reaction to the queen's death.

The Western media uproar is quite interesting as the post refers to Elizabeth overseeing the colonial oppression of the professor's country Nigeria and the colonial power's instigation of the civil war over there, which resulted in the murder of many of the professor's own family members.

While her post was quickly brought down, there does appear to be double standards in how people are allowed to discuss other violence and violence perpetrated or oversaw by Britain that is represented by the royal family.

Many have pointed out that the queen never used her role to speak out against violence committed during Britain's colonial rule in Africa, Asia and elsewhere during her 70-year reign.

So much time and energy were used on how the professor's post was in bad taste, that no media outlet or analysts have discussed why so much anger was used to make such remarks and how verifiable the actual accusations against the British monarchy are.

Xi visits Central Asia in first trip outside China since pandemic

Chinese leader Xi Jinping arrived in Central Asia in his first foreign trip in almost 1,000 days, returning to the world stage in an attempt to reassert Beijing's global influence during a time of increased friction with the West.

The trip saw Xi made a state visit to Kazakhstan Wednesday, before traveling to neighboring Uzbekistan for a regional summit, where he will meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin -- their first in-person meeting since the invasion of Ukraine, CNN reported.

Weeks before Russia's tanks rolled into Ukraine, the two strongmen leaders declared a "non-limits" friendship, and Beijing has pledged to continue strengthening ties with Moscow throughout the war.

Their meeting will provide a much-needed show of diplomatic support for Putin, who is facing significant setbacks in Ukraine and counts Xi as his most powerful ally. And for Xi, Putin remains a close strategic partner, who shares his suspicion and grievances toward the West -- and his vision for an alternative world order.

The meeting will take place on the sidelines of a summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), a China-led security and economic grouping that brings together nations from India to Iran.

The trip also comes at a crucial time for Xi, just weeks before he is expected to secure a norm-breaking third term in power at a major political meeting in Beijing -- a move that will cement his role as China's most powerful leader in decades.

That Xi feels comfortable enough to travel outside China during this period shows he is confident about his grip on power, said Steven Tsang, director of the China Institute at SOAS University of London. The choice of destination is also in line with Xi's obsession with control, according to Tsang.

"This is somebody who wants to be in control of everything. At the G20 summit, he is one out of 20 and not quite so much in control," he said.

But at the SCO, China is able to set the agenda, Tsang said. "[Xi] wants to send the signal that he is in charge and working with friends and partners. The SCO summit in Central Asia, with Putin joining, ticks all the boxes."

Strategic pivot

That Xi would choose Central Asia is intended to send a clear message about Beijing's foreign policy priorities, say analysts, as tensions with the West build over the self-governing island of Taiwan.

"Central Asia has always been the strategic pivot for China whenever conflicts loom in the East Asia side," said Niva Yau, senior researcher at the OSCE Academy, a foreign policy think tank in Kyrgyzstan.

The thinking behind this, she explained, is that the Chinese economy will be very fragile in the event of a real conflict to its east, given how much our international political economy today is based on the sea.

"Every time China gets into tension with Taiwan, Central Asia all of a sudden opens up to be the place that they make grand gestures," Yau said.

Over the past decade, China has expanded its land-based trade route to the west, particularly through Xi's flagship Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), a massive infrastructure project that stretches from East Asia to Europe.

Xi's first stop in Kazakhstan is a nod to that legacy -- the country is where Xi announced the BRI in 2013, less than a year after he came to power.

Central Asia is important to China for another reason: Xinjiang, Yau said.

Since the United Nations Human Rights Office released a report on China's behavior toward Uyghur Muslims in its western region of Xinjiang, overseas Uyghurs and scholars have pushed for new momentum to call for international intervention.

According to Yau, the region where actions are most likely to be taken is Central Asia, which borders Xinjiang and is home to about half million ethnic Uyghurs.

"So China knows that Central Asia is about to be hit by this international pressure and they need to go there and get reassurance that they are ready for this, or that they are on China's side," she said.

"Especially because at these UN votes, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan haven't been voting along with China the way Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan have. I think it's fairly obvious what's on the agenda."

And the SCO could be the right platform for that. Established in 2001 by Beijing along with Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, a central calling of the organization is to combat the threats of "terrorism, separatism and extremism".

SCO summit

Under Xi, the SCO has expanded in ambition, adding India and Pakistan among its members in 2017. Afghanistan is an observer, and Iran is slated to become a full member at this summit, according to Chinese state media reports.

Since its founding, the SCO has long been seen by some as a potential anti-U.S. bloc, led by China and Russia, to challenge the Western-dominated global order.

Beijing and Moscow certainly harbor ambitions for a new multipolar world. Xi and Putin discussed it when they last met in Beijing, and on Monday, Beijing's top diplomat Yang Jiechi told outgoing Russian Ambassador Andrey Denisov that China is ready to work with Russia to take the global order "in a more just and rational direction."

But experts say in its current state, the SCO is not really the perfect platform for pushing that agenda.

As a multilateral organization, SCO is a much weaker regional bloc compared with the European Union or the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

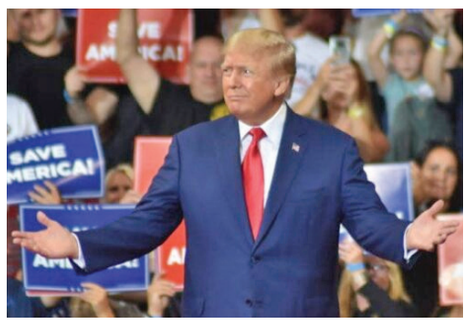
WORLD HEADLINES

Emissions surge in wake of sanctions against Russia, Vedomosti writes

Changes in logistics chains due to the sanctions imposed on Russia in 2022 have led to a surge in greenhouse gas emissions from cargo deliveries, Vedomosti writes, citing research by analysts from the Skolkovo School of Management.

Trump was likely behind a false statement to DOJ

New details from the affidavit used in the FBI search of Mar-a-Lago suggest that former President Donald Trump may have authorized a false statement his attorneys made to the DOJ, legal analysts said.



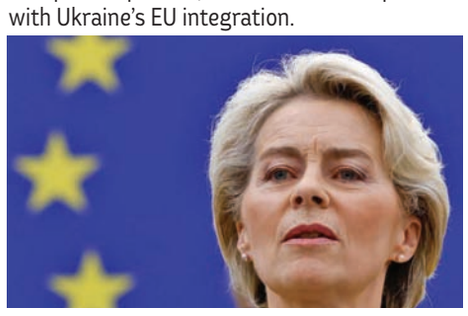
Experts zeroed in on a statement in the affidavit an attorney for Trump gave to investigators when they visited Mar-a-Lago to retrieve government records in June.

