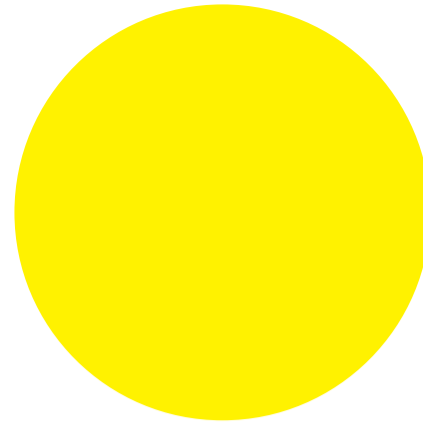


Cross-border trade up 14.5%



Contemporary Iranian literature in dire need of national myths



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Further decline expected for dollar, gold

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Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi addresses a group of people during a visit to northwestern province of East Azarbaijan on June 8, 2023. [president.ir](#)

Raeisi: Hitting 40-year trade record shows failure of sanctions

National Desk

Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi said hitting a record of \$53 billion in trade in the last 40 years in the country indicates the failure of the West's sanctions. Addressing a group of people during his two-day visit to the northwestern province of East Azarbaijan on Friday, Raeisi said the volume of the country's trade over the past decades shows the victory of the Iranian nation and the failure of the U.S. maximum pressure campaign, which did not want to see development in Iran's production centers.

Iran has been under U.S. sanctions for the past four decades. The sanctions intensified following the U.S. unilateral withdrawal from a 2015 nuclear deal, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), in May 2018. Raeisi said that the country is on the path of progress, assuring the people that the government will do its utmost to make Iran

strong. He added that great achievements in the country will be unveiled in the near future. During his visit to East Azarbaijan Province, the Iranian president unveiled a number of projects, including an important railway project. The 44km railroad connects the city of Bostanabad to the province's capital city, Tabriz. It is the second phase of the Tabriz-Mianeh railway project. The railway project is a

major part of Iran's East-West transport corridor and will play a key role in the country's plans to accommodate larger volumes of international cargo transit. The link is part of a larger line that connects the cities of Mianeh and Tabriz via rail, a project for which successive governments in Iran have allocated some 200 trillion rials (\$400 million) in investment over the past 20 years. The Mianeh-Tabriz railway will shorten travel time via

rail between the Iranian capital Tehran and Tabriz, a city of nearly two million people, by four hours. President Raeisi also inaugurated several other projects in the province, including a water transfer project and a power dispatching center. The president also announced an increase in production in Iran Tractor Manufacturing Company, as well as the revival of the Machine Sazi Tabriz Co., which was on the verge of closure.

Hawks' trap laid for European troika

By Ebrahim Beheshti
Staff writer

A group of 35 members of the US House of Representatives have recently sent a letter to the three European parties to the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, urging the British, French and German leaders to immediately trigger the snapback mechanism to reinstate the United Nations' sanctions on Iran under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

In justifying their demand, these US legislators have claimed that; "For nearly four years, Iran has ceased implementing important commitments under the JCPOA, continues to expand its nuclear program, and has rejected all diplomatic offers."

Despite the fact that the US administration was the primary violator of the JCPOA, having unilaterally withdrawn from the agreement in 2018, American lawmakers maintain their claims against Iran. Tehran continued to uphold its commitments under the agreement for a year following Washington's withdrawal, hoping that European parties would execute their obligations, ultimately serving Iran's interests. Unfortunately, three European nations were unable to fulfill their end of the bargain, causing Tehran to gradually reduce its own JCPOA commitments in a phased fashion.

The accusation made against Iran for its noncompliance with the JCPOA is unfounded. The recent expansion of Iran's nuclear program can, in fact, be viewed as a direct response to Western countries' lack of commitment. Tehran has repeatedly stated that it will return its nuclear activities to the levels established in the JCPOA if all parties fulfill their obligations and Iran's economic interests are secured, contingent upon the US's return to the agreement. [Page 3 >](#)

Iran proposes joint drills with Turkey

Stressing the need to enhance military cooperation between Iran and Turkey, Iran's highest-ranking commander proposed that the armed forces of the two neighbors hold joint exercises. In a telephone conversation on Thursday, the Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Baqeri congratulated General Yasar Guler on his appointment as Turkey's new Minister of National Defense, according to Tasnim news agency. "The common borders between the two states fur-

ther necessitate the continuation of cooperation," the Iranian commander noted, calling for joint war games, reciprocal visits by the military officials, and the exchange of experiences between the two countries. For his part, General Guler stressed the need to enhance and promote military ties between the two neighbors. He also expressed gratitude to Iran for its brotherly assistance to the Turkish people affected by the devastating earthquake that rocked southern Turkey in February.



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Iran denies having 'interim deal' with U.S. on agenda

Iran's UN mission fully rejects allegations that the country and the U.S. are approaching an "interim deal" amid stagnation of talks on the revival of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), saying no such deal is on the agenda. Mohsen Naziri-Asl was referring to recent rumors that suggested a looming "interim deal" foresees some sanction relief for the Islamic Republic in exchange for changes in the country's peaceful nuclear energy program, Press TV wrote. He made the remarks on Thursday after the London-based Middle East Eye (MEE) news and analysis website claimed that the countries

were close to clinching such a deal. "There is no interim deal [meant] to replace the JCPOA," said the Iranian mission to the United Nations, adding that no such agreement is on the agenda. Also on Thursday, a White House National Security Council spokesman similarly rejected the MEE report, calling it false and misleading. Despite its claims, the Biden administration has not only stopped short of taking any measures that could lift the talks out of their current impasse but has also imposed many sanctions of its own against the Islamic Republic.

Deadly windstorms, floods sweep across nation

National Desk

Iran's National Medical Emergency Organization said that as many as seven people across Iran lost their lives on Thursday and Friday as a result of deadly floods and windstorms that swept across much of the north and northwest of the country. According to a statement from the public relations department of the organization, 59 others were injured in the storm and floods. The intense weather condition forced the national and provincial officials to block certain widely-used roads such as the Karaj-Chalus Road until the flood water and rubble could be cleared. The timely planned arrival



of the Iranian Red Crescent Society on the chaotic scenes unfolding on Thursday and Friday reportedly prevented further loss and damage. The weather forecast has warned of another wind storm entering the country from the northwest late Friday, issuing a red alert zone for high winds for provinces such as North Khorasan and Golestan.