

TEHRAN TIMES

8 Pages | Price 100,000 Rials | 1.00 EURO | 4.00 AED | 46th year | No. 14806 | Saturday | June 29, 2024 | Tir 9, 1403 | Dhu al-Hijjah 22, 1445

The 14th presidential election held on Friday Iranians Head to Polls Unfazed by Enemy Propaganda



What goes on in Iran determines fate of other countries: Hezbollah chief

TEHRAN – Hezbollah Secretary General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah emphasized Iran's significant role in shaping the region's future while addressing a ceremony in Tehran marking the 40th day since President Ebrahim Raisi's passing in a helicopter crash.

Speaking via video link from Beirut on Thursday, Nasrallah declared that Iran's decisions extend far beyond its borders, influencing the destinies of regional nations and the Resistance movement.

"The system of the Islamic Republic of Iran is not only the path and future of the Iranian nation; it is also the future and path of all the nations of the region and a strong fortress against the oppressors, robbers, colonialists, and domination seekers who have filled our land and region with cruelty, oppression, and corruption," he said.

Elsewhere in his comments, the resistance leader lauded the Iranian nation's "unity and calm" in response to the tragic passing of President Raisi, describing it as a model for the world.

"Thank God, the people of Iran became a model for the whole world through their direct presence and how they dealt with the incident with general peace and stability." ▶ Page 3

Iran, Russia sign MOU on energy cooperation

TEHRAN – A memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed between Tehran and Moscow for the transfer of Russian gas to Iran on Thursday, Shana reported.

The MOU is a big step towards turning Iran into a regional gas hub and fulfilling the promise of the late President Ebrahim Raisi in this regard.

In the last days of the 13th government, the Ministry of Oil managed to sign an MOU with Russia to make Iran the gas hub of the region; an action that is in line with the fulfillment of the promise of the late president.

According to this report, another MOU was signed in Tehran on Thursday between the special representative of the Russian Federation and Iran's oil minister with the aim of developing and strengthening the cooperation of the two countries in the field of gas, according to which the export of Russian gas to Iran is to be carried out.

Meantime, Iran's Acting President Mohammad Mokhber emphasized that the signing of the strategic MOU for the transfer of gas from Russia to Iran is very important for the two countries and the region, and said that Tehran-Moscow's firm determination in line with the improvement of relations has an important message for the world and the path of gas cooperation has begun between the two countries will lead to greater understandings and contracts. ▶ Page 4

Opinion Elections in Iran's history: from show to competition

By Mohammad Sarfi
Editor-in-Chief

TEHRAN – The people of Iran went to the polls on Friday (June 28) to elect the president of the fourteenth government. Iran's enemies claim that elections in Iran are not free. To investigate this claim, it is worth taking a look at the history of elections in Iran.

Modern elections in Iran have a history of over 100 years. The first elections to determine the members of the National Consultative Assembly were held on September 17, 1906. Elections during the Qajar and Pahlavi periods were more of a show than a genuine democratic process. However, whenever the central government's power was weakened, some freedom and competition were injected into the elections.

To understand the nature of elections before the victory of the Islamic Revolution, reflection on these historical statements is useful. Iranian-American Middle Eastern historian Ervand Abrahamian in his book "A History of Modern Iran" writes: "The Shah, along with the Chief of Police,

Over 340 polling stations receive ballots from Iranians outside the country

TEHRAN – Iranians around the world participated in the snap presidential election on Friday, casting their ballots at over 344 polling stations set up for overseas voters.

The first voters were in New Zealand and Australia, followed by citizens in Asia, Europe, and Africa accounting for time zone differences. Polling stations were opened in dozens of countries including South Korea, Japan, Turkey, Kuwait, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Britain, France, Germany, and Greece.

However, Iranians residing in Canada, where the government has been on the course of escalating tensions with Tehran, were not permitted to vote in the country. Instead, eligible Iranian voters were told to head to polling stations located along the US-Canada border.

"Canada, which claims to be a defender of human rights, was the only country that hindered the progress of the democratic process in Iran. It openly prevented the participation of over 100,000 Iranian voters in the elections," Iran's acting Foreign Minister Ali Baqeri Kani announced during a press conference at the Foreign Ministry on Friday,

Debunking FDD waffle on Iran's elections

By Zahra Akbari

TEHRAN – In a note published on the FDD website on June 22, 2024, Behnam Ben Taleblu and Janatan Sayeh wrote that "Iran's Presidential Election Seeks to Consolidate Regime's Control". This note presents a good opportunity to have an overview of holding elections in Iran while answering the claims of the authors.

Since the Islamic Revolution's triumph in 1979, Iran has conducted over 40 elections, enabling the populace to elect their representatives and presidents across diverse political spectrums. Even with challenges like the war right after the revolution and natural disasters, the electoral process has persevered uninterrupted, solidifying its place as an integral component of the people's political engagement.

When the president of Iran and his entourage tragically passed away on May 19, 2024, as the nation mourned and prepared for a new presidential election, Western media outlets began circulating reports following a familiar pattern. In this analysis, I address one of these notes and counter some of its assertions.

▶ Page 3

Shejaiya, a signal of Israeli failure

By Wesam Bahrani

The Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) have launched a fresh ground and air assault on Shejaiya and its surrounding areas in the northern Gaza Strip, where residents have spoken of heavy bombardment.

The IOF ordered the neighborhood's residents to "evacuate immediately south on Salah al-Din Street".

Footage published by Reuters shows women, men and children carrying bags and food as they ran in the streets of the neighborhood in Gaza City after the raid began.

Men could be seen carrying injured children, some bleeding, in their arms as they fled.

"This is the (Israeli) occupation targeting us, as you can see. You can see the children, the targeting of children here," a man carrying a bleeding boy in his arms told the news agency. ▶ Page 5



Leader asks Iranians to make 'best and most useful choice'

TEHRAN – Hours after voting began in Iran's snap presidential election on Friday, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei cast his ballot in Tehran in front of dozens of reporters and offered a final message to the Iranian people.

When asked about his last recommendations to those who are still undecided or hesitant to participate, Ayatollah Khamenei urged Iranian voters to actively participate in the election and emphasized their crucial role in shaping the country's future and making the "best and most useful choice."

The text of the Leader's full answer to the question asked by an IRIB reporter is as follows: ▶ Page 2

Trump not satisfied with the magnitude of Gaza carnage

By Matin Jamshidi

TEHRAN – While Israel has been massacring Gazans for more than 260 days with the backing of "genocide Joe", Donald Trump is not still satisfied and called Joe Biden a "bad Palestinian" in the first presidential debate on Thursday.

Trump said the United States should let Israel "finish the job" of destroying Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

Squaring off in a CNN debate, Trump said, "Let them go and let them finish the job." He added, "He doesn't want to do it. He's become like a Palestinian, but they don't like him because he's a very bad Palestinian. He's a weak one," Trump added.

