

A short introduction to the most popular apartment plants



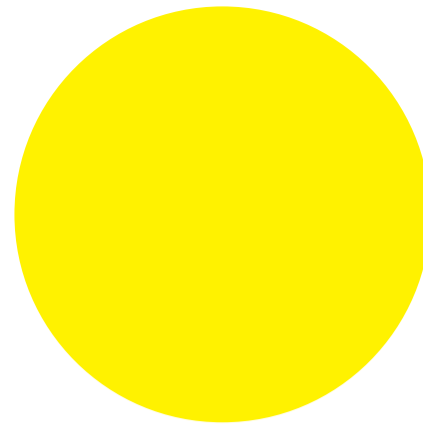
EXCLUSIVE

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Iran appointed as deputy to UNESCO's Underwater Cultural Heritage Convention



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Iran Daily



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Israel desperate due to Palestinian groups' power: *Iran Leader*

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Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi (3rd-L) and Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega (3rd-R) attend a welcome ceremony at the Olof Palme Convention Centre in Managua on June 13, 2023 upon the arrival of the Iranian president in the Latin American country. **JAIRO CAJINA/NICARAGUAN PRESIDENCY/AFP**

Raeisi: U.S. fails to stop Iranian nation with threats and sanctions

International Desk

President Ebrahim Raeisi said the United States has failed to stop the Iranian nation with threats and sanctions, which have been turned into opportunities by the Iranian people.

Raeisi made the comments at a joint appearance with Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega after he was officially welcomed by Ortega on Tuesday evening during a state visit to the Latin American country. "The U.S. sought to stop our nation through sanctions and threats, but not only did our nation not give in, but it created an opportunity out of threats and sanctions and made progress," Raeisi said after he was officially welcomed by his Nicaraguan counterpart, Daniel Ortega,

upon arrival.

He said that the Iranian nation has succeeded in turning the sanctions and threats into opportunities.

He argued that the Nicaraguan people's resistance against excessive demands and hegemonic powers led to their victory, adding that the two nations share a common desire for independence, freedom and justice.

False claims

He rejected "false" claims by Western powers about their advocacy for democracy and human rights and urged the West, especially the U.S., to respect governments that are based on the people's votes.

"But they do the opposite," he said. Raeisi compared the U.S. role in creating Daesh to the Islamic Republic's support for the fight against

terrorism, saying, "They claim to fight terrorism but they martyred [Iran's] anti-terror hero, General Qassem Soleimani."

The Iranian president further noted that Tehran and Managua enjoy "strategic" relations. He expressed the Islamic Republic's readiness to improve mutual ties in various sectors, particularly science and technology.

Similarities in revolutions

Ortega, for his part, said the Iranian and Nicaraguan revolutions have deep roots in the fight against the dominance of arrogant powers, especially the United States.

He said imperial powers intrinsically seek to dominate other countries, and they exert pressure on independent countries under the pretext of

human rights and democracy.

Nevertheless, he went on, the independent nations continue to firmly stand up to them.

Heading a high-ranking politico-economic delegation, Raeisi arrived in Nicaragua on the second leg of his three-nation tour of Latin America. Earlier, he visited Venezuela and will also travel to Cuba to meet the country's officials.

In Venezuela, the two countries' ministers and other top officials signed a total of 19 cooperation agreements and memoranda of understanding.

The agreements are aimed at expanding cooperation between Tehran and Caracas in many areas, including in the field of petrochemicals, as the two sides move to expand overall cooperation in the oil sector.

Iran's global standing

By Hassan Hanizadeh
International affairs expert



EXCLUSIVE
OPINION

President Ebrahim Raeisi received special receptions during his visits to Venezuela and Nicaragua, underscoring Iran's privileged status and growing popularity among South American nations. President Raeisi is also expected to receive a warm welcome in Cuba as he further extends Iran's diplomatic engagements. The countries in this region share a common historical experience of breaking free from decades of colonial rule imposed by Western powers, which has fostered cultural and political affinities with the Iranian nation. Consequently, the President has been warmly embraced not only by

officials but also by ordinary citizens.

Iran, alongside Venezuela, Nicaragua, and Cuba, has been subjected to sanctions imposed by the United States. By visiting these countries, Raeisi aims to explore potential collaborative strategies to render these sanctions ineffective or mitigate their impact through shared experiences. Raeisi's tour of Latin America serves as an opportunity to foster solidarity and cooperation among these nations.

During the tour, President Raeisi emphasized the establishment of a new world order built upon the principles of multilateralism and the pivotal role of independent nations. Tehran seeks to position itself and other independent countries as active contributors to the international system, promoting constructive engagement.

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Russian envoy: U.S. bid to isolate Iran, Russia 'impossible'

Russian Ambassador to Tehran Alexey Yurievich Dedov said it is "impossible" for the United States and its allies to succeed in isolating Iran and Russia through sanctions. During an exclusive interview with Press TV on Tuesday, Dedov spoke about a host of issues, including sanctions targeting the two countries as well as Russia's "special military operation" in Ukraine.

Asked about US attempts to isolate Iran and Russia, he quipped: "I am afraid they are too sure of themselves." "You are right that they tried to isolate Russia, [and] they tried to isolate Iran," he said, adding, however, "The task is impossible."

The Russian envoy further explained that Russia's trade exchanges with India and China have grown significantly despite the US-led sanctions, adding that his country's trade with Iran is also growing at a good pace.

The United States and its European allies have been spearheading tough economic sanctions against Russia ever since it launched what it calls a special military operation in Ukraine in February 2022.

Iran has also been hit by unilateral sanctions imposed by Washington after former president Donald Trump declared an unprovoked withdrawal from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), commonly known as the Iran deal, in May 2018.

Russia and Iran – the first and second most-sanctioned countries in the world – have been cooperating to neutralize the sanctions by finding alternative ways to trade with other nations.

The Russian diplomat also said Moscow's ongoing special operation in Ukraine is not in fact an operation against Kiev, but "against forces of the West which try to impose their will over the whole territory of the world."

Dedov added that the West tries to portray various events related to the conflict in its own favor and interpret that "they are right and we are wrong."

"But we try to circulate the objective picture of the events, what is really happening there and who is responsible for this," he said.

The envoy further hailed "wide understanding" in Iran vis-à-vis the operation in Ukraine and also the threat of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's (NATO) eastward expansion.

"We also appreciate that in Iran there is wide understanding that one of the reasons of the situation is the uncontrollable growth of NATO and its movement towards the East, just embracing one country after another," he said. The ambassador emphasized that NATO expansion would constitute "damage and a threat to our security as well."



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Iran, Qatar review ways to promote trade cooperation

Economy Desk

Iran and Qatar emphasized the necessity of promoting monetary, banking and financial cooperation between the two countries.

