

# Unity Key to Sublime Position in a Changing World: Leader

▶ Page 3

## Report **T** Scottish independence gains momentum

The Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon has expressed strong confidence of a second referendum on Scottish independence that she says could take place in October next year. The Scottish National Party leader says "Scotland – over generations – has paid a price for not being independent."

Britain's top court has already started to hear arguments to allow the secession vote to take place without the approval of British Prime Minister Liz Truss and her government. Downing street has conveyed to the Scottish National Party (SNP), headed by Sturgeon, the government's strongest opposition to the move.

However, the SNP says last year's Scottish parliament elections, which saw a majority of pro-independence lawmakers elected, changed the game. The party won the elections on the basis of providing independence to Scotland and therefore says the party has the democratic mandate by voters to push ahead with a referendum.

Asked during an interview on whether she was confident that this vote will materialize, the First Minister of Scotland said, "Yes, I am confident that can happen."

Sturgeon has promised that a defeat in the Supreme Court will result in her party fighting the next UK-wide election, due to be held in 2024, solely on a platform of whether Scotland should be independent, making it a 'de facto' referendum. She has previously said that this would be a last resort.

Responding to a question by the news presenter on how confident Sturgeon is after she had promised to the country that under her plan Scotland is set to have a referendum next year, she replied, "Supreme court next week will consider the question of does the Scottish parliament have the competence to legislate that referendum. There is little point in speculating the outcome of a court hearing. But should the answer to that be yes, we have the plans ready to go to legislate the work on refreshing and updating the substantive case for independence is well underway. In fact, that will continue over the course of the next few days." ▶ Page 5

## Iranian woman weightlifter Hosseini makes history

TEHEAN – Iranian woman weightlifter Elham Hosseini made history in the 2022 Asian Weightlifting Championships on Friday.

She collected a gold in the snatch by lifting 102kg in the women's 81kg and also seized a gold in the clean and jerk with 125kg. Hosseini won Iran's first gold in the history of women's category by lifting 227kg in total.

Japanese Motoka Nakajima seized the silver by lifting 100kg in the snatch, 123kg in the clean and jerk and 223kg in total.

Aisha Omarova of Kazakhstan won the bronze medal with 93kg in the snatch, 124kg in the clean and jerk and 217kg in total.

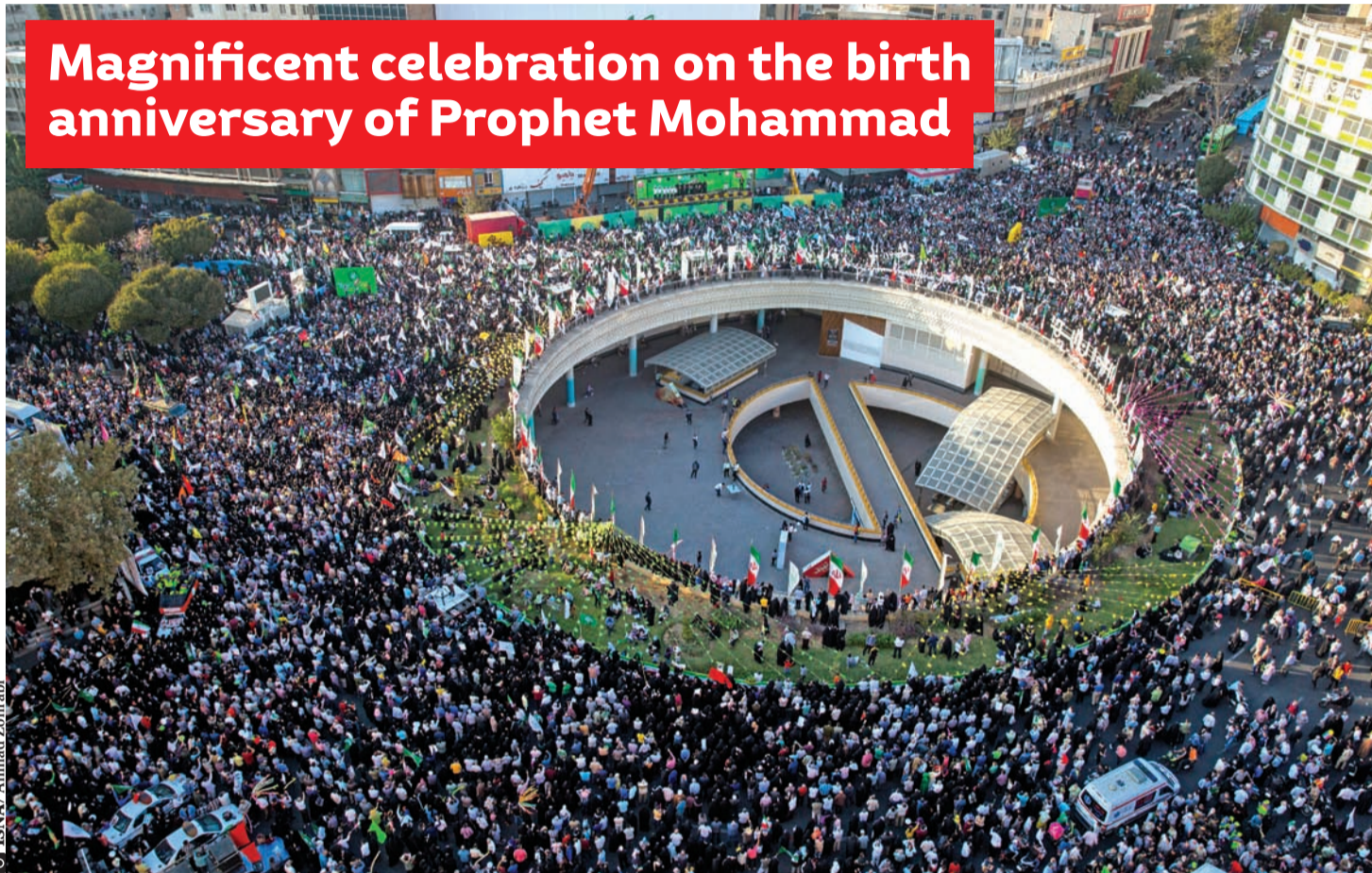
Masoud Chatraei claimed a bronze medal in the men's 89kg weight class on Thursday.

He seized the bronze medal with a total of 358kg. He lifted 162kg in the snatch and 196kg in clean and jerk.

The 2022 Asian Weightlifting Championships are being held in Manama, Bahrain from Oct. 6 to 16.

It is the 50th men's and 31st women's championship.

## Magnificent celebration on the birth anniversary of Prophet Mohammad



© IRNA / Ahmad Zahirabadi

TEHRAN – Enthusiastic people from all walks of life gathered at the famous Vali Asr Square in central Tehran on Friday afternoon to celebrate the birth anniversary of the Prophet Mohammad (pbuh). The magnificent event took place as Tehran hosted an international conference on Islamic unity on Wednesday and Thursday.

The birthday of the Prophet of Islam serves a

great linkage to foster unity between different denominations of Islam.

At a time that certain countries and extremist clerics, including those who seek to promote Takfiri or Wahhabi versions of Islam, such celebratory events are highly significant.

Though Iran is a mainly Shia Muslim country, it

has been a pioneer in trying to create amity between Sunnis and Shias. Iran has been warning that discord is the greatest danger to Muslims. Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has advised different Muslims denominations to focus on common things and avoid divisive issues.

## Iran's 5-month oil revenues increase by 8 times

TEHRAN – Iran's oil revenues have increased by eight times in the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-August 22) with respect to the same period of the previous year, according to official statistics.

As Tasnim news agency reported, the Is-

lamic Republic's oil revenues also increased by 11 times in the previous year.

The mentioned government data show that the Gini coefficient, as a measure of the income distribution and equality, reached 0.39 percent in the previous year with a slight

improvement, and it is expected to improve further this year.

Also, general government revenues have grown by 66.5 percent in the first five months of the current year compared to the same period of the previous year. ▶ Page 4

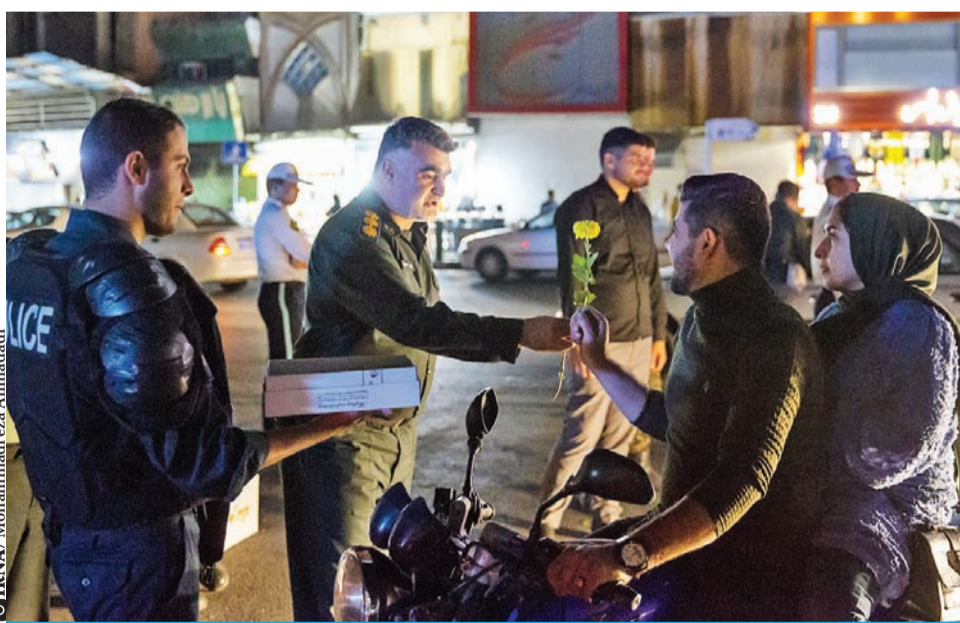
## Iranian universities rise by 10% in Times ranking

TEHRAN – There are 65 universities from Iran in the 2023 ranking of the Times Institute of Higher Education, which indicates a 10 percent increase compared to 58 universities ranked last year.

Being sixth among countries with more than 50 representatives is one of the important features of this ranking for Iran.

According to this report, "Golestan Medical Sciences", "Kurdistan Medical Sciences", and "Mazandaran Medical Sciences" universities are in first place nationally and 351-400 in the world.

The position of two Iranian universities is also defined as "reporter". Institutions whose world ranking is "reporter" are those that have provided their data to "Times Higher Education Institute", but did not meet the minimum required to obtain rank. ▶ Page 7



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## Police forces offer flowers to Tehrani citizens

Police forces offered flower and sweet to passersby at Vali Asr Square in central Tehran. It was done on Thursday night to celebrate the birth anniversary of the Prophet Mohammad (pbuh). The move shows police's respect and devotion to people amid recent protests.

## For people of Mashhad-e Ardehal, observing Qalishuyan is a blend of rituals and culture

TEHRAN—On an autumn morning, earlier this month, hundreds of the locals from Mashhad-e Ardehal and its surroundings came together in Khaveh to observe a time-honored religious ritual.

Passed down from generation to generation, Qalishuyan is practiced to honor the memory of Soltan Ali, a holy figure among the people of Kashan, Fin, and some other cities and villages nearby.

Inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, the

ritual takes place on the nearest Friday to the seventeenth day of the seventh Iranian calendar month of Mehr.

To observe the ritual, people come to gather at a mausoleum to sprinkle rosewater on the carpet in the morning. Having completed the wrapping rituals, they deliver it to the people of Fin outside, who rinse a carpet in running water and sprinkle rosewater drops with neatly cut and beautifully decorated wooden sticks.

According to legend, the dead body of Soltan Ali

was found and carried in a carpet to a stream, where it was washed and buried by the people of Fin and Khaveh. The venue is the mausoleum of Soltan Ali, where a carpet is washed in the holy stream by a huge gathering.

