

Exclusive

# 12 Guardians of Sharia and Law



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Report

## The Torah burning that didn't go ahead

By Ali Karbalaee

TEHRAN - An activist outside the Israeli embassy in Sweden has protested against the sacrilegious acts of burning holy books but stopped short of his stated aim of burning the Jewish holy book, the Torah.

Ahmad Alloush was accompanied by dozens of Swedish police officers, who appeared willing for the blasphemous act of burning the Torah to go ahead by standing back and watching on.

The 32-year-old took out the book, holy to Jews around the world, along with a lighter from a bag.

But he stopped short of setting the Torah ablaze, saying, "This is a response to the people who burn the Quran. I want to show that freedom of expression has limits that must be taken into account."

In his permit request to police, Alloush said that he wanted to burn the Torah and Bible in response to two recent incidents in which the Quran was set on fire in Sweden. ▶ Page 5

## Chinese envoy says Beijing backs Iran's bid to join BRICS

TEHRAN- Chang Hua, China's ambassador to Tehran, has emphasized Beijing's support for Iran's aspirations to join the BRICS economic alliance that includes Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.

Speaking with ISNA news agency on Saturday, he said that "China maintains positive relationship with all countries in the region. Last year, Chinese President Xi Jinping visited Saudi Arabia, and earlier this year, Iran's president also visited China."

"The presidents of Iran, China, and Saudi Arabia engaged in discussions on regional peace and security. Both Iran and Saudi Arabia expressed their commitment to restoring bilateral relations and ensuring peace and stability in the region, a stance that China welcomes," Chang further noted.

On the deal that China brokered between Iran and Saudi Arabia in March, the ambassador said, "We view this as a success in promoting peace and dialogue."

Ambassador Chang also emphasized Xi's proposal for a global security initiative, highlighting the need for conflict resolution via diplomacy.

"The resumption of diplomatic relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia is regarded as a successful example of this global security endeavor. Following this move, China is dedicated to improving regional peace and stability," he added.

The ambassador also said, "Certainly, China supports Iran's membership in the BRICS organization. President Xi Jinping invited Iran's president to participate in the High Development Dialogue last year. Although the agreement of other BRICS members is necessary, we support Iran's aspiration to join the organization."



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## Iran's growing footprint in Africa despite ire in U.S., Israel

*"While the U.S. sleeps, Iran is making inroads in Africa," former Israeli national security advisor says.*

TEHRAN- A new report has revealed that Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi's recent trip to Africa took place despite strong opposition from the U.S. and Israel. Raisi wrapped up his three-nation tour of Kenya, Uganda and Zimbabwe on Thursday, becoming the first Iranian president to engage in an African tour in more than a decade. Washington and Tel Aviv allegedly tried to stymie the diplomatic flurry, but to no avail.

Raisi has been looking to alleviate the pressure of U.S. sanctions by turning to non-Western countries and diversifying Iran's economic partners. A day after the Iranian president arrived in Tehran, the country's foreign ministry announced Iran's trade with Africa is expected to increase more than \$2 billion this year. Prior to the trip, Iran's foreign minister called

Africa the "continent of opportunities" due to its high economic potentials

When Raisi was wrapping up his African tour, CNN decided to cover his trip while downplaying it. The news network called the trip an attempt by the Iranian government to shore up its alliances in the "developing world". But the White House seems to have had a different take on the situation compared to what was being portrayed on American media. According to People Daily newspaper, the Kenyan government had to cancel Iran's president's visit at the last minute due to pressure from the U.S. and Israel. The fact that

Kenya decided to move the meeting to another day and still receive the Iranian president shows the African country can greatly benefit from closer relations with Iran. So much so that it is willing to risk unnerving Washington in order to pursue ties with Tehran.

**"Iran seeking to create a multilateral system that will serve as a counterweight"**

Tehran's efforts to build diplomatic momentum in Africa have also drawn angry reactions from the U.S. in Israel. Meir Ben Shabbat, who was the regime's security advisor from 2017 to 2021, wrote a withering article on the Israel Hayom website criticizing Washington for its inaction against Tehran. ▶ Page 2



Op-ed

## The encirclement of Israel: only tightening by day!

By Ahmadrza Yousefzadeh

Perhaps six decades ago, when the Arab-Israeli war was coming to an end, nobody could have imagined that the seemingly invincible army of Israel would see these days. Days when almost every corner of the occupied territories is turned into a resistance front against the regime. The yearning desire to stand against the callous occupiers have now even reached the occupied West Bank. This is a claim made by not only Iran but many others who have been following the developments in the occupied territories closely.

Israeli media never misses a day to make warnings about the dangers Iran poses to the Israeli regime. Dan Diker, the president of the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, published a thorough report on the Jewish News Syndicate (JSN) on July 3rd ▶ Page 3

Op-ed

## Women 'source of tranquility' at home

By Sara Atta

TEHRAN - The importance of a woman in the family and her fundamental role in raising the children, and creating a calm atmosphere for the family members is obvious and crystal clear for anyone.

The family is a fundamental body in society and the most suitable place to meet human beings' material and spiritual needs.

A child learns the first and most basic life lessons in the family. S/he is taught dedication, love, customs, cultural and religious ceremonies, a sense of duty, and responsibilities in the family. The family environment is effective in forming the personality of the children. Providing personal and social health is impossible without considering the family's role. ▶ Page 7



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## Raisi says Iran seeking to turn borders into economic zones

TEHRAN - Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi on Sunday underlined the need to enhance bilateral and multilateral collaboration with Pakistan and promote economic development along the shared borders while warning against hostile plans to undermine ties among regional nations.

During a meeting with visiting Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff, Major General Asim Munir, Raisi stated that expanding connections with Muslim, neighboring, and like-minded nations is a high goal of his government's foreign policy. ▶ Page 2

## Tehran, Cairo on way to upgrade tourism ties

TEHRAN- Iran and Egypt have agreed to extend mutual tourism as they are on track to restore diplomatic relations and reopen their respective embassies.

Tehran and Cairo hope to draw a roadmap for their tourism collaborations later this month as part of ongoing efforts to normalize relations between the two nations, The National reported.

According to Egyptian sources, a delegation from Egypt's Tourism and Antiquities Ministry was due to travel to Tehran to finalize details with their Iranian counterparts.

A new Egyptian tour operator is to be established aimed at being solely responsible for handling Iranian tourists, the report said.

Based on initial arrangements, Iranians will be allowed to visit Egypt on organized tours of the Red Sea resorts in the southern region of the Sinai Peninsula. ▶ Page 6

## TEHRAN PAPERS

## Sanction is American suicide bomb

*In the following column, we take a look at some important contents and views in the yesterday's Iranian newspapers.*

In a note, Kayhan discussed increase in Iran's capabilities in drone industries. The paper said: American officials and other enemies of the Iranian nation were struggling during the eight-year sacred defense in the 1980s to make sure that no country would sell weapons to Iran. But now the same enemy is trying to prevent Iran from selling modern and advanced weapons to other countries. From drones to guided missiles, etc.

Moreover, the United States is also worried about Iran's oil export to China. The United States used all its economic, political, media, diplomatic, security and intelligence power to zero Iran's oil exports through the leverage of sanctions. It also sought sanctions on non-oil exports as well as banking and financial interactions to paralyze the Iranian economy. But they never happened. With Iran's confidence in its enormous internal strength and distrust of the enemy, the approach of "sanctions neutralization" is becoming stronger and more effective day by day. But in order to defeat the sanctions, it is necessary to deal with the "flow of distortion", who are the "beneficiaries of sanctions". They are the preservers of the interests of America and Israel in Iran. The same group that Netanyahu called Israel's biggest assets in Iran.

**Siasat-e-Rooz: There has been no change**

In its editorial, Siasat-e-Rooz discussed two significant changes in the military and diplomatic approaches of the United States towards Iran and wrote: The United States intends to deploy more F-16 fighter jets around the strategic Strait of Hormuz to protect ships from possible seizure by Iran. Also, the Western media tried to pretend the suspension of Robert Malley as a document about the change in the behavior of the U.S. and they demanded that the rights and conditions of Iran be neglected in the negotiations. The Americans seek to trap Iranian public opinion and decision-makers in the equation of war or negotiation in order to impose a kind of self-sanction on Iran's economy and scare foreign investors from Iran and provide the first stage of the release of their prisoners without giving concessions. America, being aware of Iran's military power, practically has no military option against Iran, and also since it does not have the components of power, it will not look for negotiations, and their current movements are just a media game.

**Tehran slams Western double standards on mass protests in occupied lands**

TEHRAN- The spokesperson for Iran's Foreign Ministry has blasted Western media for their inaccurate reporting of large-scale rallies throughout the Israeli-occupied territories, stating while huge demonstrations are regularly held in occupied lands Western networks exaggerate turmoil in other parts of the world.

"We are witnessing the continuation of months-long protests, strikes and paralyzing demonstrations attended by hundreds of thousands of people across the occupied territories," Nasser Kanaani stated in a series of tweets on Sunday.

He said that the Zionist regime's security forces brutally put down protests throughout the occupied lands and that the precise number of those killed, injured, or detained as a result is still unclear.

"The Western media empire, turning a blind eye on repression and violence against protesters just as maintaining a blackout on the murder and suppression of Palestinians by Zionists, portrays such protests as a symbol of bogus democracy in Israel," he noted.

Kanaani went on to argue that while the same media outlets cover minor gatherings and protests in a nation not aligned to the West in great detail under the blatant lie that they are defending freedom of expression and human rights, they characterize unrest, chaos, violence, and destruction as protest and revolution.

On July 15, protesters rallied across Israel for the 28th weekend of demonstrations against the judi-

**Vatan-e-Emrooz: Only weapon of the Western-oriented media is a distortion**

In a commentary, Vatan-e-Emrooz discussed the dual policy of some media on the issue of reviving relations with Africa. It wrote: The specific silence of many local media outlets and power centers in the West regarding the revival of Iranian diplomacy in Africa shows their concern regarding the development of Iran's joint capacities for cooperation and African Union member countries in economic and strategic domains. Considering the changing nature of the world and transition from the unipolar world and establishing new rules in the field of hegemony and security, the formation of Iran's diplomatic, economic and security relations with African and American countries has been a correct decision. Domestic media consider the geographical and economic range of Africa as a symbol of stagnation and backwardness in international economy and claim that Iran lacks "diplomatic understanding". However, the continuous investments of Western companies in Africa are considered as a "political intelligence and tact". This dual policy has no meaning other than "inherent allegiance to the West".

**Javan: This is the year of drones**

In a note, Javan discussed the three new strategies of America in the nuclear negotiations and said: The three strategies of "action against action, stop against stop, and minimum against minimum" mean that the American government no longer wants the JCPOA and is looking for an agreement which puts Iran's nuclear file on hold until the fate of the war in Ukraine is determined, and whenever they want, they can terminate the agreement and return to the zero point, which is the red line of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the negotiations. But in nearly three months, the deadline for lifting UN limitations on Iran's research and development (R&D) and production of ballistic missiles will end. At that time, it will no longer be the West that will decide on the agreement, that day will be the deadline for a major decision in Tehran. The production of drone parts by Iranian companies has made the sanctions "less effective". This sentence has a special meaning in the future of diplomacy.

cial overhaul, with political tensions ratcheting up as the far-right government coalition speeds ahead with legislation to weaken the courts' powers.