Governor of Central Bank of Iran, Mohammad Reza Farzin, who traveled to Qatar on Wednesday, said that promoting monetary, banking and financial cooperation would pave the way for the expansion of trade exchanges between Tehran and Doha.

Farzin made the remarks in a meeting with his Qatari counterpart Sheikh Bandar bin Mohammed bin Saoud Al Thani. Given the economic capacities which exist

in both countries, strengthening the bilateral and multilateral banking relations is on the agenda, Farzin said.

"With the development of monetary and banking relations between Tehran and Doha, the volume of trade between the two countries will grow significantly. Accordingly, the relevant cooperation should be increased more rapidly and, to realize this goal, it is necessary to pay attention to all capacities," the Iranian official said. The chiefs of the central banks of Iran and Qatar also emphasized the use of financial platforms and companies active in the monetary and banking spheres in order to achieve the economic and commercial goals of both sides.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Astana talks on Syrian crisis to be held next week



REUTERS – Deputy foreign ministers from Iran, Russia, Syria, and Turkey will meet in the capital of Kazakhstan, Astana, on June 21. The four countries have been discussing Syria's future after 12 years of war, during which Russia and Iran supported President Bashar al-Assad while NATO member Turkey backed political and armed opposition to him. Foreign ministers from the four countries met in Moscow on May 10, and Russia said at the time that deputy ministers would be tasked with preparing a roadmap to advance Syria-Turkey ties.

FM: Defying unilateralism common policy of Iran, Nicaragua

IRNA – Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said that defying unilateralism is the common policy of Iran and Nicaragua. In a tweet hours after President Ebrahim Raeisi arrived in the Nicaraguan capital Managua on Wednesday, Amir-Abdollahian wrote that capitalizing on the potential that exists in Latin America is part of the Raeisi administration's balanced foreign policy.

Sanctions undermine efforts to combat climate change: Envoy

IFP – Iran's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Amir Saeid Irvani said unilateral sanctions act as barriers to the targeted countries' contributions to global efforts aimed at combating climate change problems. He also demanded an immediate end to the coercive measures. "Iran, like other nations, confronts environmental challenges and climate change impacts such as pollution, water scarcity, sand and dust storms, desertification, and biodiversity degradation," he stated in an address to the UN Security Council session on Tuesday.

Israel desperate due to Palestinian groups' power: *Iran Leader*

International Desk

Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei on Wednesday said Israel has plunged into a "state of inaction" thanks to the growing power of Palestinian resistance factions. "Today, the Zionist enemy finds itself in a state of inaction and reaction, indicating that the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) and other resistance groups have accurately discerned the best course of action and are moving forward prudently," Ayatollah Khamenei told PIJ chief Ziyad al-Nakhalah in Tehran. The Leader hailed Palestinian resistance groups' increasing military power and credibility in the face of Israel, adding that the Israeli defeat during the five-day conflict against the Gaza Strip in May served as evidence of this fact. "The PIJ showcased its formidable capabilities during the recent battle in Gaza, which resulted in a shift in the circumstances for the Zionist regime, unlike battles witnessed sev-



Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei (R) receives the Palestinian Islamic Jihad Secretary General Ziyad al-Nakhalah (2nd-R) in Tehran on June 14, 2023. [khamenei.ir](#)

enty years ago," Ayatollah Khamenei said. The Leader pointed out that Israeli leaders were "rightfully concerned" as the possibility that the regime can endure ten more years appears uncertain. He noted that Palestinian factions

have found "the key to bring the Zionist regime to its knees" in the occupied West Bank. "They (Palestinian factions) should continue this path." Ayatollah Khamenei further expressed Iran's unwavering support for the Palestinian cause and

commended Palestinian groups for forming a united front against Israel. Nakhalah, for his part, appreciated Iran's continued support for Palestine and hoped that the "final victory" against Israel would be achieved "soon" by the liberation of Al-Quds.

Iran to restore diplomatic ties with Bahrain, Egypt



International Desk

Manama and Cairo are likely to resume diplomatic ties with Tehran soon, said top American and Iranian officials, respectively. Speaking about the possibility of Bahrain restoring diplomatic ties with Iran, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Barbara Leaf told lawmakers, "I think it will happen sometime soon." Bahrain cut diplomatic ties with Iran in 2016, a day after Saudi Arabia did so. However, Iran and Saudi Arabia announced

in March that they would restore diplomatic ties, and Tehran reopened its embassy in Riyadh on June 6. On Monday, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani said that Tehran welcomes the restoration of ties with Manama. He added that Bahraini officials have voiced their readiness to resume relations with Iran. Similarly, Tehran and Cairo have expressed their willingness to restore their diplomatic ties, which were cut in 1980. A member of the Irani-

an Parliament stated on Wednesday that Oman has taken up the task of mediating and exchanging messages between the two sides, as discussed during the visits of the Sultan of Oman to Cairo and Tehran. Fada Hossein Maleki noted that a Tehran-Cairo rapprochement will undergo the same lengthy process as that of Tehran-Riyadh. He speculated that a meeting between the foreign ministers of Iran and Egypt is likely to be the first step.

IRGC smashes anti-revolution groups in West, terrorists in SE



TASNIM

National Desk

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Ground Force smashed anti-revolution hostile groups in Iran's western province of Kurdistan, as well as a team of terrorists in the southeastern province of Sistan and Baluchestan. Therefore, it has been revealed that the purpose of a recent military exercise in Iran's Kurdistan Province was to cleanse the mountainous areas in Sarvabad city of the forces affiliated with anti-rev-

olution groups, according to Tasnim news agency. Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the war game on Wednesday, the commander of one of the nearby bases of the IRGC said the remaining hostile elements hiding in the zone are being removed. Denouncing the anti-revolution forces for upsetting security in the region, General Mohammad Taqi Osanlu noted that the anti-revolution elements had been harassing local residents. The IRGC Ground Force's

Quds Base said in a separate statement that a team of terrorists has also been smashed before it could carry out its plans in southeastern parts of the country. The anti-terrorism operation was held in cooperation with the Intelligence Ministry forces, the statement added. Two terrorists were killed and a third has been arrested in the attack. The operation also resulted in the confiscation of ammunition, weapons, and explosives.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Iran's global ...

Given its positive relations with South American countries, Iran can serve as a vital link between East Asia and South America. The signing of cooperation agreements and contracts between Iranian authorities and the aforementioned countries not only enhances bilateral cooperation but also establishes a foundation for potential multilateral agreements between the Islamic Republic and other Latin American nations. Beyond the energy sector, Iran possesses valuable expertise in the con-

struction of power plants, the development of new industries and technologies, and advancements in medicine. These areas of expertise can prove mutually beneficial for the target countries while also bolstering Iran's standing. Hence, the president's visit to South America, in addition to its economic advantages, symbolizes Iran's power and spiritual influence stretching from East Asia to South America. It is also a testament to Iran's international prestige and standing on the global stage.