The carpet is then returned to the mausoleum. People of Kashan contribute a prayer carpet, and some others celebrate their ritual the following Friday. These communities maintain oral transmission of the procedures, but also recreate the tradition by adding new and festive elements. ▶ Page 6

- Some rioters in Iran were paid by foreigners, says interior minister **P2**
- Independent Asian states should create own strategies to overcome hurdles: Raisi **P2**
- Confronting crimes against humanity requires collective action: official **P3**
- Iran supports peace in Ukraine: statement **P3**
- Iran, Belarus mulling over joint production of petchem products **P4**
- NRI prepares roadmap for developing renewable energy industry **P4**
- Refining industry development for Iran's stronger role in global energy market **P4**
- Sabzevar equals treasure of cultural heritage: minister **P6**
- Afghan Airlines resumes flights to Iran after one-year halt **P6**
- Inadequate intl. aid makes providing services to refugees impossible **P7**
- Iran seeks to expand health co-op with Sudan, Jordan **P7**
- "Scent of Wind", "The Football Aficionado" win awards at Busan Intl. Film Festival **P8**
- Persian edition of Sarah Kane's "4.48 Psychosis" republished **P8**

## Iran threatens EU capitals against sanctions

Iran this week privately warned EU diplomats to abandon sanctions against Tehran over its handling of the protests, warning diplomats the move may rupture Europe's ties to the country.

"If Europe misses taking the nuances of the current situation into consideration, the ramification will be grave and the bilateral relations may not survive it," warned one letter — sent to a group of EU ambassadors and seen by POLITICO — which details an alternate, Tehran-friendly narrative disconnected from numerous reports coming out of Iran.

EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell on Wednesday received a similar letter, also seen by POLITICO, from Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian.

The EU is expected to soon hit Iran with penalties over its behavior toward rioters that have erupted following the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini, who died while in the custody of Iran's morality police.

The letter sent to EU ambassadors implies that punishing Iran will "bear a detrimental impact on Iran-Europe relations," which are already "at their most fragile at the moment." It also deplores the "current Iran-bashing trends in Europe" and accuses "war-mongering factions in the United States" of "stoking the fire of conflict."

Several European diplomats confirmed they had received the message from the Iranian ambassador. Borrell's office declined to formally comment. Iran was not immediately available for additional comment. ▶ Page 2

## Iranian cinema scores Asia Pacific Screen Awards nods

TEHRAN – The Iranian films "Beyond the Wall" and "Woodgirls – A Duet for a Dream" have received nominations in three categories, including best screenplay and best documentary, at the 15th edition of the 15th Asia Pacific Screen Awards (APSA).

Directed and written by Vahid Jalilvand "Beyond the Wall" was nominated for best screenplay award and its star Navid Mohammadzadeh is competing for the best performance award.

The film is about a blind man whose suicide attempt is interrupted by his building's concierge who informs him of an escaped woman's hideout in the building. It becomes the blind man's goal to help her.

Having its international premiere at the Venice International Film Festival in September, the film failed to win an award.

Other nominees in the screenplay section include Makbul Mubarak for "Autobiography", Park Chan-wook and Chung Seo-kyeong for "Decision to Leave", Darezhan Omirbayev for "Poet" and Aktan Arym Kubat and Dalmira Tilepbergenova for "This Is What I Remember". ▶ Page 8

## IRGC to hold large drill in Aras

TEHRAN — Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) ground forces has announced that Iran is set to hold a large military exercise in the next few days in the general area of Aras in northwest Iran.

“A large exercise by the IRGC ground forces will be held in the coming days in the

northern borders of the country and the general area of Aras,” Mohammad Pakpour stated.

He said it is in accordance with the regular annual exercises and improving the combat readiness of the IRGC ground forces.

## Leader advisor: Iran won't tolerate escalation near its borders

TEHRAN — An advisor to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution has said that Tehran will not tolerate escalation of tensions and unrest near its borders.

Ali Akbar Velayati, advisor to Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on international affairs, warned, “A small incident in the region will cause the presence and intervention of other countries, and we will definitely not tolerate this kind of anarchy near our borders.”

He reiterated that Iran is ready to mediate between the Republic of Azerbaijan and Armenia, Velayati said. “In the past, when I was foreign minister, we tried hard to mediate and we were successful to some extent. However, sometimes some countries that benefitted from the conflict between the two neighbors interfered and created problems.”

Iran can play an effective role in mediating between the two Caucasian nations, the advisor said, adding that Tehran hopes that there will be no conflict between any of its neighbors.

“We will not give up any effort on this matter and we have eliminated the tensions in order to maintain peace and tranquility among our neighbors,” underlined Velayati, who was foreign minister from 1981 to 1997.

Among Iran's different neighbors, he said the Caucasus region is particularly sensitive, therefore, Iran acts more sensitively and attaches great care towards this region.



“One of the most important factors in establishing peace and tranquility between the countries that can play a fundamental role in this regard is the preservation of known and recognized historical borders,” Velayati added.

The former foreign minister went on to say that violation of recognized borders by one country against another causes tensions in that particular region to flare up and therefore a war breaks out.

“The first result of this conflict is the presence of riotous and abusive countries such as the United States and the Zionist regime under the pretext of establishing a ceasefire,” the Leader's advisor cautioned.

“With these kinds of developments, even a small border incident in this sensitive area will cause the presence and intervention of other countries and this could turn into a center of tension and crisis,” Velayati concluded.

## Iran threatens EU capitals against sanctions

from page 1 ► The U.S. has responded to the outburst with fresh sanctions targeting Iran's morality police. The EU is now looking to follow suit, aiming to adopt a package of penalties at a foreign affairs ministers' meeting on Monday.

EU capitals have vowed to move ahead regardless of any Iranian pressure.

One senior European diplomat told POLITICO that Iran's efforts were a “lost cause” since there is “very strong unity and momentum.”

It was a message German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock stressed last weekend.

“We will make sure that the EU imposes entry bans on those responsible for (what she called) these brutal repressions and freezes their assets in the EU,” she told German weekly Bild am Sonntag on Sunday.

French Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna told French lawmakers she did not see “any difficulties ahead” for the EU to adopt sanctions on Monday, “despite the pressure exerted by Iran to cast our positions as interference.”

The U.S. also chimed in to support the EU's latest efforts.

The letter to EU ambassadors came from Iranian Ambassador to the EU Gholamhossein Dehghani.

In his missive, Dehghani states that an official autopsy found Amini's death “was not the result of cerebral trauma or any other physical harm to the body.”

Still, Dehghani urged EU officials to consider Tehran's side of the story.

“We expect Europe to assess the bilateral relations with the same sensitivity as we do,” he writes. “In this regard, heeding the official reports by the Government of Iran plays a key role.”

He also says Iranian police have been “obligated to deter and detain all forms and manifestations of hooliganism on the streets of different cities in Iran.”

He adds: “To aggrandize the ‘violence’ by

the police will distort judgment and misguide policy-makers in the West.”

Dehghani linked the EU's latest moves to the EU-brokered talks aimed at reviving the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, officially called Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action or JCPOA.

“At this critical juncture, when there is a real shot at the revival of the JCPOA post-U.S. midterms, this is all the more critical,” he writes. The Iran nuclear talks are currently on ice ahead of the upcoming U.S. elections in November. The original deal lifted international sanctions on Iran in exchange for strict restrictions on its nuclear program. But the accord has been on life support since former U.S. President Donald Trump left the agreement in 2018.

The letter sent to Borrell, written by Foreign Minister Amir Abdollahian, echoed many of the same points. It says that Iranian authorities bear no responsibility for Amini's death and argues the protesters have shown “a pattern of violence and terror.”

It adds: “21 police officers [have] been martyred and tens of them injured by daggers and weapons.”

“We and Europe might mildly or strongly agree or disagree on many issues, but this is always a two-way street, as in the case of restoring to measures of restrictive nature,” Amir Abdollahian writes. “Therefore, I strongly discourage both sides from entering into this avenue.”

**U.S. says not focused on pursuing nuclear talks right now**

Meanwhile, U.S. State Department spokesperson Ned Price said on Wednesday that pursuing nuclear talks with Iran “is not the U.S.' focus right now” amid protests in Iran.

“Our focus right now is on the remarkable bravery and courage that the Iranian people are exhibiting through their peaceful demonstrations; through their exercise of their universal rights to freedom of assembly and to freedom of expression,” Price said.

# Independent Asian states should create own strategies to overcome hurdles: Raisi

TEHRAN — Collaboration is essential in “new Asia” in order to build an endogenous pattern to overcome security, economic, and cyber threats, Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi suggests.

Raisi made the comments in a speech at the sixth Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) held in Astana, Kazakhstan, on Thursday.

The President highlighted, “The Islamic Republic of Iran will definitely be a steadfast partner for continuing to pursue and strengthen multilateralism based on justice,” stressing that the world today more than ever needs a more effective role of regional mechanisms to create more opportunities for the objective interaction of international actors and the peaceful resolution of regional and global issues.

Stating that countries member to CICA can employ the current techniques to increase peace and security based on diplomacy and engagement by relying on their deep-rooted civilizational foundation.

President Raisi's speech is as follows:

I hope that by turning CICA into a regional organization, the growth process of this valuable cooperation structure will continue to gain an effective position at the regional and international level.

The process of transformation and transition in the international system has reached a certain stage. In the new redistribution of power, hegemonic approaches are rejected and the voice and role of independent countries are heard and observed more. This transformation and transition needs guidance and direction so as not to be trapped by the consequences of the former international systems. The cultural and spiritual capital that forms the common values of the ancient continent of Asia guarantees order and a world that rejects oppression, injustice and unilateralism and deals with it. The key element in ensuring the success of this process is the cooperation and coordination of independent countries.

Having a civilizational history and cultural richness, the Islamic Republic of Iran has built



its foreign policy on the basis of divine-human transcendental concepts of justice, spirituality, rationality, morality, freedom and independence, which as a whole guarantee the welfare and dignity of nations, and its manifestations can be seen in successful fight against terrorism, extremism, continuous assistance to Afghan refugees and immigrants, defense of oppressed nations from Palestine to Yemen, support of national sovereignty and territorial integrity of countries, including in Iraq and Syria, confrontation with unilateralism and domination in all its forms, and assistance to neighbors in difficult days; This path of authority has always been going along with the main way, which is the all-round progress of Iran.

The Islamic Republic of Iran considers itself committed to this path, and in order to realize a just order based on cooperation and mutual respect, it emphasizes the policy of neighborhood, multilateralism and sustainable convergence, and in this regard, especially considering its capacities in terms of geopolitics, energy, transportation and talented human resources are ready to play an active and constructive role in shaping and strengthening regional organizations as well as opposing the policies of power monopoly and unilateralism.

Security and cooperation are intertwined, which mutually bring national prosperity and regional development. The Islamic Republic of Iran believes in securing the common interests of independent countries through cooperation and will continue this strategy regardless of international developments. This approach will increase the cooperation of governments, the welfare of nations and regional trust-building. On the other hand, unilateralism, by trying to destabilize countries, seeks to hinder their progress and frustrate the convergence processes of independent nations. This important matter shows that convergence and security in Asia are not compatible with the interests of hegemonic countries, and any attempt to destabilize independent nations has goals and consequences beyond national geography, and in fact, it targets the stability and prosperity of the countries in the region.

“In the new redistribution of power, hegemonic methods are rejected and the voice and role of independent nations are heard and noticed more.”

The historical experience of the Iranian nation, especially in the last four decades, has provided us with a valuable understanding of the requirements of achieving security and progress at the same time, which I am sharing with you now. The nation of Iran, which has chosen the path of independence and progress, has faced the opposition of the powerful, a clear example of which was the coup and

destabilize countries, seeks to hinder their progress and frustrate the convergence processes of independent nations. This important matter shows that convergence and security in Asia are not compatible with the interests of hegemonic countries, and any attempt to destabilize independent nations has goals and consequences beyond national geography, and in fact, it targets the stability and prosperity of the countries in the region.

The historical experience of the Iranian nation, especially in the last four decades, has provided us with a valuable understanding of the requirements of achieving security and progress at the same time, which I am sharing with you now. The nation of Iran, which has chosen the path of independence and progress, has faced the opposition of the powerful, a clear example of which was the coup and

embargo even in the era before the Islamic revolution. With the victory of the Islamic Revolution, the will of the international bullies led by America is to stand against the will of the Iranian nation and challenge its rights and interests. Throughout this period, the Iranian nation has always faced various threats such as war, sanctions, assassinations, attempted coups, arming Saddam with chemical weapons by Europe and America to massacre his compatriots, and finally breaking the pact and breaking the covenant. We have come to believe that the path to independence and prosperity of the Iranian nation is possible through “all-round power” and this is only possible by relying on God, relying on the people, and cooperating with friends. The Iranian nation has invalidated the American military option and, as they themselves have admitted, brought the policy of sanctions and maximum pressure a humiliating failure. Now, following America's failure in militarization and sanctions, Washington and its allies have resorted to the failed policy of destabilization. What has caused the success of the Iranian nation and terrified the dominators is the Iranian nation's attention to progress based on its “inner strength”. Therefore, in the process of simultaneously providing security and progress, priority should be given to “endogenous power” and its strengthening mechanisms.