"I've never heard so much foolishness," Biden responded. ▶ Page 5

TEHRAN PAPERS

The failed opposition seeks to boycott the elections

In the following column, we take a look at some important contents and views in the Thursday Iranian newspapers.

In a note, Kayhan addressed the efforts of the foreign enemy media to boycott the elections and said: The boycotters of the elections, in addition to various people, include a diverse range of opponents of the Islamic Republic. This is perhaps the first time in the history of the Islamic Republic that the opposition front includes a diverse range of forces, like before the 1979 revolution. Boycotters consider the elections in the Islamic Republic to be ineffective and a show, and they consider the hope of change through the ballot box a "mirage" in the most optimistic state and "treason" in the most pessimistic state. The elections could be an opportunity for the boycotters to take political action. The opposition, especially the foreign forces and figures who have adopted the policy of boycotting the elections, could use this opportunity to prepare the basis for the revival of protests. They wanted to lobby with the authorities of other countries such as Canada to prevent the establishment of the ballot box and the holding of Iranian elections in other countries. But it seems that the decline of solidarity and reduction of coordination of the opposition showed itself more than before in such opportunities and they did not succeed.

Donya-e-Eqtasad: Two discourses in Iran's commercial exchanges

Donya-e-Eqtasad devoted its editorial to the financial settlement of Iran's trade exchanges with foreign partners and wrote: The 14th government will be one of the claimants of two economic discourses for the financial settlement of trade exchanges between Iran and foreign partners: 1. Relying on domestic power and communication economic relations with friendly and neighboring countries. 2. Solving international political disputes and developing economic relations with the West. The effort of the first discourse is to establish a currency swap between the Iranian rial and the national currency of the trading partner countries. But the second discourse believes that the commercial settlement should be done using the capacities of the international banking system and the exchange of financial messages should also be done in the form of SWIF messaging. Sustainable development and economic growth are guaranteed when the 14th government can define its discourse in the form of the first and second discourses. In this case, all experts and scientists of the two discourses can play an effective role

in implementing the discourse of the 14th government so that our honorable people can have a better life.

Jam-e-Jam: America's tactic to prevent the decline of hegemony

In an analysis, Jam-e-Jam discussed the American tactics to prevent the decline of its hegemony. It wrote: The performance of the American foreign policy in every period shows the fact that the American government follows a policy and a macro strategy, and that strategy is to attack the national interests of different nations regardless of their rights. By intensifying its illegal actions and violating international and bilateral treaties and ignoring its obligations, America wants to prevent the decline of its unilateralist hegemony and confiscate international laws in favor of its own interests. It is an action that unfortunately faced the silence of the international community and provided the basis for America's arrogance, but these extreme actions came to a deadlock with the revelation by Iran of the role of the White House. Therefore, on election day, people should reject policies that try to consider America as the savior and solver of problems and give their vote of confidence to a movement that uses its internal capacities for the promotion of Iran, so that they make the mask of the fake face of America, which has many plans for Iranophobia.

Siasat-e-Rooz: The nature of JCPOA still stands

In its editorial, Siasat-e-Rooz wrote: Although America has withdrawn from the JCPOA, its nature still stands. The important point is that the West, by withdrawing and entering the JCPOA, seeks to trap Iran in the game of revitalizing the JCPOA, the result of which is imposing new obligations on Iran, increasing the time for lifting sanctions, and normalizing Iran's nuclear situation. Sanctions are also a tool of Western pressure for extravagance. During the three years of Raisi's government, the negotiations with the Western parties with correct and rational management were only in the framework of lifting sanctions and not the revival of the JCPOA. It can be said with certainty that some people's claim that by reviving the JCPOA they will solve the country's economic problems and create a global position for Iran, is intentionally or unintentionally misdirected.

These diplomatic engagements reflect a growing willingness on both sides to address common challenges and work towards a more collaborative and stable regional environment.

The discussions mark a positive step in the ongoing efforts to strengthen ties and promote peace and stability in the region.

Iran, Azerbaijan seek to strengthen ties

Iran's acting Foreign Minister emphasized the necessity of expanding relations between Iran and Azerbaijan as part of the late President Ebrahim Raisi's policy of neighborliness.

In a post on his X account on Thursday, Baqeri Kani described his recent meeting with Samir Sharifov, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijan Republic, as fruitful and constructive.

Baqeri Kani noted that his meeting with Sharifov included discussions on opening two joint projects, a final measure undertaken by the late President Raisi and his cabinet members, including Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian, to advance Iran's foreign policy.

Highlighting the numerous commonalities between Tehran and Baku, Baqeri Kani expressed optimism about the potential to deepen cooperation between the two nations.

President Raisi and his team, including Foreign Minister Amir Abdollahian, were tragically martyred in a helicopter crash on May 19 in northwest Iran. Their efforts to develop Iran's foreign policy continue to influence the country's diplomatic endeavors.

Iran, Saudi Arabia discuss bilateral relations, regional issues

TEHRAN – Early Friday, the Saudi Arabian Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced a significant phone consultation between Iran's acting Foreign Minister, Ali Baqeri Kani, and Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister, Faisal bin Farhan.

The discussion marked a pivotal moment in the ongoing efforts to improve diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Baqeri Kani and bin Farhan delved into a range of critical topics, with their conversation centering on the current state of bilateral relations, recent regional developments, and other issues of mutual interest and importance.

This phone call followed a recent face-to-face meeting between Baqeri Kani and Waleed Al-Khurajji, the Deputy Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia.

Al-Khurajji had traveled to Tehran to participate in the 19th meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) member countries. On Tuesday, during the sidelines of this conference, he met with Baqeri Kani for an in-depth discussion.

During their meeting, Baqeri Kani emphasized the serious determination and commitment of both nations to deepen and expand their relations across various fields.

He expressed a strong belief that there should be no obstacles to this process, highlighting a mutual resolve to enhance cooperation and understanding between Iran and Saudi Arabia.

Leader asks Iranians to make 'best and most useful choice'

From page 1 ▶ In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

I pray to Almighty God for the best days and years and the greatest blessings for our beloved nation. Election Day for us Iranians is a day of joy and happiness, especially when the election is for choosing the president who will shape the country's future for the next few years. However, I believe there is an important issue alongside this, and that is the enthusiastic participation of the people and an increase in voter turnout.

This is an essential need of the Islamic Republic. The word Republic in the name "Islamic Republic" indicates the presence of the people is a part of the foundation of this system.

Therefore, the continuation of



the Islamic Republic, the strength of the Islamic Republic, the dignity of the Islamic Republic, and the honor of the Islamic Republic in the world depend on the participation of the people.

This is the reason we recommend our beloved people take the issue of voting and participating in this important political test seriously.

As for what you mentioned about some people being hesitant, I see no reason for hesitation.

This is an easy task that will yield important results. Why should a person hesitate to do something that costs nothing, is not difficult, has no material cost, doesn't take much time, has no pressures

involved, but has numerous benefits?