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A record 110 million people worldwide are now forcibly displaced: **UN**

Some 110 million people have had to flee their homes because of conflict, persecution, or human rights violations, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees said. The war in Sudan, which has displaced nearly 2 million people since April, is but the latest in a long list of crises that has led to the record-breaking figure.

"It's quite an indictment on the state of our world," Filippo Grandi, who leads the U.N. refugee agency, told reporters in Geneva ahead of the publication Wednesday of UNHCR's Global Trends Report for 2022.

Last year alone, an additional 19 million people were forcibly displaced including more than 11 million who fled war in Ukraine in what became the fastest and largest displacement of people since World War II.

"We are constantly confronted with emergencies," Grandi said. Last year the agency recorded 35 emergencies, three to four times more than in previous years. "Very few make

your headlines," Grandi added, arguing that the war in Sudan fell off most front pages after Western citizens were evacuated. Conflicts in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia and Myanmar were also responsible for displacing more than 1 million people within each country in 2022.

The majority of the displaced globally have sought refuge within their nation's borders. One-third of them - 35 million - have fled to other countries, making them refugees, according to the UNHCR report. Most refugees are hosted by low to middle-income countries in Asia and Africa, not rich countries in Europe or North America, Grandi said.

Turkey currently hosts the most refugees with 3.8 million people, mostly Syrians who fled the war, followed by Iran with 3.4 million refugees, mostly Afghans. But there are also 5.7 million Ukrainian refugees scattered across countries in Europe and beyond. The number of stateless people has also risen in 2022



● XAVIER BOURGOIS/UNHCR

to 4.4 million, according to UNHCR data, but this is believed to be an underestimate.

Regarding asylum claims, the U.S. was the country to receive the most new applications in 2022 with 730,400 claims. It's also the nation with the largest backlog in its asylum system, Grandi said.

"One of the things that

needs to be done is reforming that asylum system so that it becomes more rapid, more efficient," he said.

The United States, Spain and Canada recently announced plans to create asylum processing centers in Latin America with the goal of reducing the number of people who trek their way north to the Mexico-U.S. border.

As the number of asylum-seekers grows, so have the challenges facing them. "We see pushbacks. We see tougher and tougher immigration or refugee admission rules. We see in many countries the criminalization of immigrants and refugees, blaming them for everything that has happened," Grandi said.

Xi calls for a Palestinian state to become 'full member' of UN



Chinese President Xi Jinping reiterated to Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas on Wednesday his call for a state of Palestine to become a "full member" of the United Nations, state

media reported. Xi expressed Beijing's position during a summit with Arab countries in Saudi Arabia in December, although the latest call comes as the Asian power-

house works to strengthen its role as mediator in the Middle East, AFP reported. Xi met Abbas during the December trip and pledged to "work for an early, just and durable solution to the Palestinian issue".

Beijing has since positioned itself as a mediator in the Middle East, brokering the restoration in March of ties between Iran and Saudi Arabia.

"China supports Palestine in becoming a full member State of the United Nations," Xi said during a meeting with Abbas in Beijing, according to Chinese state broadcaster

CCTV.

"The fundamental way out of the Palestinian issue lies in the establishment of an independent Palestinian State," he said.

Abbas will be in the Chinese capital until Friday, his fifth official visit to the world's second-largest economy.

Xi told Abbas at a welcome ceremony at the Great Hall of the People that China was "ready to strengthen coordination and cooperation with the Palestinian side".

"Today, we will jointly announce the establishment of a China-Palestine strategic partnership, which

will be an important milestone in the history of bilateral relations," Xi said. Abbas arrived in Beijing on Monday to hold talks with top Chinese leaders including Xi and Premier Li Qiang.

Beijing has sought to boost its ties in the Middle East, challenging US influence - efforts that have sparked unease in Washington.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin called long-time Palestinian leader Abbas an "old and good friend of the Chinese people" during a regular media briefing last week.



China's President Xi Jinping (R) shakes hands with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas during a welcoming ceremony at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on June 14, 2023.
● JADE GAO/POOL/AFP

At least 78 drown in Greece's deadliest migrant shipwreck this year

At least 78 people died and dozens are feared missing off the coast of southern Greece after a fishing boat carrying migrants capsized and sank, authorities said Wednesday.

A large search and rescue operation was launched in the area. Authorities said 104 people have been rescued so far following the nighttime incident some 75 kilometers (46 miles) southwest of Greece's southern Peloponnese region, according to AP.

Four of the survivors were hospitalized with symptoms of hypothermia. It was unclear how many passengers might remain missing at sea after the Greek coast guard reported 78 dead.

Six coast guard vessels, a navy frigate, a military transport plane,

an air force helicopter, several private vessels and a drone from the European Union border protection agency, Frontex, were taking part in the ongoing search.

The Italy-bound boat is believed to have sailed from the Tobruk area in eastern Libya. The Italian coast guard first alerted Greek authorities and Frontex about the approaching vessel on Tuesday. Libyan authorities have launched a major crackdown on migrants earlier this month across eastern Libya. Activists have said several thousand migrants, including Egyptians, Syrians, Sudanese and Pakistanis, have been detained. Libyan authorities deported many Egyptians to their home country through a land crossing point. In western Libya, authorities have

raided migrant hubs in the capital, Tripoli, and other towns over the past few weeks. At least 1,800 migrants were detained and taken to government-run detention centers, according to the UN refugee agency.

Mediterranean smugglers are increasingly taking larger boats into international waters off the Greek mainland to try to avoid local coast guard patrols.

On Sunday, 90 migrants on a US-flagged yacht were rescued in the area after they made a distress call.

Separately Wednesday, a yacht with 81 migrants on board was towed to a port on the south coast of Greece's island of Crete after authorities received a distress call.



A migrant is transferred by rescue personnel, following a rescue operation, after their boat capsized at open sea, in Kalamata, Greece, on June 14, 2023.
● REUTERS

NEWS IN BRIEF

Lebanon's Parliament fails to elect president for 12th time



AL JAZEERA - Lebanon's Parliament fails to elect president for 12th time. The main competition was between Jihad Azour, a former finance minister and senior official with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and Sleiman Frangieh, leader of the Marada party whose family has a long history in Lebanese politics.

Erdogan: No change in Turkey's stance on Sweden's NATO membership

AP - Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said that NATO should not bet on his country approving Sweden's application to join the Western military alliance before a July summit because the Nordic nation has not fully addressed his security concerns.

Sweden and Finland applied for membership together following Russia's military operation in Ukraine last year. Finland became NATO's 31st member in April after the Turkish Parliament ratified its request, but Turkey has held off approving Sweden's bid.

