



Iran to build new nuclear plants: AEOI chief

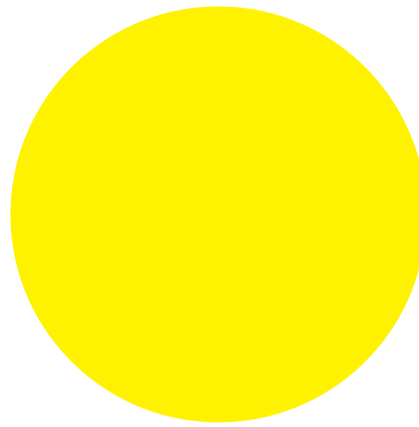
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Innocent victims of forced labor need rescue



EXCLUSIVE

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Iran Daily



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Leader: Deal possible if Iran's nuclear industry remains intact



Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei (L) is briefed by the Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran Mohammad Eslami as he visits an exhibition of Iran's nuclear achievements in Tehran, on June 11, 2023.

leader.ir

framework of safeguards". However, he called on Iranian authorities "not to yield to the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) excessive and false demands," adding that a law passed by Iran's Parliament in 2020 had to be respected. Under the law, Tehran would suspend IAEA inspections of its nuclear sites and step up uranium enrichment if sanctions are not lifted. "This is a good law... which must be respected and not violated in providing access and information (to the IAEA)," Khamenei said. Last month, the International Atomic Energy Agency reported limited progress over disputed issues with Iran. Ayatollah Khamenei's remarks came days after both Tehran and Washington denied a report that they were nearing an interim deal under which Tehran would curb its nuclear program in return for sanctions relief.

Importance of nuclear industry

Elsewhere in his remarks, the Leader described the nuclear industry as one of the most important components of the country's power, credibility and strength, saying that the industry is the key to progress in many fields.

He further said that the industry improves people's lives in the technical, economic and health sectors and adds weight to the country's global and international political standing. Ayatollah Khamenei said that the 20-year nuclear challenge demonstrated the extraordinary ability and talent of Iranian youths despite sanctions and threats against our scientists and the assassination of some of them.

The challenge also laid bare the inhumane, unfair and bullying logic of opponents, who have expectations from us beyond existing safeguards agreements, the Leader asserted.

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said a deal with the West is possible if Iran's nuclear infrastructure remained intact amid a stalemate in talks over the revival of a 2015 nuclear pact. The Leader made the remarks in a meeting with a group of nuclear experts and officials in Tehran on Sunday. "You may want to reach agreements in some fields. Nothing is wrong with [reaching] agreements, but the infrastructure must remain intact. They must not be harmed. They are the fruit of others' endeavors," Ayatollah Khamenei added. "We were dealt blows because of misplaced trust. It is very important that a nation and the officials of

a country know and understand where they should trust and where not to trust. We have understood it over the past twenty years. We understood who is trustworthy and who is not," the Leader said.

The West's lies

The Leader also said the enemies use the claim that Iran is developing nuclear weapons as an excuse to target Iran, but the claim is no more than a lie and they are well aware of it. "The enemies have created a nuclear challenge for us for twenty years because they know that the movement in the nuclear industry is the key to the country's scientific progress," the Leader said. "The excuse of nuclear weapons is a lie

and they (the enemies) know it, too."

"Based on our Islamic foundations, we do not want to go towards [nuclear] weapons. Otherwise, they (the enemies) would not have been able to stop it, as until now they could not stop our nuclear developments," Ayatollah Khamenei stressed. Iran showed to the world the peaceful nature of its nuclear program by signing the 2015 nuclear agreement, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), with six world states - namely, the U.S., Germany, France, Britain, Russia and China. But, Washington's unilateral withdrawal in May 2018, and its subsequent re-imposition of sanctions against

Tehran left the future of the deal in limbo.

Negotiations between the parties to the deal kicked off in Vienna in April 2021, with the intention of bringing the U.S. back into the deal and putting an end to its "maximum pressure" campaign against Iran. The discussions, however, have been at a standstill since August 2022 due to Washington's insistence on not lifting all of the anti-Iran sanctions and offering the necessary guarantees that it will not exit the agreement again.

Cooperation with IAEA

Ayatollah Khamenei said the country's nuclear authorities should continue working with the UN nuclear watchdog "under the

A new chapter in Iran's longstanding ties with LatAm nations

By Hossein Amir-Abdollahian
Iran's foreign minister



OPINION

The incumbent Iranian government has espoused a foreign policy doctrine that prioritizes balanced and intelligent interactions with other nations, characterized by dynamic diplomacy. This doctrine emphasizes the importance of comprehensive development of relations, as well as diversification of long-term cooperation with countries across the globe, including those in Latin America.

In line with this strategy, President Raisi has planned a visit to three nations - Venezuela, Cuba, and Nicaragua - from June 12 to June 15. This represents a big step forward in expanding cooperation with Latin American countries, which have had long-standing cordial ties with Iran for around 120 years.

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Iran's SEPAM to replace SWIFT in trade transactions: ACU chief

The secretary general of the Asian Clearing Union (ACU) said Iran's financial messaging system, SEPAM, will replace international payment system, SWIFT, in trade exchanges between the union's members. Farhad Morsali said that Iran's SEPAM has been accepted by ACU members as an internal financial messaging system, according to a report by Fars news agency. He said it will take six months to prepare the union's own messaging system and, in the meantime, members should replace SWIFT with SEPAM, for which Iran will charge a fee. Iran unveiled SEPAM in October 2013 as an alternative to SWIFT, a Bel-

gium-based financial messaging system that is being gradually abandoned by countries because of its sheer reliance on transactions that are based on the U.S. dollar. Last month, central bank chiefs of ACU member states decided at a summit in Tehran to create an internal financial messaging system to replace SWIFT in banking transactions. The decision was in line with efforts made by ACU members to reduce the domination of the U.S. dollar in global trade. Mohsen Karimi, deputy governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) for international affairs, said in February that all Russian banks and 106 banks in 13 other countries have been connected to SEPAM.

Riyadh seeks cooperation with Beijing, 'ignores' Western worries

Saudi Arabia wants to collaborate, not compete, with China, the kingdom's energy minister declared on Sunday, saying he "ignored" Western suspicions over their growing ties. As the world's top oil exporter, Saudi Arabia's bilateral relationship with the world's biggest energy consumer is anchored by hydrocarbon ties. But cooperation between Riyadh and Beijing has also deepened in security and sensitive tech amid a warming of political ties

- to the concern of the US, Reuters reported. Asked about criticism of the bilateral relationship during an Arab-China business conference, Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman said: "I actually ignore it because ... as a business person ... now you will go where opportunity comes your way." "We don't have to be facing any choice which has to do with (saying) either with us or with the others."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran's interests are the deciding factor in negotiations:
MP



International Desk

Should the interests of Iran be safeguarded, the nuclear negotiations would bear fruit, stressed the deputy chairman of the Iranian Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Commission.