People should not hesitate, especially considering the point I have mentioned that the strength of the Islamic Republic depends on the participation of the people. Furthermore, the participation of the people is necessary and obligatory in order to demonstrate the validity and honesty of the system of the Islamic Republic.

I hope, God willing, that Almighty God will ordain the best, most beneficial choice for this country. May the upcoming years be advantageous, and may the people be satisfied with the choices they make.

May God's greetings, mercy, and blessings be upon you.

May God be with you. May God be with you.

Putin, Mokhber discuss bilateral cooperation in key sectors

TEHRAN – Russian President Vladimir Putin and acting Iranian President Mohammad Mokhber engaged in a telephone conversation to discuss enhancing bilateral energy cooperation and advancing large-scale infrastructure projects.

According to a report by Sputnik, "President

of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin had a telephone conversation with the Acting Head of the Executive Branch of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mohammad Mokhber. They discussed issues of further mutually beneficial bilateral cooperation in all key areas."

The leaders highlighted the successful

development of their countries' energy collaboration and the progress in implementing significant infrastructure initiatives. Additionally, Putin extended his best wishes for a successful presidential election in Iran and expressed optimism about the continued growth of friendly relations between the two nations.

Tehran condemns 'meddlesome' U.S. claims about presidential election

TEHRAN – Iran has firmly rejected recent statements made by a U.S. administration official concerning the country's presidential election, labeling the remarks as "worthless" and "meddlesome."

On Friday, Nasser Kanaani, the spokesman for Iran's Foreign Ministry, responded forcefully to comments by Abram Paley, the deputy special envoy for Iran at the U.S. State Department. Paley had taken to his X social media account to accuse Iran of "suppressing election coverage" and asserted that the election was neither "free nor fair," among other allegations deemed false by Iranian authorities.

Kanaani criticized these comments, stating, "American authorities gain nothing from

such worthless statements. The Iranian people will firmly respond to these interventionist remarks by participating effectively and enthusiastically in the polls, as they have done in the past"

He emphasized the significant role that the Iranian populace plays in shaping their political future, an aspect he described as an "obvious principle" that has been consistently demonstrated in practice. He further asserted that the integrity and fairness of Iran's electoral processes have been validated in previous elections.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran and its election organizers view the people's vote as a trust and a fundamental right, which they are obligated to protect," Kanaani said. He suggested that the American officials' understanding of this

principle might be limited by what he described as their "totalitarian mentality."

Kanaani also took the opportunity to critique the state of American democracy, both domestically and internationally. He highlighted the "bitter taste" of American democracy experienced by global nations, particularly pointing to the situation in the occupied territories. "The outcome of American democracy and human rights there includes criminals known for occupation, racism, war, bloodshed, and terrorist acts," he remarked.

He continued by saying that if the U.S. democratic system allowed it, American citizens would undoubtedly elect better leaders.

Additionally, Kanaani condemned the U.S. treatment of pro-Palestine students and professors in

American universities, citing it as clear evidence of Washington's poor track record on human rights and freedom of expression. "The world is witnessing how discussions on human rights in America have turned into an empty slogan, marred by beatings, illegal arrests, and dismissals," he said.

In Iran, over 61 million people are eligible to vote, with the election headquarters reporting that voting took place at 58,640 polling stations, mainly located in schools and mosques. Early projections of the election results are anticipated by Saturday morning, with official results expected by Sunday.

The new administration, the 14th since the victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979, will assume power in late June or early July and will hold office for four years.

'Unlawful' and 'politically motivated': Iran denounces Canada's blacklisting of IRGC

TEHRAN – Iran's Ambassador to the United Nations, Amir Saeed Irvani, has condemned Canada's designation of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) as a "terrorist group" as "unlawful," "dangerous," and "politically motivated."

In a letter addressed to the UN Security Council President and the UN Secretary-General, Irvani stated that Canada's actions are a provocative act against the IRGC, an official and constitutionally recognized branch of Iran's armed forces.

Iran considers this designation a blatant violation of international law and a politically driven attempt to undermine Iran's national security and sovereignty, he said.

The IRGC includes several of Iran's elite armed forces, including the Quds branch which spearheaded the fight against Daesh terrorists in Iraq and Syria during the 2010s.

The full text of the letter is as follows:

Excellency,

Upon instructions from my Government, I would like to bring to your attention a blatant violation of international law and the Charter of the United Nations committed by the Government of Canada against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In an unlawful, dangerous, and politically motivated action,

Canada has designated the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)—an official and constitutionally-based branch of the armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran—as a so-called "terrorist group." This is not the first time Canada has systematically violated norms, rules, and principles of international law against Iran.

Canada has repeatedly breached fundamental principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations which my Country has already been prompted to institute legal proceedings against that Country before the International Court of Justice for grave violations.

The Islamic Republic of Iran condemns in the strongest possible terms this illegal and provocative action by the Government of Canada and considers it a hostile act against the Islamic Republic of Iran, as well as a grave threat to regional and international peace and security given the significant role of the IRGC in fighting against terrorism and extremism as well as in preserving peace and stability in our region.

This unlawful and irresponsible action constitutes a breach of generally recognized principles of international law and of the Charter of the United Nations, including the well-established principles of sovereign equality and non-

interference in internal affairs.

Given the IRGC's role, tasks, and mandate, which include ensuring maritime safety and security in the Persian Gulf, Sea of Oman, and beyond, the Government of Canada is well aware that its irresponsible and provocative act will heighten tensions and increase the risk of accidents and incidents between IRGC forces and the Canadian armed forces, whether acting independently or as part of the so-called coalition, in the region already facing unprecedented challenges.

It is self-evident that Canada—along with the US and those who have publicly supported this internationally wrongful act—will bear full responsibility for all consequences of such reckless behavior.

It is noteworthy that the Iranian armed forces, particularly the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), have consistently played a pivotal role in safeguarding Iran's sovereignty and territorial integrity, notably during the imposed 8-year war by Saddam's regime in Iraq against Iran from 1980 to 1988.

The role of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, especially Major General Qasem Soleimani, the hero Commander of the Quds Force of the IRGC, who was assassinated by US forces at Baghdad International Airport on 3

January 2020 during an official visit to Iraq at the Iraqi government's invitation, in battles against the UN Security Council designated terrorist groups like Al-Qaeda, ISIS, the Al-Nusra Front and other terrorist groups in the region, has been widely recognized and commended by affected people and governments in the region.

The armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran are resolute in their commitment to fulfill its regional responsibilities and counter-terrorism efforts, as well as support regional nations and governments, upon request, in their efforts to eliminate foreign-backed terrorist groups. This provocative action taken by the Government of Canada will neither affect nor obstruct this firm determination.

The Islamic Republic of Iran reserves its inherent right to take appropriate countermeasures in accordance with international law in response to this illegal action and serious violation by the Government of Canada.

It would be highly appreciated if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 83, and of the Security Council.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Isfahan to receive Russian tourists with open arms

TEHRAN – In an effort to extend its tourism market, Isfahan played hostess to a group of Russian travel insiders on Wednesday.

