

# Iran Daily

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## Iran, Venezuela cement ties with 19 cooperation deals during Raeisi's visit

### International Desk

Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi has begun his three-leg tour of Latin America with a stop in Venezuela, where both parties signed many cooperation agreements to further expand their political and economic relations.

Raeisi's five-day tour to Latin America will also take him to Nicaragua and Cuba.

Raeisi was officially welcomed by his Venezuelan counterpart Nicolas Maduro at the Miraflores Presidential Palace in Caracas on Monday after visiting the tomb of Simón Bolívar to pay tribute to the late Latin American revolutionary leader.

Later in the day, the ministers and other top officials of the two countries signed a total of 19 cooperation agreements and memorandums of understanding in a ceremony during which the Venezuelan president awarded his country's

national medal of honor to his Iranian counterpart.

Cooperation and participation in areas such as communications and information technology, energy, insurance, maritime transport, higher education, agriculture, medicine, cultural exchanges, as well as the development of mineral cooperation were among the important documents signed between the two countries.

Speaking at a joint press conference after the ceremony, the Iranian and Venezuelan presidents announced their decision to increase the volume of bilateral trade to \$20 billion.

### Long-term economic cooperation

"The goal we have for commercial and economic cooperation, the first step is to take the level of cooperation to \$10 billion," Raeisi said. "The next step, we want to take it to \$20 billion."

The Iranian president stressed the importance of further activating the shipping lines between the two countries and called for strengthening cooperation in the industrial, mining, energy, and banking sectors.

The Venezuelan president, for his part, pointed to Caracas's strategic relations with Tehran and said Venezuela is firmly determined to start a new round of bids aimed at expanding relations with Iran.

Maduro added that Iran and Venezuela, both under U.S. sanctions, have made efforts to reduce their dependence on oil revenues and increase the resistance of their economies against foreign upheaval and pressure.

The Venezuelan leader stressed the necessity of establishing a direct air line between the two countries and strengthening shipping lines to increase bilateral trade.

He noted that Tehran and Caracas have

also appropriate capacities for cooperation in the fields of tourism, agriculture and animal husbandry.

### 'New World Order'

In the new world that is being formed, imperialism is collapsing and the countries that have resisted the excessive demands of arrogant powers are on the verge of victory, he emphasized.

The Iranian president also pointed to the issue in a joint meeting of the high-ranking delegations of Iran and Venezuela, which was held later.

Raeisi said a new world order is being formed in favor of freedom-seeking, independent countries, stressing that resistance against arrogant powers has led to significant achievements.

The Iranian president said Tehran and Caracas have managed to improve "strategic" relations in recent years, but they should swiftly implement the previously signed agreements to upgrade

ties to higher levels given diverse mutual capacities.

He added that Iran has capabilities in the field of exporting technical-engineering services and processing agricultural and mineral products.

### Countering sanctions

"The Iranian nation has gained valuable experience and achievements in the field of science and technology thanks to its resistance against the arrogant system and success in overcoming the sanctions," Raeisi said, expressing Tehran's readiness to share them with Venezuela.

The Iranian president also attended a joint meeting of Iranian and Venezuela tradesmen.

During the meeting, he said becoming stronger in the economic sector would be the most effective way to counter sanctions.



## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Iran's deputy FM holds talks with E3 counterparts



FARS

IRNA – Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Ali Bagheri Kani has met and held talks with his EU triumvirate (E3) counterparts in Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates.

"Continuing with diplomatic consultations with regional and extra-regional parties, we met our German, French, and British counterparts and discussed a range of issues and mutual concerns," Bagheri Kani tweeted in Farsi on Tuesday.

The diplomat, who is also Iran's top negotiator in talks aimed at reviving the 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, had said in another tweet earlier on Tuesday that his trip to the UAE will be focused on bilateral ties and regional issues.

## Russia threatens tit-for-tat over Iran nuclear talks



IFP – Russia's ambassador to the international organizations in Vienna Mikhail Ulyanov said that Moscow's position on the multilateral negotiations to revive the Iran nuclear deal will depend on the West's policy, but Moscow will respond in kind if it deems it necessary.

Ulyanov said in a tweet on Tuesday that the Western parties politicized the talks to the maximum possible extent, but their approach has failed to meet their interests.

## Iran recorded 159 nuclear achievements last year: AEOI chief

PRESS TV – The Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami said Monday the agency recorded 159 achievements in the previous Persian calendar year (ending March 20).

## Venezuela can be a hub for redistribution of Iranian goods: MP

By Sadeq Dehqan  
Staff writer

Noting that Venezuela has become Iran's top commercial partner in Latin America, an Iranian lawmaker envisioned Venezuela as a potential hub for the redistribution of Iranian goods to other countries of the continent.

Ahad Azadikhah made the remarks in an exclusive interview with Iran Daily shortly after Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi landed in Caracas on Monday, on the first stop of his Latin American tour.

Referring to the frequent reciprocal visits of the top officials of the countries, Azadikhah welcomed the expansion of political bilateral ties as it has provided the opportunity to develop economic cooperation.

"Tehran and Caracas have always had amicable relations," he said, adding that the past one or two years have seen a further strengthening of ties.

Describing the current state of Iran-Venezuela ties as "the best it has ever been," he stressed that Caracas is Tehran's most attractive option for economic partnership among Latin American countries.

Venezuela and Iran, major oil producers hit by illegal U.S. sanctions, signed a 20-year cooperation agreement in Tehran a year ago



Megasis, the first Iranian supermarket in Venezuela, has supplied Iranian products to the people of Caracas since July 31, 2020.

TASNIM



"Caracas is Tehran's most attractive option for economic partnership among Latin American countries."

on June 11, 2022. However, the Iranian Member of Parliament gives little weight to the impact of sanctions on bilateral ties in light of Caracas and Tehran's current level of cooperation.

"Considering that Iran and Venezuela share the same DNA when it comes to oil, areas where the two can cooperate abound," he stated, citing the sale of crude oil and the overhaul of refineries as examples.

As a member of the Iran-Venezuela Parliamentary Friendship Group, Azadikhah vowed that the Iranian Parliament would do everything in its power to utilize these potentials and cement ties between the two countries.

He also pointed out that the Iranian Oil Ministry has similarly expressed its interest in making new deals with Caracas.

"Fortunately, the Bolivarian Gov-

ernment of Venezuela was eager to increase its economic transactions with Iran, giving us the incentive to continue working there ever harder."

Bringing attention to the fact that Megasis, the first Iranian supermarket in Venezuela, has been operating for years, Azadikhah claimed that the supermarket can be a stepping stone for redistributing Iranian goods to Latin American countries.