The goal of the so-called "judicial overhaul" plan is to deny the Israeli Supreme Court the ability to overturn political decisions made by the ruling party.

Additionally, it aims to give the Israeli regime more control over the selection of judges for the court.

Supporters claim that the proposal will put a stop to decades of judicial overreach, while detractors believe that it will do away with important restraints on political authority.

The Israeli regime Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, who is on trial for many counts of corruption, has also been accused by detractors of seeking to use the plan to overturn potential convictions.

The Knesset approved the first reading of the extremely contentious and divisive legislation last week despite the persistent protests. Before being signed into law, the bill needs to pass two further readings.

Protesters have pledged to continue organizing massive protests until the regime agrees to abandon the plan.

Netanyahu called a halt to his efforts to get the proposal passed by the Knesset in late March after being confronted with ferocious protests and a wave of widespread industrial actions in favor of those protests.

# Raisi says Iran seeking to turn borders into economic zones

From page 1 ▶ The president stated that Iran is pursuing a strategy to transform the "security-focused" border with Pakistan into a "secure and economic-focused border", calling for the promotion of border markets and closer energy cooperation to that aim.

He also warned against enemies' attempts to destabilize regional relations, emphasizing the importance of strengthening bilateral and regional cooperation, accelerating the implementation of bilateral agreements and broadening political, economic, and trade interaction between the two neighbors.

The senior Pakistani general, for his part, praised Iran's strategy of closer connections with its neighbors, particularly Pakistan, calling it a beneficial chance for the Muslim world.

General Munir emphasized the potential for trade exchanges along the shared border and said that stronger economic relations will afterwards enhance security.

The Pakistani general also referred to the agreements on securing the common borders, stating that the focus is on advancing strategies to secure long-term security.

**"IRGC ready to collaborate with Pakistan on border security"**

The head of Pakistan's Army and the commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps also spoke about strategies for military cooperation to protect shared borders and combat terrorism.

During a meeting with General



Munir on Saturday in Tehran, Major General Hossein Salami, commander of the IRGC, criticized the clashes that undermine security at local communities along Iran-Pakistan's shared border.

The Iranian commander added, "The IRGC is prepared to work in cooperation with the Pakistani Army to change the security conditions at the border between the two countries and turn them into economic borders."

He emphasized the need for a joint approach to thwart the hostile attempts to create insecurity at the shared borders.

Salami also emphasized the need to strengthen mutual cooperation in the fight against terrorism and counter security challenges at the border.

"We consider the security of Pakistan as our own security. We will terminate the terrorist groups by promoting interaction, cooperation and joint action and synergy. We will establish sustainable security at the border regions of the two nations," Major General Salami remarked.

For his part, the senior Pakistani general called for expansion of defense and security cooperation with Iran.

Major General Munir also stated that Pakistan is prepared to collaborate with Iran to address security issues and take action against terrorist groups along the border.

He stated that Islamabad is ready to work with Iran and use

the best methods to solve the difficulties and advance other matters of mutual interest.

**Iran, Pakistan discuss regional concerns**

In a separate meeting between Munir Ahmed Shah and Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian on Sunday, they also discussed regional concerns and talked about improving cooperation.

Prior to the meeting, Munir and his fellow delegate had met with the Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Bagheri, Commander of the IRGC Major General Salami, and Commander of Iran's Air Force Brigadier General Hamid Vahedi.

## Iran, Russia mull forming cooperative shipping company: envoy

TEHRAN- Iran's ambassador to Russia, Kazem Jalali, has said authorities in Tehran and Moscow are exploring the formation of a cooperative shipping firm as part of efforts to strengthen strategic cooperation.

Jalali made the announcement in an interview with the Rossiya-24 TV channel on Friday as he pointed to efforts to strengthen Tehran-Moscow's maritime fleet.

"There is a need to reinforce our ports; there is a need to strengthen the shipping fleet. Even to create a joint shipping company. I just had a conversation with First Deputy Prime Minister of Russia Andrey Belousov. Iran's Minister of Transport also discussed this topic with him. Our Russian counterparts welcomed the creation of a joint shipping company," the Iranian diplomat stressed.

He continued by saying that "countries need to develop ports and link them like railroads.



The potential for freight shipping is huge there."

Moscow and Tehran are collaborating on a number of fronts to promote bilateral commerce, hasten development of transport links like the North-South Transit Corridor and its Caspian Sea component, and integrate their banking systems to make it easier to conduct financial operations.

The move comes as Iran and Russia prepare to conclude a long-term strategic cooperation deal, which will open up several new areas for collaboration.

Official sources asserted that trade exchanges between the two nations quadrupled in 2022.

Russia became Iran's greatest foreign investor during the Iranian calendar year that ended in March with investments totaling \$2.76 billion.

In an effort to lessen Western control over the global economy, the two sides also want to see a decline in the use of U.S. dollar in regional and international trade.

The bilateral cooperation comes despite draconian Western sanctions, spearheaded by the U.S., on both Tehran and Moscow.

Iran has been subject to unilateral U.S. sanctions since former President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew the U.S. from the Iran nuclear agreement in May 2018 and began a campaign of "maximum pressure" against Iran's economy.

## Iran's growing footprint in Africa despite ire in U.S., Israel

From page 1 ▶ Tehran's efforts to build diplomatic momentum in Africa have also drawn angry reactions from the U.S. in Israel. Meir Ben Shabbat, who was the regime's security advisor from 2017 to 2021, wrote a withering article on the Israel Hayom website criticizing Washington for its inaction against Tehran.

"While the U.S. sleeps, Iran is making inroads in Africa," Ben Shabbat wrote. He also claimed that the Iranian president's trip must be seen as part of a larger push to "influence the new world order, and create a multilateral system that will serve as a counterweight".

The Times of Israel has also expressed concern about some of the host countries' support for Iran's peaceful nuclear program: "Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, a U.S. ally on security matters, has previously voiced support for Iran's nuclear program".

The important question here is why are these African nations, which have been taking center stage since the beginning of the Ukraine war, willing to cooperate with Iran despite great pressure

from the U.S. and Israel? Now that many countries are trying to make Africa turn to their orbits, why would the continent choose to strengthen ties with Iran and not the Islamic Republic's opponents? To answer those we will this time take a closer look at what has been said about President Raisi's Africa trip on African media.

Raisi's meeting with African leaders mainly made headlines for Iran's promised contribution to Kenya, Uganda and Zimbabwe's economies. The Iranian president signed a total of 21 documents in the three countries which include Tehran making investments in various sectors.

In Uganda, Iran will be replacing the European Union, U.S., and UK in developing oil refineries and petrochemical production. The request made directly by Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni himself was brought up by the Ugandan government for the second time since it got rejected by previous Iranian President Hassan Rouhani.

In Zimbabwe Tehran has pledged support for the African country, which like Iran has

been saddled by U.S. sanctions, in the information and communications technology sector. 20 years of sanctions by Washington, the EU and the UK have left the majority of Zimbabwe's infrastructures in shambles. Iran will also be helping the African country in other areas snarled by crippling Western embargos.

Lastly Iran and Kenya will be cooperating in the field of animal health, livestock production, ICT, fisheries and education.

Apart from the economic benefits of friendly relations with Iran, African media also wrote a great deal about what had been perceived as "Iran's respect" for African values.

Countries in the scenic continent have long received scathing criticism from the West for their anti-homosexuality provisions. In the most recent case, Washington imposed visa restrictions on Ugandan officials after Kampala acquired an anti-homosexuality bill in May.

Iran has showed a completely different approach in comparison to the West. During his stay in Uganda Raisi condemned Western countries for imposing their

ideologies on African people and trying to promote the "ugly phenomenon of homosexuality".

His trust in the host countries in being able to ensure his safety also garnered attention among Africans on social media. In Uganda for instance, President Raisi reportedly relied solely on the cordon set by the Ugandan government and did not think twice about sipping on the coffee given to him by a member of the African staff.

Raisi's African tour also created a buzz among the Muslim population of the three countries. The Iranian president made sure to hold meetings with top clerics of not only Muslim but Christian minorities while staying in Africa. Many Africans were happy to get the opportunity to exchange thoughts with a top figure of a leading Muslim nation.

Overall it seems that the relations between Iran and countries in Africa are based on mutual interest and respect. Africa might be able to get more money from the West but in doing so, it will have to sacrifice its independence as well as some of its most important fundamental values.

# 12 Guardians of Sharia and Law

By Mohammad Sarfi  
Editor-in-chief

TEHRAN - On a hot June at morning time, we arrived at the entrance gate and waited for necessary arrangements for our entry. Several guards guide and inspect visitors.

Our wait for entry is a bit longer than expected, during which people of all professions enter. Some enter by showing their identification card, while others have come by mistake. Most of them have personal problems and want to convey their grievances to the government in some way. The guards kindly tell them that they have come to the wrong place and guide them to where they should go.

A young cleric is also standing in the waiting room. Sometimes he talks on his mobile phone and sometimes with the guards. From his words, it is clear that he has come from a county and has come to the Constitutional Council to find out the reason for not being approved in the previous parliamentary election.

The Constitutional Council is responsible for examining the qualifications of parliamentary and presidential candidates. The qualifications of presidential hopefuls are examined in Tehran and by 12 main members of the council, but the competence of thousands of parliamentary candidates is mostly examined by the representatives of the Constitutional Council in various counties.

Gradually, some young people, boys and girls, arrive. They are students and are supposed to participate in one of the Constitutional Council's sessions for the first time and closely see how it works. A staff member of the public relations office comes and takes me and the newspaper photographer inside.

## A historic goal

Today is the anniversary of the formation of the Constitutional Council. An institution that began its work on July 17, 1980, although its historical background dates back to the Qajar era and the Constitutional Revolution. In that period and with the efforts of Sheikh Fazlollah Nouri, an institution with similar duties was formed as the second supplement to the Constitution. According to this supplement, 5 religious scholars were supposed to oversee the legal decisions and measure them against Islamic principles. Of course, this institution almost never really fulfilled its duties at the time.

With the victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979, Sheikh Fazlollah Nouri's goal was incorporated into a more coherent and advanced structure called the Constitutional Council and included in the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran. In articles 93, 94, 98, and 99



of the Constitution, the duties and powers of the council are stipulated.

The Constitutional Council consists of 12 members, 6 of whom are religious scholars who are directly appointed by the Leader, and 6 lawyers who are proposed by the Judiciary chief and if they win the votes of parliamentarians, they will become members of the council.

## Regular meetings

We go to one of the council meeting halls. Students also come. Mr. Basiri, the head of the council's public relations office, and Mr. Fattahi, the deputy head of the council's research center, join us and explain the council's function and process of its working. Many people think that the Constitutional Council's only duty is to examine the qualifications of candidates for parliament, president, and Assembly of Experts. But its main and routine task is to review parliamentary laws and compare them with Islamic principles and the Constitution.

When a law is passed by the parliament it is sent to the Constitutional Council with the signature of the parliament's speaker. It first goes to the council's research center. The research center is composed of several specialized departments. The law is carefully and thoroughly examined in the relevant departments. From the primary drafters of the law to stakeholders and experts related to its content, various aspects of it are discussed and scrutinized from a religious and constitutional perspective. Supporters and critics of the law are invited, and their opinions are also heard. Finally, the research center prepares a detailed technical report for the members of the Constitutional Council.