A pivotal meeting in Isfahan brought together a 12-member delegation of Russian tourism professionals and key figures from Isfahan's tourism sector, aiming to enhance economic and cultural ties through tourism development.

Isfahan province, boasting more than seven thousand years of civilizational history, and higher than 22,000 historical sites, make a great destination for Russian tourists, said Isfahan's director-general of cultural heritage, tourism, and handicrafts during the meeting.

In his address, Amir Karamzadeh highlighted the region's diverse climate and natural and wildlife varieties, which present significant opportunities for developing tourism relations with Russia.

"In this meeting, we aimed to foster a friendly dialogue to ensure both countries can benefit economically from the tourism industry," he further elaborated.

Isfahan, he brought to light, hosts approximately 150 tourism events annually, which could be highly attractive to international tourists.

To facilitate better planning for sides, a schedule of these events, along with their cultural and tourism features, will be provided to the Russian tourism professionals, according to Karamzadeh.

He also expressed Isfahan International Airport's readiness to establish direct flights between Isfahan and various parts of Russia.

Karamzadeh hoped that the Russian del-

egation would take advantage of Isfahan's historical attractions and tourism infrastructure, particularly in the field of health tourism, which is very cost-effective for foreign tourists.

In a bid to position itself as a top tourist spot for Russians, Iran has been implementing several measures to ease travel and enhance accessibility.

Last year, Iran and Russia implemented a visa-free exchange program, allowing travelers as part of tour groups to arrive without the hassle of obtaining a visa.

This move has notably sparked more interest among Iranian tourists compared to their Russian counterparts.

Statistics reveal a significant contrast in the utilization of this opportunity. By the end of 2023, around 29.5 thousand travelers from Iran had journeyed to Russia, while the reverse route saw only about 10.7 thousand people heading to Iran.

To further stimulate tourism from Russia, relevant authorities from the two countries are actively working on enabling payments with "Mir" cards within the Islamic Republic. This initiative aims to streamline financial transactions for Russian travelers, enhancing their overall experience in Iran.

While these efforts are expected to bolster tourism, representatives from Russian tour operators remain cautious about the country's potential to become a mainstream destination for Russians in the near future. Darya Domostroyeva from "Intourist" highlights that despite growing demand, Russian tourists still lack substantial knowledge about Iran and its recreational opportunities.

is out.

Further elaborating on the process, Abbaspour outlined that the operation features excavation, wall construction, foundation work, plastering, and roofing.

"The Asbads have been inscribed in UNESCO tentative list in 2017," he noted, hoping for future World Heritage List inclusion.

UNESCO says Asbad is a smart technique to grind grains, a technique which goes back to ancient times when the people living in the eastern parts of Iran, in an attempt to adapt themselves to nature and transform environmental obstacles into opportunities, managed to invent it.

Centuries-old windmills undergo renovation

TEHRAN – Some restoration projects, aimed at breathing new lives into five Asbads (ancient vertical windmills) within Khaf region have been started.

"There are 33 Asbads in Khaf, and 10 in Sangan," said the governor-general of Khaf county, "Their restoration and preservation operations have been commenced four years ago."

Every year, Mahdi Abbaspour added, based on the allocated budget, a number of the windmills undergo restoration.

According to the official, three windmills located in Khaf along with two in Sangan are planned to be fully restored before this year

Glimpses of World Heritage sites

Chartres Cathedral

Notre-Dame de Chartres Cathedral, located in the Centre-Val-de-Loire region, is one of the most authentic and complete works of religious architecture of the early 13th century.

It was the destination of a pilgrimage dedicated to the Virgin Mary, among the most popular in all medieval Western Christianity. Because of the unity of its architecture and decoration, the result of research of the first Gothic era, its immense influence on the art of Middle Age Christianity, Chartres Cathedral appears as an essential landmark in the history of medieval architecture.

The outstanding stained-glass ensemble, monumental statuary of the 12th and 13th centuries and the painted decorations miraculously preserved from the ravages of humankind and time, make Chartres one of the most admirable and the best-preserved examples of Gothic art.

The west façade built around the middle of the 12th century, with its three portals whose splay is decorated with statue columns (Royal Portal), its two towers, its southern spire and its three large incomparable stained-glass windows, comprise an authentic and complete example that remains with us of this art created at St Denis, and which marked the advent of an original mode of plastic expression, known as the Gothic style.

A little later, the nave and the choir, re-

constructed as of 1194, effected for the first time an architectural formula which would be widely employed throughout the 13th century.

The monumental sculptures of Chartres Cathedral are valued both for their abundance and for their quality: the large ensembles, reliefs and statues, of the Royal Portal at the entrance to the nave, the six portals and two porches dating from 1210 at the north and south entrances to the transept, offer a complete panorama of Gothic sculpture from the moment when it broke from Romanesque traditions to attain the subtle balance of idealism and realism that characterizes its apogee. In this cathedral, seat of a renowned school, technical and artistic mastery were at the service of a highly developed iconographic science.

Finally, Chartres Cathedral has almost totally conserved its homogeneous decor of stained-glass windows executed between approximately 1210 and 1250. To this must be added the three stained-glass windows of the 12th century above the Royal Portal and the large roses of the 13th century on the three façades: on the west, the Last Judgement; on the north, the Glorification of the Virgin; on the south, the Glorification of Christ.

(Source: UNESCO)

Iconic Si-o-Se Pol undergoes restoration

TEHRAN – The upper deck of the historical Si-o-Se Pol bridge, an architectural gem in Isfahan, has undergone comprehensive restoration for the first time in a decade.

In an interview with IRNA on Wednesday, Hadi Allahyari, an official responsible for monitoring Isfahan's historical bridges, detailed the project, saying: "Its first phase has been commenced from the eastern side on the rooftop (upper deck) of the bridge."

"The initial phase includes lightening the structure, repairing gutters, and refurbishing brickwork. The project is being overseen by the technical office of the Isfahan province's directorate of Tourism and Cultural Heritage."

The official said the last thorough restoration of Si-o-Se Pol's rooftop was conducted at least ten years ago by a team of restorers under the supervision of directorate's experts.

"The necessity for this comprehensive restoration stems from the deterioration of bricks and previous interventions, particularly from the time when the bridge was used for vehicular traffic."

Allahyari emphasized that the



rooftop restoration is set to be executed in at least two phases. Upon completion of these phases, attention will shift to the bridge's body and doors for further restoration.

"Regular monitoring and occasional repairs are performed on Si-o-Se Pol by restoration teams, but it was ultimately decided to undertake a full-scale restoration in multiple stages," Allahyari noted.

He voiced hope that additional funding -- provided by the government -- could be secured to continue these essential restoration efforts.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the official said one of the persistent challenges faced by the bridge is vandalism, including graffiti on its bricks and damage to the lower-level doors.

Allahyari highlighted the high foot traffic of passersby on Si-o-Se Pol, which connects historical sites on both sides of the Zayandeh River, making it more susceptible to damage compared to other historical bridges in the city, such as the Khaju Bridge.