## A deal, best option for Iran, U.S.

By Abdolreza Faraji-Rad  
International affairs expert

EXCLUSIVE



The exchange of messages and, possibly, negotiations between Iran and the United States has been ongoing for the past few months, taking place in various locations such as New York and Oman. Several noteworthy events have unfolded during this period, indicating a positive inclination from both parties to reach an agreement. These events include the exchange of prisoners, agreements between Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency, the absence of a resolution against Iran during the recent meeting of the agency's Board of Governors, and the partial release of Iran's blocked assets abroad. These developments can be regarded as promising.

The U.S. is eager to swiftly resolve the Iran issue for two significant reasons. Firstly, the approaching presidential election demands a

response from the Democrats currently in power at the White House regarding their achievements in dealing with Iran. Failing to reach an agreement would leave them with limited accomplishments to present. Secondly, the West has concerns about Iran's uranium enrichment levels. Conversely, Iran is in need of an agreement and the lifting of sanctions to address its economic challenges and facilitate the advancement of its development plans.

The recent pronouncements made by Iran's Leader Ayatollah Khomeini, indicating his green light for a deal while emphasizing the preservation of Iran's nuclear industry, clearly demonstrate the Islamic Republic's strong determination to break the standoff.

In light of this circumstance, the absence of Political Deputy Foreign

Minister Ali Baqeri from President Raeisi's delegation during his visit to South America, and his decision to travel to Abu Dhabi for meetings with officials from the United Arab Emirates, as well as their British, German, and French counterparts, signifies the ongoing talks and exchange of messages. This is a positive indication that the diplomatic process is still underway and holds promise.

Over the past few months, European nations had assumed a more assertive stance toward Iran compared to the United States. However, they now appear to have realized that engaging in dialogue with Tehran is a more favorable approach. As a result, they have dispatched their representatives to the UAE. It is plausible to consider that the UAE authorities may have relayed a message from the U.S. to

Iran, as the release of Iran's funds needs U.S. approval. Recently, Iran's minister of economy announced that additional assets will be liberated in the forthcoming days.

Consequently, while there remains a considerable distance between Iran and the United States, it appears that both sides have comprehended that agreement and diplomacy represent their most viable options. Neither America nor Europe seeks a military option, as it holds no advantages for either party. The perpetuation of sanctions fails to yield tangible results for the U.S., and although it does impose pressure on the Iranian people, it does not significantly impact the government's policies. Therefore, an agreement emerges as the most cost-effective and beneficial option for both parties involved.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist

## Iran, Venezuela cement ...

He added that the Iranian youths have succeeded in turning sanctions into opportunities by making use of the capabilities of knowledge-based companies and maintaining peace and stability in the country against upheavals.

He noted that Tehran and Caracas have enormous capacities to increase economic exchanges, which have not been used yet. The two sides agreed to remove customs, banking and tariff barriers in order to facilitate and accelerate economic exchanges, he noted.

Raeisi said Iranian ambassadors, commercial offices, the house of science and technology and all active sectors in the fields of industry, mines and banking affairs must work to facilitate mutual trade ties. Iran and Venezuela, which have been targeted by illegal U.S. sanctions, have

increased their economic and political relations in recent years, in a bid to counter the restrictions that have mainly targeted their oil exports.

Venezuela, which has the world's largest crude reserves, has struggled in recent years to produce enough gasoline and diesel fuel due to refinery outages as a result of the sanctions.

Tehran has tried to help the country by providing crude and condensate as well as parts and feedstock for its refining network. Last June, Iran and Venezuela signed a 20-year partnership agreement aimed at bolstering bilateral cooperation in various fields during Venezuelan President Maduro's visit to Tehran.

The partnership agreement includes cooperation in the fields of science, technology, agriculture, oil and gas, petrochemicals, tourism and culture.



# Iran's LatAm outreach

Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi visits Caracas, Venezuela on June 13, 2023, in the first leg of a five-day tour of Latin America, which will also take him to Nicaragua and Cuba.



Raeisi is officially welcomed upon his arrival in Caracas.  
● [president.ir](http://president.ir)



President Raeisi pays tribute to the legendary revolutionary leader Simon Bolivar at his tomb.  
● [president.ir](http://president.ir)



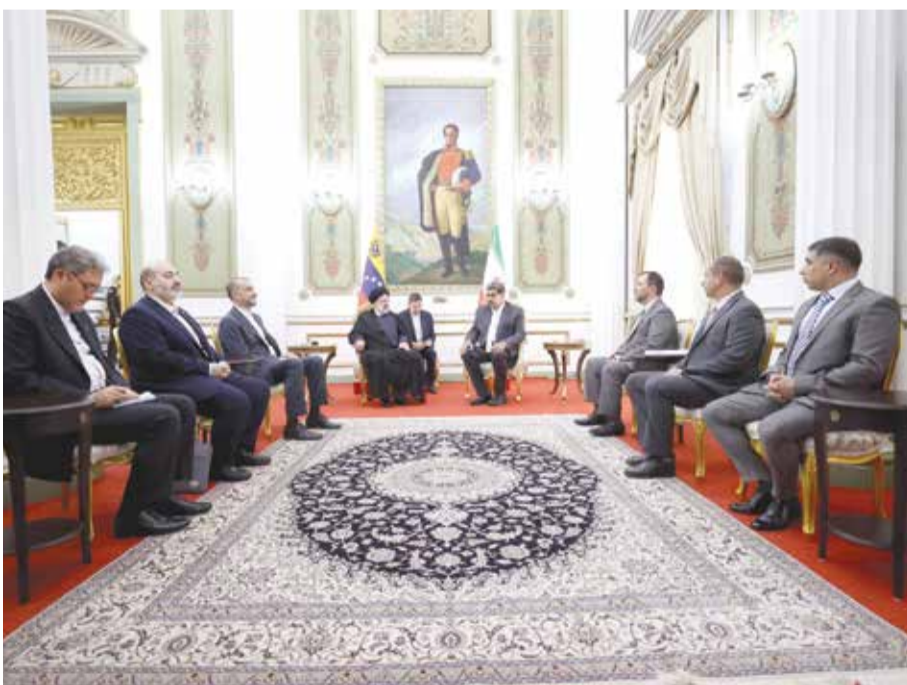
President Raeisi (r.) meets his Venezuelan counterpart, Nicolas Maduro.  
● [president.ir](http://president.ir)



School children wave national flags of Iran and Venezuela as they welcome Raeisi.  
● [president.ir](http://president.ir)



A Venezuelan orchestra performs as Raeisi and Maduro arrive at Miraflores Palace.  
● [president.ir](http://president.ir)



Iranian Oil Minister Javad Owji and a Venezuelan minister ink a contract at a ceremony overseen by the two countries' presidents.  
● [IRNA](http://IRNA)



High-ranking delegations of Iran and Venezuela, headed by Raeisi and Maduro, hold a meeting.  
● [president.ir](http://president.ir)





# Margun, land of lakes and waterfalls

## Iranica Desk

The city of Margun in the southwestern province of Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad Province is a place of residence for nomads whose charming way of life, alongside their interaction with nature, has created a unique tourism magnet in the region. This beautiful city is bordered by Lordegan in Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari Province from the north, Boyer Ahmad from the south, Kohgiluyeh from the west, and Dena from the east. Amazing natural caves and lakes of the region along with its flowing rivers and roaring waterfalls have helped highlight the ecotourism values of the region.