Considering that Asia is at the heart of emerging global changes, maintaining and strengthening peace in this vast area is not a choice but a necessity. CICA and its governing spirit, i.e. mutual trust, common interests, equality, joint consultation, respect for cultural diversity, emphasis on the necessity of realizing security and common development for all, is an effective mechanism that has an irreplaceable role for achieving and strengthening peace and security and promoting sustainable development for Asian nations, and it will be a valuable asset for future generations.

(See the full text at [tehrantimes.com](http://tehrantimes.com))

## Some rioters in Iran were paid by foreigners, says interior minister

TEHRAN — Iran's minister of interior said on Thursday that some rioters in Iran were trained abroad and were given money.

“Money was regularly deposited for one of them, and every 10-15 minutes about 25 to 30 million tomans was deposited into this person's account. Some were even given 500,000 Tomans for each Molotov cocktail they made,” Ahmad Vahidi stated.

Speaking in a gathering of university professors in Azad University of Tehran, Vahidi pointed to the role of the opposition media in the recent riots and stressed that it is noteworthy that those who criticized

## Unrest in Iran will spread to Tel Aviv, London, Washington: IRGC chief

TEHRAN- Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) Commander Hossein Salami stated on Thursday that the unrest in “our cities” will go to capital cities like Washington, London, Tel Aviv, and Riyadh since engagements do not only take place in specific locations but also continue in many other regions of the world.

The IRGC chief was openly referring to the incitement of unrest in Iran (that followed the tragic death of Mahsa Amini last month) by certain Western countries through their statements or media outlets such as the BBC Persian, Manoto, and Iran International headquartered in London as well as the Voice of America and Radio Farda that are run by the U.S. government.

Iran International, which has taken the lead in disinformation campaign and distortion of the facts since the unrest began in Iran, is

Iran for supporting Gaza and Lebanon are now aligning their work with the Persian-language network affiliated to Saudi Arabia, a country that beheaded 82 people in one day.

“In any case, it remains to be seen what happens when some people act on the orders of a network affiliated with Saudi Arabia. This is the important issue. We have to see what the enemy is doing and what we have to do,” the interior minister stated.

Referring to the media war by the West to harm the Islamic Revolution and the people, Vahidi said just 1,504 articles were published

funded by Saudi Arabia. The agenda followed by this network is set by Israel.

Speaking on the role of universities in enlightening the public about the motivations behind the agenda of countries that fan the flames of unrest in Iran, General Salami suggested that university teachers shape the intellectual foundation of “our nation's future leaders' brains”.

“The university professors with their scientific Jihad, based on divine and revolutionary beliefs of the society, train our youth for shouldering major roles in the bright future of the merging Islamic civilization,” he added.

According to the IRGC commander, the current situation in Iran represents the biggest clash between the Islamic Revolution and the

in the United States about the unrest in Iran within a week.

Similarly, he noted, 720 articles were published within 9 days in the United Kingdom and 830 in Germany.

The number of articles published in France regarding the unrest in Iran were 655, in Spain 207, and in Italy 497, he added.

“It was also announced on Tuesday that 240 million tweets were made about death of Mahsa Amini, and this was due to the use of several thousand users using Twitter bots,” the interior minister concluded.

fading oppressive system.

Commander Salami went on to highlight that “the main essence of this strategic encounter is the encounter between ignorance and awareness. The root cause and main source of these unrests is precisely in the exact information in the centers and heart of the oppression system.”

The IRGC commander noted that a new world order is replacing the corrupt and outdated one that is seeing a decline in power.

“What we are now witnesses to, is the intensive, continuous and serial defeats of the global arrogance, throughout four decades of the life of the Islamic Revolution, which means this intensive revenge due to those intensive defeats has led to a declining spiral for the oppression system,” he remarked.

# Muslim unity key to attaining sublime position in a changing world: Leader

By Mehran Shamsuddin

TEHRAN – Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei has explained how Muslims can secure a sublime position in a world in transition.

The global transition from unipolar world order to a multipolar one has now become the gospel truth, with China ascending globally and Russia challenging the West forcefully. But how Muslims can secure a front-row seat in this once-in-a-century transition?

Ayatollah Khamenei has answered this strategic question in his Friday speech before Muslim scholars participating in a pro-unity conference held by Iran.

The 36th International Islamic Unity Conference was held in Tehran on Wednesday and Thursday with Iranian President Ayatollah Seyed Ebrahim Raisi as the key speaker. The participants of the conference, the heads of the three branches of government (judiciary, executive, and legislative) and a group of government officials met with Ayatollah Khamenei on Friday on the occasion of the birth anniversaries of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) and Imam Sadiq (pbuh).

In his speech, the Leader spoke about the character of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).



“The Holy Prophet’s character is unique in the entire universe. His birthday is a very important, great day. Calling the birthday of the Prophet an Eid is not just for holding a celebration and commemorating him. It is also for learning from him and setting the Prophet as an example,” he said, according to readout of the speech put out by khamenei.ir. “One of the lessons from Prophet Muhammad for the Islamic nation is, ‘The Prophet grieves for your suffering’ (Quran 9:128). Of course, this doesn’t just refer to Muslims at the time of the Prophet. It means the sufferings of the Muslims in Palestine, Myanmar, etc. today grieve his pure soul.”

Ayatollah Khamenei then

addressed the suffering of present-day Muslims and linked it to global imperialism. “Global imperialism rejoices at the suffering of Muslims. Why are Muslim nations suffering like this? Why are the Muslims suffering economically, politically, and from aggression, colonialism, civil wars, etc.? One of the most important reasons is the division of the Muslims,” he said, adding, “The Muslim nations’ current sufferings are due to their division. This is what happens when we’re divided, not concerned about each other, and even hostile to each other at times. The Quran says, ‘When you’re divided, you’ll be humiliated.’ Thus, you’ll help others to dominate you.”

The Leader also pointed to how the enemy sow division among

Muslims. He said the enemy does not want to see Muslims united. Instead, it wants them disunited. Furthermore, the enemy planted Israel in the region to serve as a base for the West, according to the Leader.

“The enemy wants the opposite of unity between Muslims today. They created a cancerous cell in the region, the Zionist regime, to serve as a base for Western enmity against Islam. They brought the murderous, brutal Zionists to oppress Palestine creating a fake government to do this,” Ayatollah Khamenei said.

In this context, the Leader addressed the trend of normalization between Israel and some Arab states. He said normalization with Israel is an act of treason.

“The enemies are working to do something so that the Zionist regime, this cancerous cell, won’t be called ‘the enemy’ anymore. They wish to create more discord between the countries of the region. These normalizations are one of the biggest acts of treachery against the Muslims,” Ayatollah Khamenei said.

Since 2020, some Arab states, namely Bahrain, Morocco, the United Arab Emirates and Sudan, have moved to establish full diplomatic relations with Israel despite warnings from Iran and discontent in Arab public opinion.

## Confronting crimes against humanity requires collective action: official

TEHRAN – A senior Iranian diplomat with the Iranian mission to the United Nations in New York has outlined Iran’s position on countering crimes against humanity.

The diplomat, Mohammad Ghorbanpour, who is the first secretary of the mission, extended the Iranian delegation’s appreciation to the International Law Commission (ILC) for its work in providing the draft articles on the “Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Humanity” contained in the report of the ILC on the work of its seventy-first session (A/74/10) and reaffirmed the Islamic Republic of Iran’s unwavering commitment to the prevention and punishment of this heinous crime.

“Recognizing that the crime against humanity is a serious crime under international law that affects the entire international community, confronting such a heinous crime also requires collective and unanimous action by the entire international community. The current fragmentation of views on both the draft Articles as well as the recommendation of the ILC concerning the modalities on the fate of the draft simply prevent a united response to the perpetrators of this crime as well as its prevention,” Ghorbanpour said in a statement.

He added, “In addition, attempts to incorporate definitions emanating from non-universal instruments as well as national laws and practices in the context of progressive development, have stymied the process by preventing Member States from further reaching consensus. We acknowledge that the Committee was not able to formulate a method to work forward in addressing these

draft articles last year for a number of reasons. We believe that this can be overcome after all concerns and expectations are addressed thoroughly and equally with a high spirit of consensus and unanimity.”

He said, “My delegation takes note of the several requests made by the Member States to conduct further holistic and substantive consideration for the draft articles and ensure its consistency with their national laws. While the Committee is considered the appropriate forum, therefore, my delegation encourages the Committee to continue its deliberations on this agenda item, including moving forward with a holistic approach regarding all existing products of the ILC that are pending before the Sixth Committee. In addition, my delegation expresses its dissatisfaction regarding the selectivity of the ILC’s products wherein a number of them are pending in this Committee years before the submission of the draft articles on Crimes Against Humanity.”

The Iranian mission to the UN also outlined Iran’s positions on disarmament and international security in a separate statement put out by Heidar Ali Balouji, the first counselor at the Iranian mission to the UN.

“It is completely apparent, now more than ever, that the international community must address both traditional and non-traditional security concerns in light of the most recent array of security threats,” Balouji said in the statement.

He said, “The world faces multiple and interlinking challenges, and new emerging threats in cyberspace, artificial intelligence,

the dark web, outer space and alike. Furthermore, the chronic threat of WMDs poses an existential threat to humanity. Military expenditures have reached an all-time high of \$2.1 trillion and the highest record of military transfers in 2021 broke all previous records, with the great powers accounting for the bulk of both. The required compounding of such expenditures could possibly trigger substantial tensions.”

Balouji noted, “Nuclear war is becoming exponentially more likely not only by means of modernization as well as a renewed and enlarged nuclear arms race but also due to other factors as well. Nuclear arsenals are being replaced and upgraded. For instance, the US retains or even increases its budget for every nuclear weapons program. The United Kingdom’s nuclear weapons policy includes increasing its stockpile ceiling of nuclear weapons by up to 44 percent, and like some other NWSs, lowering the threshold for the possible use of such weapons and reducing transparency about its nuclear weapons. Aside from the demise of key nuclear arms control agreements and an erosion of the international arms control architecture, there is non-compliance with the legally binding obligation by the NWSs on nuclear disarmament based on Article VI of the NPT. Unfortunately, there is also no such a prospect in the future.”

He stated, “The international community expects to hold the NWSs responsible and accountable by upholding their obligations following the failure of the two consecutive NPT Review Conferences in 2015 and 2022.”

## Iran supports peace in Ukraine: statement

TEHRAN – The Iranian mission to the United Nations in New York has explained Iran’s position on the situation in Ukraine, reiterating Tehran’s principled position of opposing war anywhere in the world.

“Since the beginning of the crisis in Ukraine, the Islamic Republic of Iran has taken a clear, consistent, and unwavering position, emphasizing that all UN Member States must fully respect the purposes and principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter as well as international law, including sovereignty, independence, unity, and territorial integrity,” the mission said in the statement. “As a country that has been confronted with and affected by the devastation caused by an imposed war, the Islamic Republic of Iran opposes any conflict or war anywhere in the world.”

It said, “The Islamic Republic of

Iran has consistently supported peace and ended the conflict in Ukraine and urged the parties to exercise restraint, avoid escalating tensions, and engage in a meaningful process for addressing the root causes of the situation and settling their disputes through peaceful means. It also urged the parties to uphold their obligations under international humanitarian law and conduct consultations to protect civilians and critical infrastructure from military targets or attacks.”

The statement added, “At the same time, the Islamic Republic of Iran has also rejected any political isolation, unilateral sanctions, or pressure, as well as any provocative measures that would only aggravate the situation and make a peaceful resolution more difficult. Similarly, the West’s extensive military support for Ukraine could not be intended to bring the war to a close, but rather to escalate the

conflict and increase damage and destruction.”

It continued, “The Islamic Republic of Iran supports the United Nations’ ongoing efforts to find a peaceful solution to this conflict. The United Nations should maintain objectivity and impartiality in order to play a responsible and constructive role in the political settlement of Ukraine’s conflict. Any action taken by the United Nations should be truly conducive to easing the situation and resolving the conflict, rather than intensifying conflict and exacerbating confrontation.”