Si-o-Se Pol, renowned as the longest historical bridge in Isfahan and

the largest structure on water in Iran, is celebrated for its 33 arches forming the first level. The second level features a pedestrian walkway flanked by walls and arcades, some of which open to the surrounding scenery.

Isfahan is renowned not only for the abundance of great historical bridges but also for its 'life-giving river', the Zayandeh-Rood, which has long bestowed the city an original beauty and fertility.

Soaked in a rich history, it was once a crossroad of international trade and diplomacy in Iran, and now it is one of Iran's top tourist destinations for good reasons.

The ancient city embraces many architectural wonders, such as unmatched Islamic buildings, museums, Persian gardens, and tree-lined boulevards.

Interestingly, Isfahan is nicknamed Nesf-e-Jahan, which is translated into "half the world", meaning seeing it is relevant to see half the world. In its heyday, it was also one of the largest cities in the region, with a population of nearly one million.

From tradition to global recognition: discover Qasemabad textiles

TEHRAN – Qasemabad, an old village in northern Iran, is a vibrant gem recognized globally as the World Village of Chador-Shab Weaving by the World Handicrafts Council.

For many Iranians, the village is synonymous with color and happiness, thanks to its rich tradition of creating various kinds of colorful fabrics and traditional clothing.

Situated in Rudsar county of Gilan province, the village's most renowned fabric, which is named Chador-Shab, is believed to have a history of about 2,000 years. It is a vibrant, intricately woven fabric made from cotton, silk, or wool.

The art of weaving these beautiful textiles is predominantly undertaken by women who use traditional handmade machines called Pachal. These skilled artisans create Chador-Shabs not just as a craft, but as a reflection of their culture, customs, and daily lives.

According to Visit Iran, some 600 women are engaged in the craft across the village, fostering a community dedicated to preserving and innovating that ancient craft.



The high quality of the products, coupled with the establishment of numerous local centers focused on this handmade art, led to Qasemabad being nationally recognized as the village of Chador-Shab weaving in 2018. This recognition was further elevated to a global level in 2020 when Qasemabad was inscribed by the World Crafts Council on its list of world cities and villages for its unique contribution to this traditional art.

Chador-Shabs are celebrated for their attractive, imaginative patterns, often inspired by nature. Designs such as Shaneh-Gol, Qali-Gol,

Sarv-Gol, Chehel-Cheragh, Parand, and Booteh-Charkh evoke the natural beauty of the region. Historically, women wore these vibrant fabrics around their waists while working in rice fields. Today, Chador-Shabs have found new purposes, including as tablecloths, curtains, bed linens, and elements of modern fashion.

To promote and preserve this invaluable heritage, Qasemabad is home to several institutions like the Forum of Innovative Textile, Chador-Shab weaving workshops, handicraft shops, and a dedicated Chador-Shab Weaving Museum. These centers not only support the craftswomen but also educate visitors about the intricate art of Chador-Shab weaving.

Visiting Qasemabad offers a unique opportunity to witness the colorful and lively tradition of Chador-Shab weaving firsthand. It is a journey into a world where every thread tells a story, every pattern holds a piece of history, and every Chador-Shab is a testament to the enduring creativity and cultural heritage of this remarkable village.

Visits to millennia-old Hasanlu jumps twofold in Q1

TEHRAN – The number of visits to Teppéh Hasanlu, an archaeological hill that dates some 8,000 years, has been doubled to 3,200 people in the first quarter of this Persian year (started on March 20) compared to the same period a year earlier, according to a local official.

"Throughout the very first three months of the current year, 3,200 individuals have toured the historical site," said the site's director on Thursday, "The number indicates a 100% upsurge, compared to the corresponding time a year earlier."

Tens of overseas visitors from China and Türkiye, Hasan Shiri continued, were also among the tourists.

ists.

"A wide array of advertising and promotional measures is in place to draw more inbound tourists before this year is out," he further noted.

Shedding light on the arranged initiatives, Shiri pointed to holding various events such as "Nowruzgah," presenting the site's touristic capacities on the media, deploying tour guides, and installing tourist guide signs.

The Hasanlu site, one of the most important tourist sites in West Azarbaijan, is located in the tourist-targeted village of Hasanlu. This village features natural attractions such as the Hasanlu Dam

and the Hasanlu Wetland. The hill, with approximately eight thousand years of history, is one of the most important archaeological sites in the country. Thousands of precious cultural and historical artifacts, such as pottery, bronze and copper objects, jewelry, weapons, and decorative items, have been uncovered through excavations.

The most famous artifact discovered at this historical site is the "Golden Bowl of Hasanlu," which is three thousand years old. This discovery is one of the most significant scientific findings in the history of archaeology in Iran and the world, and is considered one

of the rarest historical, religious, and artistic artifacts of the ancient world. The Tepe Hasanlu is located 80 kilometers from Urmia and nine kilometers from Naqadeh. In 1965, it was registered in the list of national monuments and has since been transformed into a national base for scientific, technical, and research activities. According to archaeological data, this mound has been inhabited during 10 different periods. The tenth period, the oldest habitation of Hasanlu, dates back to the 6th to 3rd millennium BC. The Hasanlu hill is situated in a lush and green plain known as "Solduz," adjacent to a village of the same name.

Encyclopedia of Iran's caves unveiled

TEHRAN – A book titled "Comprehensive Encyclopedia of Iran's Caves," authored by Changiz Sheikhali who is a veteran speleologist, has recently been unveiled in Tehran.

The book marks the first Iranian caving encyclopedia and the unveiling ceremony was held at the 28th national caving task force meeting, ILNA reported on Friday.

"The Iranian caving task force, which includes 13 representatives from the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Science, Ministry of Defense Armed Forces, Geological Survey, Mapping Organization, Ministry of Education, Natural Resources and Watershed Management Organization, Ministry of Sports (Mountaineering Federation), is the only non-governmental organization and public institution working to examine and protect caves," explained Javad Ne-

zamdoost, a member of the task force and one of the founders of the Iranian Cave and Speleology Association.

According to Nezamdoost, Sheikhali has dedicated many years to caving in Iran and currently has 16 volumes of books, documenting 1500 caves in Iran.

Sheikhali meticulously documented his scientific and technical observations, culminating in the publication of the encyclopedia after three years of work and effort, Nezamdoost noted.

Iran is geologically part of the Alps-Himalayan natural belt. According to the Britannica Encyclopedia, there is puzzling evidence of human presence on the Iranian Plateau as early as the Lower Paleolithic. The first well-documented evidence of human habitation comes from deposits from several excavated caves and rock shelters located mainly in the Zagros Mountains of western

Iran, dated to the Middle Paleolithic or Mousterian period (c. 100,000 BC).

One of the most popular destinations for cave enthusiasts is Ali-Sadr Cave, located near Hamadan. It is a gigantic water-filled cave that is believed to date from the Jurassic era. Another popular cave is Katala-Khor, a limestone cave full of natural crystals believed to date from the Jurassic era, which is located in the northwestern Zanjan province.