Abbas Moqtadaei said that Tehran will not take any meaningful step until it can be sure that the interests of Iranians are guaranteed, adding that Iran will expand its ties to other countries in the meantime regardless.

He noted that Iran and the United States have always conveyed messages to each other, adding that some speculations and rumors are not grounded in reality and should not be indulged until the announcements are made.

"Iran will not budge under pressure or bullying tactics of the American side if it insists on violating its commitments and not adhering to what it accepted under the 2015 nuclear deal," Eslami emphasized.

The Iranian lawmaker pointed out that Washington has concluded that sanctions against Iran have lost their leverage and it can put no more pressure on the Islamic Republic.

Mayor of Tehran in Brussels for global confab



ISNA - Tehran's Mayor Alireza Zakani departed for Brussels, Belgium, on Sunday to participate in the Metropolis World Congress as head of a municipal delegation.

The Metropolis World Congress is an international non-governmental organization that operates with non-profit goals, without political affiliations. Management and major issues of large cities and metropolitan areas are the focus of the event.

Tehran Municipality joined the Metropolis World Congress in 1992, and the cities of Tehran, Mashhad, and Tabriz are members of this association.

Iran's nuclear achievements gained under threats, sanctions: **Official**



TASNIM

The head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) highlighted Iran's remarkable progress in the nuclear industry, saying the achievements in the high-tech field have been gained under the threats and sanctions by the enemies. Mohammad Eslami made the statement before the launch of an exhibition showcasing Iran's latest achievements in the nuclear industry in Tehran on Sunday,

Press TV wrote.

"Achieving complex nuclear technologies in such difficult conditions has not been easy whatsoever, but our country's young scientists achieved them without using foreign capacities," the official noted. Pointing to the AEOI's goal of manifesting the effects of nuclear energy in society and people's lives, Eslami said, "Iran's achievements in the fields of health, medicine, food

security and agriculture, industry, water and soil, and environment have been introduced in the exhibition."

Iran showed to the world the peaceful nature of its nuclear program by signing the 2015 nuclear agreement with six world states, but Washington's unilateral withdrawal in May 2018 and its subsequent re-imposition of sanctions against Tehran left the future of the deal in limbo.

A new chapter ...

Given such a history of relations with the region, Iran was among the first countries to recognize the independence of Latin American states following their anti-colonial struggles in the past century.

Iranians have long been fascinated by the cultural, artistic, and political offerings of Latin America. Their interest is fueled in large part by the political developments that emerged during the Cold War era.

Many Iranians are enamored with the literary works of brilliant authors from Latin America, including the renowned Brazilian novelist Paulo Coelho, the celebrated Colombian writer Gabriel Garcia Marquez, the esteemed contemporary Peruvian novelist Mario Vargas Llosa, and revered poets like Octavio Paz, a Mexican writer, poet and diplomat, and Chilean poet Pablo Neruda.

In addition to literature, Iranian audiences have been captivated by cinematic works from Latin American directors that delve into the social and political issues unique to the region. Through film festivals and screenings, Iranians have gained insight into the living environments, cultures, customs, as well as the economic and political challenges faced by these countries.

The leadership displayed by the nations of Latin America in their fight against colonialism has had a far-reaching impact on resistance literature and world politics as a whole. Legends of freedom-seeking such as Simon Bolivar, along with his companions Antonio Jose de Sucre (of Bolivia), Jose de San Martin (of Argentina), and Bernardo O'Higgins (of Chile), were pivotal figures in the struggle to end colonial rule in this region.

Despite Bolivar's dream of establishing a United States of South America falling short, imperialist plots from the North caused division and ultimately led to the creation of 12 independent countries in South America. However, the freedom-seeking spirit embodied by Bolivarianism continued to inspire social and political movements across the region in their ongoing fight against Western domination and neoliberal policies - a struggle which persisted throughout the Cold War and beyond.

Great freedom-seekers such as Salvador Allende in Chile, Fidel Castro and Ernesto Che Guevara in Cuba, and Daniel Ortega in Nicaragua, along with countless others whose names may have been lost to history, fought and laid down their lives for freedom and justice. Following the end of the

Cold War, there was a renewed sense of optimism that Latin America would finally escape the clutches of neo-colonialism. However, it soon became apparent that multinational corporations and economic imperialism continued to exploit the region's resources and wealth.

The emergence of a new generation of Bolivarian fighters, led by the late Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez and accompanied by Evo Morales of Bolivia, Rafael Correa of Ecuador, and Brazil's great leader Lula da Silva, was a sign of the awareness of people who demanded Latin America's powerful, effective, and influential presence on the regional and global stages.

Despite facing intense opposition from Western powers who seek to undermine its anti-imperialist posture, the leftist movement of the 21st century continues to expand and deepen throughout the region. Even as Venezuela, Cuba, and Nicaragua suffer under illegal and unilateral US sanctions, other nations in the region are also subject to punitive measures for their independent behavior. Nonetheless, the fact remains that resistance is gaining momentum across this part of the world.

For the government and people of the Islamic Republic of Iran, historical ties, deep cultural and civilizational bonds, shared

lofty ideals, and mutual economic and commercial interests serve as the primary motivations for strengthening and expanding relations with countries in the Latin American region.

Huge economic potential across various sectors, including agriculture, energy, industry, mining, new technologies, technical and engineering services, medicine, etc. are among the key parts of the development of relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Latin American countries. Under the government of President Raeisi, there has been a manifold increase in Iran's trade with these countries.

Economic experts believe that given the enormous economic potential of the region, there is ample room for further expansion of trade between Iran and its Latin American partners. With an economic logic and focus on mutual interests, long-term goals can be set.

Unilateral US sanctions against a number of countries, including Venezuela, Cuba, and Nicaragua, have served to bring these nations closer together. The Group of Friends in Defense of the UN Charter, whose most recent meeting took place in Tehran last year, has paved the way for greater cooperation aimed at mitigating the harmful effects of these sanctions. In recent

years, collaboration between Iran and Venezuela has resulted in a more mutually beneficial equation, with the parties paying close attention to their shared interests across various levels.

Meanwhile, relations between Iran and Cuba, which initially centered on joint cooperation in health and biotechnology sectors, are poised to expand into a broader scope. Against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic and major powers' monopolization of vaccine production, the joint efforts of these two countries in developing a coronavirus vaccine have opened a new window for collaboration and service to humanity. Both nations offered this accomplishment as a gift to humanity at large.

Iran and Nicaragua, two nations linked by their cognate revolutions in 1979, are embarking on a promising journey of collaboration. Cooperation in various sectors including energy, export of goods and technical and engineering services is on the agenda to further develop economic and trade ties.