The mission also rejected reports that Iran exported drones to Russia. “The Islamic Republic of Iran categorically rejects and strongly condemns unfounded and unsubstantiated claims that it sold unmanned aerial vehicles for use in Ukraine’s conflict. Such unfounded claims, which are solely based on false flags and fabricated

assumptions, are nothing more than a propaganda apparatus launched by certain states to further their political agenda. In this regard, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in good faith and in accordance with its constructive approach toward the Ukraine crisis, stands ready to engage constructively in joint technical and expert cooperation to clarify the unfounded accusations leveled against Iran,” the mission noted.

It concluded, “The Islamic Republic of Iran emphasizes that all of its arms exports have been carried out in full compliance with its relevant commitments under international law, and applicable rules and regulations governing international trade in conventional weapons. The Islamic Republic of Iran will continue its constructive engagement to help the peaceful resolution of this crisis.”

OCTOBER 15, 2022

Straight Truth  
TEHRAN TIMES

3

## SPORTS

### Persepolis, Esteghlal victorious in IPL

TEHRAN – Persepolis and Esteghlal football teams defeated their rivals on Matchday 9 of Iran Professional League (IPL).

On Thursday, the Reds edged Mes 1-0 in Tehran’s Azadi Stadium, courtesy of Jurgen Locadia’s first half goal from the penalty spot.

Esteghlal defeated Zob Ahan in Isfahan thanks to Mohammad Ghoreishi’s own goal in the injury time.

Gol Gohar suffered a 1-0 home loss against Nassaji.

Sepahan defeated Sanat Naft 2-0 in Abadan.

Foolad were held to a 1-1 draw against Paykan in Ahvaz.

Aluminum defeated Mes Kerman 2-0 in Arak.

Tractor earned a late 3-2 win over Naft Masjed Soleyman in Tabriz.

And Havadar edged Malavan 1-0 in Tehran.

Persepolis lead top of the table due to a better goal difference to Esteghlal.

### Iran’s women’s football team move up in FIFA ranking

TEHRAN – Iran’s women’s football team moved up one place in the latest FIFA ranking released on Thursday.



Iran moved to 69th place.

The three teams at the top in the August 2022 ranking are still there, with one slight change in the order. Though the U.S. (1st, -) remain out front, Sweden (2nd, plus 1) have jumped into second place at the expense of Germany (3rd, minus 1). England (4th, -) and France (5th, -) complete the top five.

The next FIFA Women’s World Ranking will be published on Dec. 9, 2022.

The rankings will be used to determine the seedings for the 2023 FIFA Women’s World Cup draw, which will be held on October 22 in Auckland, New Zealand.

DPR Korea, who did not qualify for the FIFA Women’s World Cup Finals, remain Asia’s highest ranked team at 10th while co-hosts Australia dropped one spot to 13th.

The latest FIFA Ranking also saw Syria and Pakistan officially included.

Syria debuted at 157th, while Pakistan are ranked 160 and Bangladesh – who clinched the 2022 SAFF Women’s Championship in September – jumped seven spots to 140th.

### Ali Naderi named Iran beach soccer interim coach

TEHRAN – Ali Naderi was named as interim coach of Iran beach soccer team on Thursday.

Naderi will lead Team Melli at the 2022 Intercontinental Beach Soccer Cup.

Iran are drawn with the U.S. in Group B of the 2022 Intercontinental Beach Soccer Cup.

Japan and Paraguay are in the group too.

Hosts UAE, Saudi Arabia, Brazil and Spain are in Group A.

The competition will be held in Dubai from Nov. 1 to 5.

Naderi was a member of Iran beach soccer team for many years and has worked as Iran assistant in the recent years.

### Chatraei wins bronze at 2022 Asian Weightlifting Championships

TEHRAN – Masoud Chatraei of Iran claimed a bronze medal in the men’s 89kg weight class of 2022 Asian Weightlifting Championships on Thursday.

He seized the bronze medal with a total of 358kg. He lifted 162kg in the snatch and 196kg in clean and jerk.

Kazakhstan’s Assylzhan Bektay (165-197-362) and Emil Moldodosov of Kyrgyzstan (166-195-361) won gold and silver medals respectively.

The 2022 Asian Weightlifting Championships are being held in Manama, Bahrain from Oct. 6 to 16.

It is the 50th men’s and 31st women’s championship.

### Becirovic to be appointed Iran basketball technical director

TEHRAN – Memi Becirovic will be appointed as technical director of Iran national basketball team.

Head of Iran Basketball Federation Javad Davari is going to strengthen the National Team for the 2023 FIBA Basketball World Cup qualification.

Team Melli, headed by Saeid Armaghani, are scheduled to meet China and Australia on Nov. 11 and 14 in Tehran’s Azadi Stadium.

The Slovenian coach will arrive in Tehran on Saturday to pen a one-year deal.

Becirovic coached Iran basketball team from 2012 to 2015.

He led Team Melli to their first and second FIBA Asia Cup championship in the fourth and fifth edition of the tournament in Tokyo and Wuhan in 2012 and 2014.

Becirovic also led Iran to their third title in 2013 FIBA Asia Championship and also booked a place at the 2014 FIBA Basketball World Cup in Spain. He also led Iran to the silver medal at the 2014 Asian Games.

### Taremi nets brace as Porto beat Bayer Leverkusen

TEHRAN – Mehdi Taremi scored two penalties to help Porto win 3-0 away against Bayer Leverkusen in the Champions League Wednesday night.

Both teams headed into the contest level on three points in Group B at the halfway stage, with the host seeking revenge after losing 2-0 to the Portuguese giant last week.

Galeno scored one goal in the sixth minute and earned two penalties for Taremi to convert them in the 53rd and 64th minutes.

Club Brugge sit first in the group with 10 points, followed by Porto (six points), Atletico Madrid (four points) and Bayer Leverkusen (three points).

### Tehran derby postponed: official

TEHRAN – Tehran derby between Esteghlal and Persepolis football teams has been officially postponed from its planned date on November 4.

The Iran Football League Organization has decided to hold all Matchweek 12 games of the Iran league after the 2022 FIFA World Cup.

Iran’s national football team will hold a camp ahead of the 2022 World Cup in Tehran.

Team Melli will depart for Doha on November 14.

Iran have been drawn in Group B along with England, the U.S. and Wales.

## Iran's 5-month oil revenues increase by 8 times

from page 1 ▶ The country's non-oil Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has also increased from 3.1 percent in the first quarter of the last year to 4.3 percent in the same quarter of the current year.

Iran has been ramping up its oil production and exports over the past year as the country has been implementing new strategies to overcome U.S. sanctions.

The Islamic Republic's oil export in Q1 2022 increased significantly so that it registered the fastest growth rate among all producers in West Asia. This year, the volume of Iranian crude export reached its highest since former U.S. President Donald Trump withdrew from the so-called Iranian nuclear deal in 2018.

Back in September, Iran's First Vice President Mohammad Mokhber said that the country is currently selling its oil in global



markets and getting paid for it without any problems.

"In the past, we sold oil but couldn't receive the revenues and our basic good supplies had all reached the red line but with the guidance of the Leader, we have been able to sell our oil, get paid, and bring in basic goods," Mokhber said in a gathering of government officials.

## Tea export rises 39% in H1 yr/yr



TEHRAN- The value of Iran's tea export rose 39 percent in the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-September 22), as compared to the first half of the past year.

As reported, Iran exported 15,291 tons of tea worth \$21.6 million to 22 countries including Switzerland, France, Canada, Turkey and India in the six-month period.

The country also imported 44,421 tons of tea valued at \$244.4 million from seven countries, including India, Sri Lanka, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Kenya, New Guinea, Vietnam and Turkey in the first half of this year.

Iran's tea import increased 32.7 percent in the six-month period of this year, as compared to the same time span in the previous year.

As previously announced by the spokesman of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), Iran exported over 27,272 tons of tea leaves valued at \$28 million in the previous Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20), registering a 77 percent rise in value and a 68 percent

increase in weight,

According to Ruhollah Latifi, Iranian tea was exported to 25 countries in the previous year.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) was the top importer of Iranian tea in the mentioned year, buying 8,304 tons of tea worth over \$8.774 million.

Turkey with 2,904 tons worth \$3.537 million of imports, Russia with 2,598 tons worth over \$3.092 million, India with 2,538 tons worth \$2.371 million, and Iraq with the purchase of 2,195 tons worth \$1.998 million worth of tea, were the next four export destinations for the said commodity.

Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kenya, Kazakhstan, and Afghanistan occupied the sixth to 11th places among Iran's top tea export destinations, followed by Germany, Ukraine, Lebanon, Georgia, United Kingdom, China, the Netherlands, Kuwait, Finland, Switzerland, Canada, Belgium, Azerbaijan, and Australia, according to Latifi.

Iran also imported some 75,379 tons of tea worth \$386,160,767 from 10 countries in 1400, among which India was the top supplier of tea for Iran exporting 34,285 tons of the product valued at \$168 million.

Sri Lanka was the second biggest exporter of tea to Iran, selling 18,326 tons of the product worth \$107 million, followed by the UAE with 14,368 tons worth \$71.572 million, Turkey with 4,593 tons worth \$23.700 million, and Kenya with 1,471 tons worth \$5.8 million.

Iraq, Vietnam, Germany, China, and Afghanistan also started selling tea to Iran in the previous year, the official said.

## TEDPIX climbs over 7,000 points in a week

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), gained over 7,000 points in the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday).

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).

Head of Iran's Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) Majid Eshqi, in a letter to First Vice President Mohammad Mokhber, has outlined eight major challenges that the Iranian stock market is currently facing, Tasnim news agency reported on September 26.

According to Eshqi, increasing interest rates which has resulted in the withdrawal of liquidity from the capital market, decreasing the profit margin of companies due to the increase in the prices of feed and energy carriers, dictated pricing of products, carrying out the transactions of National Iranian Oil Refining and Distribution Company (NIORDC) at the energy exchange, fluctuation in forex rate, transfer of shares in major auto companies, making decisions for export-oriented companies without considering



macroeconomic consequences and cutting electricity in summer and gas shortage in winter are the major challenges impacting the performance of the stock market.

In this letter, Eshqi has also included some suggestions for managing uncertainties in the stock market.

Stabilizing bank interest rates, removing the European hub rate from the pricing formula of feed and fuel, eliminating dictated pricing, making the financial relations between the government and economic enterprises more transparent, and depositing the remaining resources allocated by the National Development Fund to the Market Stabilization Fund are some of the suggestions made by the SEO head for boosting the stock market performance.

# Refining industry development for Iran's stronger role in global energy market

By Mahnaz Abdi

TEHRAN- With the continued growth of the industrialization of countries, the need for energy, especially fossil fuels, has increased dramatically.

Iran's status as one of the countries with the largest strategic reserves of oil and gas in the world is of great importance.

With the development of its refining industry and the increase of oil and gas refining capacity in recent years, the country is trying to strengthen its role more and more in the global energy market at the same time as developing its domestic industries through more supply of feed.

National Iranian Oil Refining and Distribution Company, which is the main player in this due, by taking advantage of the capacities, scientific and technical power of domestic knowledge-based companies, is taking big steps to implement national plans for the development of the country's refining industry.

The daily refining of 2.2 million barrels of crude oil and gas condensate, the daily production of 100 million liters of gasoline and 112 million liters of gas oil are among the measures taken by this industry to ensure the security and stability of fuel supply for the domestic consumption market.

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), in its Annual Statistical Bulletin 2022, has put Iran's daily refining capacity in 2021 at 2.202 million barrels, indicating 1,000 barrels per day (bpd) increase compared to 2020.

Iran's refining capacity has increased by more than 480,000 bpd from 2011 to 2021, according to OPEC's Annual Statistical Bulletin.



Iran's refining capacity in 2011 was reported to be 1.715 million bpd.

Despite all the external challenges like the U.S. sanctions, the Iranian oil and gas sector has been developing at a fast pace and the country is passing new milestones in this industry every day.

Various sectors of Iran's oil and gas industry including exploration, production, processing, and distribution are all among the world's top charts and the country is taking new steps to develop the industry even further.

Among different sectors of this industry, refining is a major one being seriously paid attention for development.

Back in September 2021, Oil Minister Javad Oji had said that the country's oil refining capacity will be increased by 1.5 folds by the end of the current government's incumbency (in four years).

He mentioned promoting the quantity and quality of the current refineries' products and the

construction of new refineries as some major plans of the Oil Ministry in the new government.