The Karaftu Cave ensemble and Quri Qaleh (or Quri Qala Cave) are among the other renowned ones in the country.

Cave tourism is a unique and rewarding form of traveling that allows visitors to discover the hidden wonders of the earth, contribute to the local economy, and support conservation and scientific research.

Protecting tropical ecosystem 'more important than ever'

By Maryam Tavassoli

TEHRAN – With studies suggesting that half the world's population will call the tropics home by 2050, it's more important than ever to protect these unique and fragile ecosystems.

Celebrated annually on June 29, the International Day of the Tropics offers a unique perspective on the tropical regions' extraordinary cultures, biomes, and ecosystems while shedding light on challenges faced by tropical areas.

The day aims to celebrate the extraordinary diversity of tropical regions. Also, it draws attention to the challenges facing the people of these regions.

The Tropics are a region of the Earth, roughly defined as the area between the tropic of Cancer and the tropic of Capricorn.

Accounting for 40 percent of both the world's total surface area and population, the tropical region surrounds the equator, covering continents from Northern Australia to central Africa and South America.

Although topography and other factors contribute to climatic variation, tropical locations are typically warm and experience little seasonal change in day-to-day temperature.

An important feature of the Tropics is the prevalence of rain in the moist inner regions near the equator, and that the seasonality of rainfall increases with the distance from the equator.

The tropics are home to around



80 percent of the world's biodiversity.

According to the United Nations (UN), the Tropics host around 99 percent of mangrove species and nearly 95 percent of the world's mangrove forests by area.

Mangrove forests are rich ecosystems that support the planet and humanity in unique ways by providing conditions for fish growth, storing carbon, and fighting floods.

They are able to store about 6 to 8 tons of carbon per hectare of soil per year.

They contribute to the creation of a complete ecosystem. Above water, mangrove trees provide a habitat for birds while amphibians and small fish live on their roots.

Mangroves provide natural infrastructure and protection to the populated areas nearby as the areas prevent erosion and absorb the impacts of storm surges during extreme weather.

The complex mangrove root sys-

tems will help filter phosphates, nitrates, and other pollutants from the water, resulting in a more improved water quality.

Moreover, mangroves play a crucial role in preserving the beach soil and protecting it from erosion.

Turtles, crustaceans such as shrimps and crabs, as well as fish take shelter in it to lay their eggs.

In addition, the tree is an important feeding ground for living creatures, providing wood for construction.

Mangrove trees also play a vital role in maintaining the ecological balance of the sea coast.

The mangrove tree is a nurturing habitat for every seabird and every aquatic creature in tropical coastal areas. Moreover, animals such as camels and sheep rely on the leaves of the tree as a food source when there is no pasture in the desert.

One of the unique habitats of mangroves is located in Iran.

There are 107 species of man-

groves, two of which grow in the country, called Hara and Chandel.

Mangrove forests in Iran mostly consist of the *Avicenna marina*, known as Hara, named after the 11th-century great Iranian scientist *Avicenna* or Abu-Ali-Sina.

In Iran, the Hara forest area covers more than 27 thousand hectares.

The forests spread from Naysband Bay in the southwestern Bushehr province to Govater Bay in the southeastern Sistan-Baluchestan province on the coast of the Sea of Oman.

More than 90 percent of these forests, both in terms of quality and quantity, are located in the southern Hormozgan province, such as Khamir Port and Qeshm Island, although there is a part in the Khor Azini site, in Sirik county in Hormozgan, which hosts *rhizophora mucronata* species, Chandel.

Unfortunately, with modernization and industrialization driven by population growth in recent decades, the tropical region is facing several challenges, such as climate change, deforestation, logging, urbanization, and demographic changes.

International Day of Tropics provides an opportunity to take stock of progress across the tropics, to share tropical stories and expertise, and to acknowledge the diversity and potential of the region.

It also underlines the important role that countries in the tropics will play in achieving the sustainable development goals.

SOCIETY

JUNE 29, 2024

Straight Truth

TEHRAN TIMES

7

Tashkent hosting Iran-Uzbekistan creative industries week

TEHRAN – An Iranian trade delegation comprised of creative and knowledge-based industries ecosystem is attending Iran-Uzbekistan creative industries week which is being held in Tashkent from June 26 to 30.

Supported by the Vice Presidency for Science and Technology, and Knowledge-Based Economy, the event is organized by the Iran House of Innovation and Technology in Tashkent (iHITT).

The event aims to bring together representatives of key creative industries in the fields of games, animation, toys, education, and stationery, ISNA reported.

Moreover, it provides opportunities for the Iranian delegation and interested Uzbek companies to hold business-to-business (B2B) and business-to-government (B2G) meetings.

As scheduled, the Iranian delegation will pay a visit to Uzbekistan's innovation and technology infrastructure to gain better insight into potential collaborations, and Uzbek markets.

The event was planned following Vice President for Science, Technology, and Knowledge-based Economy Rouhollah Dehqani-Firouzabadi trip to Tashkent to discuss developing technological cooperation with Uzbekistan's Minister of Higher Education, Science, and Innovation Ibrahim Abdurakhmanov in October 2023.

iHITT

On June 18, the Iran House of Innovation and Technology (iHiT) in the city of Tashkent was inaugurated, aimed at introducing knowledge-based, technological, and creative products of Iran to Uzbekistan, and facilitating scientific interactions and cooperation between the two countries, IRNA reported.

The private sector invested about \$4 million to establish the iHiT Tashkent.

The two sides signed a technological cooperation agreement worth \$10 million in the field of energy under the support of the House of Innovation and Technology.

Exporting technological products of Iranian knowledge-based companies is one of the important and key programs of the Vice Presidency for Science and Technology, and in this regard over the past years, with the support of the Vice Presidency for Science and Technology, the Iranian houses of innovation have been set up in several countries to develop the global market for knowledge-based products.

These centers have already been set up in countries such as Russia, Turkey, China, Syria, Kenya, Armenia, and Iraq.

By supporting innovative ideas, and holding technological and innovative events, the centers will be a platform for the development and promotion of Iranian knowledge-based companies, startups, and creative industries.

The centers are mainly formed with the investment and support of the private sector to provide the necessary infrastructure for their exports through innovation houses.

Uzbekistan planning to boost tech co-op with Iran

Nasriddin Fariddinovich, ambassador of Uzbekistan to Iran, visited achievements of Iranian knowledge-based companies in the 11th exhibition of Iranian-made laboratory equipment and materials, Iran Lab Expo 2024, on January 4.

"Last year (2023), our trade with Iran in various fields of technology was about 500 million dollars. We're planning to increase it to 1 billion dollars," IRNA quoted Badriddinovich as saying.

Iran and Uzbekistan are planning to establish a joint technology park in the city of Samarkand focusing on health, digital economy, and cultural industries.

A delegation from Uzbekistan met representatives of some Iranian knowledge-based companies on January 6, in Tehran to discuss and negotiate further issues.