With mild weather in the summer and moderate snowfall in the winter, Margun is among the most popular tourist destinations of Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad Province, having four seasons.

## Maorzard Lake

Maorzard Lake is known as the most important tourism magnet of Margun. The lake is home to various types of fish, frogs, water snakes, eels, turtles, crabs, and water birds such as kingfishers, ducks, and geese. It is known as a wonderful place for bird watching. Maorzard Lake, which has been registered on Iran's National Heritage List, reflects freshness and vitality of nature like a mirror. The lands surrounding the lake are

covered with oak and hawthorn forests and yellow flowers, mountain trees and green agricultural fields, as if an earthy heaven has opened its door to guests.

## Shahniz Waterfall

Shahniz Waterfall is in a pristine area with pleasant natural landscapes, which is blessed with countless attractions in all seasons.

The flight of birds over the waterfall, with a height of 18 meters, is a manifestation of the beauties of nature.

This waterfall is accessible through the road linking Margun to Cheshmeh Goli village.

The diversity of the climate and the Zagros Mountains are reasons

why most of the cities in Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad Province have a four-season climate. So that at a distance of less than 10 kilometers you can enter the cold, snow-covered region from the lush tropical region.

The province has 500 drinking and mineral springs, 20 large and small rivers, more than 40 permanent and seasonal waterfalls, and dozens of forest parks, natural lakes, large and small dams, vast plains, impressive forests, and protected areas, with many species of animals.

Beautiful gardens, towering mountains with lush slopes, as well as the aroma of plants in the plains and mountains are only a small part of the attractions of this land.



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IRNA



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# Sibeh archeological site in Bastak

## Iranica Desk

A less known archeological site, called 'Sibeh' by the locals, is located in Kukherd village of Bastak, in the southern province of Hormuzgan. The region hosts numerous monuments and

petroglyphs dating back from the prehistoric to the early Islamic era, as well as Dogonbadan (Two Domes) Tomb, built from 1732 to 1738 CE, and an ancient bathhouse. The ancient city of Sibeh, on which a number of new houses have been

built, lies southwest of Kukherd. A seasonal river flows in the middle part of the site.

Archeological studies carried out in the region show that this area may have been used as a settlement in the pre-Islamic era, especially during the

Sassanid period. The name of Kukherd, located on a famous ancient trade route has been mentioned in travelogues written by tourists, especially those dating back to the Safavid era. Thanks to its strategic geographical location,

suitable climatic conditions and rich water resources, Kukherd has always been of interest in various eras. The ancient monuments and artifacts discovered in the area date back from the prehistoric era to the contemporary era.

Kukherd, the name of which has been mentioned in a book entitled, "Cambridge History of Iran," is situated on an important road linking Bastak to Bandar Lengeh. Historical documents show that the old name of Kukherd was Sibeh, lit-

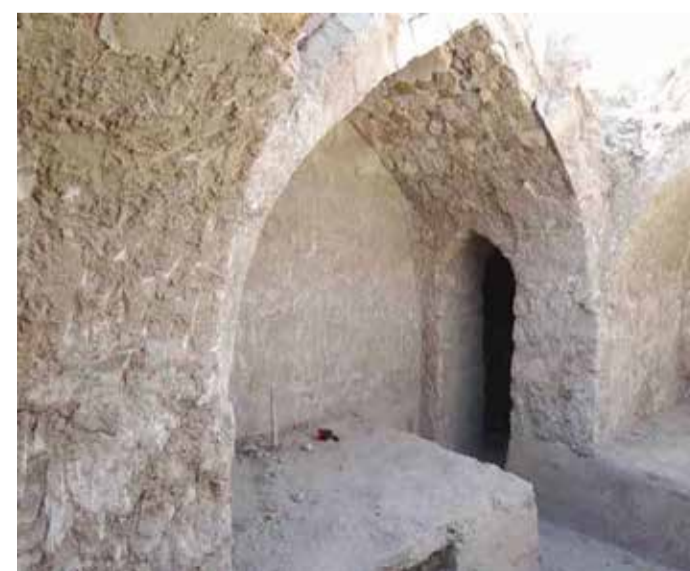
erally meaning a city with walls and battlements. Bastak, which has been on the route of caravans and merchants since ancient times, is known as "The City of Caravanserai". It is the birthplace of a number great regional characters.



Ancient monuments of Kukherd  
netazar.com



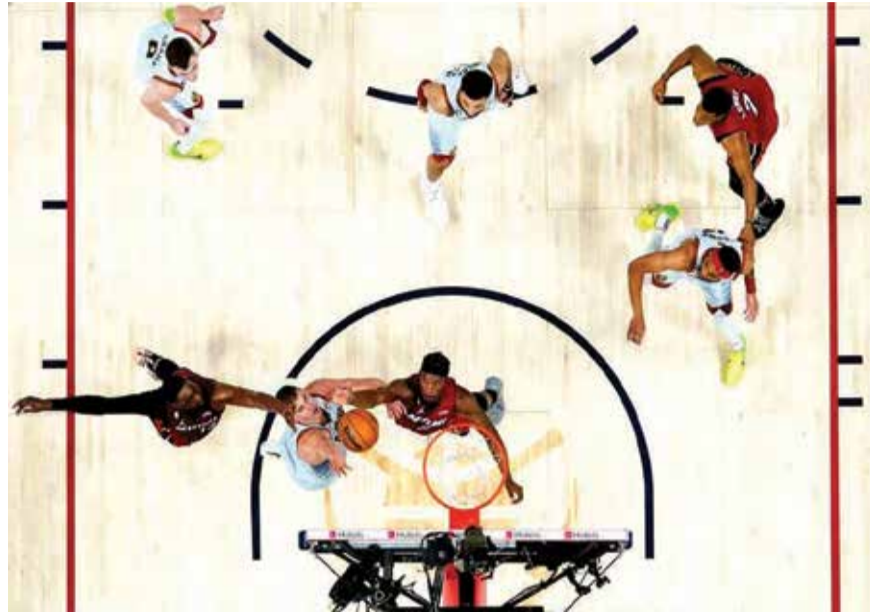
Dogonbadan  
tripyar.com



Ancient bathhouse of Kukherd  
fa.tripyar.com



# Nuggets defeat Heat in Game 5 for first NBA title



Nuggets owner Stan Kroenke lifts the Larry O'Brien Trophy after the Nuggets won the 2023 NBA Championship against the Miami Heat in Denver, CO, US, on June 12, 2023.  
● RON CHENOY/USA TODAY SPORTS