According to the defined schedule for the quantitative and qualitative development of existing refineries and planning for the construction of new refineries in the next four to five years, the country's daily oil refining capacity will increase by one and a half times to 3.5 million barrels, the minister stated.

"Following the improvement of the quality of petroleum products and the increase of the quality of gasoline and gas oil, which is very important for us in the field of environment, the discussion of quantitative and qualitative development plans of refineries is seriously on the agenda of the current government", he added.

Iran has been also following new strategies to build more petro-refineries across the country and even to turn the country's existing refineries into petro-refineries, since due to the country's benefit from oil and gas resources, the development of petro-refineries is much easier

and relatively cheaper in Iran than other countries in the world, and the country can play a role in regulating the price of petrochemical products in the world due to its proximity to energy sources and its capacity for the development of petro-refineries.

On August 1, major Iranian banks signed memorandums of understanding (MOU) with domestic companies to provide \$17.8 billion for the construction of a large-scale refinery and a petro-refinery in southern Iran.

As reported, the MOUs for the funding of Morvarid Makran Refinery and Shahid Ghasem Soleimani Petro-refinery, each with a total processing capacity of 300,000 barrels per day (bpd), were signed by the representatives of the mentioned entities in a ceremony attended by President Ebrahim Raisi and Oil Minister Javad Oji.

The projects are scheduled to be completed within five years.

Creating added value, preventing the sales of raw materials, preventing the import of gasoline, increasing the country's refining capacity and production of petroleum products, creating jobs and supporting domestic knowledge-based companies, and guiding liquidity towards productive investment, are among the major goals of the said projects.

Due to the country's benefit from oil and gas resources, the development of petro-refineries is much easier and relatively cheaper in Iran than other countries in the world, and the country can play a role in regulating the price of petrochemical products in the world due to its proximity to energy sources and its capacity for the development of petro-refineries.

## NRI prepares roadmap for developing renewable energy industry

TEHRAN - Head of Iranian Energy Ministry's research body, Niroo Research Institute (NRI) has said the institute has prepared a roadmap for the development of the country's renewable energy sector, IRNA reported on Friday.

Majid Amidpour said although NRI has already taken serious measures for the improvement of the country's renewable industry over the past few years, the 13th government has taken it a step further by setting very high goals in this regard.

Planning to improve the efficiency of the country's electricity network by 10,000 megawatts (MW) and establishing up to 12,000 MW capacity of new renewable power plants is an indication of the government's serious will to develop renewables and increase energy efficiency, Amidpour told IRNA.

"Therefore, the research institute has expanded its activities with the aim of helping to achieve these goals," he said.

The research institute has taken many steps in

the fields of technology development, production chain, and value chain and compiled a road map for their development, the official added.

He further pointed to the close cooperation



between NRI and Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (known as SATBA), saying that some memorandums of understanding have also been inked between the two sides in this regard.

Renewables, including hydropower, account for about seven percent of Iran's total power generation, versus natural gas' 90 percent share.

Based on Iran's Sixth Five-Year National Development Plan (2016-2021), the country was aiming for a 5,000 MW increase in renewable capacity to meet growing domestic demand and expand its presence in the regional electricity market.

But in the final year of the plan, only one-fifth of the figure was achieved.

Iran was supposed to become a regional hub in the field of energy in the past Iranian calendar decade (March 2011-March 2021), but evidence shows that the country is facing a shortage even in the supply of electricity inside the country, an issue that many believe that could be achieved by developing renewable energy and increasing efficiency of the thermal power plants.

## Iran, Belarus mulling over joint production of petchem products

TEHRAN - Iran and Belarus are considering joint production and export of petrochemical products, as the two countries are taking serious steps for the expansion of economic ties.

In a gathering of Iranian and Belarusian officials and private sector representatives at the place of Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA), the two sides explored avenues of mutual cooperation and presented some suggestions for the expansion of ties.

The meeting was attended by TCCIMA Deputy Head for International Affairs Hesamedin Hallaj, TCCIMA Secretary General Bahman Eshqi, Belarusian Ambassador to Tehran Dmitry Koltsov, and Deputy Head of Belarus state oil company Belneftekhimas Vladimir Sizov, as well as heads of some renowned energy companies from the two sides.

Addressing the meeting, Eshqi said Iran's National Development Fund is ready to support a project for developing new petrochemical plants in Iran with the participation of the TCCIMA and with the cooperation of foreign investors.

"Considering the ease of access to natural gas in Iran, a joint project should be defined for the production of petrochemicals from gas with the aim of export," he said, adding that the products of the mentioned plant can be exported through Turkey.

"This way, a triangle of petrochemical production and export of Iran, Turkey, and Belarus can be formed," the official suggested.

Elsewhere in the meeting, Hallaj also stressed that Iranian companies are also eager to cooperate with Belarusian counterparts in other fields including automobiles, agriculture, the food industry, and communication technology.

"The Tehran chamber of commerce is trying to continue facilitating the exchange of business delegations so that the private sectors of the two countries can learn about each other's capacities," Hallaj said.

In this gathering, the businessmen of the two countries held B2B talks to get to know each other's capacities and potentials and to examine common fields of cooperation.

**Negotiations on oil equipment exports to Belarus**

Iran is also in talks with Belarus for supplying raw materials, equipment, and technology needed in the oil industry to the country, a senior official from National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) said.

According to Borzou Ghanbari, a delegation from Belarus had visited Iran for talks on joint projects to manufacture oil industry equipment and to supply such equipment to the country.

Ghanbari said Iranian private manufacturers of oil industry equipment had been represented in the discussions.

"Fortunately, domestic manufacturers have a very good potential to produce and supply items needed in Belarus and we can easily respond to their needs," the official was quoted as saying by

the Iranian Oil Ministry's news service Shana.

Ghanbari said he envisages a promising future for oil industry cooperation between Iran and Belarus mainly due to the fact that Iranian oil engineering firms can supply modern equipment and technology at prices that are cheaper than those offered by international rivals.

He said the two sides will soon appoint special envoys to expedite oil industry cooperation projects.



The talks come amid growing economic relations between Iran and Belarus. A high-profile delegation led by the head of Iran's Industry, Mining, and Trade visited Belarus in July to discuss avenues for increased trade and economic ties between the two countries.

An Industry Ministry report in September said Iran and Belarus were in the final stages of talks to sign a deal to manufacture heavy-duty mining machinery, a project the ministry said could boost Iran's mining output by at least 40 percent per year.

# Scottish independence gains momentum

Young Scots "have been robbed of opportunity"

From page 1 ▶ The Scottish First Minister added that should a democratic path be blocked by Downing Street and if the route by which it would be right to consider and decide the independence issue (which the SNP insists is a lawful constitutional referendum) it is because the government fear the democratic choice of the Scottish people.

"Then for me and for the SNP and for people who support independence, the choice is then simple. We put our case to people in an election or we give up on Scottish democracy. I want to be very clear today, I will never, ever give up on Scottish democracy," Sturgeon declared.

In a 2014 plebiscite, which the British government reluctantly approved, the people of Scotland rejected independence by 55% to 45%. However, many politicians including those in the SNP have argued the vote for Britain to leave the European Union two years later was the game changer.

Pro-independence campaigners argue that as voters backed pro-independence parties in elections for the Scottish parliament last year, there was a mandate for them to bring forward a bill to hold a referendum in October 2023. There have also been strong arguments that since the majority of Scots voted against Brexit during the UK's referendum on taking financial matters into their own hands amid disastrous economic policies by London that critics say are favoring the rich. Sturgeon says Scotland will build an economy based on renewable energy, creating a new \$22.1 billion investment fund if it

Pro-independence activists further argue that the changing economic climate in the UK which has seen inflation hike to record levels and poverty levels increasing day by day gives Scottish people the right to take financial matters into their own hands amid disastrous economic policies by London that critics say are favoring the rich. Sturgeon says Scotland will build an economy based on renewable energy, creating a new \$22.1 billion investment fund if it



becomes independent.

Should Scotland break away from the United Kingdom, then money would be delivered in the first decade and would be funded with remaining oil revenues and the "responsible" use of borrowing powers, the Scottish first minister has revealed, the SNP says.

"A fund like this could support a massive program to decarbonize housing, cut fuel bills and reduce fuel poverty," she told her Scottish National Party's annual conference in Aberdeen.

"It could finance the building of thousands more affordable homes, invest in local renewable energy projects, help communities own assets and wield more influence over their use.

"It will help the transition to net zero, build resilient communities, and kick-start the sustainable economic growth so important for our newly independent nation."

One key issue of debate before the first independence vote was how strong the Scottish economy would be after being free. Some critics say the pro-independence camp did not prepare for this argument too well. Sturgeon says more details would be released next week when her SNP-led government in Edinburgh publishes a new paper on the economic case for independence for the nation of

5.4 million people.

But she said that unlike the UK government in London, no license to frack for gas would ever be granted in Scotland. UK Prime Minister Liz Truss last month promised to lift a ban on fracking for shale gas, in place from 2019, in order to boost energy security; something that is shrinking by the day because of Western sanctions on Russian energy supplies.

Sturgeon took aim at Truss for failing "utterly" in the UK government's duty to mitigate the impact of a cost-of-living crisis, which has seen energy bills soar amid the Western sanctions on Russian supplies. Instead, she criticized the ruling Conservative party for taking a decision to cut taxes for the richest in an unfunded plan that has spooked markets and weakened the pound.

"Ordinary people were paying the price, she argued, with the economic turbulence and loss of confidence weakening the argument that Scotland benefited from being part of the United Kingdom. They have created the worst cost of living crisis in the G7; And saddled us with the second lowest growth in the G20. They are intent on stoking industrial strife, demonizing workers and provoking a trade war. Businesses and public services are struggling for staff because freedom of movement

has ended. Our young people have been robbed of opportunity," Sturgeon told the SNP's Aberdeen party conference.

Sturgeon's speech came a day before the UK Supreme Court considered the application about whether to allow Scotland to hold a new vote on independence in October next year without government approval. The Scottish government's most senior legal adviser approached the court earlier this year in order to get legal clarity on the matter.

Both Prime Minister Liz Truss as well as her predecessor Boris Johnson have ruled out transferring powers to the devolved administration in Edinburgh to hold the referendum.

The SNP has pledged to take an independent Scotland back into the European Union. The so-called "indyref2" will be "consultative" and only proceed with UK Supreme Court approval, the SNP-led government has promised. Should it do so, a vote in favor of independence would still need approval from both parliaments in Edinburgh and London.

If it fails, Sturgeon promised that the SNP would make the next general election, due by January 2025 at the latest, a de facto vote on independence.

One of the economic crises facing voters across the UK and leading calls for a second vote is the energy shortages. Britain's energy regulator Ofgem has urged consumers to reduce their energy usage "where possible", the Financial Times reported, less than a week after Climate Minister Graham Stuart claimed that the country will not be asking consumers to use less energy.

The fear in Downing Street is amid the many economic crises facing the government. Scottish voters will this time, take the opportunity, overwhelmingly vote to part ways with the United Kingdom.

## WORLD HEADLINES

### Ankara, Moscow to jointly work on building natural gas hub in Turkey's Thrace region



Ankara and Moscow will work jointly on building a natural gas hub in Turkey's Thrace region after the Russian leader's proposal earlier this week, according to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

"For such a distribution center, of course, Thrace is seen as the most important place for this business," said Erdogan on Thursday, referring to a region in northwestern Turkey, near the Greek border.

"Together with (Russian President Vladimir) Putin, we instructed our Energy and Natural Resources Ministry and the relevant institution on the Russian side to work together. They will do this work there," Erdogan told reporters on the presidential plane returning from a trip to Kazakhstan.

"Wherever the most appropriate place is, we will hopefully have established this distribution center there. We have a national distribution center, but of course now this will be an international distribution center," Erdogan said.

On the sidelines of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) summit in the Kazakh capital Astana, Erdogan earlier held a closed-door meeting with Putin, who had proposed building a natural gas hub in Turkey.

Praising Turkey as "the most reliable partner" for gas deliveries to Europe, Putin said building a hub in the country would allow, among other things, regulating prices, selling gas at reasonable prices, and ruling out "politicization" of the issue.

On the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war, Erdogan also told reporters Ankara's mediation between the two countries continues.

"Concerning Turkey's mediation, the trust Russia and some other countries have in Turkey remains the same," Erdogan said, adding, "The continuing trust in Turkey also pleased us."