Average temperature rises by 2 degrees over 5 decades

TEHRAN –Studies show that the average temperature in Iran in the last decade is about two degrees Celsius higher than the average of the past five decades, indicating that the change in temperature has been upward in the country.

"The change in temperature has not been uniform, rather it has been sinusoidal," IRIB quoted Ahmad Vazifeh, head of the national center for drought and crisis management, as saying.

The precipitation has also been on a declining trend in recent decades. Of course, it does not necessarily mean that the amount of rainfall each year is less than the previous year. However, it means that the amount of rainfall has fluctuated nationally, regionally, and globally, Vazifeh stated.

Anyway, in Iran, West Asia, and other parts of the world, the amount of precipitation and rainfall trends have lowered as a result of climate change and global warming.

Greenhouse gases, produced as a result of burning fossil fuels, are called so because they create a glass wall around the earth.

They let sunlight enter the atmosphere but trap part of the heat that would normally radiate back into space.

This way, the space inside the greenhouse becomes warmer than the outside. This trapped heat warms the planet.

Hot summer

This summer is forecasted to be hotter than normal, according to Metrological Organization.

Air temperature will be one to two degrees higher than normal, and on certain days due to abnormal temperature it will get four to five degrees hotter than average, IRIB quoted Vazifeh as saying.

The current heat will peak from July 5 to August 5, he added.

During spring, the country received 98.2 mm of rain, a 60 percent increase compared to 60 mm in the long term. It partly made up for the lack of precipitations in fall and winter, particularly in the southern and eastern half of latitudes.

The western and southwestern as well as the south and southeast regions of the country, which include the provinces of South Khorasan, Yazd, Isfahan, and Sistan-Baluchestan, received normal to above normal rainfall, the official added.

However, Fars, Hormozgan, Khorasan Razavi, Alborz, Markazi, and Zanjan experienced 10 to 30 percent less rainfall than normal.

The amount of rainfall in Tehran, Semnan, and Qazvin provinces was 25 to 35 percent below normal. Consequently, these provinces are going through the fourth consecutive year of drought.

Due to prolonged below-average precipitations, which have led to a reduction in water availability in rivers and lakes, the above-mentioned provinces have entered a stage of hydrological drought, Vazifeh explained.

On June 18, he stated that "the average temperature of the country has been 13.3 °C since the beginning of fall, September 23, which compared to the three-year-period figure, 11.3 °C, shows the temperature has increased by 2 °C over time."

Since the beginning of winter, the temperature has been 9.1 degrees, while it had been 7.1 degrees in long-term average. The last two months of the fall this year were the hottest months on record in the past 50 years, Vazifeh added.

El Niño-driven floods

El Niño was the primary driver of extreme rainfall in April and May that caused widespread flash flooding across Iran, as well as Afghanistan and Pakistan, doubling the chance of extreme rainfall, a new World Weather Attribution study found.

Throughout April and May, West Asia was hit by several storms. Flash floods killed at least 500 people in Afghanistan, 124 in Pakistan, and 18 in Iran, destroyed thousands of homes, and wiped out crops, worsening food shortages and threatening agricultural livelihoods.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Education, labor 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.

TEHRAN TIMES

www.tehrantimes.com

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Public Relations Office: Tel: (+98 21) 88805807
Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051603
Printed at: Jame Jam Bartar Borna - 44197737

No. 18, Moghadasi Alley, Nejatollahi St., Tehran, Iran P.O. Box: 14155-4843 Zip Code: 1599814713

JUNE 29, 2024

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Never make a decision in anger, and never make a promise in happiness.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:08 Evening: 19:45 Dawn: 3:06 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 4:52 (tomorrow)

What's in Tehran art galleries



Painting
* A collection of paintings by Serminaz Barseghian is on view in an exhibition at O Gallery.
The exhibit titled "Forgetfulness: Running" will continue until July 9 at the gallery, which can be found at 8 Shahin St., Sanai St.

* Maryam Beigi is showcasing her paintings in an exhibition at 009821 Projects Gallery.

Named "An Opening into Color A Stream Dreams", the exhibit will be running until July 9 at the gallery located at No. 25, 18th Alley, Kheradmand St., Karim Khan Ave.



* Paintings by Arezoo Dehqani are on view in an exhibition at Shamis Gallery.
The exhibition named "Isolation" will run until July 12 at the gallery located at 8 Daniali St., Andarzgu Blvd. in the Farmanieh neighborhood.

* Bashgah Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of paintings by a group of artists including Maryam Amirbeigi, Sara Khaki Firouz, Hamidreza Delbakhsh, Parsa Rashid.

Entitled "Kaleidoscope", the exhibition will be running until July 12 at the gallery located at No.13, Hosseini St., Karim Khan Ave.



* Maliheh Kianian is displaying her latest paintings in an exhibition at Idea Gallery.
The exhibition titled "Cornerized" will be running until July 4 at the gallery located at 26, 18th St. off Sanai St., Karim Khan Ave.

* An exhibition of paintings by Razieh Iranpour is underway at Yafteh Gallery.

The exhibition named "I Shall Be the First and Last Human" will run until July 12 at the gallery located at 8 Taleqani Dead End, Yarmohammadi St. in the Darus Neighborhood.



* Paintings by Mahnaz Hassanpour are on display in an exhibition at Asr Gallery.
The exhibit entitled "Synchronicity of Non-Synchronous" will run until July 12 at the gallery located at 18 Delaviz St. off North Mirzaye Shirazi St.

* Hoor Gallery is currently playing host to an exhibition of paintings by Farshid Maleki.

The exhibition will be running until July 19 at the gallery located at 12 Naeimi Alley, North Mirza Shirazi St., off Motahhari Ave.



* A collection of paintings by Abolfazl Ebrahimi is on view in an exhibition at Homa Gallery.
Entitled "A Long Story", the exhibition will be running until July 12 at the gallery that can be found at No. 8, Fourth Alley, Sanai St., Karim Khan Ave.

* Artibition Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of paintings by a group of artists including Alireza Asanlou, Parvaneh Etemadi, Bahman Jalali, Mehdi Hosseini, Kamran Diba, Maryam Abedi, Shadi Qadirian and several others.

Entitled "Collector", the exhibit runs until July 8 at the gallery located at No. 2798, Vali-e Asr Ave, after Parkvay, next to Bank of Industry and Mine.



Artworks from 24 countries on display at first Annual International Watercolor of Iran

TEHRAN-The first Annual International Watercolor of Iran, showcasing 200 artworks from 24 countries, has been launched at two sites in Tehran.

Organized by International Watercolor Society (IWS) Sareh Art Gallery in Moscow, the event is hosted by the Iranian Art Museum Garden in north of the capital and Laleh Art Gallery in central Tehran, marking a significant step toward international artistic exchange, ISNA reported.