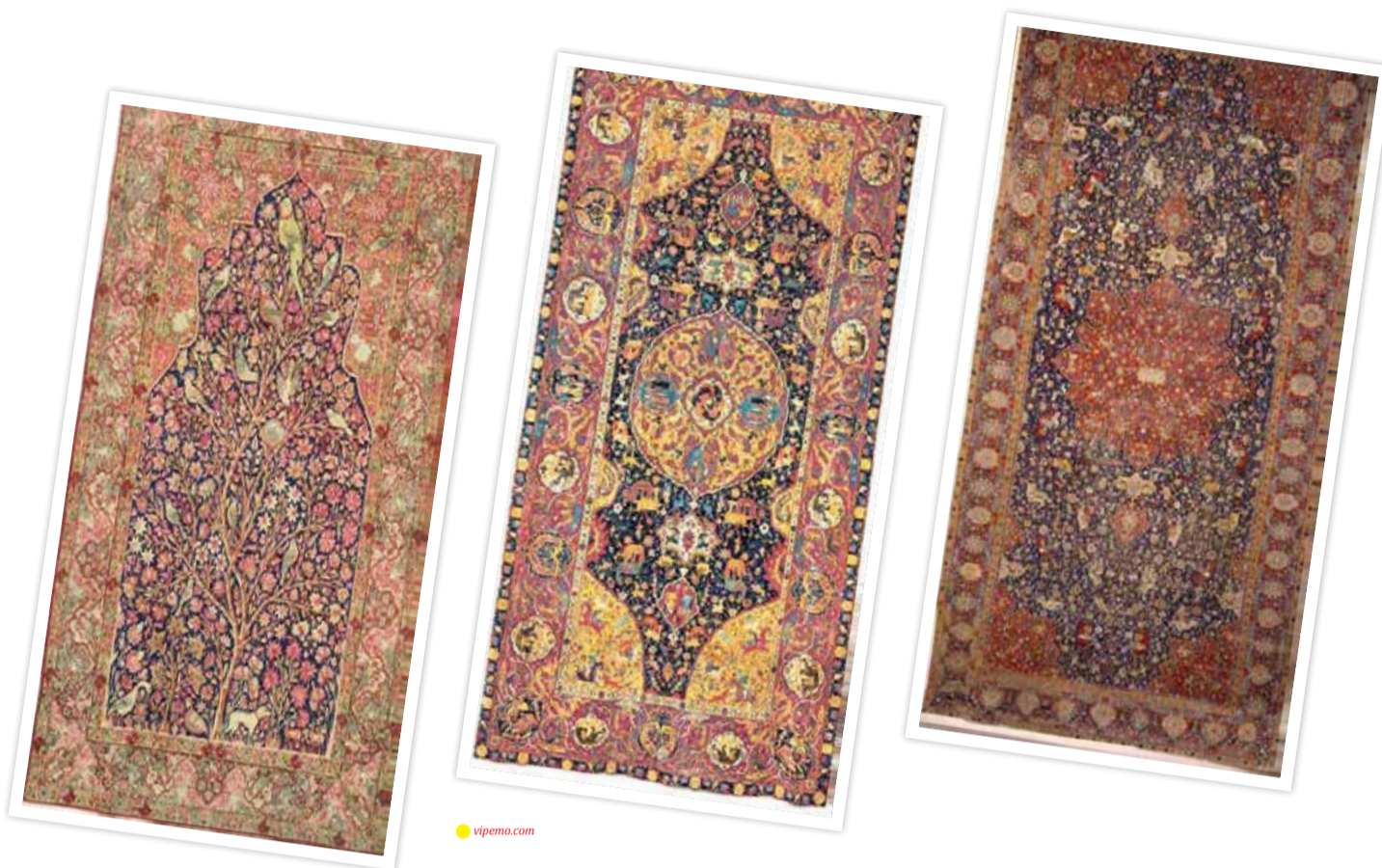
NATO wants to bring Sweden into the fold by the time the leaders of member nations meet for a summit in Lithuania's capital on July 11-12.

Medvedev: Russia now free to destroy enemies' undersea cables

REUTERS - Russia's Deputy Head of the Security Council Dmitry Medvedev said there was no reason for Moscow not to destroy its enemies' undersea communication cables given what he said was Western complicity in the Nord Stream pipeline blasts on Sept. 26 last year.

It is still unclear exactly what happened to Nord Stream, a multibillion-dollar project that carried Russian gas to Germany. In recent months, US newspapers have reported that the CIA knew of a Ukrainian plot to attack the pipelines.

Isfahan carpets in the Safavid era



While architecture and painting were the main artistic vehicles of the Safavids, the making of textiles and carpets were also of great importance. In the 16th century, hitherto primarily nomadic crafts were transformed into royal industries by the creation of court workshops. The best known carpets of this period, dated 1539 CE, come from the Mausoleum of Sheikh Safi al-Din in Ardebil and, in the opinion of many experts, represent the summit of achievement in carpet design, vipemo.com wrote. The larger of the two is now kept in London's Victoria and Albert Museum, while the other can be seen at the Los Angeles County Museum.

Shah Tahmasb admired carpets so much that he learned weaving techniques and designed several very refined models himself.

Under Shah Abbas, artists developed the use of gold and silver threads in carpets, culminating in the great coronation carpet now held in the Rosenberg Castle in Copenhagen. As one would expect, the carpets made for Abbas the Great were large in scale and grandiose in design.

The "vase" pattern, also called Shah Abbasi, contains great palmettes, huge leaves, flower-strewn meadows, and sometimes animals. The so-called "Polonaise" carpets, most of which have found their

way to Europe, are enriched with threads of silk, gold covered silver, and silver.

The predominantly geometric themes of earlier Iranian carpets were not abandoned entirely, but tended to be replaced by the plant, animal, and occasional human themes; medallions and Shah Abbasi flowers are the most usual motifs.

The Safavid carpets are also characterized by arabesque tendrils, and margins in colors which contrast with those of the center. Modern Isfahan carpets are characterized by a pale beige or light blue palette. However, sometimes as many as fifteen colors are used for contrast and outlines, includ-

ing several different shades of red. Both warp and weft are made of wool and cotton, though silk wefts are also found. Sometimes gold or silver threads are used for small highlights, recalling the early "Polonaise" rugs. Carpets vary in size, though large carpets are quite rare. Modern Isfahan carpets bear mostly the Shah Abbasi designs; patterns are very intricately drawn and precisely executed.

Among other carpets woven in Isfahan are Armani Bafs made by Christian Armenians with the Turkish knot, and Isfahan Mirs, nomads' carpets from the vicinity of Isfahan, also finely woven with the Turkish knot.

Dasht-e Rivas, a red gem on desert of Yazd Province

Iranica Desk

Dasht-e Rivas (Rhubarb Plain), extending in an area of 76.6 hectares, is the only habitat of rhubarb plant in Yazd Province and one of the few in Iran.

The plain is located 60km from the provincial capital city of Yazd, in the southwest of Kalmard Protected Area and west of Aliabad Dargazi region.