The emergence of notable shifts in the global order and the growing influence of peripheral powers in shaping a new international system necessitate collaborative efforts, particularly among regional powers. The elevation of the Islamic Republic of Iran's position in West Asia as a consequential regional power has bol-

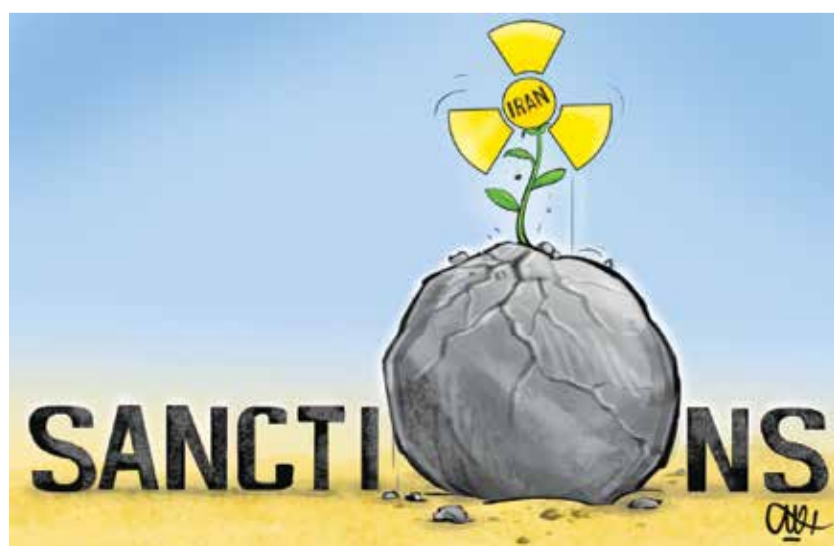
stered its prominence in both regional and global political arenas. Simultaneously, the substantial advancement of several significant countries in the Latin American region, along with the rise of others striving to enhance their regional and global standing, establishes a favorable foundation for strengthening multilateral cooperation between Iran and Latin America.

Symbols of emerging economic countries' determination to foster change and establish order in the evolving world, such as BRICS or other economic alliances, play a crucial role. The inclusion of Brazil and the expressed interest of other Latin American nations in joining this group, along with Iran's aspiration to be a part of it, could serve as a starting point for such cooperative endeavors.

The upcoming visit of President Raeisi of Iran to Venezuela, Cuba, and Nicaragua is a significant development aimed at solidifying and fortifying mutually advantageous cooperation for the collective interests of the governments and peoples of Iran and the Latin American region. This trip opens a new chapter in the longstanding relations between Iran and Latin America, reinforcing mutually beneficial collaboration across various sectors, including energy, science, technology, health, medicine, agriculture, and the export of goods and technical engineering services.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



IRGC successfully tests multirotor bomber drone

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Ground Force conducted a successful test flight of its multirotor bomber drone in a project known as "Arbaeen". The multicopter was designed, developed, and produced by experts from the Self-Sufficiency Jihad Organization of the IRGC, according to Tasnim news agency. This lightweight rotorcraft has the capability of carrying a seven-kilogram bomb and drop it on a target from an altitude of 500 meters. Moreover, the new IRGC drone can simultaneously carry and launch 10 small missiles, targeting various objectives. This vertical takeoff and landing aircraft is an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV),



equipped with more than two engines for vertical ascent.

Such aircraft are suitable options for special operations units due to their ease of use and their ability to operate in any terrain.

Terrorist groups operating in the country's northwestern and southeastern borders often exploit hard-to-reach areas for their activities. Therefore, the deployment of such equipment, which is capable of executing missions in various geographical conditions and is cost-effective compared to other methods, is a suitable choice for the IRGC Ground Force.

Thousands demonstrate against extremist Israeli cabinet



● JACK GUEZ/AFP

Tens of thousands of protesters have rallied in cities and towns across Israel for the 23rd week, protesting controversial plans by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's extremist cabinet to overhaul the judiciary as well as deadly violence

hitting Palestinian communities. The mass demonstrations, which drew some 100,000 people on Saturday, began in January shortly after Netanyahu's far-right cabinet was sworn in, *aljazeera.com* reported.

Gaining momentum and seeing large turnouts of more than 200,000 demonstrators at times, protest organisers have said they will not give up until the cabinet cancels the proposed legal changes rather than delaying them.

In central Tel Aviv, protester Michal Gat told AFP: "We're being held hostage".

Palestinian crime deaths

Some people at the protest also held signs criticising cabinet inaction over a soaring crime wave that has affected Palestinian citizens of Israel.

Since the start of the year, some 102 Palestinian-Israelis have been killed in crime-related violence, according to Israeli media. On Thursday, five Palestinian-Israelis were shot dead at a car wash in Yafia, a town near the city of Nazareth, police said.

The protesters turned out in the coastal city of Tel Aviv on Saturday and also in other cities, including Haifa and Rehovot, respectively in the northern and central parts of the occupied territories, Press TV reported.

Israel's extremist and far-right cabinet, which is made up of Netanyahu's Likud party and its ultra-Orthodox allies, says the changes are necessary to reverse what it describes as decades-long overreach by the judiciary. Several Israeli officials have

warned that the entity is facing a "real danger" as back-to-back protests have hit cities amid bitter rifts over the extremist direction of the regime. They include Israeli president, Isaac Herzog, who has warned of "collapse" and "implosion." "We have been here... with our kids, in the rain or hot weather" for 23 weeks, a protester told AFP.

"...We need to stand and safeguard our rights and make sure that doesn't happen at all again and they don't pick up their heads and pass legislations that will change things for good," another was quoted by Reuters as saying.

Protesters also carried a poster with half the face of Netanyahu and half the face of deceased Colombian drug kingpin Pablo Escobar, reading, 'Bibi Escobar'.

Faced with overwhelming public pressure, Netanyahu announced a "pause" in his bid to enact the plan back in late March.

Last month, however, he vowed to "continue our efforts to reach understandings as broad as possible" on the judicial overhaul plan.

NEWS IN BRIEF

EU offers aid to Tunisia to reduce migrant flows



AFP - The European Union on Sunday offered major financial support to crisis-hit Tunisia, to boost its economy and reduce the flow of irregular migrants across the Mediterranean Sea.

The North African country, highly indebted and in talks for an IMF bailout loan, is a gateway for migrants and asylum-seekers attempting the dangerous voyages to Europe.

The EU is ready to offer Tunisia a 900-million-euro package plus 150m euros in immediate support, European Commission head Ursula von der Leyen said on a joint visit with the Italian and Dutch prime ministers.

Montenegro holds parliamentary vote



REUTERS - Polls opened in Montenegro on Sunday for a snap election many hope will bring in a new government to implement economic reforms, improve infrastructure and take the NATO member state closer to European Union membership.

The vote is the first in the former Yugoslav republic since Milo Djukanovic, former leader of the Democratic Party of Socialists (DPS), lost the presidential election in April and stepped down after 30 years in power.

Fighting rages in Sudan's capital after 24-hour truce expires

Heavy clashes and artillery fire erupted across Sudan's capital Khartoum on Sunday and residents reported air strikes soon after the end of a 24-hour ceasefire that had brought a brief lull to eight weeks of fighting between rival military factions.

