

Iran's DoE seeks four new laws on environmental protection



Social Desk

In a recent television interview, Ali Salajegheh, the head of Iran's Department of the Environment (DoE), announced ongoing negotiations with the Plan and Budget Organization of the country to incorporate four key environmental regulations into the Seventh Development Plan. The proposed bill for the plan, unveiled on May 21, has drawn criticism for its lack of a dedicated environmental section and insufficient attention to evaluating environmental impacts. "Although there is no separate section for the environment in this plan, regulations such as evaluating the environmental impacts of projects and strategic environmental assessment are mentioned," Salajegheh explained. He emphasized the importance of including these four environmental regulations in the plan. It should be noted that the environmental protection measures would serve as a growth index for countries and demonstrate a commitment to a sustain-

able model for growth. Salajegheh further noted that the government has approved the inclusion of environmental concerns in the "Agriculture and Water" section of the seventh plan, which has been renamed "Agriculture, Water, and Environment." He urged that this issue be preserved in the plan, stating, "We have requested that this issue be preserved in the plan." Hopefully, it would go without resistance as it is crucial for the sustainable development of our nation. Despite the absence of a separate environmental section in the seventh plan, Salajegheh highlighted their efforts to address environmental concerns through various clauses and regulations. "Fortunately, environmental impact assessment (EIA) and strategic environmental assessment (SEA) have been included in the seventh plan for the first time," he said. Standard environmental regulations worldwide include measures to promote renewable energy, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, enhance waste

management, and protect biodiversity. These regulations aim to address the pressing environmental challenges faced by our Planet Earth and contribute to global efforts in combating climate change. Experts in the field have praised DoE's push for the inclusion of these regulations, emphasizing the importance of environmental protection as a growth index for countries. Incorporating these regulations into the development plan sends a strong message that the country is committed to sustainable growth and recognizes the long-term benefits of prioritizing environmental protection. As negotiations continue, the inclusion of these four environmental regulations in the Seventh Development Plan could set a precedent for future development plans, emphasizing the importance of environmental protection in fostering sustainable growth and development. Furthermore, the successful integration of these regulations may encourage other nations to adopt similar measures, promoting global cooper-



ation in addressing environmental challenges and working towards a more sustainable future.

Man who opened plane door wanted out 'quickly'



The man who opened a door on Asiana Airlines plane is brought to a police station in Daegu. **REUTERS**

A man who opened an emergency exit on a flight in mid-air felt "suffocated" and wanted to get off quickly, South Korean police have said. The Asiana Airlines plane was carrying nearly 200 passengers as it approached the runway on Friday at Daegu international airport, about 150 miles south-east of Seoul, on a domestic flight, The Guardian reported. When the plane was about 200 meters above ground, the man who police said was in his 30s, without providing further details, opened the exit door.

The passenger was taken in by Daegu police for questioning and told officers he had been "under stress after losing a job recently".

"He felt the flight was taking longer than it should have been and felt suffocated inside the cabin," a Daegu police detective said.

"He wanted out quickly." The passenger faces up to 10 years in prison for violating aviation safety laws.

A video clip shot by a nearby passenger showed wind ripping through the open door, with fabric seat-backs and passengers' hair flapping wildly as some people shouted in surprise.

Another video shared on social media showed passengers sitting in the emergency exit row next to an open door being buffeted by strong winds. A dozen passengers were taken to hospital after experiencing breathing difficulties but there were no major injuries or damage, according to the transport ministry.

"It was chaos with people close to the door appearing to faint one by one and flight attendants calling out for doctors on board," a 44-year-old passenger said.

"I thought the plane was blowing up. I thought I was going to die like this."

A transport ministry official told AFP that this was "the first such incident" they were aware of in Korean aviation history. Experts say South Korea's aviation industry has a solid safety record.

Tehran relief taskforce reports significant increase in charitable donations



Mohammad Dehrouyeh, the Deputy for Development of Public Participation at the Tehran Province Relief Committee, announced that be-

nevolent citizens of Tehran Province contributed over 99 billion tomans (around \$3.5 million) in charitable donations through the organization in 2022-2023. This figure represents a substantial 31 percent increase compared to the same period in 2021-2022. Dehrouyeh presented a comprehensive report detailing the philanthropic contributions made by the compassionate residents of Tehran Province. He emphasized that the Relief Committee meticulously adheres to Islamic standards and guidelines when allocating

the collected funds. The donations are utilized to cover medical expenses, housing, education for students and university students, dowries, and livelihoods of beneficiaries, Borna News reported. In addition to traditional methods, Dehrouyeh highlighted the implementation of electronic platforms for facilitating charitable donations. The introduction of the QR code plan, the installation of unique codes on charity boxes, and the availability of phone number 7355 and command code #021*8877* have made it

possible for citizens to contribute to charity at any time and place. In 2022-2023, the QR code charity plan saw the participation of 127,649 individuals, comprising 123,474 real individuals and 4,175 legal entities. A total of 33,261 transactions were conducted through the QR code plan, resulting in 870 million tomans (\$30,000) donated via this method. This figure also marks a 31 percent increase from the previous year, demonstrating the growing commitment of Tehran Province residents to charitable causes.

PIC OF THE DAY

Nestled within the Rostaq District of Darab County, located in Fars Province, the village of Layzangan boasts a remarkable claim to fame: it stands as the foremost producer of dry-farmed Damask rose worldwide. With its impressive expanse of over 5000 hectares dedicated to Damask rose gardens, as well as an additional 500 hectares of another sort of Damask rose cultivation, Layzangan is indeed a horticultural marvel. The allure of this mountainous region's Damask rose valley, encompassing the villages of Navaygan and Layzangan, serves as a compelling draw for travelers seeking respite in these lands. A testament to the industriousness and tenacity of the village denizens, the annual Red Rose Festival, typically held during the month of Khordad (May-June), stands as a fitting tribute to the valued crop which has earned Layzangan such acclaim.



MASOUD ZARE/ISNA