The distinctive vegetation of the plain, which lies next to numerous moorlands, depicts a beautiful landscape.



In the spring, when the plain turns green, the newly-grown leaves of rhubarb bushes spread across the plain, creating a unique landscape. This is while this area is a dry desert in other seasons of the year.

The growth of the plants is directly related to the amount of precipitation; in rainy years they are numerous, full of leaves with crimson, red and yellow flowers.

The unique plain has attracted the attention of people in recent years. A large number of tourists arrive in the area, especially in the spring, to enjoy its amazing landscapes and collect rhubarbs.

The region, with significant elevation differences, is a suitable habitat for various plant and animal species. The natural site was registered on Iran's National Heritage List in 2019.

All parts of the rhubarb plant are used for various purposes, for example, rhubarb stew is made from its stem which is rich in vitamins and minerals. The flower of the plant is also used in the cosmetics industry.

Rhubarb is a plant that has long, sour-tasting red and green stems that can be cooked and eaten as a fruit.

Old textile shows importance of maritime trade

A textile, dating back to Safavid Era, illustrates the importance of maritime trade and exchange with Europe, both themes so central that they increasingly found their way into the Safavids' visual world. The discovery of a sea route to India in the early sixteenth century permanently changed the economic and political equilibrium in the region and enabled a direct exchange with Europe without having to travel by land and stop off in territories belonging to the Ottoman Empire, for example.

The conquest of Gombroon/Bandar Abbas in 1614-15 by Shah Abbas I ended the dominion of the Portuguese in the Persian Gulf. Its expansion into an important trading centre ultimately enabled maritime trade under the Safavids to flourish.

The fragment shown here has two complete pattern units and other truncated ones. Each of them consists of a large sailing boat under which two smaller rowing boats are placed diagonally. The individual pattern units are arranged in alternating rows and the

areas between them enlivened with ducks and jumping fish.

The large sailing boat has a central mast, which simultaneously forms the mirror axis of the entire scene, making the boat appear to have two fore-castles.

Topped by small fluttering flags, these look like pavilions. A sitting figure can be discerned in the doorway of one of them, while a man holding an oar with both hands stands to the left or right of the mast. Behind him flies a larger flag.

He is dressed in a belted jacket, trousers and

boots; his headgear identifies him as a European. Portuguese and Dutch wearing similar hats appear on Portuguese carpets and paintings from the sixteenth and first half of the seventeenth century. The mast is crowned with an architectural element, perhaps a crow's nest.

The two rowing boats depicted diagonally beneath the sailing boat are also mirror images and show two men sitting in the bows and the stern as well as a standing rower. The clothing of the man in the stern has been interpreted as Indian

on account of the scarf thrown over the shoulder.

The double weave exhibits an extraordinary wealth of detail with elaborate renderings of ducks' feathers, the decoration of the boats and their flags. The potential monotony of a strictly symmetrical composition is broken up by the diagonal depiction of the rowing boats and the freely swimming ducks and fish.

Many other fragments of this originally very large textile are to be found in museums and collections in Europe and the United States.



The above is a lightly edited version of part of a chapter entitled, 'The Safavid Era - A Sense of Place' from a book entitled, 'Iran, Five Millennia of Art and Culture', edited by Ute Franke, Ina Sarikhani Sandmann and Stefan Weber, published by Museum of Islamic Art. The photo was taken from the book.

Iran U17 team marches to Asian FS wrestling crown

Sports Desk

A clean sweep of medals across 10 weight classes saw Iran's under-17 team cruise to the freestyle wrestling crown at the Asian Championships in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

Iranian boys collected six golds, three silvers, and a bronze medal to dominate the team table with 225 points – 45 points clear of second-placed India, with Kazakhstan finishing third with 158 points.

On Tuesday, Tohid Noori defeated opponents from India, Turkmenistan, and Mongolia before coming out on top against Kazakhstan's Samir Dursunov 4-1 for the 92kg gold.

Having marched to the final showdown without conceding a point, Ahoura Khateri won the first gold of the day for the country, thanks to a victory by technical superiority (11-0) over Indian Dhanraj Bharat Shirke in the 45kg contests. A second final showpiece of the afternoon featuring the Iranian and Indian wrestlers saw Sam Sayyar edge Rupesh Rupesh for the ultimate prize of the 48kg class.

Meanwhile, Amir-Reza Teymourizad finished his campaign with the 55kg



● twfir

silver after suffering a 6-5 loss to India's Ankush Ankush in the final.

Sajjad Pirdayeh was the second Iranian to fall to a defeat in the final as he was beaten 2-1 by the host's Omurbek Uulu and took the 60kg silver, while Abolfazl Mohammadnejad was the second best against

Yedige Kassimbek of Kazakhstan in the 110kg final – suffering an 8-1 setback. In the 51kg event, Amir-mohammad Navazi bounced back from a last-four defeat against Japan's Leo Akagi to outmuscle Uzbekistan's Shohiron Aliev 7-0 and leave Bishkek with a consolation bronze.

Tuesday's medals came after the Iranians had scooped all three golds up for grabs on the preceding night.

Sina Khalili came out victorious by an 8-3 scoreline against home-favorite Rustamzhan Kakharov in a thrilling 65kg final, while Abolfazl Hosseini outpow-

ered Nurdaulet Seilbekov of Uzbekistan 6-2 for the 71kg gold.

Abolfazl Rahmani made a quick work of winning the 80kg gold by a 10-0 win against Indian Saurabh Yadav in the final contest. Iran's emphatic triumph came a year after the country had to settle for a fourth-

spot finish at the event, courtesy of five medals – including a single gold.

"Thank God we won a medal in all weight classes, but this is just the beginning for this team," said Iran head coach Behnam Ehsanpour.

"Our ultimate goal will be to succeed at the upcoming World Championships in Istanbul [starting July 31]. I'm confident this team is also capable of winning the world title," added the Iranian.

The freestyle crown meant Iran left the Kyrgyz capital with double boys' crowns after the country won four golds as well as two silvers and bronzes apiece for the first Greco-Roman title in the competitions in four years.

Mohammad-Meraj Mohammadi (51kg), Mohammadreza Gholami (55kg), Ali-Akbar Asghari (92kg), and Amirhossein Abdevali (110kg) walked away with the top prize of their respective weight classes.

Erfan Moradi (45kg) and Habibollah Rahimi (71kg) added a couple of silvers to the country's medal haul, while Ali Dezfoulinejad (60kg) and Ahmadreza Mohammadmadian (65kg) were the Iranian bronze medalists at the event.

Mbappé questions PSG with Madrid 'lies' claim



● GETTY IMAGES

THE GUARDIAN – Kylian Mbappé will leave Paris Saint-Germain next summer but not before – if the French striker is to be believed.