The exhibition features carefully curated works by top-tier artists from Iran, Russia, Belgium, South Korea, Malaysia, Bulgaria, the U.S., Portugal, Switzerland, Costa Rica, Ghana, Albania, Thailand, Pakistan, Mexico, Greece, China, India, Australia, Italy, Turkey, Uruguay, Mongolia, and New Zealand.

"In addition to showcasing watercolor works by prominent global artists, the exhibition aims to foster cultural diplomacy in the expansive realm of global art," Mohammad Ali Saeedi,



director of the Laleh Art Gallery, said.

"Art serves as a bridge for exchanging values and achievements, guiding nations toward human connections," he added.

Saeedi emphasized that the exhibition not only provides a platform to see the watercolor works of the foreign artists but also creates opportunities for local artists to familiarize themselves with different techniques and styles from

around the world.

The artworks will remain on display until July 9 at the Iranian Art Museum Garden located at No. 30, Dr. Hesabi St., Shahid Darbandi St., Tajrish Square and Laleh Art Gallery at Fatemi St., next to the Laleh Hotel.

Saeb Tabrizi to be commemorated in Tehran

TEHRAN-The House of Humanities Thinkers in Tehran will host a commemoration ceremony for the great Persian Poet of the 17th century Saeb Tabrizi on Monday.

Mahmoud Fotouhi Rudmajani, a professor of Persian Literature and Language; Houman Yousefdehi, a researcher in the field of history and literature; and Bahman Banihashemi, a poet and literary critic will speak at the event, ISNA reported.

Saeb (1601-1677) was one of the greatest masters of a form of classical Arabic and Persian lyric poetry characterized by rhymed couplets and known as the ghazal.

He was born with the name Mirza Mohammad Ali in Tabriz during the Safavid era. Saeb's father was the wealthy and prominent merchant Mirza Abd-al-Rahim, while his paternal uncle was Shams-al-Din of Tabriz, skilled in calligraphy, for which he received the nickname Shirin Qalam (literally meaning Sweet Pen).

As a result of attacks by the Ottoman Empire, many families, including that of

Saeb's, were evacuated from Tabriz by Shah Abbas I, who moved them to the Abbasabad neighbourhood in Isfahan.

It was in this location that Saeb spent his childhood. He received his education at home and started engaging in poetry exercises when he was a little child.

In his youth, he made pilgrimages to Mecca, the Imam Reza shrine in Mashhad, and the Shia shrines in Najaf and Karbala.

In 1626, he traveled to India, where he was received into the court of Shah Jahan. He stayed for a time in Kabul and Kashmir, and returned home after several years.

After his return Shah Abbas II bestowed upon him the title "King of Poets".

Saeb's reputation is based primarily on some 300,000 couplets, including his epic poem. His Indian style verses reveal an elegant wit, a gift for the aphorism and the proverb, and a keen appreciation of philosophical and intellectual exercise.

In addition to his remarkable output of Persian verse, Saeb wrote poetry in Turkish.



Saeb's mausoleum in Isfahan

His mausoleum is located in Isfahan.

Biographical literature is abundant with references to the admiration of Saeb by both his contemporary and later readers. When discussing Saeb, his contemporary Mohammad Taher Nasrabadi mentions that "the sublimity of his genius and extent of his fame need no description".

The admiration for Saeb's literary accomplishment persisted in most Persian-speaking regions throughout the 19th-century.

Italy's ShorTS International Film Festival hosting 2 Iranian movies

TEHRAN-Two short films from Iran are participating in the 25th ShorTS International Film Festival, which was launched in Trieste, Italy, June 28.

"Pennisless Cinema" written and directed by Ali Arefnasab and "Footprint" by Mostafa Alami are the Iranian representatives in the ShorTS Express section of the festival, competing with 21 other

short films Mehr reported.

A production of 2023, "Pennisless Cinema," three minutes, is about a number of villagers who want to go to the city hospital to visit the alderman but some events impede them to get there.

The two-minute "Footprint" was made in 2023. It depicts

a village that is subject to imminent flooding.

The army is helping people to escape. There is an old woman who cannot ride in the truck. A soldier tries to help her.

Since 2000, ShorTS International Film Festival has been a landmark for short films and up and

coming cinematographers at international level. In every edition, ShorTS IFF aims to make the short film genre known to a broad and heterogeneous audience, with particular attention to the young with specific sections for children and teenagers aged 6 to 15.

This year's edition of the festival will conclude on July 6.

"The Lieutenant of Inishmore" to go on stage in Tehran theater

TEHRAN- "The Lieutenant of Inishmore," a black comedy play written by the British-Irish playwright Martin McDonagh will go on stage at Tehran's Shahrzad Theater Complex on Saturday evening.

The solo performance will be directed by Yusef Heidari-Rad.

Kamran Kian, Mahdiar Ahmadi, Melika Sarbaz Vatan, Amir Abbas Seraj, Yasaman Khansari and Setayesh Hamidkhani are the main members of the cast for the play.

"The Lieutenant of Inishmore" happens in Ireland in 1993 when the Northern Ireland peace process is taking its faltering first steps.

Irish National Liberation Army (INLA) man Padraic, a ruthless and fanatical Irish republican terrorist who is on a mission to find the killer of his beloved cat, Mr. Whiskers.

Padraic's obsession with avenging his cat's death leads him to cancel his plans to carry out a bombing in a London pub.

Padraic, a man considered too mad for the Irish Republican Army and sorely trying the patience of his INLA comrades, is intent on revenge. He kills four people and two other

cats before his cat is found alive and well; the first cat was mistaken for him.

The play has been produced twice in the West End and on Broadway, where it received a Tony Award nomination for Best Play.

In 2014, "The Lieutenant of Inishmore" was ranked in The Daily Telegraph as one of the 15 greatest plays ever written.

The play explores themes of violence, morality, and the absurdity of terrorism through a series of shocking and darkly comedic events.

Through the character of Padraic, McDonagh critiques the senseless violence and extremism that can be perpetuated in the name of politics or ideology.

At the same time, the play also pokes fun at the ridiculousness of some political movements and the moral hypocrisies that can exist within them.

"The Lieutenant of Inishmore" is a wickedly funny and thought-provoking play that challenges audiences to confront the darker aspects of human nature.

Martin McDonagh is a British-Irish playwright and screenwriter, known for his

darkly comedic and often provocative works. Born in 1970 in London, England, McDonagh began his career in the 1990s as a playwright, gaining recognition for his early works such as "The Beauty Queen of Leenane" and "The Pillowman".

His plays often explore themes of violence, morality, and the absurdity of human nature, frequently using humor and satire to critique societal norms and conventions.

McDonagh's breakthrough play, "The Lieutenant of Inishmore", premiered in 2001 and went on to win several awards, including the Olivier Award for Best New Play.

He has since written several successful plays, including "Hangmen" and "A Very Very Dark Forest", as well as screenplays for films such as "In Bruges" and "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri", for which he won the Academy Award for Best Original Screenplay.

McDonagh's work is characterized by its dark humor, complex characters, and unflinching exploration of difficult topics, making him one of the most distinctive and critically acclaimed playwrights of his generation.