**"Oh! I can't go to America for Christmas anymore!"**

At 11:30 am, it is announced that we can go to the main hall of the council, where 12 Islamic and law experts are busy discussing one of the parliament's decisions. We enter

the hall calmly, a high-ceilinged hall where the council members are gathered around. Ayatollah Jannati sits at the head of the session, as the council's secretary.

Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati can be considered the living history of the Constitutional Council. He has been a member of the council as a jurist since its first formation, and he has been its secretary since 1992. In 2020, he was sanctioned by the US government for allegedly undermining free elections. He finds the sanctions ridiculous and has joked about them, saying, "Oh! I can't go to America for Christmas anymore!"

Ayatollah Jannati is a revolutionary cleric and has a stubborn character in this regard. Nevertheless, he has a sense of humor. He is 93 years old and a few years ago I saw him up close in the marches celebrating the anniversary of the Islamic Revolution's victory. Although he had a cane in his hand, he walked quickly. Of course, he doesn't have that speed anymore. His age has become a source of humor. I heard from someone close to him that he doesn't have a problem with these jokes and even laughs when he hears them.

## Jurists with tablets

Students sit in the row behind the council members. After a few minutes, the council continues its discussions. The topic is about the regulation of housing and land market and also house renting. Three jurists with tablets in front of them lead the discussion. Several cameras mounted on the walls record the sessions. Abolhasani, a handsome young man sitting at the bottom of the session, acts as the secretary. He has several laptops in front of him. He reads out the clauses one by one, and members express their opinions, and then each clause is put to a vote. Members indicate their agreement by raising their hands.

## Permanent political pressure

In a few months, parliamentary

elections are scheduled to be held, and once again, discussions related to the Constitutional Council heat up. The council says that it only pays attention to legal documents in examining qualifications and does not get involved in partisan, factional and group competitions.

The Constitutional Council has also made significant decisions during its lifetime and has received significant reactions. The disqualification of Hashemi Rafsanjani in the 2013 presidential elections was one of these decisions.

Ayatollah Seyed Ahmad Khatami, a member of the council, speaks about political pressures on the council: "I have been a member of the Constitutional Council for two years. In these two years, the only thing I have not seen is parties and groups. Only the law is discussed here, and nothing else. Of course, the council has always been accused by political groups, but we do our legal duty. Political groups must know that the council is not influenced by political pressure and is only under the influence of the law."

Ayatollah Jannati stops the session and welcomes the students, expressing his satisfaction that for the first time some students have participated in the official and working session of the Constitutional Council, and he finds it useful. One of the students speaks on behalf of the others and invites the jurists of the council to come to universities and have sessions with the students.

The sound of the noon prayer call is heard. The session ends, and those present leave the hall to participate in congregational prayer. Before going to the prayer location, students and council members form small gatherings and gab.

report by JNS can be seen as a fearful reaction from the regime. It is yet another attempt by Israel to posture as the victim.

We must take into account that Israel uses the phrase "wipe out the regime", that was intentionally distorted and taken out of context, as a tool to garner support in every international summit or meeting that its officials attend. Despite such commotions, Iran has not backed down on its support for the Palestinians to liberate their stolen lands.

Iran's strong opposition to Israel is not just to push the occupiers out of the Palestinian lands. The Palestinian cause entails two types of obligations for Iran: material and spiritual.

Why does Iran have the right to counter Israel?

In recent years the Israeli regime has gone great lengths to incite insecurity inside Iran. That includes the regime's repeated attacks on Iranian positions in Syria as well as organized assassinations of prominent Iranian figures. The regime has used groups trained inside Israel to carry out assassinations on a number of nuclear scientists inside Iran. The killings have harmed Iran. The assassination of scientists can never be forgotten.

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

JULY 17, 2023

Straight Truth  
TEHRAN TIMES

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## SPORTS

### Arami wins silver at Budapest Ranking

TEHRAN - Iranian Greco-Roman wrestler Omid Arami claimed a silver medal at the Budapest Ranking Series on Saturday.

Arami defeated Azerbaijan's Nihat Mammadli 3-1 in his first match.

He beat Kazakhstan's Aibek Sabyrbekov 9-1 and Hungarian wrestler Erik Torba 4-0.

Arami also beat Sweden's Virgil Alexander Bica 7-2 to book his place in the final match.

He lost to Kerem Kamal from Turkey 8-1 in the final match of 60kg.

The ranking points play a significant role in setting the wrestlers' seeding at major tournaments, such as the World Championships.

The World Wrestling Championships 2023, which will take place from September 16 to 24, 2023 in Belgrade, Serbia, will serve as a qualifying event for the Paris Olympics 2024.

### Iranian duo nominated for FIBA U16 Women's Asia C'ship MVP

TEHRAN - Two Iranian players have been nominated for the Most Valuable Player (MVP) of the FIBA U16 Women's Asia Championship 2023 Division B.

Helyah Houdneh and Ghazal Zamani have played Iran book a place in the final match, while the Persians will meet the Philippines in Amman, Jordan.

They will have to compete with Hong Kong's Yan Ting Tai and Tsz Ching Kam, Malaysian Yi Xin Yap, Zena Alkarain from Jordan and the Philippines' Sophia Canindo and Ava Fajardo to win the accolade.

The MVP player will be selected by fans vote.

### Yakhchali happy to join Gladiators

TEHRAN - Iran international guard Behnam Yakhchali is very happy to join German basketball club Gladiators Treves.

Yakhchali, 28, has penned a two-year deal with the second-tier team.

He has already played in German teams Rostock (ProA) and Mitteldeutsche BC (BBL).

"I am very happy about the opportunity to play in Gladiators. I had great conversations with the trainers and I find the Gladiators project very interesting and promising," Yakhchali told the club's website.

"I had very good experiences in Rostock in the ProA and I'm coming to with the aim of winning as many games as possible and getting the absolute maximum out of our season. I've already played in front of the fans in the Trier Arena and found the city extremely beautiful. It's one of the oldest cities in Europe and I'm really looking forward to playing for the Gladiators in Trier," he added.

### Iran's fixtures at 2023 CAFA Futsal Cup announced

TEHRAN - Iran will meet Turkmenistan in the opening match of the 2023 CAFA Futsal Cup on July 23.

The tournament will be held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan from July 23 to 30.

Six teams namely, Tajikistan, Iran, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Afghanistan and Turkmenistan will compete at the tournament.

Iran is scheduled to meet Kyrgyzstan (July 24), Afghanistan (July 26), Uzbekistan (July 28) and Tajikistan (July 30).

The competition will be held in a round robin system in one round, where each team will play with each.

The winning team will be determined by the number of points scored.

### Olympic chief assumes post in OCA

TEHRAN - President of National Olympic Committee Mahmoud Khosravi Vafa has gained a seat in the executive board of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA).

Khosravi Vafa was elected in a Saturday meeting of OCA.

The election was held as the OCA convened for the first time since Kuwait's Sheikh Talal al-Fahad Al-Sabah was elected as the president of the council.

During the meeting, the members also discussed the way they could contribute to the OCA performance during the new tenure.

The OCA Executive Board is scheduled to convene for a second time on August 15.

### U20 Greco-Roman wrestlers bag five medals

TEHRAN - Iran's U20 wrestlers have snatched two gold and three bronze medals at Asian Greco-Roman Wrestling Championships in Jordan.

On the first day of the event on Saturday, Iran's athletes Ali Ahmadiava (55kg) and Reza Gitasi (63) took gold medals.

The Iranian sportsmen Alireza Abdevali (77kg), Abolfazl Chobani (87kg) and Fardin Hedayati (130kg) received bronze medals.

Asian Greco-Roman Wrestling Championships kicked off in Amman, Jordan and will come to an end on July 20.

### Paris 23 Worlds: Pirouj takes silver

TEHRAN - Ali Pirouj of Iran won a silver medal at the Paris 2023 Para Athletics World Championships.

He came second at the Men's Javelin Throw F13 with a throw of 63.70 meters.

Briton Daniel Pembroke claimed the gold medal with 70.50 meters.

Cuban athlete Ulicer Aguilera Cruz seized the bronze medal with 59.79 meters.

Javelin thrower Saeid Afroozat and Shot putters Mehdi Olad and Rashid Masjedi have previously claimed three gold medals in the event.

Long jumper Amir Khosravani and Mehdi Olad in discus throw have won two silvers and Hashemieh Motaghian claimed a bronze at the javelin throw.

Over 1,300 athletes from 107 nations compete across 168 medal events. Many of them will be returning to Paris next year for the Paralympics, making it the first World Championships to be held in the Paralympic host city one year before the Games.

### Arsenal will not pursue Taremi

TEHRAN - Mikel Arteta's Arsenal are not interested in having 30-year-old Iranian goal-scoring machine Mehdi Taremi in their ranks.

According to Dean Jones via GIVEMESPORT, Arsenal will not be pushing for the services of Mehdi Taremi. The Gunners are looking to bolster their squad ahead of next season, but they won't be making a move to sign the 30-year-old FC Porto striker despite being linked with him.

Taremi has been linked with numerous clubs of late and Arsenal are one of them. The 30-year-old was on fire last season, and his performances haven't gone unnoticed. There is quite a lot of interest in his services from all parts of the world.

He has been a part of Portuguese club FC Porto since the summer of 2020. Over the years he has been involved in a total of 147 matches and has contributed towards 129 goals. The 30-year-old has 80 goals and 49 assists to his name.

While he has been scoring goals on a consistent basis, the Iranian international took his game to the next level in the 2022-23 season. He featured in a total of 51 matches and managed to rack up 45 goal contributions. The 30-year-old found the back of the net on 31 occasions.

## The encirclement of Israel: only tightening by day!

From Page 1 ► warning that Iran's growing footprint has now reached the borders of Israel and that the grueling military capabilities of Iran are now directly pointed at the regime.

Diker brought up the Leader of Iran's Islamic revolution's latest remarks about the significance of arming the West Bank against Israel. He argued that Ayatollah Khamenei's comments show the latest conflicts in the occupied territories are wrongly being compared to a second Intifada. In his opinion "Iran's proxy wars" in the occupied territories are now mainly responsible for Israel's chronic situation.

"This is not Intifada. This is a war that has been planned by Iran and is now starting from the northern Samarian hills," Diker wrote.

The report by JNS also claims that Iran has encircled Israel from three different directions. The first front lies in Gaza where resistance groups are being backed by Iran. The second front is preparing to fight Israel from Lebanon and Syria. This includes Hezbollah which has been posing a great threat to the interests and security of the Israeli regime. Lastly, the writer believes the third front against Israel is being strengthened inside Israeli cities along the Mediterranean Sea.

Based on this report up until recently, Iran's

moves and plans were only limited to helping resistance in the first two fronts. But since Iran's Leader's comments about the need for new resistance forces in other areas, the country has stepped up support for Palestinians in the occupied West Bank. The report also claims that there is no way the Israeli military would allow Iran to move on with its plans.

It is necessary to elaborate on some of the points mentioned in the JNS report.