Witnesses said the fighting between the army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) was some of the heaviest for weeks, and included ground battles in the densely populated neighborhood of Haj Youssef in Bahri, one of three adjoining cities, along with Khartoum and Omdurman, that make up the capital around the confluence of the River Nile, Reuters reported.

Just after the ceasefire expired at 6 a.m. (0400 GMT) witnesses said clashes and artillery fire resumed in the north of Omdurman. They also reported clashes in southern and central Khartoum, and in Shambat along the Nile in Bahri up to the strategic Halfiya bridge, which crosses to Omdurman.

War between Sudan's army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) broke out on April 15 over tensions linked to an internationally backed plan for a transition towards civilian rule.

The conflict has displaced more than 1.9 million people, triggering a major humanitarian crisis that threatens to spill across a volatile region. Fighting has been concentrated in the capital, much of which has become a war zone plagued by looting and clashes. But unrest has also flared elsewhere including the western region of Darfur, already suffering from a conflict that peaked in the early 2000s.

Residents and activists have reported a further deterioration in recent days in El Geneina, near the border with Chad, and new waves of attacks by Arab nomadic tribes with ties to the RSF. Among those killed were a number of human rights activists, lawyers and doctors, according to the Darfur Bar Association, which monitors the conflict in the region. Another affected city is El Obeid, capital of North Kordofan State southwest of Khartoum and on a major route to Darfur. Residents say it is effectively under a state of siege due to the conflict, with supplies of food and medicine cut off. Some 400,000 of those who have fled their homes have crossed into neighbouring countries, about half of them heading north to Egypt. The 24-hour ceasefire that began on Saturday morning was negotiated at talks led by Saudi Arabia and the United States in Jeddah. A previous, 12-day ceasefire agreed by the two sides in Jeddah had been repeatedly violated.

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Riyadh seeks cooperation ...



Saudi Arabia's Minister of Energy Prince Abdulaziz Salman Al-Saud speaks as event moderator Dan Murphy listens during 10th Arab-China business conference in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on June 11, 2023. ● AHMED YOSRI/REUTERS

Chinese entrepreneurs and investors have flocked to Riyadh for the conference, which came days after a visit by US Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

In March, state oil giant Saudi Aramco announced two major deals to raise its multi-billion dollar investment in China and bolster its rank as China's top provider of crude.

They were the biggest announced since Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to Saudi Arabia in December where he called for oil trade in yuan, a move that would weaken the dollar's dominance. "Oil demand in China is still growing so of course we have to capture some of that demand," Prince Abdulaziz said.

"Instead of competing with China, collaborate

with China."

The two nations' momentum has also raised prospects for a successful conclusion to negotiations for a free trade deal between China and the Saudi Arabia-dominated Persian Gulf Cooperation Council, ongoing since 2004.

Saudi Investment Minister Khalid Al Falih said any agreement would have to protect emerging Persian Gulf industries as the region starts to diversify towards non-oil economic sectors.

"We need to enable and empower our industries to export, so we hope all countries that negotiate with us for free trade deals know we need to protect our new, emerging industries," Falih said, adding he hoped a deal would soon be struck. Saudi Arabia's Foreign

Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan also lauded on Sunday the Arab world's trade and economic partnership with China, while underscoring the importance of this relation and the mutual desire to boost it.

"China is the Arab world's largest trade partner where the total volume of trade exchange between both sides reached \$430b in 2022," Prince Faisal said. "The Kingdom accounts for 25% of the total trade exchange between China and Arab countries," the minister told attendees at the 10th Arab-China Business Conference. Prince Faisal added that the volume of trade exchange between Saudi Arabia and China reached \$106b in 2022, with 30% increase compared to 2021.



A man walks while smoke rises above buildings after aerial bombardment, during clashes between the paramilitary RSF and the army in Khartoum North, Sudan, on May 1, 2023. ● MOHAMED NURELDIN ABDALLAH/REUTERS

Kurdestan Province, an attractive destination for travelers

Iranica Desk

Kurdestan Province is among Iran's tourist hubs in view of its abundant historical and natural

attractions. The unique topography of Kurdestan and its beautiful nature and climatic varieties have turned it into an attractive destination for travelers. In addition,

Kurdish handicrafts such as carpets and rugs have gained world-wide fame due to their designs, colors and natural textiles.

Kurdestan also boasts some of the most beautiful costumes in the world. Kurdish costumes are absolutely unique in terms of beauty, delicacy and color.



Sanandaj Bazaar
● itto.org

Sanandaj Bazaar

Sanandaj is the capital of Kurdestan Province. Sanandaj Bazaar is a 17th century market with a rectangular plan built by Soleiman Khan Ardalan. The roofed bazaar was built in the Safavid era, when Sanandaj was the capital of Ardalan rulers. It is considered the main traditional bazaar in the province. The bazaar was separated into two sections in the Pahlavi era (1925-1979 CE). The northern part is known as Sanandaj Bazaar, and the southern part is known as Asef Bazaar. Many modern shopping centers have been constructed in Sanandaj. Nonetheless, the old bazaar is still standing and playing its main role in the business of the city. Traditional crafts such as forging and goldsmithing are still practiced in the bazaar.



Grand Mosque
● tebyan.net

Grand Mosque

The Grand Mosque of Sanandaj, or Dar al-Ehsan, is located in the heart of the city. It was built in 1813 in the Qajar era (1789 to 1925 CE). The mosque represents the glory of Islamic architecture in the Qajar era. It was established by the governor of the time and became one of the historical monuments due to its specific features. The mosque is near the Anthropology Museum of Sanandaj. The Safavid era museum is located in a historic building called Asef Vaziri Mansion, which is also known as the House of Kurds. The building of Anthropology Museum of Sanandaj has been registered on Iran's National Heritage List.



Karaftoo Cave
● itto.org

Karaftoo Complex

The Karaftoo Natural-Historical complex is located about 70 kilometers to the northwest of the city of Divandarreh. It is in the form of a giant rock of limestone in a 45° incline, having a length of 1,500 meters, and a width of 700 meters. This complex is situated in a preserved region called Abdurrazagh, which is considered one of the most valuable and richest environmental regions in western Iran, and home to over 120 animal species and various local plants. Karaftoo cave consists of two sections: the natural part and the carved part (troglodytic* architecture). The troglodytic part includes four floors, each of which has nested rooms, corridors and stairs, carved in stone, to connect the floors. Therefore, technically and geometrically, it has an engineering structure like the structure of buildings made by construction materials, which made it renowned amongst caves with troglodytic architecture throughout the world. The most outstanding section of this troglodytic architecture is the third floor of the cave, where rooms have been carved precisely, and ceilings are designed according to Roman architecture.



Vakil Mansion
● IRNA

Vakil Mansion

Vakil Mansion is the ancestral home of a family of the same name. The main part of this mansion was built during the Zand era (1750-1794 CE), while additions were made during the Qajar era. It has three courtyards, a private bath, and a public bath. The building is famous for its brickwork and stained-glass decorations.