Nuggets center Nikola Jokic (15) reaches for the ball against the Heat during Game 5 of the 2023 NBA Finals in Denver, CO, US, on June 12, 2023.  
● KYLE TERADA/USA TODAY SPORTS

**AFP**—The Denver Nuggets sealed their first title in franchise history, defeating the Miami Heat 94-89 to end a 47-season wait for a maiden NBA championship.

Nikola Jokic scored 28 points with 16 rebounds as the Nuggets won the best-of-seven NBA Finals 4-1 to bring the Mile High City an NBA crown as a sellout crowd roared in delight and pondered what more the young squad could achieve.

"I've got news for everybody out there. We're not satisfied with one," Nuggets coach Michael Malone said afterwards. "We want more."

The championship filled the final gap in the impressive resume of Serbian star Jokic, a two-time NBA Most Valuable Player and five-time All-Star center in his eighth NBA campaign.

Two days after countryman Novak Djokovic won the French

Open for his record 23rd Grand Slam tennis crown, Jokic was named the NBA Finals MVP.

"For us he's the best ever of course," Jokic said of Djokovic. "Now we have our NBA championship. It's a really good moment to be a Serbian."

Jokic delivered on a night when the team struggled with early shooting futility but blanked Miami for more than five minutes of the fourth quarter.

"It was amazing effort by the team," Jokic said. "It was an ugly game. We couldn't make shots. But at the end we figured it out, how to defend and we scored 90 points. That's why we won. I'm just happy we won the game."

"It's good. The job is done and we can go home now."

Michael Porter Jr. added 16 points and 13 rebounds and Jamal Murray added 14 points, eight rebounds and eight assists

for the Nuggets.

"We had the belief from the get-go," Murray said. "It's just great to see it through."

"To do it with this group of guys, nothing could feel better than this," Porter added.

Jimmy Butler led Miami with 21 points while Bam Adebayo added 20 and 12 rebounds.

Denver was the playoff top seed in the Western Conference while the eighth-seeded Heat, who had to win a play-in game just to reach the playoffs, lost in the finals for the third time in 10 seasons.

"One hell of a basketball team that we couldn't really find enough solutions to be able to get us over the top," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said.

With their seasons on the line, players brought intensity and physical defending over the final minutes to create an electric at-

mosphere inside Ball Arena.

The Nuggets, down by as many as 10 points in the first half, pulled within 51-44 at half-time despite going 1-for-15 from 3-point range, the worst-ever NBA Finals shooting half from beyond the arc.

## 'Out of a movie'

A Murray jumper gave Denver an 81-76 lead with 6:43 remaining while the Heat began the fourth quarter hitting only 2-for-14 from the floor and going scoreless for more than five minutes.

Butler, who had struggled all night, sank back-to-back 3-pointers and made three free throws after a controversial foul on Denver's Aaron Gordon was upheld on video review.

Butler and Jokic traded hoops and Butler followed with two free throws to give Miami an 89-88 lead.

Bruce Brown answered with a

rebound basket to put Denver ahead 90-89.

"Those last three or four minutes felt like a scene out of a movie," Spoelstra said. "Two teams in the center of the ring throwing haymaker after haymaker."

"It will probably rank as our hardest, competitive, most active defensive game of the season, and it still fell short."

Kentavious Caldwell-Pope stole a pass by Butler and sank two clutch free throws with 24 seconds remaining to give Denver a 92-89 edge.

"For me it was all about defense," Caldwell-Pope said. "We've got to get stops. Defense was going to win us a championship. I always told them that."

Butler missed a 3-pointer, Brown grabbed a rebound for Denver and then made two free throws to seal the victory with 14 seconds remaining.

## Taremi on Milan radar: Report



● CATERINA MORAIS/KAPTA+

### Sports Desk

Serie A club Milan is considering a move for Porto striker Mehdi Taremi, according to La Gazzetta dello Sport.

The Italian daily newspaper reported that the Iranian international along with French striker Marcus Thuram – now playing for Bundesliga outfit Borussia Mönchengladbach – and West Ham's Italian frontman Gianluca Scamacca are among Milan's summer transfer targets as the Italian giant is looking to replace Zlatan Ibrahimović, who hung up his boots at the end of the newly-finished season.

The seven-time European champion finished fourth in the Italian league and reached the UEFA Champions League semifinals, only to suffer an aggregate defeat against archrival Inter.

Meanwhile, Turkish journalist Ekrem Konur tweeted on Monday that the Rossoneri is willing to make an initial offer of 10 million euros for the 30-year-old Iranian, whose contract at Porto runs until the end of the next season.

Should Taremi refuse to sign an extension to his current deal, Porto will have until next January to sell the prolific striker rather than let him leave as a free agent next summer.

Other reports in recent weeks have suggested that the Saudi Pro League giant Al Hilal and Turkish side Fenerbahçe could also make a move for the Porto forward in this transfer window.

A remarkable campaign saw Taremi, who is now with the national team in Kyrgyzstan for the CAFA Nations Cup, bag 31 goals in 51 outings for Porto across all competitions, while providing his teammates with 12 assists.

Having joined Porto from Rio Ave in 2020, Taremi netted 22 goals to top the scoring charts in the Primeira Liga, though the Dragons settled for a runner-up spot behind Benfica in the Portuguese top flight before lifting the Taça de Portugal trophy for a second successive season.

Former Persepolis striker scored five goals in seven games as Porto won the Champions League group but was knocked out by Inter in the round of 16.

He was also part of the national team in last November's World Cup in Qatar, scoring twice in a 6-2 defeat against England in the group phase to become the country's all-time top scorer in the history of the competition.

## Mbappe tells PSG he will not renew contract in 2024: L'Equipe

**REUTERS** – Kylian Mbappe has told Paris St Germain he will not take up the option of a one-year extension in his contract when it expires next June, L'Equipe reported.