The details had previously been redacted, but were made public Tuesday on the order of a federal magistrate.

Investigators believe that Trump may have violated laws including the Espionage Act in holding onto the records, and also that Trump and his aides may have obstructed their investigation.

'Putin will fail and Europe will prevail,' EU chief says

The European Commission president, Ursula von der Leyen, has insisted "Putin will fail and Europe will prevail", as she vowed to press on with Ukraine's EU integration.



Addressing the European Parliament in Strasbourg, the EU executive president issued a rallying call intended to unite member states grappling with an energy crisis as winter draws near. Von der Leyen described the Russian invasion as not only a war on Ukraine, but "a war on our economy, a war on our values and a war on our future".

UK inviting North Korea to send envoy to Queen Elizabeth's funeral

Britain is inviting a representative from North Korea to attend Queen Elizabeth's funeral on Monday, but Afghanistan, Syria and Venezuela will not be given an invite, a Foreign Office source said on Wednesday.

The invitation for North Korea would be at an ambassadorial level, the source said.

Queen Elizabeth's funeral will take place in London on Sept. 19.

Two Palestinians, one Israeli soldier killed in Jenin shoot-out

Two Palestinian men and one Israeli soldier have been killed during an exchange of fire in the northern occupied West Bank near the city of Jenin.

The Palestinian men were identified on Wednesday as Ahmad Ayman Abed, 23, and Abdul Rahman Hani Abed, 22.

The Israeli soldier was named as Bar Falah, 30.

The two men were from the village of Kufr Dan on the western outskirts of Jenin and had reportedly engaged in armed clashes with Israeli forces at the Jalama (Gilboa) military checkpoint north of the city in the early hours of Wednesday.

The Israeli regime's army said it had been carrying out "a suspect arrest procedure, during which the suspects shot at the fighters".

"[A major] was killed overnight during operational activity adjacent to the Gilboa Crossing during an exchange of fire," the army added.

God does not back war, pope says

Pope Francis said on Wednesday that God does not guide religions towards war, an implicit criticism of Russian Orthodox Patriarch Kirill, who backs the invasion of Ukraine and has boycotted a conference of faith leaders.

On his second day in Kazakhstan, Francis addressed the Seventh Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions, a meeting that brings together Christians, Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus and other faiths.

US sets up fund that could transfer frozen billions to Afghanistan

The Biden administration has worked with Switzerland and Afghan economists to set up a new fund that could eventually serve as a mechanism to put billions of dollars in frozen Afghan money to use to promote economic stability in the country, according to two senior U.S. officials.

The U.S. is moving $3.5 billion to the new "Afghan Fund," but officials said they won't release the money imminently because there is no trusted institution in Afghanistan to guarantee the funds will benefit the Afghan people, the officials said.

Transferring these funds to the Afghan central bank will depend on two key factors: responsible management of the bank and assurances that the funds will not be diverted to terrorists or criminals, the officials added.

"We do not have that confidence today," said a senior U.S. official. At minimum the Afghan central bank will need to "demonstrate its independence from political influence and interference." It will also need to demonstrate it has "instituted adequate anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism controls" and "complete a third party needs assessment and onboard a reputable third party monitoring," the official explained.

Iran eager to boost tourism ties with India

From page 1 ▶ Experts expect Iran to achieve a tourism boom after the coronavirus is contained, believing its impact would be temporary and short-lived for a country that ranked the third fastest-growing tourism destination in 2019.

Iran seeks to reap a bonanza from its numerous tourist spots such as bazaars, museums, mosques, bridges, bathhouses, madrasas, mausoleums, churches, towers, and mansions, of which 26 are inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list. Under the 2025 Tourism Vision Plan, Iran aims to increase the number of tourist arrivals from 4.8 million in 2014 to 20 million in 2025.

Permanent crafts show to run adjacent to Belqeys citadel

TEHRAN - Belqeys citadel, famed as the second-largest mud-brick fortress in Iran, is set to host a permanent handicrafts exhibition in the near future.

"Using traditional architectural patterns, stalls of the permanent exhibition will be set up on the way to the entrance of the historical Belqeys citadel," the tourism chief of North Khorasan province said on Tuesday.

The ruined citadel, which is sometimes referred to as Shahr-e Belqeys ("The city of Belqeys"), is located in the northeastern province. It lies at a short distance from the city of Esfarayen.

Evidence suggests that Shahr-e Belqeys was hectic from the late Sassanid era to a time when Nader Shah Afshar (one of the most powerful rulers in Iranian history) assumed power in the early 18th century.

Belqeys citadel is one of the largest mud-brick fortresses in Iran after the UNESCO-registered Bam citadel. It lies at a short distance from the city of Esfarayen. Remnants of the citadel, family lodgings,

irrigation channels, a cistern, and a hypostyle hall are amongst objects so far unearthed in Belqeys during rounds of excavation.

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. Ceramics, pottery vessels, handwoven cloths as well as personal ornamentations with precious and semi-precious gemstones are traditionally exported to Iraq, Afghanistan, Germany, the U.S., the UK, and other countries.

Farms gain agritourism permits in Golestan

TEHRAN—A total of 21 farms in the northern province of Golestan have received agritourism permits, the provincial tourism chief has said.

The farms are estimated to generate over 180 job opportunities for the locals, CHTN quoted Mohammad Javad Savari as saying on Wednesday.

Such permits are given to eligible farm owners in the country to launch their agritourism businesses, aiming to set certain standards in a move to ensure the quality of their services.

Due to its diverse climate, rich agricultural products, and eco-lodge units in the mountains, plains, and desert slopes, Golestan province is unique in agritourism, the official added.

Agritourism was launched in Golestan province as a pilot project in 2019, and the province was the first in the country that issued agritourism permits, he noted.

Among the objectives of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts is to diversify tourism products in order to take advantage of all the country's tourism resources, he explained.

In this regard, agritourism is seen as one of the main axes of development in the province, and combining agriculture and tourism in agritourism projects can help both sectors grow economically, he mentioned.

Agritourism is a relatively new branch of the travel industry in which tourists stay with local people in rural areas. Farm/ranch recreation refers to activities conducted on private agricultural lands, which might include fee-hunting and fishing, overnight stays, educational activities, etc.