Turkey has been in close contact with both Russia and Ukraine since the beginning of the war. Erdogan has repeatedly stressed his wish to bring Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy together at the negotiating table in Turkey to end the war.

### Russian, Azeri, Armenian FMs meet for trilateral talks in Kazakhstan



The foreign ministers of Russia, Azerbaijan and Armenia gathered for trilateral talks on the sidelines of the leaders' summit of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) in Astana, Kazakhstan's capital on Friday.

Earlier, statements from the offices of the top diplomats said Sergey Lavrov, Jeyhun Bayramov, and Ararat Mirzoyan would address the current situation in Azerbaijan's Karabakh region and the implementation of the agreements signed following a Russian-mediated truce between Baku and Yerevan in the meeting.

Before the meeting, Lavrov said he hopes to discuss the implementation of the trilateral agreements on Karabakh reached in November 2020 and January 2021 to understand "how to move forward."

"A separate topic is the negotiation of a peace treaty in addition to agreements on unblocking economic and transport communications, and conducting delimitation through the creation of a bilateral commission between Azerbaijan and Armenia with the advisory assistance of the Russian side," Lavrov said.

For his part, Bayramov said that the Azerbaijani side would concentrate on preparing a peace agreement with Armenia.

"We will focus on aspects of post-conflict settlement for which foreign ministers are responsible. In particular, we are talking about a peace agreement, the topic of which we are discussing," he further said.

### South Korea sanctions 15 North Korean individuals, 16 institutions



South Korea on Friday imposed sanctions on 15 North Korean individuals and 16 institutions in response to recent missile tests and drills by tactical nuclear operation units.

This is for the first time Seoul has announced its unilateral sanctions against Pyongyang since 2017, Yonhap News Agency reported.

South Korea has blacklisted officials from shipping companies, the North's missile program, and those involved in the procurement of weapons of mass destruction.

"We strongly condemn North Korea for staging a series of missile provocations with unprecedented frequency recently and suggesting the use of tactical nukes against us," the agency said, citing a Foreign Ministry statement.

The announcement came hours after North Korea fired another short-range ballistic missile (SRBM) into the East Sea at 1:49 a.m. Friday (1649GMT Thursday) and fired 170 artillery shots into maritime "buffer zones."

President Yoon Suk-yeol also called North Korea's latest pre-dawn missile launch and artillery fire into "buffer zones" a violation of the 2018 agreement.

Yoon was referring to the 2018 agreement between the two countries, which created buffer zones along land and sea boundaries and no-fly zones above the border.

However, the North Korean military said the latest missile launch and artillery fire were in response to South Korea's "provocative action."

"South Korean army conducted artillery fire for about 10 hours near the forward defense area of the KPA Fifth Corps on Oct. 13, taking serious note of this provocative action by the South Korean military in the frontline area, we took strong military countermeasures," a spokesman for the General Staff of the Korean People's Army said in a statement.

### Death toll rises to 50 in Venezuela landslides

The death toll from landslides and floods in northcentral Venezuela has risen to 50, according to local media.

"So far we officially have 50 people who unfortunately lost their lives and have been handed over to their relatives," Interior and Justice Minister Remigio Ceballos told the television channel TeleSur on Thursday.

The El Pato River, located 64 kilometers (40 miles) southwest of the capital Caracas, became flooded, burst its banks, and swept away several homes and shops in the Las Tejerias city of Aragua state.

Earlier, President Nicolas Maduro had said the death toll could reach 100

## Iraqi parliament elects Abdul Latif Rashid as new president who names Sudani as PM-designate

Iraqi lawmakers have elected Abdul Latif Rashid as the country's new president, who immediately named a prime-minister, thus breaking a months-long political deadlock and paving the way for the formation of a new government.

At least 269 of the 329 legislators, more than the necessary two-thirds of the house, attended the voting session on Thursday afternoon to elect a new president for the mostly ceremonial post, in an effort to end a months-long political crisis in the Arab country in the absence of a functional government.

Rashid, a 78-year-old Kurdish politician, became the fourth president of Iraq and replaced Barham Salih. The British-educated engineer was the Iraqi minister of water resources from 2003-2010.

The newly-elected president, who won more than 160 votes against 99 for the incumbent Salih immediately, named Mohammed Shia al-Sudani prime minister-designate to replace the current caretaker premier, Mustafa al-Kadhemi. Sudani, 52, is a former minister from the Coordination Framework.



Under a power-sharing system designed to avoid sectarian conflict, the president must be of Kurdish origin, the prime minister a Shia Muslim and the speaker of the parliament a Sunni Muslim.

The Iraqi parliament had already made three failed attempts this year, from February 7 to March 30, to pick a new head of state for the crisis-hit Arab country.

Iraq witnessed months of political deadlock after Influential Iraqi Shia cleric Muqtada al-Sadr's bloc emerged from last October elections as the biggest parliamentary faction, but was still far short of a majority, causing the longest political vacuum in the

country since the 2003 devastating invasion of the Arab country led by the United States.

In June, all 73 legislators of the bloc quit their seats in a move seen as an attempt to pressure political rivals into fast-tracking the formation of a government.

Iraqi supporters of the Shia cleric stormed the government palace inside the Green Zone in August after their leader announced his resignation from politics.

The new Iraqi president has a bumpy road ahead to tackle corruption, unemployment and the disintegrating infrastructure bedeviling the country.

As lawmakers were heading to the parliament for the voting session earlier on Thursday, a barrage of nine Katyusha-style rockets rained down near Iraq's General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers and the House of Representatives.

Several Iraqi citizens and members of the security forces were injured in the attack, which was a new reminder of Iraq's troubles.

(Source: Press TV)

## Supreme Court rejects Trump's request to intervene in Mar-a-Lago case

The US Supreme Court rejected former President Donald Trump's request Thursday to intervene in a legal dispute concerning government documents seized from his Mar-a-Lago estate.

The justices issued a brief one-sentence order denying Trump's request. No dissents were noted. Trump sought to have a

ruling from the 11th US Circuit of Appeals thrown out after the court ruled that an independent arbiter, known as a special master, cannot review more than 100 classified government records seized during the FBI's Aug. 8 search of Mar-a-Lago. The special master was allowed to only review documents that did not bear government



classification markings.

The Supreme Court's ruling marks a major victory for the

Justice Department, which had asked the court to deny Trump's appeal.

Trump's legal team had sought the Supreme Court's intervention because they argued the appeals court's stay "impairs substantially the ongoing, time-sensitive work of the Special Master."

## For people of Mashhad-e Ardehal, observing Qalishuyan is a blend of rituals and culture



### Gateway to many sights

Kashan is situated on a route that connects Tehran to the giant destinations of Isfahan, Shiraz, and Yazd. Moreover, the ancient town is a gateway to many sights, stories, and surrounding attractive villages to discover. Amongst the highlights are the lavishly-decorated houses of Brujerdi, Tabatabai, Ameri, and Abbasi.

Apart from cultural sites such as a domed bazaar, where travelers can find loads of Kashani traditions and souvenirs, they may escape the city for the UNESCO-registered Fin Garden, which is believed to be the epitome of Eden.

Kashan is highly famed for rosewater distillation ceremonies, which draw visitors from all over the country. Many believe traditionally-distilled rosewater is of higher quality than that produced in factories probably due to shorter time intervals between the harvest and distillation practices. Golab or rosewater is a fragrant distillate of Mohammadi roses, which is used in dishes to flavor them or consumed as a religious perfume as well.

In addition, Kashan embraces some archaeological gems. Most importantly, the Tepe Sialk yielded interesting pottery pieces, metal tools, and domestic implements made from stone, clay, and bone that date from as early as the 4th millennium BC.

from page 1 ▶ An alluring destination, Kashan boasts a bunch of architectural wonders, an atmospheric covered bazaar, boutique hotels, and a UNESCO-registered garden.

Many travelers opt to bypass the delightful oasis city that is sprawled on the edge of the Dasht-e Kavir on their journeys between Tehran and Isfahan provinces.

In addition, the ritual draws many visitors from across the country. Infact, religious tourism, which marks one of the oldest forms of traveling, is exclusively or strongly motivated by the rich culture of the nation.

Rich in spiritual tourism, Iran is home to hundreds of shrines, imamzadehs, mausoleums, churches, and even fire temples amongst other religious destinations which are dedicated to different faiths.

## Afghan Airlines resumes flights to Iran after one-year halt

TEHRAN –Afghanistan's flag carrier Ariana Afghan Airlines resumed its flights to Tehran on Wednesday following a year of suspension, ISNA reported on Friday.

As of October 12, Ariana Afghan Airlines plans to operate two weekly flights on Tuesdays and Fridays between Kabul and Mashhad and a weekly flight on Wednesdays between Kabul and Tehran.

Previously, an Iranian airline company operated direct flights between the two neighbors, the report said.

Moreover, a number of Iranian travel insiders have requested both countries to waive visa requirements for their nationals who want to enter the Islamic Republic and Afghanistan.

Back in January, the Iranian tourism ministry announced that citizens from Iraq and Afghanistan were the main tourists visiting Iran during a span of 70 days from October 23 to December 22, 2021.

During the mentioned period, 226,000 people from Iraq, 103,000 from Afghanistan, 90,000 from Turkey, 22,000 from Azerbaijan, and 18,000



from Bahrain arrived in Iran.

In addition, from December 22, 2021, to January 1, 2022, some 23,000 people from Iraq, 10,000 from Afghanistan, 6,000 people from Turkey, 2,000 from Azerbaijan, 341 from Bahrain, 20,000 from Oman, 3,000 from Pakistan, 703 from Russia, 472 from Germany, and 6,000 from other countries visited Iran.

Iran is potentially a booming destination for travelers seeking cultural attractions, breathtaking sceneries, and numerous UNESCO-registered sites. 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.

## Yazd to launch digital center for historical documents



TEHRAN—Yazd has commenced work to launch a special digital center for its historical documents, the provincial tourism chief has said.

"We have commenced work to establish a digital archive center for historical documents... The center is estimated to be launched within the next five months," Ahmad Akhoundi said on Thursday.

Yazd is usually referred to as a delightful place to stay, or a "don't miss" destination

by almost all of its visitors. It teems with mud-brick houses that are equipped with innovative badgirs (wind catchers), atmospheric alleyways, and many Islamic and Iranian monuments that shape its eye-catching city landscape.

Moreover, Yazd is a living testimony to the intelligent use of limited available resources in the desert for survival. Water is brought to the city by the qanat system. Each district of the city is built on a qanat and has a communal center.

In July 2017, the historical structure of the city of Yazd was named a UNESCO World Heritage. Wedged between the northern Dasht-e Kavir and the southern Dasht-e Lut on a flat plain, the oasis city enjoys a very harmonious public-religious architecture that dates from different eras.

# Sabzevar equals treasure of cultural heritage: minister

TEHRAN—The Iranian tourism minister Ezzatollah Zarghami on Thursday said the northeastern city of Sabzevar has been a treasure of cultural heritage.

"Sabzevar, with its many historical and cultural attractions, is a collection of valuable historical treasures," Zarghami told reporters during his visit to the northeastern city.

"Sabzevar has long been home to luminaries and figures such as Hadi Sabzavari (a philosopher, mystic theologian, and poet), whose unique philosophy, mysticism, intellectual flow, and works are world-renowned," the minister said.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the minister lamented that Sabzevar's tourism facilities have not been developed much



due to complex administrative bureaucracy over the past years.

"Despite the existence of historical monuments and the suitable geographical location of the ancient city, tourism infrastructure has not been developed enough in this area,

one of the main reasons for which is the existence of complex administrative bureaucracy in the past years."

To promote historical monuments and support tourism investors, local authorities, who are in charge

of tourism and cultural heritage, have been given special powers, the minister said.

The minister toured several historical sites such as a caravanserai, mud-brick cistern, mosque, madrasa, graveyard, and a historical village during his visit to Sabzevar.

Situated on the Tehran-Mashhad route, Sabzevar is a stopover for millions of pilgrims visiting the holy shrine of Imam Reza (AS) each year, Zarghami said.

Previously known as Beyhagh, Sabzevar is approximately situated 220 kilometers west of Mashhad. The history of Sabzevar dates back to the 1st millennium BC. Among the ancient remains is the fire temple Azarbarzin, which is still visible.

## Agritourism farms to be developed, deputy minister says

TEHRAN—Iran's tourism ministry plans to develop agritourism farms across the country, the deputy minister Ali-Asghar Shalbafian has said.