Mbappe, a World Cup winner with France in 2018, confirmed his decision in a letter to the club and could even be sold this summer as PSG will seek to avoid losing him for free, according to the local reports.

The forward would be free to negotiate and sign a pre-contract agreement with a new club from January should he decide to see out the remaining year of his deal at PSG.

The French club, owned by Qatar Sports Investments, have already lost Lionel Messi on a free transfer after the Argentina forward left at the end of his two-year contract to join Major League Soccer's Inter Miami. Mbappe was widely tipped to join Real Madrid last season but rejected a move to Spain to sign a contract extension with PSG.

The 24-year-old has long been admired by Real, who had a bid reported to be as high as 200

million euros (\$215.50 million) turned down in 2021.

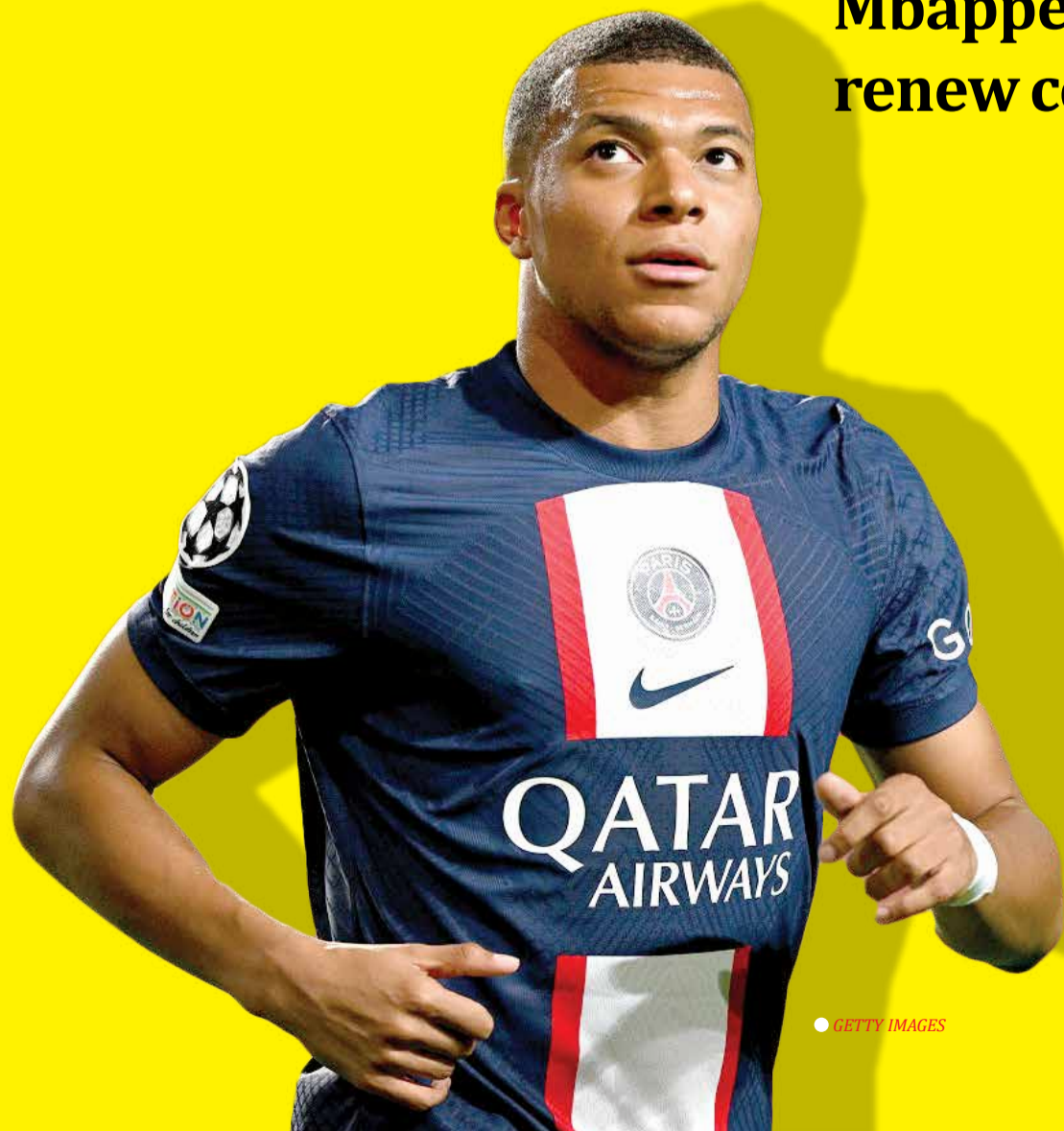
Real, who have already agreed a deal to sign England midfielder Jude Bellingham from Borussia Dortmund, could step up their interest in Mbappe following striker Karim Benzema's move to Al Ittihad in Saudi Arabia.

Mbappe, one of the game's finest talents who burst onto the scene as a teenager, has won five Ligue 1 titles with PSG but the Champions League trophy has remained out of reach.

PSG signed Mbappe from AS Monaco in 2017 in a deal reported to be around 180 million euros, making him the world's second-most expensive signing after Neymar, who joined them from Barcelona for 222 million euros.

Mbappe became PSG's all-time top scorer after netting 41 goals in 43 games in all competitions and helped the capital club win a record 11th French title.

He was named France captain after leading them to a second straight World Cup final in December, where he netted a hat-trick against Argentina before losing on penalties.



● GETTY IMAGES



## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Russia resumes oil exports to North Korea



● GETTY IMAGES

**BLOOMBERG** – Russia resumed oil exports to North Korea for the first time in two years last December, U.N. data has revealed, as the two countries continue what Pyongyang has called a new “heyday” in bilateral relations.

The U.N. data also shows that China supplied North Korea 35,399 barrels of refined oil in the first two months of this year, bringing all of North Korea’s known oil imports this year to 99,474 barrels.

## RBI likely to tighten norms for unsecured lending portfolios



● BLOOMBERG

**BUSINESS STANDARD** – The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is looking to tighten scrutiny on the unsecured lending portfolios of banks amid the growing risk of potential defaults, four banking sources said. Unsecured loans “mostly personal loans and credit cards” do not carry any collateral and therefore pose a higher risk of default. These loans, however, are a big contributor to margins as they entail higher interest rates.

## Germany attractive for renewables investment



**REUTERS** – Germany has overtaken China to become the second most attractive country in the world for renewables investment due to its efforts to speed up power market reform and move away from fossil fuels, research showed on Tuesday. In an annual ranking of the top 40 renewable energy markets worldwide by consultancy EY, the United States was ranked first, with Germany climbing one place to second position for the first time in a decade.