Experts believe that in addition to the customer services jobs, agritourism pays special attention to the production sector, saying agricultural tourism is much more important and practical than other branches of tourism because it creates a new chain and diversity in the field of production and services.

Agritourism and nature-tourism enterprises might include outdoor recreation (fishing, hunting, wildlife study, horseback riding), educational experiences (cannery tours, cooking classes, or tea or coffee tasting), entertainment (harvest festivals or barn dances), hospitality services (farm stays, guided tours, or outfitter services), and on-farm direct sales (u-pick operations or roadside stands).

Agritourism is a subset of a larger industry called rural tourism that includes resorts, off-site farmers' markets, non-profit agricultural tours, and other leisure and hospitality businesses that attract visitors to the countryside.

Fossil site discovered east of Tehran

TEHRAN—Archaeologists have found a site east of Tehran, which is full of fossilized remains.

According to Iranian archaeologist Qasem Rahimi, a dense fossil site has been discovered a few kilometers east of Tehran, ILNA reported on Monday.

"Archaeologists identified this site in a routine survey of ancient sites. Now, we are planning to conduct extensive research to discover more details," Rahmani said.

Reminded of other similar sites previously discovered near the Iranian capital, he said: "Over the past couple of years, archaeologist colleagues had found similar fossil sites in the neighboring cities of Tehran, such as Damavand, Firuzkuh, and Pardis."

The site covers some 500 meters with a very good geological layer, where there is an abundance of fossils of marine organisms (shellfish species and ammonites).

Studies have commenced on a number of the recently discovered fossils, he said. "We are now conducting scientific studies on these new findings."

Furthermore, Rahimi pointed out that a team of archaeologists has been tasked to prepare and collect the documents from the site, which

The distribution of fossils in this area is very high, as it can be said that there are hundreds of fossils in one centimeter.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the archaeologist said: "We are now in the test phase, that is why we say further news will be announced after the tests are done."

Moreover, the archaeologist said similar sites have been discovered across the county so far. "For instance, a very rich bone site was found accidentally a few years ago during a construction project on the Lorestan- Aleshtar road."

"Following a field investigation, we realized the discovery of a site full of animal bones, and we even saw signs of the presence of a dagger-toothed tiger. We did and came across the remains of a creature that lived some six million years ago."

Essentially, archaeologists work on sites whenever they are related to humans or humans are involved. If it is associated with non-human fossils, it will be in charge of the geological organization, Rahimi explained.

According to the available data, the first well-documented evidence of human habitation on the Iranian Plateau was found in several excavated cave and rock shelters, located mainly in the Zagros Mountains of western Iran, dating to the Middle Palaeolithic or Mousterian period (c. 100,000 BC).

From the Caspian in the northwest to Baluchestan in the southeast, the Iranian plateau extends for close to 2,000 km. The land encompasses the greater part of Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan west of the Indus River, containing some 3,700,000 square kilometers. Despite being called a "plateau", it is far from flat but contains several mountain ranges, the highest peak being Damavand in the Alborz mountain range at 5610 m, and the Dasht-e Loot east of Kerman in Central Iran, falling below 300 m.

Experts say that by 7,000 BC, sowing and harvesting reached Mesopotamia, and there, in the super fertile soil just north of the Persian Gulf, Sumerian ingenuity systematized it and scaled it up. By 6000 BC, farming was entrenched on the banks of the Nile River. About this time, agriculture was developed independently in the Far East, probably in China, with rice rather than wheat as the primary crop.

Because of agriculture, cities, as well as trade relations between different regions and groups of people, developed, further enabling the advancement of human societies and cultures. Agriculture has been an important aspect of economics throughout the centuries before and after the Industrial Revolution. Sustainable development of world food supplies impacts the long-term survival of the species, so care must be taken to ensure that agricultural methods remain in harmony with the environment.

Demarcation results may alter fate of steel company near ancient site

TEHRAN— Controversy over the construction of a steel company adjacent to Qareh Hasanlu is to be resolved by the results of a pending demarcation project to determine the legal properties of the ancient hill, which is situated in Ardabil province, northwestern Iran.

A team of cultural heritage experts and archaeologists has been tasked by the Research Institute for Cultural Heritage & Tourism to conduct extensive field research to verify the legal boundaries of Qareh Hasanlu, CHTN quoted the provincial tourism chief as saying on Tuesday.

And the final decision [over the fate of the steel company] will be made when legal properties are determined, Fardin Eini said.

"Establishing a steel factory is not associated with the devastation of the ancient site, and protecting the ancient site of Qara Hasanlu does not mean preventing the operation of the steel factory, and both may coexist."

"Protecting this ancient site is our main duty, but outside of the ancient area, we cannot prevent the operation of the steel factory, and issuing or not issuing a license for the operation of this factory is not in the scope of the authority of the General Directorate of Cultural Heritage.

Months ago, cultural heritage fans expressed wariness over the fate of Qareh Hasanlu as the steel factory was to be constructed nearby.

Later, an Iranian MP said Qareh Hasanlu should be preserved against a developing steel factory nearby. Ali Nikzad, who represents the cities of Ardabil, Nir, Namin, and Sarein, said that cultural heritage criteria will be taken into consideration for constructing the factory.

"The state-run factory is not supposed to be constructed on the ruins of the archaeological site... Additionally, its stakeholders have collaborated with the Research Institute for Cultural Heritage and Tourism for a recent survey," Nikzad explained.

Archaeologists in July discovered some relics and the ruins of an ancient building in the northwestern site, estimated to date from the Parthian era (247 BC –-224 CE).

The project was launched to safeguard and protect the historical site against further destruction on the one hand, and to identify comprehensive information on

possible cultural layers, particularly Iron Age settlements, on the other hand.

Ardabil's department for tourism and cultural heritage is hoping to win national recognition for Qareh Hasanlu, which has yielded relics and ruins in previous excavations.

Sprawling on a high, windswept plateau, Ardabil is well-known for having lush natural beauties, hospitable people, and its silk and carpet trade tradition. It is also home to the UNESCO-registered Sheikh Safi al-Din Khanegah and the Shrine Ensemble. The province is very cold in winter and mild in summer, attracting thousands every year. The capital city of Ardabil is usually recorded as one of the coldest cities in the country in winter.

Historical mansion in Shiraz being restored to former glory

TEHRAN – The Qajar-era (1789-1925) Barekat Mansion in Shiraz, southern Fars province, has undergone some rehabilitation works, the provincial tourism chief has said.

The project is being carried out by experienced restorers under the supervision of cultural heritage experts, Seyyed Moayyed Mohsen-Nejad said on Wednesday.