He made the remarks at the opening ceremony of a national barberry festival, which was held in South Khorasan province, eastern Iran, on Thursday, IRNA reported on Friday.

One of the means of generating revenue from agricultural products is through the development of agritourism farms in the country, the official said.

So far, several permits for agritourism farms have been issued in South Khorasan, an area with a lot of potential for this branch of tourism, he noted.

However, despite its diversity of historical, cultural, intangible, and natural tourism, the province has received little attention, he mentioned.

Efforts should be made to promote the region as a tourist destination, while infrastructure development must be prioritized by tourism authorities, he stated.

The national barberry festival was attended by several officials from the tourism and agriculture ministries.

A number of meetings were also organized on the sidelines of the event, which was held



in one of the largest barberry gardens in the region.

Agritourism development, solving farmers' issues and water supply for barberry gardens, a main province's souvenir, were discussed during meetings.

South Khorasan is home to many historical and natural attractions, such as Birjand Castle, Dragon Cave, Furg Citadel, and Polond Desert. It is also known for its famous rugs as well as its saffron and barberry, which are produced in almost all parts of the province.

The province is an explorer's delight—lots to discover yet barely another visitor to be found, even at the most important sights (despite a decent infrastructure of recently paved roads).

There's also a wealth of old mud villages that seem to have been left almost complete,

as though to tempt archaeologists.

Agritourism is a relatively new branch of the travel industry in which tourists stay with locals 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.

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.

Experts believe that agritourism pays special attention to the production sector, saying "For this reason, 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."

## Domestic tourist flow to decrease in H2

TEHRAN—The domestic tourist flow is expected to decrease in the second half of the current Iranian year (Sep.23 - Mar. 20), an official with the tourism ministry has said.

As most of the holidays occurred in the first half of the year, tourism experienced good growth, and many cities and provinces achieved occupancy rates of more than 50 percent, while some even reached 100 percent, ILNA quoted Seyyed Mostafa Fatemi as saying on Friday.

However, the second half of the year is expected to be a slower period for domestic tourism due to the lack of holidays in the middle of the week, the official explained.

Due to the cold weather and distance from the population centers, western provinces of the country are the most affected by a decrease in tourists, while destinations close to major cities will still see more visitors, he added.

Back in August, the Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Minister Ezzatollah Zarghami announced that the tourism ministry is looking at ways to help reduce the cost of traveling for domestic holidaymakers.

"Over the past year, we have recognized 20 obstacles in the path of tourism development in the country... By strengthening domestic tourism, we would be able to boost employment and



improve the national economy," Zarghami explained.

"Domestic travels constitute up to 80 percent of the tourism industry in many developed countries... Domestic tourism causes the distribution of wealth, when domestic tourism is strengthened, production, employment and wealth are strengthened."

Before the pandemic, Iran's tourism had constantly been

growing, reaching more than eight million visitors in the Iranian calendar year 1398 (started March 21, 2019). That surge, however, helped prejudices to become thick and thin.

Iran's trump card is that the country benefits from a wide variety of travel destinations ranging from seacoasts and lush green woods to towering mountains and harsh deserts. As a wallet-friendly destination with hospitable people, Iran has long been a desired destination for nature lovers, birdwatchers, powder chasers, culture devotees, pilgrims, museum-goers, foodies, adventurers, and medical travelers, to name a few.

## 2,000 foreign travelers visit South Khorasan in H1

TEHRAN—Some 2,000 foreign travelers toured South Khorasan province during the first half of the current Iranian calendar year 1401 (started March 21), the provincial tourism chief has said.

During the mentioned time, over two million domestic tourists also visited the eastern province, Hadi Shahverdi explained on Friday.

The province has unique potential in the fields of cultural heritage, tourism, and handicrafts, the official added.

Back in July, deputy tourism minister Ali-Asghar Shalbafian announced that some 715,000 foreign travelers toured Iran during the first three months of the current Iranian calendar year.

"A total of 715,519 foreign travelers, mainly from Iraq, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, and Pakistan, visited Iran during the first three months of the current year."

The official said over 1,957,000 international travelers, the majority of whom were from the neighboring countries, arrived in the country during the past [Iranian] year (1400).

Iran's tourism industry has tremendously suffered from the international coronavirus restrictions, so the number of foreign arrivals in 1399 decreased by more than 94% in comparison to the year 1398, the official noted.

"A turning point in the country's tourism trend in the post-coronavirus period is the welcoming of tourists from neighboring countries."

Iran's tourism has experienced a boom in domestic tourism and numerous Iranian citizens traveling during the Persian new year holiday (Noruz), the increase in incoming tourists following the re-issuance of visas and the facilitation of the required conditions for tourists in post-coronavirus time, the official explained.

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.

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.

# Iranian universities rise by 10% in Times ranking

From page 1 ▶ After Japan, China and India, Iran was the fourth Asian country having the highest number of universities included in the 2023 edition.

In total, 1799 institutions from 104 different countries of the world are listed. In the Middle East, Turkey and Iran have the largest share. Meanwhile, Asia has the most representatives in this ranking with 669 universities.

In last year's ranking, 58 institutions from Iran were among the top institutions in the world. Examining the annual trend of the presence of Iranian universities has shown a continuous increase from one university in the 2012 edition to 65 universities in the 2023 edition.

However, it should be noted that the number of "Times Institute of Higher Education" top institutions has also increased year by year. For example, in the 2022 edition, 1,662 universities from different countries were ranked.

The University of Oxford tops the ranking for the seventh consecutive year. Harvard University remains in second place, but the University of Cambridge jumps from joint fifth last year to joint third.

The highest new entry is Italy's Humanitas University, ranked in



the 201-250 bracket.

The Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2023 include 1,799 universities across 104 countries and regions, making them the largest and most diverse university rankings to date.

The table is based on 13 carefully calibrated performance indicators that measure an institution's performance across four areas: teaching, research, knowledge transfers, and international outlook.

This year's ranking analyzed over 121 million citations across more than 15.5 million research publications and included survey responses from 40,000 scholars globally.

## Academic quality

Most recently, the Leiden ranking system published the 2022 report, according to which 44 Iranian univer-

sities were among the 1,318 top universities in the world.

## Iran is sixth among countries with more than 50 representatives in the ranking.

Also, the Iran University of Medical Sciences has been ranked as the world's leading university for contributing to delivering the UN's Sustainable Development Goal of good health and well-being.

Fifty-eight universities from Iran were listed among the top universities in Asia, according to the 2022

Asia University Rankings of the Times Higher Education.

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

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

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

The Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) Graduate Employability Rankings 2022 list has been released, which included three Iranian universities out of a total of 550 institutes worldwide that highlighted graduate employment processes.

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

It also has introduced 59 Iranian universities among the top institutions in World University Rankings 2022.

## Inadequate intl. aid makes providing services to refugees impossible

TEHRAN – With the continued allocation of insufficient international aid, it is very difficult and almost impossible for the Islamic Republic to continue providing services to refugees and unauthorized foreign nationals, the Iranian delegation at the 73rd meeting of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner for Refugees, said.

Despite the cruel and unilateral sanctions imposed by the United States, Iran has so far hosted a large number of refugees beyond its fair share.

Several decades of hosting refugees as well as undocumented Afghan citizens have created huge economic and social costs for Iran.

For this long time, the Islamic Republic has pursued this mission despite numerous economic and social problems caused by regional crises as well as illegal and unfair sanctions, along with insufficient international aid and mainly using limited domestic resources.

It is appropriate to increase international aid to accommodate foreign citizens in the country and not to be forgotten when new crises arise.

Filippo Grandi, the High Commissioner for Refugees, while thanking Iran for its long-

term measures in supporting Afghan refugees, stressed the need to increase international support for Iran and implement sustainable solutions, including the voluntary return of refugees and displaced persons.

The 73rd session of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner for Refugees is the highest meeting of the member countries of this committee, which is being held in Geneva from October 10 to 14.

## Refugees in Iran

The number of Afghan immigrants living in Iran has exceeded four million. After entering Iran, Afghan immigrants had the highest presence in the provinces of Khorasan Razavi, South Khorasan,

and Sistan-Baluchestan.

President Ebrahim Raisi has said despite the fact that the Europeans have made many claims about supporting the Afghans, but have not provided them with any assistance, contrary to their comments, today more than four million Afghans are guests of the Islamic Republic.

In light of the pandemic, all refugees, even those undocumented, benefited from access to free primary health services and free COVID-19-related testing, treatment, and hospitalization, just like Iranian nationals.

The same happened for the vaccination when the country generously considered refugees for vaccination against coronavirus.

António Guterres, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, has praised Iran's generosity which – for decades – has hosted millions of Afghans in need.

I will never forget the generosity of countries like Pakistan and Iran, which – for decades – have hosted millions of Afghans in need," Guterres said in a statement released on January 26 to the Security Council on Afghanistan.

## Despite the sanctions imposed by the United States, Iran has so far hosted a large number of refugees beyond its fair share.

## Iran seeks to expand health co-op with Sudan, Jordan

TEHRAN – Health Minister Bahram Einollahi and his Sudanese and Jordanian counterparts discussed expanding cooperation in the fields of health, treatment, education, and medicine.

The officials met on the sidelines of the 69th session of the Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean, which was held in Cairo, Egypt on October 10-13.

In the meeting with Sudanese Health Minister Haitham Muhammad Ibrahim Awad Allah while announcing readiness

to expand cooperation in the fields of health, treatment, education, research, medicine, and medical equipment, Einollahi invited him to visit Iran.

The Sudanese health minister for his part praised Iran's success in the fight against diseases and expressed readiness to cooperate with Iran in this field.

He also requested to use the experience of Iran's health system in the three fields of medical education, health, and treatment.

Jordanian Health Minister Firas Ibrahim Al-Hawari, also welcomed the cooperation of the two countries and invited the Iranian minister of health and the officials of the health system of Iran to visit the health and treatment capacities of Jordan and compile a joint cooperation program between the two countries.

Einollahi emphasized that the two countries of Jordan and Iran can cooperate in the fields of medicine, medical equipment, research, and exchange of professors and students.

## Strongest health system in the region

Earlier in September, Einollahi said that Iran has one of the strongest health systems in the region and this opportunity should be used optimally in the field of health diplomacy.

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

health minister for research and technology, has announced.

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

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

The health technology development is evaluated by the Global Innovation Index with seven indicators, including institutional structure, human capital and research, infrastructure, market and business complexity, technological knowledge, and creativity, he explained.

In June 2021, Ahmed al-Mandhari, the World Health Organization director for Eastern Mediterranean Region, said the Islamic Republic of Iran is a role model for primary health care.

To be continued  
Source: Iranica

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

## "Noora" vaccine successfully passing first phase of clinical trial

"Noora" coronavirus vaccine, domestically made by Baqiyatallah University of Medical Sciences affiliated to the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC), is successfully passing the first phase of the clinical trial.

The vaccine is well undergoing the first phase of human testing, he noted, adding, the first phase of human testing lasts 2 months, so far more than a month has passed, IRNA reported on Saturday.

He stressed the need to integrate the human testing phase of the Noora vaccine and said that "this must be done to make the vaccine available for the mass vaccination; while many vaccine producing countries have done the same."

## واکسن نورا مرحله پایانی فاز اول تست انسانی را طی می کند

تهران - رییس دانشگاه علوم پزشکی بقیه الله گفت: تزریق دز اول واکسن نورا به تمام داوطلبان انجام شد و دز دوم هم به نیمه تزریق رسیده است. دکتر حسن ابوالقاسمی روز شنبه در گفت و گو با ایرنا، روند فعالیت کارآزمایی بالینی واکسن نورا را مطلوب ارزیابی کرد و افزود: این واکسن به نحو مطلوبی در حال طی کردن فاز اول تست انسانی است. وی با یادآوری اینکه طبق برنامه ریزی انجام شده طول دوره مرحله اول تست انسانی ۲ ماه است، ادامه داد: تاکنون بیش از یک ماه از این دوره سپری شده است. وی بر لزوم ادغام مراحل تست انسانی واکسن نورا تأکید کرد و گفت: این کار باید صورت گیرد و بسیاری از کشورهای تولیدکننده واکسن هم از این ظرفیت بهره بردند.