Since the 33-day war between Israel and Lebanon's Hezbollah resistance movement came to an end in August 2006, Iran has been showing open support for the Palestinian resistance movement. Iranian officials have made it clear time and again that resistance forces in both the 33-day war and the 2008-2009 Gaza war, the conflicts that finally changed power dynamics in favor of Muslims after several decades, were only able to emerge victorious against Israel thanks to Tehran's support.

Dignitaries in Tehran have repeatedly announced that they would back any entity against Israel. Iran has never been hesitant in wording its fierce opposition against the regime. It has also never denied that it is strengthening resistance forces to fight Israel. Therefore, the

## NICIC planning to increase annual revenues to \$10b

TEHRAN – The managing director of National Iranian Copper Industries Company (NICIC) has said the company is following a new program to increase its annual revenues to \$10 billion, IRIB reported.

Ali Rostami made the remarks in a meeting with the newly appointed acting head of the Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMDRO) Mohammadreza Movasaghi-Nejad.

According to Rostami, based on the mentioned program, the country's production capacity is going to increase by threefold and more than 50,000 people will be working in the industry.

Back in March, Rostami said the country's copper production is going to reach one million tons in the next six years.

He noted that in case of reaching the above-mentioned output, the country's copper export is also going to hit \$10 billion.

According to Rostami, NICIC managed to export \$1.6 billion worth of copper products in the Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20, 2022).

Iran saw its copper exports double in that year despite a series of bitter sanctions imposed by the United States aimed at hampering the Islamic Republic's trade of lucrative metals.

## Realizing 7th NDP economic goal requires \$160b of annual investment



TEHRAN – A former deputy at Iranian Finance and Economic Affairs Ministry has said the country requires \$160 billion of foreign and domestic investment every year to realize the economic growth goal of eight percent set for the seventh National Development Plan

(2022-2026).

"To achieve eight percent economic growth, we need 60 billion dollars of foreign investment and 100 billion dollars of domestic investment every year," Hadi Ghavami told Fars News Agency.

## Increasing dairy exports to \$2.7b planned

TEHRAN – A board member of Iran Dairy Industries Society (IDIS) has said establishing milk processing plants (refineries) across the country is going to increase Iran's annual dairy exports up to \$2.7 billion, IRNA reported.

"Despite the fact that the plan for building milk refineries was chosen as a national plan in the economic headquarters, the plan has been postponed so far," Gholam-Ali Soleimani said.

Iran was the largest net exporter of dairy in Asia in 2022, according to figures reported by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

In a report published in late June, FAO put Iran's dairy exports last year at 1.583 million metric tons (mt) while estimating that the country had imported only 86,000 mt of such products over the same period.

The figures, from FAO's Food Outlook, a biannual report on global food markets, showed that Iran's dairy exports accounted for 17 percent of the total milk and dairy exports by Asian countries in 2022.

Dairy exports from Iran accounted for 13 percent of the country's total milk and dairy production last year which reached 7.840 million mt, showed FAO figures which indicated that the output may drop slightly in 2023 to 7.820 million mt.

Iran has introduced extensive measures to ensure food security in the country since 2018 when its oil exports came under American sanctions.

The country has encouraged increased production and exports of agrifood as part of its plans to reduce reliance on oil exports and to create jobs for its population.

## Parliament passes generalities of Commerce Ministry establishment bill

TEHRAN – Iranian Parliament on Sunday passed the generalities of a bill to establish the Ministry of Commerce.

As reported, 129 MPs voted in favor of the double-urgency bill, 101 MPs voted against it, and four MPs abstained.

Fathollah Tavasoli, an MP who voted in favor of the bill, said: "Despite the existence of the ministry

of Industry, Mining and Trade, the market situation is not good and is abandoned. See economic diplomacy; there is no trustee to control the market. Who should oversee market regulation? Therefore, in this situation, the formation of the Ministry of Commerce is a necessity. The Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade does not deal with the field of industry and mining, nor with the field of trade!"

## TEDPIX drops 49,500 points on Sunday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of the Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), dropped 49,593 points to 2.021 million on Sunday.

As reported, over 8.169 billion securities worth 54.059 trillion rials (about \$111 million) were traded at the TSE.

TSE is one of the four Iranian stock exchanges, and the most important one. 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).

Iranian government has been taking new

measures to restore shareholders' trust in the stock market and help the market thrive again.

As reported, the 13th government has always tried to move towards reforming the structure and foundation of the capital market in order to promote economic justice, transparency, and the true sovereignty of the people over their capital.

In this regard, over the past two years, the government has been following 16 practical and important measures in order to reform the structure of the stock market.

# West Karoun oilfields output up 20,000 bpd in nearly 4 months

TEHRAN – The managing director of Arvandan Oil and Gas Company (AOGC), which is a subsidiary of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) operating oil fields located in the West Karoun region, has said the output from West Karoun oil fields has increased by 20,000 barrels per day (bpd) in the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 21).

Speaking in a meeting with Head of Petroleum Engineering Development Company (PEDEC) Abouzar Sharifi and some of the region's oil industry officials, Abdollah Ozari said: "We were able to increase oil production in West Karoun by 20,000 barrels by moving some of the oil flow lines of wells in South Azadegan field to prevent oil pushing back from high-pressure wells to low-pressure ones."

Sharifi also pointed to some of the measures taken for the development of fields in the West Karoun region, saying: "We plan to hand over 17 new wells to AOGC next week, which will further increase the output from fields



operated by the company."

Iran's oil industry has been strongly focused on developing joint oil and gas fields, aiming to increase the share of such fields in the country's oil and gas production.

West Karoun oil fields,

which Iran shares with Iraq in the western part of Iran's southwestern region of Karoun, include five major fields namely North Azadegan, South Azadegan, North Yaran, South Yaran, and Yadavaran.

West Karoun holds great

importance for the country's oil industry since according to the latest studies, its in-situ deposit is estimated to be 67 billion barrels containing both light and heavy crude oils, and therefore it could have a big impact on Iran's oil output increases in the future.

## Iran exporting elevator, escalator products to 15 countries

TEHRAN – Head of the Iran Chamber of Cooperatives (ICC) has said the country is currently exporting elevator and escalator parts and equipment to more than 15 countries across the globe, IRIB reported.

Speaking on the sidelines of the 11th International Exhibition of Elevators, Escalators, Conveyors, Components and Accessories which kicked off on Friday at Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds, Bahman Abdollahi said: "Considering the measures being taken in the elevator industry, the export of products from this industry will exceed the imports over the next two or three years."

"The elevator and escalator industry has been a pioneering sector in the country's construction industry and has had significant improvements in terms of quantity and

quality," Abdollahi said.

According to him, currently, 95 percent of the equipment and parts used in elevators and escalators are manufactured inside the country and only five percent of the necessary equipment is imported.

Abdollahi further pointed out that 1,200 escalators are manufactured annually in the country, and said: "Out of this number, less than 1,000 units are for domestic consumption, and more than 200 units can be exported."

**Annual exports from elevator, escalator industry stand at \$2m**

Also speaking at the inauguration ceremony of the 11th International Exhibition of Elevators, Escalators, Conveyors, Components, and Accessories, Deputy Industry Minister

Mohammad Mousavi said every year over \$2 million worth of elevator and escalator equipment and parts are exported from the country.

Mousavi noted that currently, there are 400 companies manufacturing elevators and escalators across the country which have created job opportunities for more than 50,000 people.

There are also 30 knowledge-based companies active in the elevator and escalator industry that use modern technologies, he noted.

More than 130 domestic and foreign companies are showcasing their latest products and services at the international elevator and escalators exhibition which is open at Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds until July 17.

## Iran-China agreements turned into specified projects



TEHRAN- The agreements signed between Iran and China during President Raisi's trip to Beijing in mid-February were turned into specified projects during the two countries' joint cooperation committee meeting, the Iranian finance and economic affairs minister announced.

Ehsan Khandouzi left Tehran for Beijing on Wednesday night to attend the Iran-China Joint Cooperation Committee meeting, which was held after four and half years.

"With the constructive atmosphere of the committee, we will soon witness good events in the fields of business and investment", the official wrote on his Twitter account on Sunday.

Iran and China signed 20 memoranda of understanding in the presence of the presidents of the two countries in Beijing in mid-February.

Heading a high-ranking delegation, Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi was on a three-day state visit

to China starting February 14.

During President Raisi's visit to China, Tehran and Beijing signed a number of bilateral cooperation documents in the fields of agriculture, trade, tourism, environmental protection, health, disaster relief, culture, and sports.

The documents include agreements in the field of transportation and industry worth \$12 billion and \$3.5 billion, respectively; the agreements cover various joint projects like the high-speed rail link between Tehran and Mashhad, and investment in the Imam Khomeini Airport City.

Investment in Iran's southeastern Mokran Coast and the purchase of Iranian oil were also mentioned in the documents.

Raisi's visit served as an example of the high level of mutual trust between China and Iran, as well as a milestone for bilateral ties.

According to Majid-Reza Hariri, the head of the Iran-China Joint Chamber of Commerce, considering the opportunities presented by the

two countries' 25-year strategic agreement, the trade between Iran and China can be increased three-fold.

"In the worst conditions created by sanctions, our trade with the Chinese reached about 24 billion dollars, and we can increase this figure by at least three times, Hariri said.

China is one of Iran's main trade partners that has maintained strong trade ties with the Islamic Republic despite the strict U.S. sanctions.

Iran and China officially signed the document for 25-year comprehensive cooperation in March 2021.

The document was signed between Iran's former Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi at the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

China's Vice Premier Hu Chunhua.

The summit was focused on four areas explored by four committees between the two countries with the aim of paving the way for the implementation of the 25-year agreement.

Back in early April, the Chinese ambassador to Tehran said this year is a good year for Iran-China relations.

Chang Hua made the remarks in a meeting with the members of the Iran-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and a number of Iranian traders and businessmen, who conduct trade with China, held at the place of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture (ICCIMA) in Tehran.

Referring to China's growing economy, the envoy said this year is a good year for Iran-China relations, adding that during the meeting between the leaders of the two countries, important agreements were made, including the implementation of the 25-year cooperation agreement between the two countries, and a number of bilateral cooperation documents were signed in the fields of agriculture, tourism, culture, relief, and rescue, etc.

Majid-Reza Hariri, the head of the Iran-China Joint Chamber, also emphasized the desire of Iran's private sector to develop business relations with China and said there are obstacles in this direction. Among other things, issuing visas for Iranian businessmen, especially for their presence at trade fairs in China, is associated with problems, and facilitating it will definitely help the development of relations between the two sides.

**Value of trade between Iran and China increased by seven percent in 2022.**

Back in December 2022, Iran and China finalized 16 memorandums of understanding (MOU) under the framework of the two countries' strategic 25-year agreement.

The MOUs were signed in an Iran-China comprehensive cooperation program summit which was held in Tehran on December 13 in the presence of Iran's First Vice President Mohammad Mokhber and

# The Torah burning that didn't go ahead

Activist says "freedom of expression has limits"

From page 1 ▶ Police granted permission for the protest outside Israel's embassy in Stockholm to go ahead, saying they did not endorse the burning of religious texts, but failed to state they would prevent the act of burning the holy books from being carried out.

The protest comes around two weeks after a man burned a copy of the Holy Quran in front of the largest mosque in the Swedish capital on the occasion of Eid al-Adha, at a time when the place of worship was packed with a strong number of Muslims performing prayers.