Repairing doors, windows, and other wooden parts as well as restoring the rooftop and the walls of the rooms are parts of the project, the official added.

A budget of 1.3 billion rials ($4,400) has been allocated to the

project so far, he noted.

Celebrated as the heartland of Persian culture for over 2000 years, Shiraz has become synonymous with education, nightingales, poetry, and crafts skills passed down from generation to generation. It was one of the most important cities in the medieval Islamic world and was the Iranian capital during the Zand dynasty from 1751 to 1794.

Shiraz is home to some of the country's most magnificent buildings and sights. Increasingly, it draws more and more foreign and domestic sightseers flocking into this provincial capital.

Eram Garden, Afif-Abad Garden, Tomb of Hafez, Tomb of Sa'di, Jameh Mosque of Atigh, and Persepolis are among the historical, cultural, and ancient sites of Shiraz that are of interest to domestic and foreign tourists.

The UNESCO-registered Persepolis, also known as Takht-e Jamshid, whose magnificent ruins rest at the foot of Kuh-e Rahmat (Mountain of Mercy), was the ceremonial capital of the Achaemenid Empire. It is situated 60 kilometers northeast of the city of Shiraz in Fars Province.

Shiraz is also home to some magnificent historical gardens such as Bagh-e Narenjestan and Eram Garden, which are top tourist destinations both for domestic and international sightseers.

UNESCO describes the Persian Garden as an idea that combines natural elements with manmade components to materialize the concept of Eden or Paradise on Earth.

Old trees, daffodil fields made national heritage

TEHRAN—A selection of nine natural properties across the southern province of Fars has recently been inscribed on the national heritage list.

The Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts announced the inscriptions on Wednesday in a letter to the governor-general of the province, Mehr reported.

Old plane and pistacia trees as well as two daffodil fields were among the properties added to the prestigious list.

In Persian culture and literature, the daffodil symbolizes the eye, usually the eye of the beloved. In poetry, the beloved is likened to the daffodil because of its leafless and green stem, which is hollowed out, straw-like, and curved, which is associated with humility and dignity.

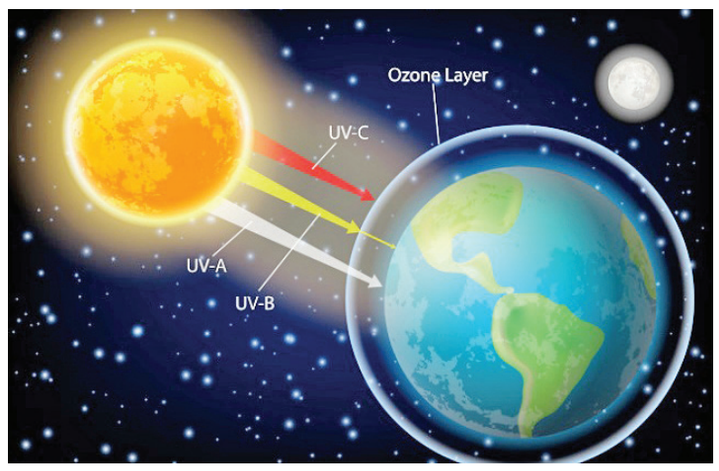
The daffodil is a perennial and grows to about 41 cm in height. Each plant features five or six linear leaves that grow from the bulb and are about 30 cm long. The stem bears one large yellow blossom with a corolla deeply cleft into six lobes and a central bell-shaped crown that is frilled at its edges. This trumpet shape contains stamens and is the flower's most conspicuous feature.

The ancient region of Fars also spelled Pars, or Persis, was the heart of the Achaemenid Empire (550–330 BC), which was founded by Cyrus the Great and had its capital at Pasargadae. Darius I the Great moved the capital to nearby Persepolis in the late 6th or early 5th century BC.

The capital city of Shiraz is home to some of the country's most magnificent buildings and sights. Increasingly, it draws more and more foreign and domestic sightseers flocking to this provincial capital, which was the literary capital of Persia during the Zand dynasty from 1751 to 1794.

Having an opulent tourist circuit with 26 UNESCO World Heritage sites, of which the vast Hyrcanian Forest and Lut Desert are among the natural properties, Iran seeks to acquire a greater share of the global tourism industry by 2025.

Iran ahead of schedule in preserving ozone layer



TEHRAN – Iran was committed to reducing ozone-depleting substances by 35 percent by the beginning of 2022, which is currently ahead of schedule reaching 67 percent.

According to the schedule of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (the Montreal Protocol), Iran has been able to fulfill its obligations and remove 9,800 tons of ozone-depleting substances from the consumption cycle, which has caused the emergence of technologies compatible with the ozone layer in 1,378 production and service units.

The National Ozone Layer Protection Plan has been one of the pioneering plans in the fight against the destruction of the ozone layer. So far, it has received 4 letters of commendation from the Montreal Protocol and the United Nations.

Despite sanctions, Iran is among the leading countries in the field of expanding regional cooperation to use local capabilities to manage and remove substances that destroy the ozone layer, and control the trade of materials and goods containing these substances.

World Ozone Day is celebrated every year on September 16 as a tribute to the signing of the Montreal Protocol. It was on this date in 1987 when this protocol was signed.

The theme for the 2022 International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, is "Montreal Protocol@35: global cooperation protecting life on earth".

The theme recognizes the wider impact the Montreal Protocol has on climate change and the need to act in collaboration, forge partnerships and develop global cooperation to address climate challenges and protect life on earth for future generations.

> The National Ozone Layer Protection Plan has so far received 4 letters of commendation from the Montreal Protocol and the United Nations.

Important layer

The ozone layer is of great importance for sustaining life on earth, if harmful emissions are reduced enough, it will take about 50 years for the ozone layer to repair so it requires global attention and action.

34 years ago, the use of harmful man-made chemicals began eating away at the ozone, the hole over Antarctica was first discovered by the British Antarctic Survey in 1985.

The ozone layer is a part of the atmosphere that has high concentrations of ozone (a gas made of three oxygen atoms 03), compared to oxygen molecules that exist in nature as a pair of oxygen atoms. It exists 10km to 40km above the surface of the earth in a region called the stratosphere and contains 90 percent of all the ozone in the atmosphere.

Some harmful gasses including HCFC and Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) can interfere with the formation of ozone; mostly causing gaps or holes in the layer, as well as passing UV radiation from the sun to the atmosphere.