## COVID-19 UPDATES ON OCTOBER 14

New cases	155
New deaths	4
Total cases	7,553,609
Total deaths	144,510
New hospitalized patients	53
Patients in critical condition	120
Total recovered patients	7,328,758
Diagnostic tests conducted	54,225,296
Doses of vaccine injected	154,888,183



OCTOBER 15, 2022

## GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

The sin which makes you sad and repentant is more liked by Allah than the good deed which turns you arrogant.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon: 11:50 Evening: 17:47 Dawn: 4:48 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:11 (tomorrow)

## History of modern Persian short story

Part 4

Childhood memories, as mentioned above, also play a considerable role in the short stories from this period.

There had of course been earlier stories written from a child's point of view, but for the writers who came of creative age during the period of growth and development, the return to childhood and adolescence became a recurrent motif, enabling them to depict the life around them from a child's refreshingly unalloyed stance.

Jamal Mirsadeqi, Mahmud Kianush, Goli Taraqqi, and Mahshid Amirshahi have exploited this technique in some of their works.

Gholam-Hossein Saedi's (1935-85) short stories, which he called qesseh, often transcend the boundaries of realism and attain a symbolic significance.

His allegorical stories, which occasionally resemble folkloric tales and fables, are inhabited by displaced persons, trapped in dead ends.

They emphasize the anxieties and the psychological perturbations of his deeply troubled personages. Plagued cities and abandoned villages, as two sides of the same coin, appear as a recurrent motif.

The plots evolve around themes of mental or psychological illness or sudden misfortune: a calamity descends on a village, a group, or an individual, making their stark predicaments even bleaker.

Saedi's peculiarly dark and disturbed world, in spite of its implied rejection of realistic techniques, has a strong inner logic of its own which translates well from the medium of the short story to that of a film script.

"Aramesh dar Hozur-e Digaran" (Composure in the Presence of Others, 1967), a story in which the tormented mind of an army officer resembles the bombastic hollowness of the military edifice in Persia and prefigures its rapid disintegration represents Saedi's best work.

It was also highly successful as a film, directed by Nasser Taqvai (1973). It was published in a collection entitled Vahemehaye Bi-nam o Neshan (1967, tr. R. Campbell as Nameless and Elusive Apprehensions, New York, 1981), which also included the story adapted as a screenplay for the film Gav (The cow) by Dariush Mehrjui in 1973.

Two of Saedi's later works, highly critical of the Pahlavi regime – Gharibeh dar Shahr (Stranger in the city, 1980), and Tatar-e Khandan (The Grinning Tatar, 1984) – saw the light of day only after the revolution.

He left for Paris after the revolution, where he died in 1985. Saedi's vivid portrayal of the south of Persia as a hot and humid region, wronged by both nature and modern technology, distinguished him, along with Chubak, Mahmud, Behrang, Al-e Ahmad, Daneshvar, Dowlatabadi, and Fasih, as pioneers of a distinct type of regional literature.

Bahram Sadeqi (1936-84) was yet another author who focused on the anxieties and secret mental agonies of his personages. After the coup of 1953 and its aftermath, he became convinced of the futility of social activism and political resistance.

His work, as in his novella Malakut, is marked by chronic hopelessness, and dissatisfaction with the emptiness of existence; fear of death is a recurrent theme of his short stories.

Supernatural elements and somber ruminations are also distinctive features of his writings. Although his characters come from all

walks of life, and include students, civil servants, and teachers, they are all driven by similar fears, anxieties and morbid fantasies.

In contrast, the simple and sensual pleasures of life appear stale and trite in his stories. This paradoxical mixture of inertia and cynical black humor also pervades the fiction of Goli Taraqqi.

She is also strongly influenced by Jungian ideas. The characters in her long and short stories are all perplexed and impotent in different ways, unable to come to a decision and find a way out of their unsatisfactory predicaments.

Hushang Golshiri (b. 1937) and Asghar Elahi (b. 1944) both created memorable psychological portraits through interior monologue and stream of consciousness techniques.

Golshiri, the author of the long story Shazdeh Ehtejab (Prince Ehtejab, 1968), is particularly noted for his successful experiments with extended interior monologues.

A bold, innovative writer eager to explore modern methods and styles, Golshiri uses stream of consciousness narrative to reassess familiar theories and events.

Asghar Elahi (b. 1944), who started out writing angry political pamphlets, gradually turned towards the stream of consciousness technique.

The short stories from his collection, Digar Siavashi Namandeh (The Likes of Siavash Are No More, 1990) often rely on the free association of ideas.

The interior monologue of his characters draws on their previous experiences to create an imaginary world, built on the sediments of the past.

Jama Mirsadeqi, Mahmud Kianush, and Mahshid Amirshahi are other well-known writers from this period.

Taqi Modarresi, whose first novel Yakolya va Tanhai-e U brought him instant fame, also wrote some psychological short stories but with far less success.

Mahmud Kianush's (b. 1934) narratives, drawing on the author's personal experiences, have an engaging simplicity. Ghosseha va Qesseha (Sorrows and Sagas, 1965), a collection of seven connected stories, is his best known work. It recounts the events which befall a small boy and his family, from the point of view of the boy.

Mahshid Amirshahi (b. 1940) prefers experimental writing to conventional plots. Most of her works are literary sketches rather than true short stories, though some, like the title story of the collection B'ad az Ruz-e Akher (After the Last Day, 1969), do have well-defined plot-lines.

This particular short story is a first-person narrative, recounted by a woman who finds new meaning in life after an attempted suicide.

Amirshahi's stories and sketches are written in an informal conversational style. Her prose is clear-cut and unadorned, delivered in laconic sentences and evocative language.

Ahmad Mahmud (Ahmad Ata, b. 1930) and Mahmud Dowlatabadi (b. 1940) are among the most prominent writers on rural and regional themes in modern Persian literature.

Although both have written a number of short stories, their fame rests largely on their panoramic novels. Their stories are faithful portrayals of Khorasan, the north-eastern region of Persia, and of Ahvaz in the south-west, respectively, recounting the customs and traditions of the local inhabitants.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica

To be continued.

# “Scent of Wind”, “The Football Aficionado” win awards at Busan Intl. Film Festival

By Mostafa Mousavi Sabet

TEHRAN – The Busan International Film Festival (BIFF) on Friday honored the Iranian movies “Scent of Wind” and “The Football Aficionado” with awards in its two main categories.

Directed by Hadi Mohaqeq, “Scent of Wind” received the Kim Jiseok Award, which is given to two established Asian filmmakers with three or more feature films.

The film's story is set in a distant Iranian village where a paralyzed man collects herbal medicine in the mountains for making his living with his sick child. The electricity goes off in his house and an electrician comes to fix it. Unfortunately, the problem is bigger than what was anticipated and may take days to be resolved. When he sees the child on the sickbed, he feels committed to doing whatever he can to bring the electricity back. However, he has a tough job ahead with facing nature and some unexpected events.

“Alteration” by Uzbek director Yalkin Tuychiev was the other winner of the award.

“The Football Aficionado” was given the BIFF Mecenat Award, which is granted to the best documentary from Korea and Asia in the Wide Angle section.

The documentary, co-directed by Sharmin Mojtahedzadeh and Paliz Khoshdel, follows Zahra, a huge football fan from Tehran, who faces a repeated ordeal.



Director Hadi Mohaqeq plays appears in a scene from his film “Scent of Wind”.

All she did was to go to the stadium to watch a football game she loves. Since 1981, Iran has banned women from the stadiums. For Zahra who is full of energy and mischief, football is her entire life and she can never give it up. She disguises herself as a man to go to the stadium and posts her situation on social media to raise interest, but the wall of reality is too high. Eventually, she witnesses a moment of change, yet she can't help but feel hurt.

The Korean film “A Table for Two”, directed by Kim

Boram about the roots of the relationship between a daughter suffering from an eating disorder and a helpless mother, won the other award in this category.

“A Wild Roomer” by Korean director Lee Jeong-hong and “Shivamma” by Jaishankar Aryar from India won the New Current Award, which is granted to two best feature films selected from the first or second feature of new Asian directors.

“Southern Afternoon” by Lan Tian from China and “I'm Here” by Jeong Eunuk from Korea won the Sonje Award.

Iranian director Saeid Rustai

(Saeed Roustae) was a member of the Sonje Award Jury, which selected the winners in the Wide Angle – Korean Short Film Competition Section and the Asian Short Film Competition Section.

Kim Youngsung was picked as best actor for his role in the Korean drama “Big Sleep”, and his Korean fellow Kim Geumsoon won the best actress award for her role in “Star of Ulsan”.

Dozens of awards were also granted in other sections of the 27th edition of the prestigious South Korean film event.

## Iranian cinema scores Asia Pacific Screen Awards nods

From Page 1 ► A jury headed by Mohamed Hefzy from Egypt will decide the winners of best film, best director, best screenplay, best cinematography, best performance and jury grand prize.

Guneet Monga from India, Numan Acar from Turkey, Sophie Hyde from Australia and Vimukthi Jayasundara from Sri Lanka are the other members of the jury.

“Woodgirls” by Azadeh Bizargiti has been nominated for best documentary award.

The film tells the unique story of Leila Avakh and Sediqeh Momennia, as they follow their dream of opening a carpentry workshop run by women for women.

With much love and passion, Leila and Sediqeh have chosen a profession that is considered extremely masculine in the traditional societies of West Asia. They are some of Iran's first female carpenters.

Licenses and formal training in such trades are unavailable for women.

Despite the obstacles and difficulties they face, they are determined to prove themselves. They refuse to let go of their dreams.

Armed with self-taught skills, guts and deep determination, Leila and Sediqeh bravely face the obstacles to fight for what they believe in.

Other nominees in this section are “All That Breathes” from India, the U.S. and UK, “Blue Island” from Hong Kong and Japan, “Children of the Mist” from Vietnam, “Delikado” from the Philippines, Australia, Hong Kong, U.S. and UK.

“Before, Now & Then” by Indonesian director Kamila Andini, and “Poet” by Kazakh filmmaker Darezhan Omirbayev are among the nominees for the best film award.

## Persian edition of Sarah Kane’s “4.48 Psychosis” republished

TEHRAN – The seventh edition of the Persian translation of “4.48 Psychosis” by English playwright Sarah Kane has been published by Bidgol in Tehran.

Erfan Khallaqi is the translator of the book first published in 2000.

“4.48 Psychosis” sees the ultimate narrowing of Sarah Kane's focus in her work.

The struggle of the self to remain intact has moved in her work from civil war, into the family, into the couple, into the individual,

and finally into the theater of psychosis: the mind itself.

This play was written in 1999 shortly before the playwright took her own life at age 28. On the page, the piece looks like a poem. No characters are named, and even their number is unspecified.

It could be a journey through one person's mind, or an interview between a doctor and his patient.

Sarah Kane's plays deal with themes of redemptive love, sexual desire, pain, torture – both physical



Copies of the Persian edition of Sarah Kane's play “4.48 Psychosis”.

and psychological – and death.

They are characterized by a poetic intensity, pared-down language, exploration of theatrical form, and, in her earlier work, the use of stylized violent stage action.

Kane battled with depression, and her life was brought to a premature end when she committed suicide at London's King's College Hospital.

Her published work consists of five plays and one short film, “Skin”.

## A Few Sugar Cubes



The book “A Few Sugar Cubes” by Tahere Emami details Rafat Sadat Nematollahi's life memories. Four months and forty hours of recorded interviews went into the writing of this book.

The book's author, Tahere Emami, gave an explanation of the plot and said that it is about a nurse who struggles with the nurse uniforms of the time, just before the revolution. Her memories cover the period of the revolution, the following imposed war, and her involvement in the warzones. In addition to her professional life, this book also touches on her personal life and the family issues she was facing.

The author then discussed how she met Mrs. Nematollahi, explaining that she did so at a gathering where people were sharing their wartime experiences and she had found Mrs. Nematollahi's memories to be very fascinating. Emami was drawn to Mrs. Nematollahi because of her determination and resilience, and she believed she would make an excellent pay target.

There is no interruption; the memories are entirely based on the narrator's narration. In terms of the work's content, I must state that we didn't only discuss the nursing character; rather, we discussed the character and her life as a whole, which included her time as a nurse, although this role can be applied to the narrator's entire life.

The author concluded by mentioning the value of oral history and pointing out how crucial it is for any nation. If memories are not preserved, they will be lost, which will prevent people from having any memories of the past. Future generations will benefit from it more as it becomes more accurate.

She also added that it's critical that people receive training in this area and begin documenting historical events.