Hajar Khatoon Shrine
● wikipedia.org

Hajar Khatoon Shrine

Hajar Khatoon was the sister of Imam Reza, the eighth Shia Imam. She fell ill while traveling from Kurdestan to Khorasan, and passed away. The shrine was built to commemorate her, and later it turned into a pilgrimage site. The shrine is located in Sartapoleh neighborhood, where there are many historical buildings.



Sanandaj Museum
● visitiran.ir

Sanandaj Museum

Sanandaj Museum, also known as Salar Saeed Mansion, was built during the reign of Nasser al-Din Shah Qajar (1848-1896 CE). It displays historical items that have been discovered in Kurdestan Province and other regions in Iran. The museum has two sectors; the first sector is related to history and archaeology, and the second sector pertains to ethnographical materials.



Abidar Complex
● snaptrip.com

Abidar Complex

The Abidar Recreational Complex, also known as Abidar Mountainous Park, is the most famous and popular resort of Sanandaj. It is situated among the mountains of Abidar, with an elevation of 2,500 meters, covered with vegetation. Abidar Park consists of two mountains called Big Abidar and Small Abidar. The peak of Big Abidar is 2,550 meters, and Small Abidar is about 2,350 meters above sea level. In fact, the word 'Abidar' means overflowing with abundant water.



Kilim of Kurdestan
● inhb.ir

Handicrafts

Kurdestan offers a variety of handicrafts which have gained global fame. Carpet and kilim (a kind of rug which has a smooth and lint-free surface made of warp and weft) weaving are among the unique handicrafts of Kurdestan. Artisans in Kurdestan also produce a wide range of beautiful and colorful clothes. Sewing Kurdish clothing is one of the richest arts of the province, requiring great knowledge and expertise. Local jewelry also has a long history. Craftspeople in Sanandaj have been producing various types of jewelry from copper, bronze, and nickel silver scraps for a long time, which generally have a local design and shape.



Strawberry trees in Kurdestan Province
● IRNA

Strawberry production

Handicrafts and tourist sites play a major role in Kurdestan's economy. In addition, fruit production has helped the province generate more revenues. Kurdestan is a hub of strawberry production in Iran. The period of harvesting strawberry in Kurdestan normally begins in late May, continuing until June 21, which draws many travelers to the province. The strawberry season provides an opportunity for tourists to hand-pick the crop and enjoy nature. Strawberry cultivation in Kurdestan has a history of over 150 years due to its appropriate weather and the rate of annual precipitation.

*Troglodyte: a person who lives in a cave, especially a person who lived in a cave in prehistoric times (the period before there were written records)

Volleyball Nations League:

Slovenia setback sums up disappointing Week 1 for Iran



Slovenian captain Urnaut Tine (17) hits a spike during a 3-0 victory over Iran in Week 1 of the Volleyball Nations League in Nagoya, Japan, on June 11, 2023.

volleyballworld.com

Sports Desk

Iran fell to a straight-set defeat (25-19, 25-23, 25-23) against Slovenia on the final day of Week 1 of the Volleyball Nations League in Nagoya, Japan. Outside hitter Mozic Rok chipped in a game-high 25 points for the European side, with skipper Urnaut Tine adding 13 in a match that saw Slovenia register a remarkable 10 aces. Opposite spiker Ali Hajipour topped the scoring for Iran with 15 points, followed by Morteza Sharifi, who had sev-

en points, while Amirhossein Esfandiari and Amin Esmailnejad finished on a below-par six and five points respectively. Sunday's defeat was a third in four outings for Behrouz Ataei's men, who opened their campaign with a 3-0 loss to Japan and then surrendered a two-set lead to suffer a second setback against European heavyweight Poland, before coming from behind to beat China in four sets on Saturday. "We had a shaky start but managed to get back in the game, though we were still poor in reception in the first two sets. We

failed to capitalize on our lead in certain spells of the match," said Iranian head coach Ataei, whose men will have to deliver a much improved performance in the remainder of the preliminary round if they are to book a place in the VNL Finals for a second successive year. "Slovenia is among the decent teams at this year's event. They made fewer mistakes today and deserved the victory," added Ataei. Slovenia stunned Serbia and Tokyo Olympic gold medalist France in four sets either side

of a straight-set defeat against Bulgaria. Iran will resume action in Rotterdam for Week 2 of the competition with a game against Germany on June 20, before taking on Italy, USA, and the Netherlands. The Asian powerhouse will visit Anaheim, California, in the United States to play France, Bulgaria, Argentina, and Cuba in the final round of the preliminary-round fixtures. Top seven of the 16-team table will join host Poland in the Finals, starting July 19 in Gdansk.

Esteghlal begins quest for new manager

Sports Desk

Domestic and foreign faces have been lined up as Persian Gulf Pro League club Esteghlal is searching for a new head coach ahead of the next Iranian club football season. Portuguese manager Ricardo Sa Pinto, who led the Blues to a third-spot finish in the Iranian top flight in May, parted ways with the Tehran-based giant following a 2-1 defeat against archrival Persepolis in the Hazfi Cup final less than a fortnight ago to join Cypriot club APOEL Nicosia, bringing an end to his one-year stint in the country. The passionate Portuguese's departure means Esteghlal will

have to name a ninth manager – including interims coaches – in seven years, and the club will be facing a race against time in the preseason as the rest of the league sides have already been involved in the summer transfer market. Esteghlal announced on Saturday that "four Iranians and a number of foreign coaches are under the club's radar and the technical committee will continue assessment of their CVs and plans

before coming up with the best choice for the start of next season." The club refused to name the domestic candidates but Iranian sports website Varzesh3 later reported that former Iranian international midfielder Javad Nekounam, who has been without a team since leaving Foolad Khuzestan in February, Alireza Mansourian, who replaced Nekounam in Foolad and was in charge of Esteghlal bench for 15 months before being sacked in 2017, as well as Havadar manager Saket Elhami and Mes Rafsanjan manager Mohammad Rabiei are being considered for the job. In a later statement on Saturday, Esteghlal said Spanish coach Juan Ramón López Caro is due to arrive in Tehran in the coming days to begin negotiations with the club.

An ex-player in La Liga club Real Betis, the 60-year-old Spaniard was the manager of several Spanish clubs in the 2000s, including Mallorca, Levante, and Celta Vigo. López Caro was in charge of Real Madrid's reserve team for four years before taking over as the caretaker manager of the first team in December 2005 following Brazilian Vanderlei Luxemburgo's dismissal. He also led his national team at the European Under-21 Championship in 2009, where their campaign finished in the group stage. The Spaniard succeeded Frank Rijkaard as the manager of Saudi Arabia in January 2013 but was shown the exit door less than two years later and took the Oman role in January 2016 before leaving the job by the end of his one-year contract. He won promotion to the Chinese top flight with Shenzhen FC after taking the helm in April 2018 but was sacked 15 months later, with his team second from bottom in the table following a 12-game run without a victory, being succeeded by Italian Roberto Donadoni.