Within an hour of his camp releasing a statement announcing he had no intention of continuing at the club beyond the end of his contract, which expires in 2024, the Frenchman responded to reports that he wants to join Real Madrid immediately by dismissing them as "lies" and insisting: "I have already said that I will continue at PSG next season where I am very happy."

Mbappé's statement comes as a direct challenge to the PSG hierarchy, who are determined not to lose him for free in a year's time, as a standoff develops, the first step in a long summer.

Madrid had initially planned to move for Mbappé in 2024 but would be prepared to bid now if he is put on the market, particularly after the departure of Karim Benzema 12 months ahead of schedule. The Spanish club, though, remain reluctant to be drawn into another battle having failed with a €200m (£171m) bid to sign him in 2021 and again in 2022 as his contract was coming to an end, when they believed he would join them on a free transfer.

That pursuit was played out publicly, with Madrid convinced they had an agreement in place. Mbappé's last-minute decision to remain in Paris had angered many in the Spanish capital but contact was reestablished, an apology had been made, and the intention was to line up his signing ready for next summer. This time, it would be up to Mbappé to take the necessary steps. He has now done so.

L'Équipe reported on Monday night that Mbappé had written to PSG to inform them he was not going to exercise the option to extend his contract beyond 2024. In a statement released on Tuesday through AFP, his camp said he had told the PSG board that as far back as 15 July 2022 – shortly after signing the original deal which was for two years with an optional extra year. Since then, it claimed, there had been no meaningful negotiations over an extension and he had no intention of continuing beyond June next year.

Faced with the prospect of losing him for free – a risk they had been prepared to take in 2021 – PSG's preference is to push through a sale this summer.



● DPA

Greek manager Ouzounidis agrees to join Golgothar

Sports Desk

Greek manager Marinus Ouzounidis is set to be named as the new head coach of Golgothar Sirjan after agreeing a two-year deal with the Persian Gulf Pro League club.

The fee of the contract is yet to be officially disclosed but Iranian Mehr News Agency, quoting Greek media, reported that Ouzounidis and his coaching staff will receive two million euros per season during their time in Iran.

Ouzounidis, 49, will take over from interim coach Saeed Al-hoei, who led Golgothar to the sixth spot in the newly-finished Iranian top-flight season.

Alhoei, a former assistant coach in the club, replaced Amir Qalenoee midway through last season, after he parted ways with Golgothar to take charge of the Iranian national team.

A former player of Greek giant Panathinaikos and APOEL Nicosia, Ouzounidis is familiar with working as a coach in the Middle East, as he was in charge of Saudi

Arabia's Al Faisaly during two spells over the past 18 months. His second stint at the Saudi club came to an end following a defeat against Iranian side Foolad Khuzestan in the AFC Champions League last-16 round last March.

Capped on 49 occasions for the national team, Ouzounidis led APOEL to the Cypriot First Division title in 2002 and was named the Manager of the Year in the Greek Super League after steering Panionios to a fifth-place finish.

Lukaku offered €25 million a season by Al Hilal

GOAL – Romelu Lukaku has received a formal offer from Al Hilal, which could see him follow Cristiano Ronaldo to Saudi Arabia.

The Chelsea striker, who spent the 2022-23 season on loan at Inter, visited Saudi Arabia on Monday to meet with Al Hilal officials, GOAL has learned. The Saudi club have offered Lukaku a two-season contract worth a grand total of €50 million (£43m/\$54m).

Lukaku is due to return to Chelsea now that his loan deal with Inter has expired. It has been reported that the Italian giants do not have the necessary funds to sign him outright, and new Blues boss Mauricio Pochettino is said to be ready to give the striker another chance at Stamford Bridge.

However, GOAL can confirm that Lukaku is very much open to a switch to Al Hilal. The 30-year-old will first try to squeeze an even

larger salary out of the club, though, as he wants to be rewarded handsomely if he is to turn his back on European football.

Al Hilal will have to enter into direct negotiations with Chelsea if they strike an agreement with Lukaku. The Blues are open to a sale as they seek to trim their squad ahead of the new season, but will ask for a fee in excess of €50 million. GOAL understands that Al Hilal are reluctant to pay that much for Lukaku, but they will be receptive to a potential compromise with Chelsea in order to push a final deal over the line.

The Chelsea forward has expressed his desire to remain at Inter, who reached the 2022-23 Champions League final only to lose 1-0 against Manchester City, but it appears unlikely that the Italian giants will be able to keep him for another year.

The lure of riches in Saudi Arabia could prove too strong for Lukaku

to ignore, with Ronaldo paving the way for more high-profile stars to play in the Middle East after his record-breaking switch to Al Nassr in December. Ronaldo's former team-mate Karim Benzema has since left Real Madrid to join Al Ittihad, with Chelsea's N'Golo Kante also set to complete a move to the Saudi Pro League champions.

Meanwhile, the Guardian reported that Manchester City's Riyad Mahrez who has attracted interest from the Saudi side Al Ahli, is understood to be open to leaving the club despite being part of their treble-winning squad.

The Algeria forward signed a two-year contract extension at the Etihad Stadium last summer and City will demand a considerable fee for the player they signed from Leicester in 2018 for £60m.



● GETTY IMAGES

NEWS IN BRIEF

Erdogan hints at interest rate hike



AFP – Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan signalled Wednesday that he would let his new economic team hike interest rates to combat inflation and stabilise the lira, reversing an era of unconventional policies.

Erdogan, who secured re-election last month, has appointed market-friendly economist Mehmet Simsek as finance minister and former Wall Street executive Hafize Gaye Erkan as central bank governor.

Turkey had “no choice but to return to rational ground”, Simsek said soon after taking office.

France wants Musk to build Tesla factory



● GETTY IMAGES

CNBC – France is trying to convince Elon Musk to build Tesla's next Gigafactory in the country, the nation's digital minister said on Wednesday, in the most explicit comments yet that Paris wants the billionaire's investment.

The courtship comes just as the minister threatened the Musk-owned Twitter with a ban, if it does not comply with upcoming European Union regulation.

“It will be great to have a Tesla factory in France, there has been a lot of effort and energy to make sure this is possible and this can happen,” Jean-Noel Barrot said.

China holds urgent meetings on economy



● REUTERS

BLOOMBERG – China has convened ‘urgent’ meetings on the economy with business leaders on how to revitalize the economy.

Meeting attendees characterized “an ‘unusually urgent’ tone in the meetings, which were described by people present.

\$3.6b deal with Venezuela, turning point for Iran LatAm trade



President Ebrahim Raisi visits Megasis, the mall for Iranian products in Caracas, Venezuela, on June 13, 2023. ● president.ir

The Iranian deputy foreign minister for economic affairs has described the package of agreements signed between Iran and

Venezuela, which has been valued at \$3.6 billion, would be a new turning point for the expansion of economic and political ties

between the Islamic Republic of Iran and countries in Latin America. Mehdi Safari made the remarks in an interview with

Iran's State TV on Tuesday, where he referred to 19 memoranda of understanding (MoUs) signed between Iran and Venezuela in Car-

acas, in the presence of the presidents of the two countries a day earlier.