Germany resumed petroleum imports from Iran in March: *Data*

Germany resumed its petroleum imports from Iran after five years earlier this year despite a continued regime of American sanctions that bans any trade of energy products with Iran. Data cited in a report by IRNA showed that Germa-

ny had taken delivery of a large petroleum shipment from Iran in March. The report cited data from the European Union’s statistics agency the Eurostat which showed the shipment imported by Germany had contained nearly 70,000 metric tons

of Iranian crude oil or petroleum products. Germany halted imports of crude oil or petroleum products from Iran after taking delivery of a 10,000-mt shipment in October 2018 and after the US withdrew from an international agreement

on Iran’s nuclear program and imposed sanctions on the country’s oil exports. Eurostat figures showed that total petroleum imports from Iran by EU countries this year have reached 66,884 tons with Germany and Bulgaria being the only two buyers.

The figures showed that EU’s petroleum imports from Iran had reached 4,181 tons in 2022. The figures indicate that EU states are becoming increasingly reluctant to comply with US sanctions on Iran mainly because of a crunch in the inter-

national energy markets that has been exacerbated by the war in Ukraine. That comes as some EU states have ignored Western sanctions imposed on Russia over the Ukraine war by continuing to import crude oil and gas from the country.

● IRNA

Iran’s blocked assets in South Korea, other countries to be released soon: *Minister*

● TASNIM

The economic spokesman for the Iranian administration said on Tuesday that Iran’s foreign exchange resources, blocked in South Korea and other countries, will be released within the next few weeks.

Speaking to reporters on Tuesday, Ehsan Khandouzi, who is also the minister of economic affairs and finance, added, “With the incessant efforts of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Central Bank of Iran (CBI), good progress and achievements have been made, the results of which will be witnessed in the coming weeks,” Tasnim news

agency reported. The minister noted that effective steps have been taken in order to reduce the growing inflation rate. Khandouzi pointed to some comments raised on the loan Iran has requested from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and said that the loan would not create any commitment for the country but it means an increase in the country’s capital at the IMF. An independent technical team is incessantly working on receiving the loan from the International Monetary Fund, he concluded.

## Iran discovers largest porphyry copper deposit in region



● IRNA

Iran has discovered a new copper deposit that is believed to be the largest such reserve in the Middle East and North Africa region. A report by the IRIB News said that the porphyry copper deposit discovered in Sarcheshmeh region in the southeastern province of Kerman contains some 3 billion metric tons of copper ore with a purity of 42%. The newly-discovered mineral deposit covers an area of 93,000 meters, said the report, adding that exploration activities have been conducted in some 106 locations in the area. It said a second phase of

exploration would be conducted in 60 locations in an area of 80,000 meters in the same region, adding that the operation could increase the amount of porphyry copper of the deposit to 4 billion tons. The report said the entire exploration and discovery operation in the region has relied on Iranian experts and technicians. Porphyry deposits are large, low-grade metal ore bodies that are formed from hydrothermal fluids derived from an underlying magma reservoir. Iran has large copper reserves in Sarcheshmeh as well as in Sungun in the

northwestern Azarbaijan region near the border with Azerbaijan and Armenia. Production of copper in Sungun, which is home to Iran’s largest open-cast cooper mine, began last week with the launch of a modern smelter in the region. Iran has introduced massive plans to expand its mining and metals sector amid US sanctions on its direct oil exports. Experts say copper reserves could play a major role in Iran’s future economic development plans amid a rising demand for the metal in the international markets.

## New Iranian minister of industry approved

The Iranian Parliament approved Abbas Aliabadi as the new minister of industry. The Iranian legislators on Tuesday debated the qualifications of Aliabadi as the proposed nominee to lead the Ministry of In-

dustry, Mine and Trade, reported Tasnim news agency. Aliabadi, 62, took office with 187 votes in favor, 58 against, and eight abstentions. The former minister, Reza Fatemi-Amin, was given

a vote of no confidence in April over his performance and poor handling of industrial development. A ministerial nominee needs 50 percent plus one vote to win the vote of confidence from Parliament.



● TASNIM



# A small investment of time with a big reward for everyone



By Ali Amiri  
Staff writer

World Blood Donor Day, an annual event celebrated on June 14, aims to raise awareness about the importance of blood and plasma donation and express gratitude to voluntary, unpaid blood donors who are so generous with their life-saving gifts. The day was established by the World Health Assembly in 2005, and over time, this global event has become a major focus for action towards achieving universal access to safe blood. The slogan for the 2023 World Blood Donor Day campaign is "Give blood, give plasma, share life, share often."

Speaking to ISNA on the occasion, the head of Tehran Province Blood Transfusion, Dr. Montazer Shabbar, related the history of the establishment of the Iranian Blood Transfusion Organization. Pointing out that the recorded history of blood transfusion in Iran dates back to the mid-1940s, he said, "Indeed, during that era, the nascent field of blood transfusion medicine and the pervasive unfamiliarity with this notion among the general populace made procuring blood from volunteers for

patient administration a challenging endeavor. Persuading individuals to contribute blood largely hinged on the physician's initiative."

He further elaborated that gradually, as the critical significance of blood transfusion in preserving patients' lives and the escalation of blood requisitions in medical facilities gained recognition, obtaining blood from volunteers proved insufficient to satisfy patient demands. "Consequently, the sole recourse was to offer monetary compensation in exchange for blood donations. Enterprises that purchased blood from individuals for nominal sums and retailed it at exorbitant prices to hospitals and medical centers began to flourish."

In such circumstances, it was evident that the clientele of these enterprises predominantly comprised economically disadvantaged individuals, particularly addicts and homeless persons, resulting in minimal oversight regarding the health and quality of the blood. Dr. Shabbar then underscored, "In light of the issues and complications stemming from the multiplicity of blood transfusion custodians, the profit-seeking activities of private enterprises, and



the preliminary blueprint for the establishment of an autonomous organization to streamline the blood supply system and blood products was conceived. Ultimately, the Iranian Blood Transfusion Organization was inaugurated on July 31, 1974."

Negin Naamavari, 32, a "servant in white" as she calls herself, told an Iran Daily reporter that "Blood

donation is vital because it saves lives. Every day, hospitals and medical facilities need blood for various reasons, such as surgeries, cancer treatments, and trauma care." She points out that donated blood is a lifeline for patients in need, and a single donation can potentially save up to three lives.

Dr. Naamavari then explained the process as being simple and safe, saying,

"It involves four steps: registration, medical history and mini-physical, donation, and refreshments." As it happens, donors first register and provide some basic information. Next, they undergo a mini-physical and answer questions about their medical history to ensure they're eligible to donate. Then, the actual blood donation takes place, which usually takes about 10 minutes. Finally, donors

are given refreshments to help them recover and replenish their energy.