A similar incident also occurred outside the Turkish embassy in Stockholm this year in January, when a Swedish-Danish right-wing extremist carried out the same act of sacrilege against Islam.

The second blasphemous action triggered more widespread anger across the Islamic world that saw protests flare up in different Muslim countries and the summoning up of Swedish ambassadors and envoys to foreign ministries in those countries.

Swedish authorities gave permission for the burning of the Quran to be carried out.

Islamic governments and organizations said "freedom of expression" - which Swedish authorities claimed was the reason for allowing the Quran burning to go ahead - does not extend to hurting the feelings of 2 billion Muslims worldwide.

They also condemned any acts of blasphemy against other religions as well.

Many Muslim activists said the Quran burning was part of a wider Islamophobic campaign waged by the West.

Burning the Quran, Islam's holy book, is becoming quite common in the West, particularly in Europe. Burning the Torah or the Bible is something almost unheard of.

On Wednesday, the Secretary-General of Lebanon's Hezbollah,



Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, said the man who burnt the Quran in Stockholm was affiliated to the Israeli spy agency Mossad.

The Hezbollah chief said it was part of an Israeli plot to wage a religious war between Muslims and the majority of Christian Western countries.

A Christian clergy's move in condemning the burning of the Quran greatly prevented the "sedition", Nasrallah added, calling on Muslims to be cautious of the Israeli conspiracy.

Alloush said at the site of his protest, "I want to show that we have to respect each other, we live in the same society. If I burn the Torah, another Bible, another Quran, there will be war here. What I wanted to show is that it's not right to do it."

He went on to bring out a Quran and criticized previous incidents where copies of the Islamic holy book were burned in Sweden and elsewhere.

"If you want to criticize Islam, that is OK", he said. "But burning the Quran is not freedom of expression... it is an action."

Sweden, as well as authorities in other European nations, have previously granted permission for the burning of the Islamic holy book, claiming they fall under the pretext of the right to "freedom of speech" and "freedom of expression".

Alloush argued he just wanted

to protest against the burning of the Quran, noting that "this is a response to those who burned the Quran, freedom of speech has its limits. I made people angry. They can be happy now."

Sweden has seen its global image tarnished after giving permission again two weeks ago for the burning of the Quran to go ahead.

After days of condemnation from Muslim countries and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation as well as calls to boycott Swedish goods, the Swedish Foreign Ministry backtracked on the government's official position.

The ministry finally condemned the act as "Islamophobic", stating, "The burning of the Quran, or any other holy text, is an offensive and disrespectful act and a clear provocation. Expressions of racism, xenophobia and related intolerance have no place in Sweden or Europe".

According to a recent survey by Kanter Public, conducted on behalf of Swedish national television broadcaster SVT, most Swedish people support a ban on the public burning of religious texts such as the Quran or the Bible.

The poll indicates how polarized the position of the Swedish government is, which allows such sacrilegious acts against Islam to go ahead unpunished.

"As a religion of peace, Islam calls

for respect for all religions, sacred personalities and holy scriptures," Pakistan's Foreign Ministry stated.

The threat of the Torah being burned led to outrage from senior Israeli officials.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had called it a "shameful decision" to allow such a protest to go ahead while Israeli President Isaac Herzog said he was heart-broken that a Jewish holy book could be burned.

The Israeli premier had made no such remarks when the Quran was burnt twice in Sweden this year, along with all the other blasphemous Islamic acts that have occurred across the West in the past.

This is in stark contrast to Jewish groups in Sweden and elsewhere outside the occupied Palestinian territories.

A Jewish leader in the Swedish city of Malmo, Rabbi Moshe David HaCohen, said there has been interfaith efforts in Sweden to stop the burning of all sacred books.

The Rabbi said Jewish people had expressed solidarity with Muslims after the burning of the Quran and are trying to work together to prevent the desecration of the Torah or any holy book.

The real reason for the latest action, according to Alloush, was to draw attention to the difference between freedom of speech and offending an entire religion along with all its followers.

### WORLD HEADLINES

#### Iraqi PM visits Damascus in first trip since Syrian war



Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia Al-Sudani began an official visit to Syria on Sunday, the first by an Iraqi premier since the outbreak of the Syrian war in 2011. The trip was aimed at securing their common borders and bolstering economic ties.

Iraq and Syria, which have close economic, military, and political ties, maintained relations throughout Syria's civil war even as other Arab states withdrew their ambassadors and closed their embassies in Syria.

Baghdad and Damascus cooperated in the fight against the militant Islamic State group, which spread from Iraq into Syria and, at one point, controlled more than a third of both countries.

President al-Assad and the Iraqi prime minister discussed bilateral relations and boosting cooperation in various fields, including trade exchanges, transportation, and industry and coordination on various political issues.

Also, joint efforts in the fight against terrorism were addressed.

President al-Assad and the Iraqi prime minister stressed the fact that Iraq and Syria stand by each other in various circumstances reflects the fraternal and historical relations that unite the two countries, stressing the continuation of developing these relations at the official and popular levels.

The Iraqi prime minister thanked al-Assad for the invitation to Syria, saying that security and stability of the two countries will create more opportunities for coordinated efforts to face common challenges.

Al Sudani reiterated Iraq's firm supportive stance towards Syria's unity and sovereignty, stressing that the security of Iraq is the security of Syria.

#### Japan, S Korea, US hold joint drills after N Korea's ICBM launch

Japan, South Korea, and the United States have held a joint naval missile defense exercise to counter North Korea's "nuclear and missile threats", days after Pyongyang launched an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM).

The drill on Sunday was conducted in international waters between South Korea and Japan and brought together destroyers equipped with Aegis radar systems from the three countries, the South Korean Navy said.

A naval officer said the exercise focused on practicing procedures to detect and track a computer-simulated ballistic target and share related information.

North Korea fired its latest Hwasong-18 missile, which Pyongyang describes as the core of its nuclear strike force, off its east coast on Wednesday in what it said was a "strong practical warning" to its adversaries.

The launch followed heated complaints from North Korea in recent days, accusing US spy planes of flying over its exclusive economic zone waters, condemning a recent visit to South Korea by a US nuclear-powered cruise missile submarine and promising to take steps in reaction.

#### UAE and India agree to use dirhams and rupees for cross-border transactions



The UAE and India signed agreements for establishing a framework to promote the use of local currencies for cross-border transactions and cooperation for interlinking their payment and messaging systems.

The agreements were signed by Khaled Balama, Governor of the Central Bank of the UAE, and Shaktikanta Das, Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, in the presence of President Sheikh Mohamed and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Abu Dhabi on Saturday.

The agreement aims to put in place a local currency settlement system (LCSS) to promote the use of the Indian rupee and the dirham bilaterally, the RBI said in a statement on its website.

#### China, Russia to start joint air and sea drill in Sea of Japan

A Chinese naval flotilla set off on Sunday to join Russian naval and air forces in the Sea of Japan in an exercise aimed at "safeguarding the security of strategic waterways", according to China's defence ministry.

Codenamed "Northern/Interaction-2023", the drill marks enhanced military cooperation between China and Russia since Moscow's invasion of Ukraine and is taking place as Beijing continues to rebuff U.S. calls to resume military communication.

The Chinese flotilla comprised of five warships and four ship-borne helicopters, left the eastern port of Qingdao and will rendezvous with Russian forces in a "predetermined area", the ministry said on its official WeChat account on Sunday.

On Saturday, the ministry said Russian naval and air forces would participate in the drill taking place in the Sea of Japan.

State newspaper Global Times cited military observers as saying this would be the first time both Russian forces take part in the drill.

#### Putin says US supply of cluster munitions to Ukraine should be treated as 'crime'

Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Sunday that Washington's supply of cluster munitions to Ukraine should be treated as a crime.

"The US administration itself assessed these munitions through the mouths of its employees some time ago, when the use of cluster munitions was called a crime by the US administration itself. I think this is how it should be treated," Putin said in an interview with the TV channel Rossiya-1.

Putin further said that his country retains the right to "mirror actions" in the case where cluster munitions are used against Russia, adding that Moscow has a "sufficient stock of various types of cluster munitions."

"Until now, we have not done this, we have not used it, and we have not had such a need, despite the well-known shortage in a certain period, and we also have ammunition, but we have not done this," Putin said.

He also said that he believes the US is supplying Ukraine with cluster munitions due to a general shortage of ammunition.

"The Ukrainian army spends up to 5,000-6,000 155-caliber shells per day of hostilities, while the US produces 15,000 per month. They don't have enough, and Europe already doesn't have enough (shells). But they did not find anything better than to propose using cluster munitions," he added.

### Avoid moral decline because the result is failure...by Martin Love

America in the distant past had a shred of moral decency. Although Russia essentially won World War 2 against the Nazis and Japanese, even at the very end of the war which it rightfully helped "win" it stooped low to drop two atomic bombs on Japan over which it had already triumphed. Why? Because the U.S. wanted to send a threatening message to countries like the Soviet Union that the U.S. aimed to scare and dominate, not to mention the cruel punishment to Japanese civilians in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

This was the beginning of America's steep moral decline and in some respects its amoral "empire". Only two years after the war ended the U.S. created the CIA, which has been up to no good ever since and may have even set up the assassination of President John F. Kennedy in 1963 and his brother in 1968. The next notable move, with help from the British, was to begin its still continuing pursuit of toppling other governments that simply wanted to own its own resources and be left alone, such as Iran which saw its elected Prime Minister Mohammad Mossadegh cast aside to make way for a puppet that Iran finally kicked out with its fascinating revolution in 1979. The list of countries attacked, governments toppled, citizens murdered, resources plundered and so on since Mossadegh's day is almost too numerous to list. But every major crime provoked by the U.S. and all of them mostly on false pretenses (Vietnam, Afghanistan, Syria, Libya, the former Yugoslavia and lately Ukraine to cite just a few of scores of U.S. interventions of various kinds on every continent, most often directly military) did not result in any kind of victory that the U.S. expected, even promised its citizens.

In fact, the REAL defeats of the U.S. after decades of interventions have just begun to occur in the past few years and will continue



for many years ahead.

Many of these defeats are self-defeats marked by exhaustion and they are at last becoming apparent and are well deserved. Take Vietnam alone: the U.S. finally walked away realizing it was spinning its wheels and budgets in Southeast Asia despite having killed an estimated four million Vietnamese while Ho Chi Minh and his great general, Vo Nguyen Giap, stood firm. Vietnam today is a fast-growing land of superlatives still under its "communist" government.

Now, largely, Americans have to deal with Joe Biden and the Zionist Neocons to whom he is subservient and the proxy war on Russia through Ukraine and the Zelensky regime. One can say with that this proxy war debacle is one of the most stupid interventions by the U.S. and the last that the U.S. will ever be capable of mounting against its alleged enemies, in this case Russia. (Unless it ends up sparking a nuclear war especially in which case no one wins).

The recent NATO summit in Vilnius was a disaster, showing some fractures within NATO and marked especially by the refusal to offer a petulant and embarrassing Zelensky NATO membership "unless Ukraine defeats Russia", which is highly unlikely.

In the meantime, Russia's Putin has been extremely patient and focused on incremental war gains, largely because he does not want to go ballistic (but could) to crush Zelensky's Ukraine quickly. He does not want to spark the EU and the U.S. to enter the war directly with troops or whatever, or World War 3. Putin also apparently recognizes that Ukrainians are centuries-long Slavic "brothers" of a sort, minus the Nazis there.