CFCs are referred to compounds of carbon, hydrogen, chlorine, and fluorine typically gases used in refrigerants and aerosol propellants. They are harmful to the ozone layer in the earth's atmosphere owing to the release of chlorine atoms on exposure to ultraviolet radiation.

HCFCs are also man-made compounds containing hydrogen, chlorine, fluorine, and carbon and do not occur naturally anywhere. These compounds are used in refrigeration, aerosol propellants, foam manufacture, and air conditioning.

HCFCs are less dangerous causing a smaller risk to the ozone layer; while being very powerful greenhouse gases, which are nearly 2,000 times more potent than carbon dioxide in adding to global warming.

Ozone hole shrinking

The ozone hole which was once the major environmental concern turned into the least important concern today; as the concentration of harmful emissions has considerably reduced by 14 percent since 2000.

The hole has been shrinking by 1-3 percent a decade.

However, the upper ozone layer above the Northern Hemisphere is said to be completely repaired in the 2030s, and the gaping Antarctic ozone hole should disappear in the 2060s, according to a scientific assessment released in 2018 at a conference in Quito, Ecuador.

According to the UN, efforts to protect the ozone layer have also helped to tackle climate change by preventing the release of about 135 billion tons of carbon dioxide since 2010.

By the end of the century, eradicating HCFCs emissions not only can lead to the ozone layer repair but to reduce the temperature raise up to 0.4°C.

10-year plan to contain internal SDS sources

TEHRAN – A 10-year plan has been prepared to mitigate internal hotspots giving rise to sand and dust storms (SDSs), Ali Salajeqeh, head of the Department of Environment (DOE), has announced.

Unfortunately, the desertification phenomenon is progressing in the country and is outpacing reforestation, he lamented.

Based on the 10-year plan, the relevant institutions are performing their tasks to curb SDS effects, he stated, adding that the Natural Resources and Watershed Management Organization should have the first role in the plan, and the Planning and Budget Organization should also stand by the work.

In July, Tehran played host to a conference of ministers and officials from 11 countries, aiming to boost cooperation for resolving extant environmental problems, especially sand and dust storms.

Environment ministers of Iraq, Armenia, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Syria, and Qatar, as well as deputy ministers of Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan along with delegations from Turkey and Uzbekistan, participated in the event which was held with the theme of "Environmental Cooperation for a Better Future."

SDS effects

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 reservoirs.

The internal dust sources are estimated at 34.6 million hectares, generating an average amount

of 4.22 million tons of dust per year, about 1.460 million hectares are dried wetlands.

Some 4.23 million tons of dust are raised per year, which means the loss of soil fertility will hit the agricultural sector.

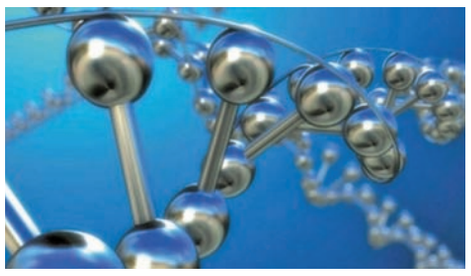
All the SDSs sources are not located in Iran, 300 million hectares in the neighboring countries are giving rise to SDSs, which transport dust into Iran. The total dust density is estimated at about 150 million tons.

In fact, the dust is raised from Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, and Pakistan in the northeast as well as Iraq, Syria, Saudi Arabia, and Jordan in the south, southwest, and west.

Letizia Rossano, the director of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management (APDIM), said in June that Iran is really at forefront of understanding the problem of sand and dust storms as well as dealing with it.

More than 80 percent of the entire populations of Turkmenistan, Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and the Islamic Republic of Iran are exposed to medium and high levels of poor air quality due to sand and dust storms," she noted.

Over 250 nanotechnology companies supported in a year



TEHRAN – A sum of 45 billion rials (around $160,000) has been paid to support 256 nanotechnology companies over the past Iranian calendar year (March 2021-March 2022).

Some 1,498 support services worth 45 billion rials (around $160,000) have been provided to 256 companies holding a nanoscale certificate.

These services were provided to companies active in the nanotechnology field in four general categories of "international market development", "business management", " production and development" and "domestic market development".

Nanotechnology improvement

One of the industries that have experienced good growth in Iran in recent years, proving the country's scientific development, is the nanotechnology industry, a subject area that has brought Iran to the world's fourth place.

Currently, nanotech products are produced and marketed in more than 15 industrial fields based on domestic technologies and are being exported to 49 countries from five continents.

Over the past year (ended March 20), the total sale of Iranian nanoproducts has been equal to 115 trillion rials (nearly $425 million).

The expansion of nanotechnology export programs in recent years and the establishment of bases for exporting nanoproducts to China, India, Indonesia, Syria, Turkey, and Iraq have provided the opportunity for the entry of Iranian nanotechnology goods, equipment, and services into global markets.

> Services were provided for "international market development", "business management", " production and development" and "domestic market development".

Some 42 percent of the products in this field are related to construction, more than 17 percent to the field of oil, gas, and petrochemicals, 13 percent to the field of automobiles, and over 10 percent to the field of optoelectronics.

Some 270 companies are active in the nanotechnology field and it is predicted that their revenue will reach up to 80 trillion rials (nearly $310 million), Vice President for Science and Technology, Sourena Sattari, announced.

Iran's ranking in nanotechnology articles citation in 2019 has significantly improved compared to 2018, as it moved 26 levels higher, according to StatNano's statistics collected from the WoS database.

Based on a report Nanotechnology Publications report, Iran ranked 38 worldwide for the average number of times the nano-articles have been cited in the Journal Citation Reports in 2019, while in 2018, it was placed 64.

It also ranked 4th for the highest number of nano-article publications.

Venezuela showcases Iranian knowledge-based products

From page 1 ▸ In August, Venezuelan Minister of Science and Technology Gabriela Servilia Jimenez in a meeting with Iranian Vice President for Science and Technology Sourena Sattari expressed interest to use Iran's technological capabilities in the fields of medical equipment, animal husbandry technologies, cultivation of medicinal plants, animal medicine, agriculture, advanced materials, and the environment.

Strengthening knowledge-based companies on agenda

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei designated the current Iranian year as "The Year of Production: Knowledge-Based and Job-Creating".

Strengthening knowledge-based companies are on the agenda, raising hope for reducing obstacles on the path to development.

The Leader has called on all Iranians, including citizens and government officials, to work hard to boost knowledge-based production and create new jobs.

In this regard, a strategic technology development headquarters was formed and 362,000 technological projects and 154 commercialization projects were supported, in addition to the inauguration of 23 national mega projects.