In response to a question about the side effects of blood donation, she replied, "Blood donation is actually a safe process, and the risks are minimal. Some donors may experience mild side effects like dizziness, lightheadedness, or bruising at the needle site – nothing serious." And even these side effects are

usually short-lived and can be managed with proper aftercare.

On World Blood Donor Day, let us all be reminded that blood donation is a simple, safe, and selfless act that can save lives. It is in everyone's best interest – who is also eligible – to consider donating blood regularly. "It's a small investment of time that can make a significant impact on someone else's life," she said.

## 52 weeks later: Earth after humankind is gone



By Carlton Basmajian  
Associate Professor of Community and Regional Planning, Urban Design, Iowa State University

Have you ever wondered what the world would be like if everyone suddenly disappeared?

What would happen to all our stuff? What would happen to our houses, our schools, our neighborhoods, our cities? Who would feed the dog? Who would cut the grass? Although it's a common theme in movies, TV shows and books, the end of humanity is still a strange thing to think about.

But as an associate professor of urban design – that is, someone who helps towns and cities plan what their communities will look like – it's sometimes my job to think about prospects like this.

### So much silence

If humans just disappeared from the world, and you could come back to Earth to see what had happened one year later, the first thing you'd notice wouldn't be with your eyes.

It would be with your ears.

The world would be quiet. And you would realize how much noise people make. Our buildings are noisy. Our cars are noisy. Our sky is noisy. All of that noise would stop.

You'd notice the weather. After a year without people, the sky would be bluer, the air clearer.



● GETTY IMAGES

The wind and the rain would scrub clean the surface of the Earth; all the smog and dust that humans make would be gone.

### Home sweet home

Imagine that first year, when your house would sit unbothered by anyone.

Go inside your house – and hope you're not thirsty, because no water would be in your faucets. Water systems require constant pumping. If no one's at the public water supply to manage the machines that pump water, then there's no water.

But the water that was in the pipes when everyone disappeared would still be there when the first winter came – so on the first cold snap, the frigid air would freeze the water in the pipes and burst them.

There would be no electricity. Power plants would stop working because no one would monitor them and maintain a supply of fuel. So your house would be dark, with no lights, TV, phones or computers.

Your house would be dusty. Actually, there's dust in the air all the time, but we don't

notice it because our air conditioning systems and heaters blow air around. And as you move through the rooms in your house, you keep dust on the move too. But once all that stops, the air inside your house would be still and the dust would settle all over.

The grass in your yard would grow – and grow and grow until it got so long and floppy it would stop growing. New weeds would appear, and they would be everywhere.

Lots of plants that you've never seen before would take root in your yard. Every time a tree drops a seed, a little sapling might grow. No one would be there to pull it out or cut it down.

You'd notice a lot more bugs buzzing around. Remember, people tend to do everything they can to get rid of bugs. They spray the air and the ground with bug spray. They remove bug habitat. They put screens on the windows. And if that doesn't work, they swat them. Without people doing all these things, the bugs would come back. They would have free rein of the world again.

### On the street where you live

In your neighborhood, critters would wander around, looking and wondering.

First the little ones: mice, groundhogs, raccoons, skunks, foxes and beavers. That last one might surprise you, but North America was once rich with beavers.

Bigger animals would come later – deer, coyotes and the occasional bear. Not in the first year, maybe, but eventually.

With no electric lights, the rhythm of the natural world would return. The only light would be from the Sun, the Moon and the stars. The night critters would feel good they got their dark sky back.

Fires would happen frequently. Lightning might strike a tree or a field and set brush on fire, or hit the houses and buildings. Without people to put them out, those fires would keep going until they burned themselves out.

### Around your city

After just one year, the concrete stuff – roads, highways, bridges and buildings – would look about the same.

Come back, say, a decade later, and cracks in them would have appeared, with little plants wiggling up through them. This happens because the Earth is constantly moving. With this motion comes pressure, and with this pressure come cracks. Eventually, the roads would crack so much they would look

like broken glass, and even trees would grow through them.

Bridges with metal legs would slowly rust. The beams and bolts that hold the bridges up would rust too. But the big concrete bridges, and the interstate highways, also concrete, would last for centuries.

The dams and levees that people have built on the rivers and streams of the world would erode. Farms would fall back to nature. The plants we eat would begin to disappear. Not much corn or potatoes or tomatoes anymore.

Farm animals would be easy prey for bears, coyotes, wolves and panthers. And pets? The cats would go feral – that is, they would become wild, though many would be preyed upon by larger animals. Most dogs wouldn't survive, either.

### Like ancient Rome

In a thousand years, the world you remember would

still be vaguely recognizable. Some things would remain; it would depend on the materials they were made of, the climate they're in, and just plain luck. An apartment building here, a movie theater there, or a crumbling shopping mall would stand as monuments to a lost civilization. The Roman Empire collapsed more than 1,500 years ago, yet you can see some remnants even today.

If nothing else, humans' suddenly vanishing from the world would reveal something about the way we treated the Earth. It would also show us that the world we have today can't survive without us and that we can't survive if we don't care for it. To keep it working, civilization – like anything else – requires constant upkeep.

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● THE CONVERSATION



## Doha Int'l Book Fair opens with Iran in attendance



### Arts & Culture Desk

The 32nd edition of the Doha International Book Fair (DIBF) commenced on Monday, featuring the participation of Iran and extending a warm invitation to book enthusiasts until June 21.

Iran's House of Books and Literature, in its seventh presence at this exhibition, represents our country's publishing industry with a booth covering an area of 36 square meters.

The booth showcases and offers 800 titles from 60 publishers, spanning various subjects such as children and young adult literature, rare books, Persian language instruction, Qur'anic themes, interfaith dialogue, and more.

Additionally, the booth highlights Iran's publishing capacities in content production and children's book illustration, along with hosting a calligraphy workshop and other activities.

Some 505 publishers from 37 countries are participating in the book fair this year, which is being held under the slogan 'With Reading We Rise'. Saudi Arabia is the guest of honor at DIBF 2023.



DIBF 2023, which continues until June 21, aims to consolidate the status of culture in the country and confirm the pivotal role of knowledge in the renaissance of Qatari society. Launched back in 1972, the fair seeks to become a cultural and intellectual beacon in Qatar and the region.

The 32nd DIBF is the largest edition of the fair as hundreds of local, Arab and international publishing houses are taking part with about 180,000 titles and 750,000 books.