From the beginning Putin has almost exclusively aimed to create a "neutral" Ukraine outside of NATO. It has been estimated that Ukraine has lost over 350,000 soldiers to date, and Russia maybe 50,000 (roughly the same number of U.S. troops that died in the Vietnam War.) But one would never know WHAT Putin's aims have truly been via only the mainstream media in the U.S., which has been suffused with propaganda, keeping most Americans ignorant and thereby allowing the war to continue so far. This was NOT the case during the Vietnam War, which ended in 1975: the U.S. government was largely exposed by a mostly honest primary media and young people in protest who had faced the military draft, which was abolished after the war for a "volunteer" force of severely dumbed down soldiers. So why has the U.S. media been dishonest about Ukraine? Corruption and maybe the realization that it cannot expose the truth because so many power brokers in government and elsewhere, the extant oligarchy, would be disenfranchised by an angry American public realizing that real "democracy" in the U.S. has been discarded over the past 30 years.

## Tehran, Cairo on way to upgrade tourism ties



From Page 1 ▶ In addition, further agreements may be reached for Iranian travelers to extend their visits to religious temples in Egypt.

To buttress tourism, direct flights between Iran and Egypt will be resumed in the coming weeks if a detailed agreement is reached. Moreover, it is discussed that Iranian tourists will be offered entry visas upon arrival in Egypt.

In addition to helping to normalize relations, attracting Iranian tourists will provide financial benefits to Egypt, which is grappling with an economic crisis in part as a result of the Russian-Ukraine war, the report said.

Officials from Cairo and Tehran have recently held several rounds of talks in Baghdad to discuss normalizing relations, which soured following Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Iran expects 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, the Islamic has targeted to surge its foreign arrivals from 4.8 million in 2014 to 20 million in 2025.

## Jazeera Airways launches Tehran-Kuwait City service

TEHRAN - Jazeera Airways has launched flights from Tehran to Kuwait City from the Imam Khomeini International Airport.

On Saturday, Saeid Chalandari, the CEO of Imam Khomeini Airport City Company, said that the first flight of Jazeera Airways arrived at Imam Khomeini Airport on Friday.

According to the scheduled programs presented by Jazeera Airways, the airline will carry out two weekly flights on Sundays and Fridays from Tehran to Kuwait City and vice versa, he noted.

As the most equipped airport and the important entry and exit port of the country, the Imam Khomeini International Airport has the necessary infrastructure and capacity to increase the number of flights, the official said.

Rohit Ramachandran, chief executive officer of Jazeera Airways, said, "Following the launch

of Tehran, we now serve three cities in Iran. Iran has been an integral part of our expansion plans and we are happy to grow the number of routes we operate to the country. This is not only beneficial to the large Iranian community in Kuwait, but also to travelers from Iran to other parts of our network. As always, we aim to ensure the comfort and convenience for passengers at more reasonable fares."

The airline also provides convenient connections via Kuwait to other destinations in its network, making it a great choice for outbound travelers from Iran. Iranian travelers can choose to fly with Jazeera for their religious journeys to Saudi Arabia as well as for leisure trips to other countries in the region.

Tehran is the third destination Jazeera will be operating in Iran alongside Mashhad and the more recently launched Shiraz.

## Archaeologists find rare Stone Age boulder in England

A team of archaeologists has discovered a rare rock used to make tools in the Stone Age.

The "polishing boulder", found in the Valley of the Stones near Dorchester, would have been used to make stone axe heads more than 5,000 years ago.

It is only the second undisturbed polissoir to be found in its original position in England.

The boulder will be left where it is, rather than taken to a museum, while the area around it is excavated.

The discovery was made in the designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty during a heritage project run by community interest company Past Participate.

The boulder is formed of sarsen stone, a hard form of sandstone that was also used to build Stonehenge.

(Source: BBC)

## Tehran's Sacred Defense Museum is successful example of peace-oriented institutions: expert

TEHRAN - Dr. Fabio Carbone, a lecturer in International Tourism Management at Coventry University (UK), has said Tehran's Sacred Defense Museum "is a successful example of peace-oriented museums."

"Tehran's Sacred Defense Museum is a successful example of peace-oriented museums not only because of the quality of content and the effective use of technologies and narratives, but also because of its commitment to promoting dialogue, critical reflection on historical events, and people's active participation," IRNA quoted Carbone as saying on Sunday.

Moreover, Carbone gave explanations about military museums, war museums, and in general all tourist attractions related to war and their role in promoting intercultural dialogue and the culture of peace, the report said.

He made the remarks in an address to an international conference on military heritage and tourism, which was held in Angra do Heroismo, or simply Angra, a city and municipality on Terceira Island, in Portugal from June 12 to 15.

The event was organized in



close collaboration with the International Institute for Peace through Tourism (IIPT), which was born in 1986, the International Year of Peace, and the belief that every traveler is potentially an "Ambassador for Peace."

Situated on a landscaped site of 21 hectares, Tehran's Sacred Defense Museum is a gigantic war memorial showcasing numerous collections concentrated

heavily on the Iraqi-imposed war. It is equipped with a state-of-the-art visual system, including projections and video walls, while audio recordings relevant to each period contribute to its charm.

The re-creation of the liberation of the city of Khorramshahr through virtual exhibits and video projections is among the main features of the museum, where

stands a replica of the Khorramshahr mosque adorned with creamy and turquoise patterned tiles.

Experts say, such a museum motivates visitors to guess stories of people who lost their lives, were displaced, wounded, captured, or lost their loved ones in bitter moments of mankind.

## Pictures, memorabilia of King's assassination on view at Tehran show



TEHRAN - A Tehran exhibit has put on show arrays of little-seen black-and-white images, letters, and other 19th-century objects concerning the assassination of Naser al-Din Shah Qajar who reigned from 1848 to 1896.

On Sunday, a host of cultural heritage experts, historians, media personnel, and visitors attended the opening ceremony of the exhibition at the UNESCO-designated Golestan Palace in downtown Tehran.

Moreover, the show also features the king's tomb inscription as well as furniture and modest medical aids related to the last moments of his life.

Naser al-Din Shah was assassinated by Mirza Reza Kermani, a follower of Jamal al-Din al-Afghani, also known as Seyyed Jamal

ad-Din Asadabadi, when he was visiting and praying in the Shah Abdol-Azim Shrine on May 1, 1896.

It is said that the revolver used to assassinate him was old and rusty and had he worn a thicker overcoat or been shot from a longer range, he would have survived the attempt on his life.

Shortly before his death, he is reported to have said, "I will rule you differently if I survive!" The assassin was prosecuted by the defense minister, Nazm ol-Dowleh.

Nasser-al-Din Shah's assassination and the subsequent execution of Mirza Reza Kermani marked a turning point in Iranian political thought that would ultimately lead to the Iranian Constitutional Revolution during his

successor Mozzafar-al-Din Shah's turbulent reign.

The fourth Qajar monarch was buried in the Shah Abdol-Azim Shrine, in Ray, south-east Tehran, where he was assassinated. His funeral took place six months after his death.

Sources say, a British diplomat who spoke with some who had been present, Charles Hardinge, commented, "the corpse was conveyed on a very high funeral car and was 'high' in more ways than one."

His one-piece marble tombstone, bearing his full effigy, is now kept in the Golestan Palace.

A prime destination for domestic and international travelers, Golestan Palace is located in the heart and historic core of Tehran. The palace complex is one of the oldest in the Iranian capital, originally built during the Safavid dynasty (1501-1736) in the historic walled city.

Following extensions and additions, it received its most characteristic features in the 19th century, when the palace complex was selected as the royal residence and seat of power by the Qajar ruling family (1789-1925). At present, the Golestan Palace complex consists of eight key palace structures mostly used as museums and the eponymous gardens, a green shared center of the complex, surrounded by an outer wall with gates.

According to the UN cultural body, Golestan Palace exemplifies architectural and artistic achievements of the Qajar era, including the introduction of European motifs and styles into Persian arts.

## Exhibition of Gilani garments opens in Rasht museum

TEHRAN - A collection of nostalgic women's garments, traditionally worn by the Gilani ladies over the past three decades, is currently on show at the Rasht Museum of Anthropology.

The exhibition showcases outfits used in different rituals and occasions, providing visitors with the opportunity to become familiar with the clothing of the Gilani women in terms of the moral values of society, culture and exquisiteness of the clothes.

Iran, a country known for its rich cultural heritage, is home to a diverse range of traditional garments that reflect the unique identity of different regions. One such region is Gilan, located in the picturesque northern part of the country.

Gilan is renowned for its lush green landscapes, charming seaside towns, and vibrant cultural traditions, including its distinctive traditional clothing, particularly for women.

The traditional garments of Gilan province have deep roots in its history and cultural heritage. With influences from various ethnic groups, including Gilaks, Talysh, and Taleshi, the traditional clothing of Gilan represents a unique fusion of these diverse cultural threads. The garments have been passed down through generations, embodying a sense of ancestral pride and identity.

Historically speaking, Gilan is well-

known for its rich Iron Age cemeteries such as Marlik that have been excavated over the past century. It was once within the sphere of influence of the successive Achaemenian, Seleucid, Parthian, and Sassanid empires that ruled Iran until the 7th century CE. The subsequent Arab conquest of Iran led to the rise of many local dynasties, and Gilan acquired an independent status that continued until 1567.

Second Announcement




**Brief Notice of International Tender No. 154791**

Esfahan Steel Co. intends to purchase **700 ton** Ladle Well Filler Sand through international tender **No.154791**. Prospective bidders specialized and experienced in the said area may visit Esfahan Steel Co.'s website at [www.esfahansteel.ir](http://www.esfahansteel.ir) ("Sourcing Field") to get the tender documents and upload their techno-commercial offer to ESCO's website ("Sourcing Field") no later than 29.08.2023. It is noteworthy that the opening date of offers shall be 30.08.2023. For further information, prospective bidders may contact us via the following phone No.: **+98-31-52572017**

Yours Respectfully  
S.J.Rafiei  
Consumable Materials Purchasing Manager  
Esfahan Steel Company

**Mobarakeh steel Co. International Tender Notice**



Deadline for submitting documents	Subject	Number	Row
Tuesday, August 1st, 2023 (Tehran Time : Tuesday 10.05.1402)	purchase 13,900 tons of Medium Carbon Ferro manganese	48572771	1
Tuesday, August 1st, 2023 (Tehran Time : Tuesday 10.05.1402)	purchase 650 tons of Ferro Vanadium	48573266	2
Tuesday, August 1st, 2023 (Tehran Time : Tuesday 10.05.1402)	purchase 633 tons of Ferro Chrome	48573265	3

To receive document and more informations about General recalls, qualitative evaluations, tenders and auctions, visit the company's website [www.msc.ir](http://www.msc.ir) and according to the existing guide, select the tender through the supplier Relationship System(SRM)

**ESFAHAN MOBARAKEH STEEL COMPANY PUBLIC RELATONS**

# Health attachés to be dispatched to Africa, Latin America



Health Minister Bahram Einollahi

TEHRAN – Iran is planning to send special envoys as health attachés to certain countries in Africa and Latin America.