Moreover, in the field of innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem development, 65 creative houses and innovation centers, and 30 specialized accelerators have been established with the aim of empowering and strengthening the export capacity of knowledge-based, creative, and technological companies.

So, over 7,000 knowledge-based and 1,600 creative companies have so far been registered and started operations.

The fields of biotechnology, agriculture, food industries, chemical technologies aircraft maintenance, steel, gas, pharmaceuticals, medical equipment and medicine, oil, electronics and telecommunications, information technology, and computer software are among the sectors in which researchers in technology companies are working.

Today, the country's knowledge-based ecosystem accounts for more than 3 percent of GDP. And the figure is projected to reach 5 percent, however, the main goal is to step toward a 10 percent share in GDP, Sattari told Fars on February 13.

The share of knowledge-based companies in the country's economy has exceeded 9 quadrillion rials (about $34 billion), and since 2019, it has experienced a growth of more than 450 percent, he stated.

ENGLISH IN USE

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$3b approved for improving safety of schools

The sixth five-year national development plan (2016-2021) has predicted a total budget of $3 billion to be allocated for rebuilding and retrofitting old schools across the country, director of the organization for renovation, development and equipment of schools has said.

There are some 107,000 schools nationwide with 530,000 classes, 160,000 of which are dilapidated, not meeting safety standards, ISNA quoted Mehrollah Rakhshanimehr as saying on Wednesday.

"However, after 2 years the budget has not been allocated yet," he lamented.

He went on explain that 30 percent of the schools nationwide are old, of which some 12 percent must be completely rebuilt and 18 percent must be retrofitted.

درخواست تخصیص ۳ میلیارد دلار برای ایمن سازی مدارس

رئیس سازمان نوسازی، توسعه و تجهیز مدارس کشوربا اشاره به وجود ۱۶۰ هزار کلاس درس ناایمن در سطح کشور خواستار تخصیص بودجه سه میلیارد دلاری تصویب شده در قالب برنامه ششم توسعه برای ایمن سازی مدارس شد.

مهراله رخشانی مهر در گفت‌وگو با ایسنا، با بیان اینکه حدود ۱۰۷ هزار مدرسه با ۵۳۰ هزار کلاس درس در کشور داریم اظهار کرد: از این میزان، ۳۰ درصد مدارس نیازمند مقاوم سازی و تخریب و بازسازی‌اند که به تفکیک می‌توان گفت ۱۸ درصد مدارس باید مقاوم سازی و ۱۲ درصد تخریب و بازسازی شوند.

COVID-19 UPDATES ON SEPTEMBER 14

New cases	646
New deaths	22
Total cases	7,540,962
Total deaths	144,243
New hospitalized patients	130
Patients in critical condition	432
Total recovered patients	7,318,111
Diagnostic tests conducted	53,957,025
Doses of vaccine injected	154,605,391

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SEPTEMBER 15, 2022

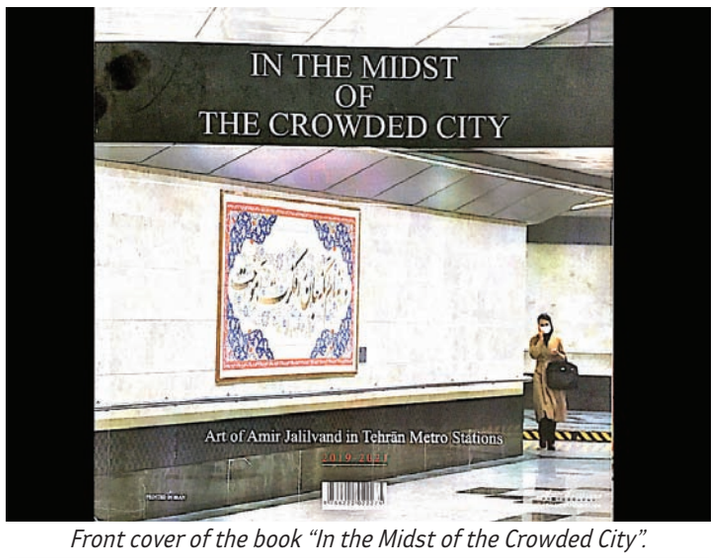
GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

A fool's mind is at the mercy of his tongue and a wise man's tongue is under the control of his mind.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:13:00 Evening: 19:30 Dawn: 5:23 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:47 (tomorrow)

Tehran metro art unfolds stories from history, literature



Front cover of the book "In the Midst of the Crowded City".

Frome Page **1** ▸ Nevertheless, artworks have been mounted in corridors and on walls of metro stations to add color to commuting and enhance the otherwise spiritless subterranean life. In addition, each piece of art reminds people of a part of their cultural history and literary heritage.

Calligrapher and photographer Amir Jalilvand is one of the artists who has produced artworks for Tehran subway stations. His works embellish seven stations and he has even published a pictorial book to attract people's attention to the artworks.

In his English-Persian book entitled "In the Midst of the Crowded City", he briefs readers on how he was tapped by Tehran Metro officials to do the artworks and the messages his creations convey.

The underground art project got off the ground in 2019 with a nastaliq calligraphy of the poem "Neynameh" by Molana Jalal ad-Din Rumi for Molavi (Rumi) Station, which is located near a street named after the Persian mystic and poet who lived in the 13th century.

Eighteen verses of the poet were inscribed on lapis lazuli tiles in a 274 X 224-centimeter tableau, which additionally features an arabesque decoration design.

A highlight of the collection is "Homeland's Youth" set up at Modafe'an Salamat (Health Defenders) Station. The artwork represents a nastaliq calligraphy of "Tulips have grown from the blood of our land's youth", a verse of the famous epic poem composed by Aref Qazvini for the Iranian youth killed in the Constitutional Revolution (1906-1911).

A portrait of Qazvini by an anonymous artist is also seen attached to the artwork created on tiles.

The Constitutional Revolution is also commemorated by another artwork entitled "National Commander and National Chieftain" at the station.

The work depicts the portraits of Sattar Khan and Baqer Khan, two leaders of the Constitutional Revolution, and a nastaliq inscription reading "Commander and Chieftain of the Constitutional Revolution, Sattar Khan and Baqer Khan".

"Ey Iran" ("O Iran") is another outstanding work in the collection. The work comprises 144 clay tablets, which like pieces of a puzzle shape a 292 X 300-centimeter tableau installed at Ahang Station.