Spanish coach Juan Ramón López Caro is to visit Tehran this week to begin negotiations with Persian Gulf Pro League club Esteghlal over the managerial role.

GETTY IMAGES



Manchester City players celebrate as skipper Ilkay Gundogan lifts the UEFA Champions League trophy after the 1-0 victory over Inter at Ataturk Olimpiyat Stadium, Istanbul, Turkey, on June 10, 2023.

GETTY IMAGES

Mission completed: Man City ends wait for first CL title

AP – Billions of dollars have been spent and many tears shed on Manchester City's journey to the summit of European soccer. The mission was completed in Istanbul's Ataturk Olimpiyat Stadium on Saturday as the Abu Dhabi-backed club won the Champions League title for the first time and perhaps heralded the start of a new era of dominance in the competition.

"It was written in the stars. It belongs to us," said Pep Guardiola after the 1-0 win against Inter Milan, as tears flowed again from the manager, his players and a sea of blue-shirted fans. On this occasion, the emotion was pure ecstasy after so many disappointments on this stage.

The victory, courtesy of Rodri's 68th minute goal, has been 15 years in the making since Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan transformed City into one of the richest teams in the world overnight. This was the final frontier for Guardiola's team, which also completed a rare treble of trophies after winning the Premier League title and FA Cup this season.

The Champions League had always been a step that seemed out of reach even for a team that has spent more than \$1.5 billion on the world's best players and hired probably the greatest coach of his generation in Guardiola.

With that psychological barrier broken and the spending power to further improve a team that has already proved too good for the rest, the potential is there to win European club soccer's biggest prize on multiple occasions. Guardiola joked about being "just 13 Champions Leagues away" from Real Madrid.

"If you sleep a little bit we will catch you," he said. "But I don't want after one Champions League to disappear, so work harder next season and be in there. There are teams that win the Champions League and after one or two seasons disappear. This is what you have to avoid. Knowing me this is not going to happen. But at the same time I have to admit it, it is a big relief for the club, for the institution, for everyone to have this trophy. Because now, finally, they don't have to ask me if we are going to win the Champions League or not."

This trophy will also strengthen the case to declare Guardiola the greatest coach ever as he collected his third Champions League title and 30th major piece of silverware.

It was his second treble of trophies, having emulated the feat he achieved with Barcelona in 2009. City became just the second English club to complete a sweep of the three biggest trophies after Manchester United did it in 1999.

There were questions about whether Guardiola could ever win the Champions League again without the aid of Lionel Messi, who was the inspiration of his Barcelona team that was twice crowned champions of Europe.

Those questions have now been answered, yet for all the talk of City's superiority leading up to the game, it was won by the finest of margins through Rodri's strike.

Even after that goal, Inter had great chances to force extra time. The best one fell to substitute Romelu Lukaku in the 89th minute, but he headed straight at Ederson from about four meters out.

Federico Dimarco hit the bar from close range almost immediately after Rodri's goal and then turned the rebound against the legs of Lukaku. "We didn't deserve to lose," said Inter coach Simone Inzaghi. "We played against a top team, but even Inter played a great final."

"Manchester City has deserved the Champions League considering what it has done in the past years. But tonight it played against a great Inter which cornered them." City found a way through on a night when it was far from its best and showed few examples of the flowing play that saw it blow away Bayern Munich and Real Madrid on the way to the final.

Sheikh Mansour was in attendance to see the crowning moment, watching his team in person for only the second time since buying the club in 2008.

"One of the main reasons why this club became what we are is because people from Abu Dhabi, Sheikh Mansour, take over the club," Guardiola said. "Without that we would not be here. They are the most important people... They support me unconditionally in the defeats in this competition. At many clubs when that happens you are sacked."

NEWS IN BRIEF

'OPEC+ working against uncertainties, sentiment'



REUTERS - Saudi Arabia's Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman said on Sunday that the latest OPEC+ agreement involved comprehensive reform, but that the alliance was also working against "uncertainties and sentiment" within the market. "That is why we had this agreement," Prince Abdulaziz said at the Arab-China business conference in the Saudi capital Riyadh, when asked what was necessary to achieve market stability.

Swiss National Bank Chairman hints at rate rises



CNBC - The Swiss National Bank could raise interest rates to tackle inflation which remains above target, Chairman Thomas Jordan said. Jordan defended the central bank's commitment to price stability, which he defined as inflation below 2% but in positive territory, in the article in Swiss newspaper Corriere del Ticino.

Germany refuses Intel's demand for subsidies for chip plant

FT - Germany's Finance Minister Christian Lindner refused Intel's demands for higher subsidies for a 17-billion-euro (\$18-billion) chip plant, saying the country could not afford it. "There is no more money available in the budget," the newspaper quoted Lindner as saying in an interview. "We are trying to consolidate the budget right now, not expand it." The company was due to receive 6.8 billion euros in government support for its fabrication plant in Germany. However, due to higher energy and construction costs, it is now demanding about 10 billion euros, the newspaper reported.

Iran to build new nuclear plants: AEOI chief

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami has said that the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant has been constructed with the cooperation of Russia, adding that new plants will be built in the future. Eslami noted that AEOI is aiming to show the position and impacts of the nuclear energy in people's lives, IRNA reported. He added that achievements in health, medicine, food security and agriculture, industry, water and soil, and the environment have been showcased in the

exhibition on Iran's nuclear achievements in Tehran. The official stressed that the achievements have been made in the time of sanctions. Achieving complicated nuclear technologies in these difficult conditions has not been easy at all, he said, and that young Iranian scientists have made us independent of foreigners' help. The exhibition was held at the Imam Khomeini Husainia on Sunday morning to showcase the achievements of Iranian scientists in the field of nuclear technology.



IRNA

Ambassador: Opportunity created for Iran-Russia petrochemical cooperation



SHANA

Iran's ambassador to Russia on Sunday said a favorable opportunity has been created for Tehran-Moscow cooperation in the petrochemical sector. Talking to Shana, Kazem Jalali pointed to the increase in the Iran-Russia trade volume in the past year, and said, "Iran's exports to Russia have been diversified as export-bound products were earlier limited to ag-

ricultural commodities and horticultural crops, while their cooperation and trade transactions have now expanded, particularly in the petrochemical and technological sectors." Tehran and Moscow are also cooperating in the pharmaceutical and medical equipment fields, he said. The ambassador referred to Iran's participation in the 13th International Ex-

hibition of Machinery and Materials for Plastics Industry, also known as Rosplast 2023, held in Moscow June 6-8, describing the country's strong presence in the expo as a display of Iran's petrochemical progress in Russia. He said the Russian exhibition was a good opportunity for Iran to develop its markets, set up joint ventures with the participating

countries, and put its petrochemical achievements on display. Iran's petrochemical industry has made great progress after the Islamic Revolution, said Jalali, adding the sector's annual production capacity now stands at 90 million tons. The country's petrochemical products are now known across the globe, he concluded.