Saudi Arabia, the guest of honour, is participating with a special pavilion that includes a collection of different kinds of books, as well as contributions by poets and narrators who present different aspects of their country's culture.

The fair presents a rich and varied cultural programme, hosting 37 cultural, scientific, literary and social seminars; poetry evenings; and activities of the Cultural Salon with 116 events that include seminars, cultural sessions and the launch of new publications.

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# Nurturing a love for book reading among children, overcoming challenges



### Arts & Culture Desk

Mostafa Rahmandoost, a highly regarded author known for his work 'Zal and the Phoenix' shares valuable insights on acquainting children with the joy of reading and addressing the barriers that hinder this process. In a recent interview with ISNA, Rahmandoost underscores the significance of cultivating a reading culture among children and granting them access to books.

He has been working for children and young adults for over 30 years. He has so far published over 300 books, poetry and book translations.

His credits include over 150 stories and poem collections such as 'The Sky Also Smiled', 'I Like Children' and 'The Story of Five Fingers'.

Recognizing the economic hardships faced by many families and their limited time, Rahmandoost suggests that simply discussing the benefits of reading may not be effective. Instead, he proposes two key approaches to inspire children to read.

The first approach involves ac-

tively involving them in the act of reading to ignite their interest in books. The second approach revolves around ensuring that books are easily accessible to children.

Rahmandoost highlights the success of incorporating reading and storytelling into children's daily routines in many countries with the goal of boosting literacy rates. However, in our country, reading and storytelling have not yet become commonplace in everyday activities, except for places like intellectual development centers for children and adolescents, where families engage in reading and storytelling activities to a lesser extent.

Rahmandoost emphasizes that making books available to children can be achieved through two means. Firstly, by establishing numerous libraries dedicated to children, where they can visit and explore a variety of books. To some extent, our country already offers this opportunity. Secondly, by ensuring that books are present in homes and encouraging children to engage in the recreational activity of visiting bookstores, selecting books, and making purchases.

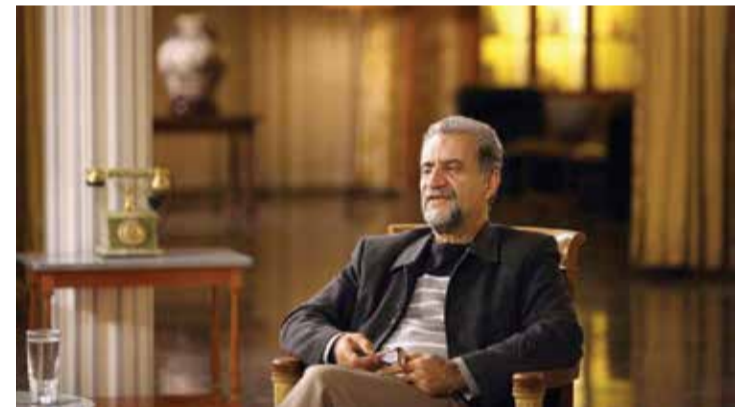
However, the second option poses challenges due to the high cost of books, limited book circulation, and economic constraints faced by families.

When children lack easy access to books and there is a scarcity of children's libraries, coupled with financial burdens preventing families from visiting libraries or reading to their children, the likelihood of children becoming enthusiastic readers diminishes significantly. Rahmandoost stresses the importance of allowing children to express their individual interests when embarking on the journey of reading. By giving children the freedom to choose their own books and exposing them to diverse collections in libraries and bookstores, they can explore various genres and subjects, gravitating towards those that capture their interest. This process enables observers to gradually comprehend children's preferenc-

ments that the primary objective should be to provide children with abundant opportunities to explore books, experiment with different options, and express their interests to those around them.

Rahmandoost highlights low rate of book reading per capita in our country and suggests that even if children read books of minimal complexity, that will be useful for their reading habits. Prescribing specific books or suggesting where to begin is challenging, as each child possesses their own unique world, which they can uncover through reading.

In conclusion, Rahmandoost suggests that at the very least, families can take their children to libraries whenever possible and spend time in and around libraries, allowing children to immerse themselves in the world of books. This activity can serve as a recreational opportunity for children to become acquainted with books



es and identify the types of books they find appealing.

The author asserts that the initial focus should be on cultivating a love for reading, rather than prescribing specific content or subjects for children. Similar to relishing a delicious meal, reading should be a pleasurable experience. Only after fostering this passion for reading should considerations of educational content and subject matter come into play. Therefore, Rahmandoost recom-

and develop their interests. Rahmandoost refrains from providing specific book recommendations, as each child has their own distinct preferences, which they can discover through reading.

By following Rahmandoost's advice and highlighting the importance of reading as an enjoyable experience, families can effectively introduce their children to the world of books, overcome challenges, and nurture a lifelong love for reading.



### Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's Deputy Tourism Minister, Maryam Jalali, announced ongoing endeavors to register five dossiers of Iranian handicrafts on the prestigious UNESCO

## Five Iranian dossiers closer to global registration

World Heritage List.

During a visit to Astara on Monday, Jalali revealed that four cases related to artifacts from Rasht in Gilan Province, Dashti in Bushehr, Dezful in Khuzestan, and Kashan in Isfahan have already undergone review. Additionally, the necessary documentation for the Vardasht region in Isfahan province has been completed, though it is yet to be submitted, IRNA wrote.

Jalali emphasized the utmost dedication to generating export incentives for handicrafts, stating, "Our primary aim is to create

financial and export incentives for the handicraft sector, while simultaneously attracting significant investment to this domain." She further explained that such investments would yield substantial returns and added value, as the target customers for Iranian handicrafts extend beyond national borders.

Highlighting the world's genuine appreciation for the authenticity of Iranian art and the global demand for it, Jalali stressed the need to formulate plans that connect this art to the literature of development. She also drew attention to

Iran Craft Week, reminding that June 10 is World Handicrafts Day. According to the implemented agenda, each day of this week has been assigned a specific theme and slogan. Jalali expressed, "We have made considerable efforts to demonstrate that handicrafts can foster cultural interactions between countries, cities, and people." She went on to add that every Iranian household has the potential to be a handicraft workshop. Consequently, joint planning was carried out in collaboration with Saad Hani Al-Qaddumi, the President

of the World Crafts Council. As part of this effort, a visit was organized from Ardebil's Anbaran to the Anbaran neighborhood in Astara, which has been designated as the national city of gelim (a type of flat-woven carpet). This showcased the pivotal role that handicrafts can play in cultural, social, economic, and political domains.

Jalali further remarked that Anbaran represents culture, art, history, taste, and historical intelligence, particularly emphasizing the invaluable role of women and their contributions to the family.