“We have negotiated with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding the appointment of health attachés in the embassies of some countries with whom we cooperate in the fields of medicine, medical equipment, science and technology, and exchange of professors and students,” Health Minister Bahram Einollahi said.

“Health attachés are appointed in six countries in the first phase, including South American and African countries. We are also following up on dispatching health attachés in neighboring countries,” IRNA quoted Einollahi as saying on Saturday.

In this line, the first health attaché

will be sent to Iraq by the next two weeks, he noted.

“The issue of medical tourism is very important. Therefore, countries that have extensive relations with us in the field of health diplomacy will be given the top priority.”

Earlier this month, Einollahi said health diplomacy is one of the areas that are able to deepen relations between countries in the region.

There are many common issues for cooperation in the field of health between countries, he said, adding that the government’s strategy is to strengthen foreign policy, especially with neighboring countries, IRNA reported.

The minister said in April that many countries in the region are asking Iran for help with issues re-

lated to health.

In May, Iran hosted the 26th G5 High-Level Experts Meeting on Health Cooperation and the 1st Healthcare Leadership and Governance Training Program.

G5 countries (Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, plus the World Health Organization) have taken part in the meeting with the theme of “Joint Work for Solving Joint Health Problems.”

President Ebrahim Raisi has said the Islamic Republic is a suitable destination for medical tourism.

Highlighting the country’s great strides in medical and health sciences, Raisi said patients in many neighboring countries prefer to visit Iran for treatment than travel to Europe.

This is due to the lower cost and high level of expertise in Iran, Raisi

said, Press TV reported.

Iran’s medical tourism revenues reached \$1 billion during the past Iranian calendar year (ended on Mach 20), Saeid Karimi, the deputy minister of health, has said.

The Islamic Republic hosted some 1.2 million medical tourists last year, Mehr quoted the official as saying Friday.

The travelers, who came from 164 different countries, spent around one billion dollars during their stays in the country, Karimi stated.

The deputy minister said 247 hospitals and medical centers have been granted special licenses for medical tourism.

Iran has been ranked 46th destination for medical tourism [within the 2020-2021 Medical Tourism Index], he added.

## Health attachés are appointed in six countries in the first phase.

People from the neighboring countries including Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Oman, Bahrain, Armenia, and Tajikistan, constitute the lion’s share of medical tourists arriving in Iran, Karimi said.

In addition to medical centers and hospitals, hotels, restaurants, transport systems, and other service institutions benefit from medical tourism, which is a currency-generating industry, the official explained.

## Women from the Leader’s point of view-20

### Women ‘source of tranquility’ at home

From page 1 ▶ Leader of the Islamic Revolution Seyyed Ali Khamenei in one of his speeches on February 3, 2021, considered family as a place for moving toward perfection. “The family is a warm, blessed center in which the strongest foundations of a person’s upbringing are laid. It is in the heart of the family that the first, most important foundations of a person’s spiritual and intellectual upbringing are established. The home is the best place for the comfort of the body and the soul. It is the best center for relieving the fatigue of one’s body and soul. It is the truest environment of intimacy. No intimacy can be imagined or exists in any environment as much as it does in the family between the mother, the children, the father, and the spouses.”

The first condition of having a healthy and dynamic society is maintaining the stability of the family, which also depends on the constructive role of women in the family.

Women as one of the main pillars of the family play an important role in the growth and flourishing of the talent of the family members and building a healthy society.

One of the most important, constructive, and valuable roles that a woman can play is being a mother and a wife, which is very valuable in religious teachings.

In addition to the roles of women in the family as a mother and a wife, a woman can have a role as a sister and a daughter, as well.

In Islamic societies, the woman is the center unit of family formation and management, and she has a great role in her family; she is the wife, who is responsible for all marriage demands. She is the mother who takes care of the children.

God Almighty in Holy Quran, surah Al-A’raf, verse 189, calls women an important element in creating comfort for men.

## In Islamic societies, the woman is the center unit of family formation and management.

“He is the One Who created you from a single soul, then from it made its spouse so he may find comfort in her. After he had been united with her, she carried a light burden that developed gradually. When it grew heavy, they prayed to Allah, their Lord, ‘If you grant us good offspring, we will certainly be grateful.’”

In positioning men and women as individuals and as servants of God, the Quran explicitly denies any inherent supremacy of one gender over the other. In Quranic chapter An-Nisa, verse 1, God said, “O people! Fear your Lord who created you from a single soul, and created from it is a mate, and dispersed from both of them many men and women.”

Islam places great emphasis on the position



and importance of woman because she plays an important role in strengthening and growing the family in various dimensions such as moral, educational, etc.

In this regard, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution said, “There are outstanding and unambiguous Islamic teachings and sources regarding women and family and it is necessary to make them available to everybody in the form of usable theories... From an Islamic point of view, family is an essential pillar of society. It is not possible to achieve progress in society in the absence of families. Healthy and dynamic families cannot be formed and preserved in the absence of pious and understanding women.” (January 4, 2012)

The Muslim woman has a prominent position in Islam. In addition, the mother in the Muslim family has a significant role as a leader, who is capable of managing the family in different crises and supporting family members in all aspects such as faith, intellectual endeavors, psychological, social, and health.

Considering the main role of a woman and the significant influence she can have in society and family, a context must be created so that the family and its main pillar, i.e. woman, maintain her real position in society. Achieving this goal requires the implementation of support programs for women, both in the field of family and in the field of community-oriented activities.

“Women are a source of tranquility at home. They are a source of tranquility for men and children including girls and boys. If women themselves do not enjoy psychological tranquility, they cannot share their tranquility with their families. A woman who is humiliated, insulted, and pressured because of her job cannot be the lady of the house. She cannot be the manager of the family. This is while women are, in fact, managers of the family. This is the main issue. This is one of the main issues which has not received enough attention in our living environments – whether in the past or in the present time. This issue should receive enough attention.” (April 19, 2014)

## STAR to run entrepreneurship courses for foreigners

TEHRAN – Sharif University of Technology and the International Organization for Migration have reached an agreement to provide entrepreneurship courses for foreigners living in the country within the framework of the Sharif Talent Assessment and Redevelopment (STAR) program.

Rasoul Jalili, the president of the Sharif University of Technology, and Lalini Veerassamy, the chief of mission of the IOM, signed the agreement in a meeting in Tehran on Wednesday, IRNA reported.

During the meeting, Jalili elaborated on the STAR which aims at providing educational courses for foreigners in the fields of business, soft skills, and entrepreneurship.

In the first step, it was decided that the Sharif University of Technology would run a six-month educational course in the form of the STAR program for two groups of foreigners residing in Iran.

The first group includes those aged 12 to 18 and the second group people aged 18 and above.

Veerassamy, for her part, highlighted the valuable, special, and different services offered by

Sharif STAR.

“We believe that the cooperation will empower the community of immigrants living in Iran and it can also be a starting point for developing joint activities between the International Organization for Migration and Sharif University of Technology,” she went on to say.

In May, Veerassamy said the services provided to immigrants in Iran are not at all comparable to other countries of the world, including Europeans, and unfortunately, these services for immigrants are ignored.

She also said the International Organization for Migration will make every effort to provide Iran with more support.

“As long as I am in Iran, I will take the issue of immigrants seriously, and we understand that the Islamic Republic alone bears 90 percent of the problems of immigrants. We will do our best to allocate more resources to Iran and provide quality services to immigrants.”

In April, Veerassamy said the world should know the services that are offered to refugees in Iran.

“I believe that the world should know what Iran

is doing for the people of Afghanistan and should know that all these services are based on humanitarian principles that the international organization encourages,” she added.

“I thank you for this responsibility and the actions and services you have provided to Afghan immigrants in this country over the decades.”

In October 2022, the Iranian delegation at the 73rd meeting of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner for Refugees said 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.

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.

Iran is home to over 800,000 registered refugees and some 2.6 million undocumented Afghans. Many of the refugees living in Iran are second and third-generation, according to the UNHCR.

## In the first step, a six-month course will be held for two groups of foreigners.

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

### Ministries ink MOU on out-of-school children

The Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Cooperatives, Labor and Social Welfare have signed a memorandum of understanding aiming to bring out-of-school children back to school.

The memorandum of understanding will pave the way for future steps, ISNA news agency quoted Education Minister Mohammad Bat’haei as saying on Sunday.

He made the remarks over the 8th session of council meeting for improving educational standards in underprivileged and underdeveloped areas at the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare: “The meeting is aiming to live up to educational standards, however, the current conditions are unjustifiable, and we should move faster,” he added.

### تفاهم وزراء برای بازگرداندن کودکان بازمانده از تحصیل به مدارس

وزارت آموزش و پرورش تفاهم نامه مشترکی با وزارت رفاه برای بازگرداندن کودکان بازمانده از تحصیل امضا کردند.

به گزارش روز یکشنبه ایسنا، محمد بطحایی وزیر آموزش و پرورش گفت: امروز تفاهم نامه‌ای امضا می‌شود که نقشه کار برای ادامه مسیر کاملاً مشخص شود.

بطحایی در هشتمین جلسه شورای هماهنگی بهبود و ارتقای شاخص‌های آموزشی و پرورشی مناطق محروم و کمتر توسعه یافته که در وزارت رفاه برگزار شد گفت: هدف اصلی این برنامه و شورای هماهنگی ارتقای شاخص‌ها بود، هرچند این روند قابل قبول نیست و باید با سرعت بیشتری حرکت کنیم.



### Papaya greenhouse farming in northeast Iran

A greenhouse in the northeastern North Khorasan province is growing papaya on a plot of land measuring some 7,000 square meters.

The papaya, or pawpaw, is a common and delicious tropical fruit and is of economic significance in many parts of the world.



JULY 17, 2023

## GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

*One who rushes madly after inordinate desire, runs the risk of encountering destruction and death.*

**Imam Ali (AS)**

Prayer Times » Noon:12:10 Evening: 19:40 Dawn: 3:19 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:01 (tomorrow)

## Sadi: works and life

Part9

The aptness and vitality of Sadi's proverbs and aphorisms can be measured by their continued currency in modern Persian conversation; Gholam-Hossein Yusefi (1984) cites 405 proverbs coined in the Golestan and Jalal ad-Din Homai (1938) remarks how these have permeated all social classes, even the illiterate.

In Ottoman Turkey, the plethora of Golestan commentaries from the 16th century testifies to its widespread use by this time as a textbook, both of the Persian language and of Islamic ethics.

Arabic commentaries were produced by Yaqub Efendi Sayyed Alizada (d. 1525) and by Mostafa ibn Sha'ban Soruri (d. 1550) in Amasya; points in both of these, as well as in the Turkish commentaries of Lamei Celebi (d. 1532) and Sham'i (d. 1592), are frequently refuted by Sudi of Bosnia, who wrote an extensive interlinear Turkish commentary with copious grammatical points in 1595-96.

Though Sudi's Sharh has remained the standard Turkish commentary, others continued to appear through the 1890s, testifying to the continued use of the Golestan as a medium of Persian language and, more generally, of ethical instruction in Ottoman lands.

In India, the commentaries were written in Persian, the earliest by Oways ibn Ala ad-Din Adam for the Bahmani sultan in 1494. In his *Khiaban-e Golestan*, Seraj ad-Din Ali-Khan Arzu (d. 1756) alludes to prior commentaries by Mir Nurallah Ahrari and Molla Sa'd Tattavi, among others.