Signing such agreements, the most important of which are in the medical and engineering fields, is an indication of Iran's serious determination to resume trade and economic cooperation with Latin American countries, Safari underscored.

The Tehran-Caracas \$3.6-billion deal is a starting point for Iran's trade with Latin America.

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi arrived in Caracas on Monday to start his four-day trip to the Latin American countries of Venezuela, Nicaragua, and Cuba.

On Monday, the senior officials of Iran and Venezuela signed 19 agreements on cooperation in various fields. Early on Wednesday, President Raisi arrived in Managua, Nicaragua, on the second leg of his regional tour.

Iran-Eurasia trade is increasing: MP

By Sadeq Dehqan
Staff writer

Referring to the increasing trade between Iran and Eurasian states, the vice chairman of the Agriculture Committee of Parliament said that grains and agricultural products form a major part of the exchanges.

In an interview with Iran Daily, Rahmatollah Norouzi noted, “Currently, a major part of Eurasia's exports to Iran are agricultural products, especially grains, and a large part of Iran's exports to Eurasian countries are also agricultural products.

Pointing to the northern provinces as the hub of the production of many agricultural products in Iran, he explained, “One of the programs on the agenda is to increase the export of agricultural products from the northern provinces to Eurasian countries.”

Regarding the necessity of speeding up the process of setting up the Incheborun Free Zone in the north of Golestan Province, which is on the border of Turkmenistan, Norouzi said, “The free zone, which is in the final stages of being set up, can be an im-



portant port for the country's exports.”

“Considering the location of Golestan Province as the gateway to Eurasian countries, the use of the capacities of the free zone can give Iran access to the several-hundred-million-strong market of the Eurasian region.”

We enjoy a very good capacity in the field of exporting agricultural products in the northern provinces, and the

three northern provinces of Golestan, Mazandaran and Gilan, due to their proximity to Eurasian countries, can use the capacity to generate income for the country.

Norouzi added, “Eurasian countries and our other export destinations in neighboring countries, including Iraq and Afghanistan, are a very good market and opportunity for us, which can be used in the current condition of sanctions.”

Referring to the importance of producing agricultural products, the MP said, “We must boost the production of agricultural products because, in today's world, the issue of food security is considered very important; especially, the war between Ukraine and Russia has shown that food security is a basic priority of all countries.”

“Fortunately, Iran has very good capacities in terms of

providing food security for itself and other countries, but it has not done well in the field of exploiting this capacity in the way of exporting to Eurasian countries.”

The economy of the northern provinces of the country is based on the cultivation of agricultural products, but the creation of conversion industries in these provinces has not been completed in line with the agricultural capacities, he claimed.

OPEC figures: Iran oil production up in May

Iran's crude oil production increased 61,000 barrels per day (bpd) in May compared to the previous month to reach 2.679 mbd, according to OPEC's latest monthly report published.

The country produced 2.619 million bpd of crude oil in April, Shana reported.

According to OPEC data, Iran produced 2.577 mbd in March, 2.574 mbd in February, and



2.554 mbd of crude in January.

Based on OPEC data, the country's average crude output in the first quarter of 2023 stood at 2.57 mbd indicating a 3,000-bpd rise compared to the figure for the last quarter of the previous year.

Second Announcement

Tender invitation

Invitation to public tender for
IODINE // 250kg

Tabriz petrochemical company intends to procure its required quantity of IODINE for polyethylene production plant from reputable & reliable producer and supplier of said product. Interested suppliers should submit their request to below email in order to get tender documents until June 22, 2023.

Deadline for submission of offers for tender is: July 03, 2023.

Email: l.allafkari@tpco.ir **Phone No.:** +98-41-34282921

Tender	No	Quantity
IODINE	PVS-0241012	250 kg

Public Relations of Tabriz Petrochemical Company (Public Stock)

First turn published: June 10, 2023
Second turn published: June 15, 2023

The green connection: Love affair of humans with their plants and flowers

Exploring the cultural significance and emotional bonds between humans and their verdant companions



By Ali Amiri
Staff writer

It's not difficult to imagine that somewhere in the bustling streets of Tokyo, a young woman, let's call her Yuki, cradles a delicate cherry blossom in her hands, marveling at its ephemeral beauty. It's even easier to imagine that half-way across the globe, in the heart of London, an elderly

gentleman, by the name of Charles for example, tends to his prized roses, their vibrant hues a testament to decades of devotion. These two individuals, separated by thousands of miles, share a common bond: a deep love and appreciation for the plants and flowers that grace their personal space and ultimately our planet. The relationship between humans and their green companions has blossomed throughout the centuries, transcending geographical boundaries and cultural divides. From the ancient Hanging Gardens of Babylon to the meticulously manicured gardens of Versailles, to the magically green gardens scattered across Iran's deserts, trees, plants, and flowers have long held a special place in the hearts of people all over the world. In Japan, the cherry blossom, or sakura, is revered

for its fleeting beauty, symbolizing the transient nature of life. Each spring, millions of people gather to celebrate hanami, or cherry blossom viewing, picnicking beneath the trees and marveling at the delicate pink petals that blanket the ground. Our very own Yuki, with eyes full of wonder, muses, "The sakura reminds us to cherish each moment, for life is as fleeting as the blossoms themselves." In a very different climate, in Mexico, the vibrant marigold takes center stage during Día de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, a celebration honoring deceased loved ones. The bright orange petals are believed to guide the spirits of the departed back to the world of the living, creating a bridge between the two realms. "The marigold is a symbol of love that transcends death," says Maria, 28, a Mexican artist who creates intricate marigold arrangements for the annual festivities. "It's a remind-

er that our connection to those we've lost is never truly severed." In the Netherlands, the tulip has become somewhat synonymous with the country's identity, its colorful fields drawing tourists from around the world. The Dutch's love for the tulip dates back to the 17th century, when the flower's popularity led to a speculative frenzy known as Tulip Mania. "The tulip is a symbol of our national pride," says Pieter, a third-generation tulip farmer, who was kind enough to explain to this pen everything about the cultural significance of the tulip. "It represents our resilience and our ability to find beauty in even the harshest of conditions."