Iranian firms ready to help rebuild Turkey's quake-hit cities: Official

An official with the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran (TPOI) said that

Iranian companies are ready to reconstruct cities in Turkey destroyed

by the recent devastating quakes, which claimed the lives of many people. Addressing an Iran-Turkey Business Forum held in Tehran on Sunday, Director General of the Arabic and African Bureau of the TPOI Farzad Piltan said that bolstering amicable ties with the neighboring and regional countries is the main approach of the Iranian administration, Tasnim news agency reported. Accordingly, senior Iranian officials have placed special emphasis on de-

veloping trade-economic cooperation with neighboring Turkey, he added. The two countries have high potentials to promote bilateral ties in trade and economic fields, he said, adding, "Given that Turkey has a similar culture, economy and history with Iran, these potentials can be used optimally for the development of trade and economic relations." Elsewhere in his remarks, Piltan pointed to the restrictions and barriers facing the two

countries in bilateral trade and emphasized that the barriers should be removed gradually in the field of preferential trade, and the launch of Iran's Trade Center in Turkey would be helpful in this regard. The Iran-Turkey Joint Chamber of Commerce is one of the most successful private sector entities, he said, and noted that the government has thrown its weight behind the private sector for further promotion of trade with Turkey.



REUTERS

Tehran-Samarkand flights to be launched

Economy Desk

The Tehran-Samarkand-Tehran flights are set to launch on June 21, which will be operated using Airbus A320 aircraft once a week, on Wednesdays. Iranian airline Qeshm Air, specializing in both domestic and international passenger transportation, will operate the new route between Tehran and the historical Uzbek city of Samarkand. Many Iranian companies are active in Uzbekistan,

and concrete measures must be taken in various fields including iron production, agriculture, industries and mines, as well as investments to implement agreements between the two countries, said Bakhodir Abdullaev, the ambassador of Uzbekistan to Iran, in a meeting with Gholamreza Nouri-Qezeljeh, the Iranian chairman of the Iran-Uzbekistan Parliamentary Friendship Group in April. Considering the great importance of transit



and transportation in bilateral relations, drafting a comprehensive trans-

port cooperation plan between Iran and Uzbekistan is very import-

ant and necessary, said Nouri-Qezeljeh, in the meeting.

On the occasion of World Day against Child Labor:

Innocent victims of forced labor need rescue

Social Desk

EXCLUSIVE

Soudeh Najafi, the head of the Health Committee of the Tehran Islamic Council, expressed growing concern over the increasing number of working children in Iran, particularly in the capital city of Tehran, during the council's 153rd session on Sunday.

Najafi highlighted the plight of street and working children, who are often subjected to various forms of abuse and suffer from physical and mental health issues. She also noted that their presence on the streets poses challenges for local citizens. The Health Committee head called for a coordinated effort among various institutions including some of the ministries such as Ministry of Education to address the issue of child labor.

Najafi emphasized the lack of a specific, official institution dedicated to organizing child labor, and despite the presence of guardians, the number

of child laborers in Iran, particularly in Tehran, continues to rise.

The Tehran Islamic Council member questioned the allowance of foreign nationals to enter the country as child laborers and urged decisive action against the entry of foreign child laborers and child labor gangs operating in Tehran.

Now, as the world observes the annual World Day against Child Labor, experts and organizations unite to discuss solutions and strategies to combat the growing problem.

On World Day against Child Labor, observed annually on June 12, the international community comes together to raise awareness about the plight of millions of children engaged in labor across the globe. This year, the focus is on finding effective strategies to curb the problem and protect the rights of children.

Child labor remains a pressing issue worldwide, with an estimated 152 million children between the ages of 5 and

17 engaged in work that deprives them of their childhood, education, and future opportunities. The International Labor Organization has been at the forefront of the fight against child labor, working closely with governments, non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders to develop and implement policies and programs aimed at eradicating the problem. Despite progress in recent years, the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the issue, with many children forced into labor due to economic hardships faced by their families. The pandemic has also disrupted education systems, leaving millions of children out of school and at risk of entering the workforce.

To address the growing problem of child labor, experts and organizations propose a multi-faceted approach that includes: Strengthening legal frameworks: Governments must enforce and strengthen laws that prohibit child labor and protect the rights of children.

This includes ratifying and implementing international conventions, such as ILO Convention No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labor and Convention No. 138 on the Minimum Age for Admission to Employment. Improving access to education: Ensuring that all children have access to quality education is crucial in preventing child labor. Governments and organizations should invest in education infrastructure, provide financial support to families, and implement policies that encourage school attendance.

Addressing poverty and economic inequality: Tackling the root causes of child labor, such as poverty and economic inequality, is essential. This can be achieved through social protection programs, job creation for adults, and income-generating opportunities for families.

Raising awareness and advocacy: Public awareness campaigns and advocacy efforts can help change societal attitudes



towards child labor and promote the importance of education and children's rights.

Strengthening partnerships: Collaboration between governments, international organizations, civil society, and the private sector is crucial in the fight against child labor.

By working together, stakeholders can pool resources, share knowledge, and develop effective strategies to combat the issue.

As the world marks World Day against Child Labor, it is essential to recognize the progress made in recent years and the

challenges that lie ahead. By implementing comprehensive strategies and fostering collaboration among stakeholders, the international community can work towards a future where all children are free from labor and have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

47 successful kidney transplants recorded in Iran



● FARS

Children's Medical Center Hospital achieves milestone with liver, kidney, and hematopoietic stem cell transplants

In a groundbreaking medical achievement, the Children's Medical Center Hospital in Tehran, Iran successfully performed its first independent liver transplant for children, alongside kidney and hematopoietic stem cell transplants. The landmark procedures took place on Friday, June 2, 2023, marking a significant advancement in pediatric transplant surgery.

The organs for the liver and kidney transplants were generously donated by the family of a 9-year-old girl who tragically suffered brain death due to trauma. The recipients of the transplants, a 14-year-old girl and a 17-year-old boy, are currently in stable condition and under observation in the hospital's general ward, Fars News Agency reported. This particular case represents the 47th success-

ful kidney transplant operation at the Children's Medical Center. The accomplishment was made possible through the collaborative efforts of the hospital's anesthesiology, nephrology, urology, and expert nursing staff.

Dr. Hossein Amirzargar, a renowned urologist and pediatric urology fellow, commented on the complexities of coordinating transplants for patients

with kidney failure. He explained that certain specific conditions must be met for a successful transplant, such as matching the kidney, inflammatory markers, and human leukocyte antigen.

Amirzargar expressed gratitude for the successful kidney transplant surgeries over the past four years, which have solidified the Children's Medical Center's reputation as a leading pe-

diatric kidney transplant center in the country.

Liver, kidney, and hematopoietic stem cell transplants at the Children's Medical Center Hospital not only demonstrate the institution's commitment to advancing pediatric healthcare but also highlight the importance of organ donation in saving lives and improving the quality of life for countless children.