The work bears a siah-mashq inscription reading "O Iran! O land of gems abound!", a verse from a patriotic song composed by Hossein Golegolab when Iran was occupied after the Anglo-Soviet invasion in 1941 despite that the country had declared its neutrality in World War II.

On his way to the Iran National Music Association, Golegolab was really sad to see the occupiers' abusive behavior toward Iranians, however, it provided the inspiration for him to compose "Ey Iran".

He later teamed up with musician Ruhollah Khaleqi and singer Gholam-Hossein Banan and the patriotic song was born.

These and many other artworks decorating Tehran subway stations have similar stories from Iranian history and Persian literature and culture.

Iran: history of drama

Part 2

Beginnings of Persian drama

Modern Persian drama had its beginnings in the 19th century, when educated Persians became acquainted with Western theater.

Students sent to Europe to acquire knowledge of Western technology returned with a taste for other aspects of Western culture, including theater.

Initially Western plays were translated into Persian and performed for the royal family and courtiers in the first Western-style theater in Persia, on the site of the later Dar al-Fonun.

Molière's Le misanthrope was the first of them, translated as Gozaresh-e Mardomgoriz by Mirza Habib Esfahani (Istanbul, 1869) with much liberty taken in the rendering of the characters' names and personalities, so that the play was more Persian than French.

In addition to direct adaptations, Persian drama was also indirectly influenced by Western theater through the works of the reform-minded civil servant and writer Mirza Fath-Ali Akhundzadeh, whose plays, written in Azeri Turkish and published in a newspaper in the Caucasus in 1851-56, stimulated Mirza Aqa Tabrizi to try his hand at writing plays in Persian.

Three of Tabrizi's four plays, written in the 1870s, were initially published erroneously under the name of Mirza Malkom Khan Nazem al-Dowleh in Berlin in 1922; later all four were published under the title Chahar Tiatr (Four Plays) in Tabriz (ed. M.-B. Mo'meni, 1976).

They deal essentially with government corruption and other social ills. In Sargozasht-e AshrafKhan(The Story of Ašraf Khan) Tabrizi focused on the practice of bribery in the Qajar government.

The protagonist is obliged to pay bribes to every official, from the king down to the groom, in order to continue in his post as governor of Khuzestan, where he expects to be able to extort a great deal more from his subjects.

In Tariqe-ye Hokumat-e Zaman Khan-e Borujerdi (The Method of Government of Zaman Khan Borujerdi) Tabrizi examined the manner in which local governors coerced the people into paying bribes, and in Hekayat-e Karbala Raftan-e Shahqoli Mirza (The Story of Shahqoli Mirza's pilgrimage to Karbala) he addressed the family relationships of the Qajar rulers, also governed by greed and extortion.

Finally, in Hekayat-e Asheq Shodan-e Aqa Hashem (The Story of Aqa Hashem's Falling in Love) he attacked the importance placed on wealth and the prevalence of superstitious beliefs and practices like fortune-telling.

These plays are not entirely successful, owing to Tabrizi's unfamiliarity with the formal aspects of Western drama; although some have been staged in recent decades, they remain important primarily to historians of Persian drama.

In particular their themes are significant, comparable to those embodied in contemporary fiction and poetry. Indeed, Persian drama has remained primarily a vehicle of social criticism since these early attempts, though later playwrights created more sophisticated and experimental works.

From these initial attempts interest in Western-style drama began to grow in Persia in the later decades of Qajar rule.

A national theater was established in Tehran in 1911, and a number of playwrights began experimenting with musical comedies and dramas in verse.

Among the most prominent were Mortazaqoli Khan Fekri Ershad Mo'ayyad al-Mamalek (1868-1917), who wrote five plays: Sirus-e Kabir (Cyrus the Great; Tehran, 1914), Sargozasht-e yek ruznamenegar (The Story of a Journalist; Tehran, 1914), Eshq-e Piri (Love in Old Age; Tehran, 1914), Hokkam-e Qadim, Hokkm-e Jadid (Old Rulers, New Rulers; Tehran, 1916), and Se Ruz dar Malieh (Three Days in the Department of Finance; Tehran, 1916).

Although Fekri Ershad's plays are technically superior to those of Tabrizi, they are focused on similar themes. For example, in Hokkam-e Qadim, Hokkam-e Jadid, he dealt with government corruption after the Constitutional Revolution in ways reminiscent of Sargozasht-e Ashraf Khan.

Other contemporary playwrights included Ahmad Mahmudi Kamal al-Vezareh (1875-1930), author of Haji Ria'i Khan ya Tartuf-e Sharqi (Haji Ria'i Khan, or the Oriental Tartuffe; Tehran, 1918) and Ostad Noruz-e Pineduz (Master Noruz the Cobbler; Tehran, 1919); Mirzada Eshqi (1893-1925), who wrote Rastakhiz-e Salatin-e Iran (The Resurrection of Persian Kings; Tehran, 1916); and Abul-Hasan Forughi (1883-1959), author of Shidush o Nahid (Shidush and Nahid; Tehran, 1921).

Under the Pahlavis

When Reza Shah came to power in the early 1920s his efforts to westernize Persia included new support for Western-style theater.

Nonetheless, the government strictly censored plays deemed critical of the regime. Only those with historical and nationalistic themes, often glorifying pre-Islamic Persia, were supported and promoted by the government.

Still, some dramatists of the period satirized the new preoccupation with the glorious Persian past and the shah's efforts to establish a modern military force.

Examples include Saeid Nafisi's Akherin Yadgar-e Nader Shah (The Last Memento of Nader Shah; Tehran, 1926), set during the war with Russia and revolving around the character of an old soldier from Nader Shah's army, who dwells on memories of past victories, oblivious to the passage of time and Persian defeat.

Another example is Hasan Moqaddam's popular Jafar Khan az Farang Amadeh (Jafar Khan Has Returned from Europe; Tehran, 1922; 2nd ed., Tehran, 1978), one of the earliest plays to focus on the comic confusion arising from encounters between Persian and European cultures.

Moqaddam mocked the Persian penchant for superficial imitation of Westerners, on one hand, and rampant superstition and decadent ideas in Persian society, on the other.

Zabih Behruz (1891-1971) wrote the farce Jijak-Alishah (Tehran, 1923), Ali Nasr (1893-1962) wrote Arusi-e Hossein Aqa (Hossein Aqa's Wedding), and Sadeq Hedayat (1903-51) wrote Parvin Dokhtar-e Sasan (Parvin, Daughter of Sasan; Tehran, 1930; 2nd ed., Tehran, 1954), a sentimental and nationalistic play.