Commentaries continued to appear in the subcontinent throughout the 19th and into the 20th century, in both Persian and in Urdu. In 1771, Sir William Jones advised students of Persian to pick as their first exercise in the language an easy chapter of the Golestan to translate.

Thus the Golestan became the primary text of Persian instruction for officials of British India at Fort William College and at Haileybury College in England, with selections of the text being repeatedly published in primer form.

Michael John Rowlandson provided a manual to help Persian readers with the Arabic passages; diacritics were included to mark the short vowels in at least two Golestan editions published in Calcutta, and two other editions appended glossaries.

Neoclassical writers of the 18th and 19th century desirous of a return to the lucid eloquence of the past took Sadi's Golestan as their example. Abul-Qasem Qaem-maqam Farahani, who copied out a small vade mecum edition of the Golestan and read it whenever the opportunity arose, attempted in his *Monshaat*, not to write a pastiche of the Golestan, but to recapture the genius of Sa'di's language.

Though rhyming prose and elegant proverbial witticisms fell out of favor in the 20th century as a modern prose literature influenced by European models developed, Sadi remains the "most eloquent of orators" (afsaḥ al-motakallemīn), and the Golestan still retains the title of "the most beautiful book of prose in Persian".

Translations: Ottoman Anatolia produced at least seven Turkish translations of the Golestan, exclusive of interlinear commentaries. Among the earliest were the Kipchak translation of Sayf Sarayi in 1391 and that of Mahmud ibn Qazi

Manyas, who completed a full prose translation (second quarter of the 15th century), and set about rendering the poems into verse in a second redaction.

The Golestan retained its popularity under the Turkish Republic, when the Ministry of Culture supported its translation into modern Turkish.

Sadi had been first introduced to the West in a partial French translation by André du Ryer (1634), upon which Friedrich Ochsenschlag based a German translation (1636).

Following this, Georgius Gentius produced a Latin version accompanied by the Persian text (1651). Adam Olearius, who had learned Persian in Persia with the help of a Persian convert to Christianity, Hakwirdi (Haqqverdi), made it the first direct German translation from a Persian work; upon this J. V. Duisberg based a Dutch version (1654).

These and other translations of the Golestan (and, to a lesser extent, of the *Bustan*) established Sadi's reputation among Enlightenment thinkers as a didactic but entertaining poet of manners and morals; the 18th century vogue for the "Oriental tale" in Europe only reinforced the popularity of Sadi's stories, leading many western writers to champion or exploit them, including Denis Diderot, Voltaire, and Ernest Renan, who considered Sadi to share in French sensibility, as well as Johann Gottfried Herder and Johann Wolfgang von Goethe.

The English translation history begins with Stephen Sullivan's selections (1774), followed by Francis Gladwin (1806, based on his own rather inflated edition of the text) and James Ross (1823, based on the Gentius edition), both in prose.

Prose and verse translations were offered by Edward Eastwick (1852) and Edwin Arnold (1899). Emerson read the Golestan in translation in 1843; he penned a preface for the American edition of Gladwin's translation (Boston, 1865) in which he introduces the work as one of the world's sacred books.

Henry David Thoreau knew it by 1847, quoting from it twice in *Concord River* and in his closing remarks on philanthropy in *Walden*. The worldwide success of the Golestan can be measured by its continued translation into Urdu (Mir Shirali Afsus, 1802, followed by many others), Russian (Alieva, 1957), Italian (De Vincentiis, 1873), Polish (Biberstein-Kazimirski, 1876), Provençal (Piat, 1888), Hindi (Mihir Cand Das, 1889), Romanian (Ciocanel, 1905), Czech (J. Entlicher, 1906; Kubickova), and Arabic (Forati, 1961, in prose and verse).

The Golestan also lent its name to an opera by Nicolas Dalayrac (1805, which however has precious little to do with Sadi), and a nocturne for piano by Kaikhosro Sohrabji.

Sadi realized that stories with frank sexual content might offend some sensibilities, yet feared critics would think him incapable of expression if he avoided the subject.

Many Western translators found tales with homosexual or pederastic themes especially inappropriate to the objectives of the work, and therefore rendered them into Latin or changed the gender roles.

Source: *Encyclopedia Iranica*  
To be continued

# "Endless Borders" wins award at Yerevan Golden Apricot festival

TEHRAN – The Iran-Czech co-production "Endless Borders" by Iranian director Abbas Amini was honored at the 20th edition of Yerevan Golden Apricot International Film Festival, which came to an end in the Armenian capital on Sunday.

The film received the Golden Apricot at the Regional Panorama section dedicated to feature and documentary film competition from West Asia.

"Endless Borders", opens in Baluchestan, in a small, scarcely "wired" village bordering Iran and Afghanistan, where complicated entanglements occur when an exiled Iranian teacher finds himself helping a refugee Afghan family fleeing the Taliban.

"Drifter", a co-production of Portugal and France by Simao Cayatte won the Silver Apricot in this section, while "Magic Mountain", co-directed by Mariam Chachia and Nik Voigt from Georgia received Jury Special Mention.

In the official competition of the festival, "Black Stone" by Spiros Jacovides from Greece won the Golden Apricot, while "Kiddo" by Zara Dwinger from Netherlands received Jury Special Mention.

"Black Stone" follows a documentary crew as they film civil servants who are absent from their



A scene from "Endless Borders" by Iranian director Abbas Amini

duties. During the filming, the crew unexpectedly encounters Haroula, a Greek mother who is desperate and excessively protective, on a mission to find her son.

However, when Haroula's son is accused of fraud, she embarks on a journey with her other disabled child and a Greek-African taxi driver to bring him back to his rightful home, even if this means discovering who her son really is.

"Kiddo" follows the journey of Lu

as she leaves the children's home and embarks on an adventure with her quirky mother, complete with cowboy boots, wigs, and sunglasses riding along in their trusty old Chevrolet. During their journey to the east, both of them fantasize about finally sharing an everlasting bond.

In this section, the festival also screened Iran's "Silent House" co-directed by Farnaz and Mohammadreza Jurabchian.

The documentary tells the story of three generations of an Iranian family who live in a historic and exceptional hundred-year-old house.

The festival also honored Belgian filmmakers and brothers Jean Pierre and Luc Dardenne as well as Filipino film director Lav Diaz with Parajanov's Thaler for their outstanding artistic contribution to world cinema.

## Tehran hall to host tazieh performances

TEHRAN – Simorgh Hall of Bidel Dehlavi Foundation in Tehran will be playing host to performances of tazieh, Iranian passion play, during the first ten days of the lunar month of Muharram, which begins on Wednesday.

The Haj Saqqa Mosaffa Tazieh Group directed by Seyyede Mitra Hassani will perform stories from the martyrdom of Imam Hussein (AS) and his companions during the Ashura.

Tazieh represents religious events, historical and mythical stories and folk tales. Each performance has the four components of poetry, music, song and motion.

Performers are always male, and female roles are played by men, most of whom are amateurs



who gain their living through other means but perform for spiritual rewards.

Tazieh was registered on UNESCO's List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in November 2010.

It is a kind of drama that depicts the event of Ashura and is performed in Mahur, Chargah, and Shur Baghdad radifs of Iranian music.

It is based on the Ashura culture and the brave war and martyrdom of Imam Hussein (AS). It is a religious play dated back to 9th-century dynamites and Buyids. However, Tazieh performance began during the Safavid era (1501-1736) and flourished during the Qajar era.

## Iranian bookstores offer Sarah Addison Allen's "Other Birds"



TEHRAN – American and New York Times bestselling author's book "Other Birds" has been recently appeared in Iranian bookstores.

Translated by Hajar Alipour in Persian and published by Milkan Publication, "Other Birds" is a story with a bit of mystery, whimsical characters and a keen sense of place.

From the acclaimed author of "Garden Spells" comes an enchanting tale of lost souls, lonely strangers, secrets that shape us, and how the right flock can guide you home.

Down a narrow alley in the small coastal town of Mallow Island, South Carolina, lies a stunning cobblestone building comprised of five apartments. It's called The Dellawisp and it is named after the tiny turquoise birds who, alongside its human tenants, inhabit an air of magical secrecy.

When Zoey Hennessey comes to claim her deceased mother's apartment at The Dellawisp, she meets her quirky, enigmatic neighbors

including a girl on the run, a grieving chef whose comfort food does not comfort him, two estranged middle-aged sisters, and three ghosts. Each with their own story. Each with their own longings. Each whose ending isn't yet written.

Delightful and atmospheric, "Other Birds" is filled with magical realism and moments of pure love that won't let you go. Sarah Addison Allen shows us that between the real and the imaginary, there are stories that take flight in the most extraordinary ways.

Allen has won numerous awards for her work including; 2008 SIBA Book Award for fiction for her novel *Garden Spells*, Best Women's Fiction of 2007 by the American Library Association's Reading List, 2008 RT Reviewers Choice Award for Women's Fiction for her novel *The Sugar Queen*, and the Department of Literature at UNC Asheville named Addison the 2015 Goodman Endowed Artist.

## Tehran gallery showcasing works by 150 Iranian painters

TEHRAN – The latest paintings by 150 Iranian painters are on display in an exhibition at Tehran's Andisheh Cultural Center.

Entitled "Painting Promotion",

the exhibition will run until July 19 at the Andisheh gallery located at Monfared Niaki Park, near Seyed Khandan Bridge, Shariati Ave.

Curated by Mostafa

Khanverdzadeh and Mansoureh Karimi, Zohreh Ebrahimzadeh, Kalhori, the exhibition showcases the paintings of Shabnam Honarmand, Rezvan Egbali and several others from all over the country.

## "Unknown General" on stage in Tehran

TEHRAN – "Le Général inconnu" ("Unknown General"), a play by French playwright and poet René de Obaldia, is on the stage at Tehran's City Theater, Chaharsu Hall.

Mir Alireza Darya-Beigi is the director of the play, which will be on stage until August 18.

Morvarid Jafari, Amir Hossein Rezaei, Shahrad Ghadiri, Fahimeh Shayanfar, Alireza Qorbazadeh, Behrad Mohammadi, Afsaneh Niazi and Sara Moqaddam are the cast of the play.

The play is about General Achille Beaulieu de Chamfort-Mouron who lives with his wife in a

place with nine nested room and twelve heavy doors, like a tank.

René de Obaldia began his career in 1960, thanks to Jacques Vilar, who presented his first major play, "Génousie," at the Théâtre national populaire. This was followed by *Le Satyre de la Villette*, with André Barsacq at the Théâtre de l'Atelier, a comedy that ranked him with his literary forebears Jacques Audibert, Ionesco, Beckett. He was, for more than fifty years, one of the most-produced French playwrights on the planet, as well as the most internationally renowned (having

been translated into 28 languages).

Critics have admired the ease of Obaldia's style. His plays always take place within a framework of contemporary times and concern modern subjects, treating these in a comical manner. In *La Génousie*, for example, Obaldia replaces normal speech (in French) with Genousian, a language of fantasy, dreams, and love.

In 1985, he was awarded the Grand Prix du Théâtre de l'Académie Française.

De Obaldia died in Paris on 27 January 2022, at the age of 103.