PIC OF THE DAY

The "Little Iran" National Park, located in the Jahanshahr neighborhood of Karaj, meticulously replicates and showcases the ecosystems of 12 significant cultural and tourist destinations across the country. Spanning a seven-hectare area, this park was brought to life by the collaborative efforts of 12 artistic groups. Within its boundaries, visitors can explore recreated settlements of Iranian tribes and various historical and touristic sites native to the nation.

● IRNA/MAHDI POURARAB

Iranian 'The Zoo' awarded at Beijing festival



MEHR - Iran's short film, 'The Zoo,' written and directed by Nafiseh Zare, garnered recognition at the esteemed 12th Beijing International Short Film Festival (BISFF) in China.

The film, produced by Kavah Mazaheri and Sorena Ekbatani, was honored with the prestigious Best Film Award in the Nova Section of the festival.

In 'The Zoo,' viewers are immersed in the story of Ra'na, who embarks on a quest within the confines of the zoo in search of a deer she had dreamt of. Meanwhile, her mother is eagerly attempting to deliver important news, creating an engaging narrative that captivates audiences.

This recent accolade adds to the film's growing list of achievements. In January, 'The Zoo' was celebrated as the joint winner of the best film prize at the Second Diyarbakir International Short Film Festival in Turkey, further cementing its position as a remarkable and internationally acclaimed production.

Munich film festival to host two Iranian films



ISNA - The 40th Munich International Film Festival, slated for June 22-July 1, will host two Iranian feature films.

'Empty Nets' directed by Behrooz Karamizade will be screened at the "New German Cinema" section of the festival. 'Empty Nets' narrates the story of Amir, a young Iranian, who signs on with a fisherman on the rugged Caspian Sea coast in order to earn the money he needs to marry his sweetheart, Narges. But in so doing, he becomes entangled in the criminal machinations of caviar poaching.

Piece by piece, a complex hierarchy is revealed in a parallel realm that becomes ever more constricting and oppressive, endangering Amir's relationship with Narges as well.

Moreover, 'Subtraction' directed by Mani Haghighi will be screened at the "International Independents" section of the event. It narrates the story of Farzaneh who is a young driving instructor in Tehran. She sees her husband, Jalal, go into another woman's apartment. When she confronts him about this, Jalal claims he was away on business. Puzzled by her story, he decides to take a look at the building for himself.

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Iranian calligrapher Alborzi showcasing Kufic script in Dubai



Arts & Culture Desk

Dubai's Urbanist Art Gallery is currently showcasing the exquisite exhibition titled 'Endless Beauty,' featuring 23 mesmerizing works of Kufic script calligraphy by the highly acclaimed artist,

Sanaz Alborzi. This exhibition, which commenced on June 6, will continue to captivate art enthusiasts until June 21. In addition to this remarkable exhibition, Sanaz Alborzi will graciously host a complimentary workshop

at the gallery, as reported by IRNA. Renowned for her mastery in both calligraphy and painting, Sanaz skillfully merges these disciplines, resulting in a diverse array of breathtaking creations. Among her notable works

are 'My Moon' (2016), a captivating masterpiece composed of acrylic, copper, and gold leaf on canvas, as well as 'Peacock' (2018), an acrylic marvel on canvas. Alborzi's artistic journey stems from a graphic design background, and she is currently pursuing her Ph.D. in Islamic Art History at Istanbul University's Faculty of Islamic Art. Her expertise in the Kufic script has led her to teach this distinctive art form and actively participate in numerous festivals and workshops, including a notable presence at Dubai Expo 2020.

Furthermore, Sanaz has presided over esteemed juries focusing on visual arts, graphic design, and illustration, further solidifying her reputation as a respected authority in the field. Notably, her enchanting compositions seamlessly blend calligraphy with illustrations against meticulously crafted canvases. Inspired by the works of esteemed artists such as Paul Cezanne from France and Vincent Van Gogh from the Nether-

lands, Sanaz skillfully incorporates their influences into her vibrant palettes and meticulously composed works. Noteworthy Calligraphy masters Hossein Zenderoudi and Faramarz Pilaram also serve as her primary sources of inspiration.

Shahab Shahidani, Iranian scholar, describes Sanaz Alborzi's work eloquently: "Alborzi's work makes use of eternal forms as prescribed in the realm of the universe. No script can bind heaven and earth together like Kufic, and due to its mystic and heavenly character, it fits perfectly in the cosmic spaces. In these created forms, the Kufic lines emerge from an unseen world and flow to our own like a stream, a cascade or a fountain of letters, or sometimes reach the earth undaunted like a ray of light from a sun-like circle above," Shahidani states. "The world is actually nothing more than beautiful lines that must be read. With the aid of Kufic script and correct backgrounds, Alborzi has bestowed a new life to the natural elements."

Prominent Iranian actress Fakhri Khorvash dies at 93

Arts & Culture Desk

Renowned Iranian actress Fakhri Khorvash, who dedicated her life to the Iranian theater, cinema, and television industry, died at the age of 93.

Her demise leaves behind a profound legacy of exceptional talent and remarkable contributions, as reported by IRNA.

Throughout her illustrious career spanning from 1948 to 2002, Khorvash captivated audiences with her captivating performances

in over 40 movies and numerous popular TV series. Notably, she collaborated with esteemed actors Ali Nassiriani and Ezzatollah Entezami in the theater, showcasing her skills and versatility on stage.

Following her role in the Iranian drama 'A Little Kiss' (2005), directed by Bahman Farmanara, Khorvash made the decision to retire from acting. She relocated to Los Angeles, in the United States, where she spent her remaining years alongside her cher-

ished family. Khorvash's indelible mark on Iranian cinema extends beyond her exceptional talent. Her ability to breathe life into diverse characters and her profound impact on the Iranian artistic landscape will forever be remembered and treasured.

In 1971, her film 'Mr. Naive' received a Jury Special Award at the Moscow International Film Festival, gaining significant popularity in Iran. Additionally, she earned the Best Ac-

triss Award at the Sepas Film Festival that same year, further solidifying her reputation as a distinguished artist.

Khorvash's unparalleled reputation and remarkable abilities allowed her to sustain her career in Iranian cinema even during the period following the Islamic Revolution. While she had not previously appeared in television series prior to 1979, she had directed episodes of the long-running serial 'Qamar Khanoum's House'



(1967-1971). However, in the post-revolutionary years, she took on roles in several TV series, including the renowned 'Amir Kabir' (1985), where she portrayed Mahd-e Olia, the mother of Naser al-Din Shah Qajar.

The loss of Fakhri Khorvash leaves a void in the Iranian artistic community, but her contributions and enduring impact will continue to inspire future generations of performers and storytellers.



PIC OF THE DAY

The images depict the ancient craft of tobafi, a centuries-old textile weaving artistry in the eastern Iranian province of South Khorasan. This traditional technique involves the meticulous weaving of exquisite fabrics and towels. Revered for its cultural significance, tobafi was officially recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2018.