After Reza Shah's abdication in 1941, there was a decade of relative freedom of expression. Various new political parties and groups used drama as a propaganda tool, and once again playwrights turned to sociopolitical themes.

In 1947, Abdolhossein Nushin (1901-71), a graduate of the Conservatoire de Toulouse and an active member of the communist Tudeh party, gathered a number of professional actors to stage translations of Western dramas in Tehran.

The initial success of two such plays persuaded a wealthy merchant to invest in the Ferdowsi theater, in which additional translations of Western dramas directed by Nushin were staged.

The first production, a translation of J. B. Priestley's An Inspector Calls (Mostanteq), met with great success and was followed without interruption by other translated plays until 15 Bahman 1327 Sh./ February 4, 1948, when the Tudeh party was banned and its leading members, including Nushin, jailed after an attempt on the shah's life.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica.

To be continued.

Audiences find "A Farewell Dinner" more mesmerizing than social media: director

Amir Karbalizadeh, Amir Ghaffarmanesh and Javaneh Delshad perform "A Farewell Dinner" at Malek Theater in Tehran.

TEHRAN – The director of "A Farewell Dinner" now on stage in Tehran has said that the comic play is really mesmerizing, so much so that audience members forget to check the social media platforms on their cellphones.

Speaking to the Persian service of ISNA on Tuesday, Shimah Khaseb said, "It's really amazing to see that members of the audience refrain from checking their mobile phones for an hour and a half during the performance."

"I think our people are under pressure and they need to watch a comedy. We have received positive feedback from the audiences and they are really eager to watch such performances," she added.

"I want them leaving their concerns and anxieties behind at the theater doors; the minimum benefit they obtain from this play is that it helps them to abstain from checking social media platforms for the duration of the performance," she noted.

Khaseb is directing "A Farewell Dinner" at Malek Theater with a cast comprised of Amir Ghaffarmanesh, Javaneh Delshad and Amir Karbalizadeh.

The play has been written by Alexandre de la Patellière and Matthieu Delaporte.

Faced with the umpteenth dinner that they would really rather not go to, Pierre and Clotilde make a decision: they are going to have a spring cleaning of all their old friendships. They organize farewell dinners to pay homage to and set free the friends they are soon to say goodbye to forever. Their first victim: Antoine Royer. But between a cowardly and indecisive Pierre, an unpredictable Clotilde, and their overly curious friend, nothing goes according to plan.

Khaseb is seeking to stage the play in other Iranian cities.

"It would be a pity if we restricted ourselves to performing the play just in Tehran for several nights," she said, and expressed her hope that the necessary arrangements could be made by cultural officials and theater owners to allow other people across the country to enjoy their performance.

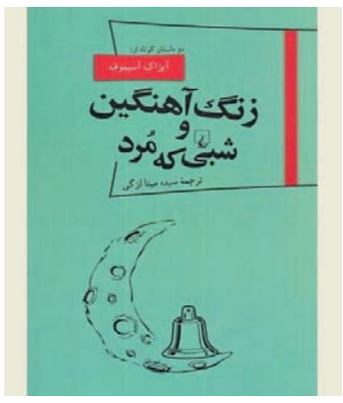
Isaac Asimov's "The Dying Night", "The Singing Bell" published in Persian

TEHRAN – "The Dying Night" and "The Singing Bell" by the Russian-born American writer Isaac Asimov have been published in Persian.

Qoqnus released the short stories in a single book. Mina Lezgi is the translator of the stories.

"The Dying Night" is a science fiction story. Three astronomers, who have been working on the Moon, Mercury and the asteroid Ceres, meet for the first time in ten years at a convention on Earth.

They also meet a former colleague of theirs, Romero Villiers, who had to stay on Earth because of illness. Villiers claims to have invented a mass-transference/teleportation device, but dies under suspicious circumstances before he can demonstrate the device to his friends.



Front cover of the book comprising Isaac Asimov's short fiction stories "The Dying Night" and "The Singing Bell".

The story first appeared in the July 1956 issue of The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction, and was reprinted in the collections Nine Tomorrows (1959), Asimov's Mysteries (1968), and The Best of Isaac Asimov (1973). "The Dying Night" is Asimov's third Wendell Urth story.

"The Singing Bell" is also a science fiction mystery short story, which was first published in the January 1955 issue of The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction and was reprinted in the 1968 collection Asimov's Mysteries. It was the first of Asimov's Wendell Urth stories.

Asimov was a long-time member and vice president of Mensa International, albeit reluctantly; he described some members of that organization as "brain-proud and aggressive about their IQs".

He took more joy in being president of the American Humanist Association. The asteroid 5020 Asimov, the magazine Asimov's Science Fiction, a Brooklyn, NY elementary school, and two different Isaac Asimov Awards are named in his honor.

"Men of Ideas" coming to Iranian bookstores

TEHRAN – "Men of Ideas: Some Creators of Contemporary Philosophy" by Bryan Magee has been published in Persian.

Mahi is the publisher of the book rendered into Persian by the renowned Iranian translator Ezzatollah Fuladvand.

The book carries sixteen dialogues drawn from the highly acclaimed BBC series, which review the tenets and theories of moral philosophy, political philosophy, the philosophy of language and the philosophy of science.

Bryan Edgar Magee was a noted British broadcasting personality, politician, poet and author, best known as a popularizer of philosophy.

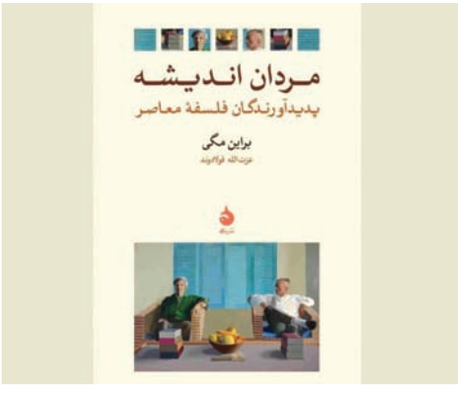
He attended Keble College, Oxford where he studied history as an undergraduate and then philosophy, politics and economics in one year.

He also spent a year studying philosophy at Yale University on a post-graduate fellowship.

Magee's most important influence on society remains his efforts to make philosophy accessible to the layman.

Transcripts of his television series "Men of Ideas" are available in published form in the book "Talking Philosophy".

This book provides a readable and wide-ranging introduction to modern Anglo-American philosophy.



Front cover of the Persian edition of Bryan Magee's book "Men of Ideas: Some Creators of Contemporary Philosophy".