"Damask rose has been the only constant in my life," says Nasser, a 68-year-old gardener in Kashan, central Iran. "As far as I can remember, I've been planting and caring for these lovely, auspicious flowers." The cultural significance of the damask rose in Iran

extends beyond its mere beauty, as its fragrance elicits salavat from Iranian Muslims who smell it. It's concentrate, known as go-laab, is used in an array of Persian dishes. For many, the love of plants and flowers extends beyond their cultural significance, fostering a deep emotional bond between humans and their green friends. In the quiet solitude of a New York City apartment, a young woman might find solace in her collection of houseplants, each one a living testament to her resilience in the face of adversity. "My plants have been with me through the darkest times," writes Emma, a 37-year-old resident of the metropolis, in her email. "They've taught me the importance of patience, of nurturing, and of growth." Emilio, a millennial residing in the verdant hills of Tuscany, Italy, tends to her

olive grove, the gnarled trees a living legacy passed down through generations. "These trees are a part of my family," he explains, adding, "They've witnessed our joys and our sorrows, and they've stood strong through it all." As our world becomes increasingly interconnected, the love of plants and flowers continues to unite us, transcending borders and bridging cultural divides. One might succumb to say that plants and flowers are the universal language of the earth, a testament to the enduring power of nature and the indomitable human spirit. So, whether it's the fleeting beauty of the cherry blossom, the vibrant hues of the marigold, the sacred fragrance of the damask, or the steadfast resilience of the olive tree, the love affair between humans and their green companions shows no signs of wilting.



FARS

On the occasion of Iran's National Flower & Plant Day: A short introduction to the most popular apartment plants

Social Desk
EXCLUSIVE

Apartment plants have gained immense popularity in recent years, as more people seek to bring nature into their very own living spaces. These plants not only en-

hance the aesthetics of an apartment but also provide numerous health benefits, such as improving air quality and promoting mental well-being. This report intro-

duces some of the most popular apartment plants in Iran and elsewhere, based on their ease of care, adaptability to various light conditions, and overall appeal.



Known for its elegant white flowers and lush green foliage, the Peace Lily (*Spathiphyllum*) is a popular choice for apartment dwellers. It is an excellent air purifier, removing toxins such as formaldehyde and benzene from the air. In addition, the Peace Lily thrives in low to medium light conditions and requires minimal watering.



A hardy, low-maintenance plant with tall, sword-like leaves, Snake Plant (*Sansevieria*) is an effective air purifier, removing toxins like formaldehyde, xylene, and toluene. This plant can tolerate low light conditions and requires infrequent watering, making it ideal for busy apartment dwellers.

A beautiful plant characterized by its arching, variegated leaves, Spider Plant (*Chlorophytum comosum*) has small, spider-like plantlets that dangle from the mother plant. It is an effective air purifier, removing pollutants such as formaldehyde, xylene, and toluene. Spider Plants are adaptable to various light conditions and require moderate watering.



A wildly popular tropical plant with large, glossy leaves, Monstera Deliciosa (Swiss Cheese Plant) features unique splits and holes. It thrives in bright, indirect light and requires moderate watering. While not as effective as some other plants in air purification, it still contributes to improved air quality.



A succulent plant known for its medicinal properties, Aloe Vera (*Aloe barbadensis*) is particularly famous for its gel, which is used to soothe burns and skin irritations. It helps improve air quality by removing formaldehyde and benzene. Aloe Vera thrives in bright, indirect light and requires minimal watering.



Known for its glossy, dark green leaves and its ability to tolerate low light conditions, ZZ Plant (*Zamioculcas zamiifolia*) helps improve air quality by removing toxins like xylene, toluene, and benzene. This low-maintenance plant requires infrequent watering, making it ideal for apartment living.



The popular trailing plant with heart-shaped leaves, Pothos (*Epipremnum aureum*), is often seen in hanging baskets or cascading from shelves. It is an efficient air purifier, removing pollutants such as formaldehyde, benzene, and xylene. Pothos is adaptable to various light conditions and requires moderate watering.



Actor Esmaeil Soltanian die



Arts & Culture Desk

Esmaeil Soltanian, a film and television actor and member of Iran's Veteran Artists Institute, has died. Soltanian died at the age of 69, on June 13, due to a heart attack, IRNA quoted Seyyed Abbas Azimi, the head of the Veteran Artists Institute as saying. Azimi further expressed his condolences to the family and announced that details of the funeral and farewell ceremony for the late artist would be forthcoming, to be held in the Artists' Section of Behesht-e Zahra Cemetery.

Soltanian was born in 1954 in Kermanshah and graduated in acting and directing from the Drama Arts School.

He began his artistic career in 1970 in theater as a writer, actor, and director. In the same year, he also completed a six-month course at the Kermanshah Center for Dramatic Arts under the supervision of the Iranian theater, cinema and TV actor, Atash Taqipour. He started his work in cinema in 1985, with his role in the film, 'The Hunting of Hunter'.

He also performed in several theaters on the front lines during the Iraq-Iran War (1980-88).

Iran media delegation tours Iraq to expand cooperation



MEHR

A media delegation arrived in Baghdad on Tuesday to discuss expanding media cooperation with Iraqi officials.

The senior Iranian media delegation, hosted by Iraq's Wisdom Movement, visits the neighboring country to develop cooperation between Iranian and Iraqi media groups. Holding a meeting with the leader of Iraq's National Wisdom Movement, Sayyid Ammar al-Hakim, and paying a visit to some Iraqi news agencies are parts of the plan of the three-day trip, Mehr news agency reported.

The delegation will meet with the heads of the Federation of Journalists of Iraq, the Iraqi news agency, and Al-Sabaah News.

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Iran appointed as deputy to UNESCO's Underwater Cultural Heritage Convention



Arts & Culture Desk

Iran has been selected as the Deputy to the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage, according to reports from the country's permanent representation at UNESCO in Paris.

The country was unanimously chosen as the Deputy of the Assembly and a member of the Convention's Bureau for a two-year term, IRNA reported.

Iran officially joined the convention in 1999 with the primary objective of establishing effective international collaboration in the preservation of underwater heritage within international and territorial waters.

In addition to scientific and technical cooperation, member states are required to share advanced technological resources related to underwater heritage protection, subject to specific conditions, with other member states. Under the purview of UNESCO's definition, "Underwater Cultural Heritage" encompasses all aspects of human existence that possess cultural, historical, or archaeological significance and have been submerged, either partially or entirely, for a minimum of one hundred years. This includes sites, structures, buildings, human artifacts, human remains, as well as their corresponding archaeological and natural contexts. Moreover, it comprises ships, aircraft, and other vehicles, along with their cargoes and associated contents, and their relevant archaeological and natural contexts. Prehistoric objects also fall within the scope of this definition.

This recent appointment highlights Iran's commitment to the preservation and safeguarding of underwater cultural heritage, as well as its active engagement within the international community to protect and promote shared historical legacy.

Iranian traditional oral storytelling nationally registered

Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian storytelling was nationally registered during a Tuesday ceremony attended by cultural officials.

Officials from Iran's Cultural Heritage Organization as well as the Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults attended the ceremony with Farhad Fallah, the deputy director of cultural affairs of the institute announcing, "Iranian storytelling was nationally registered on the eve of the 25th edition of the International Storytelling Festival".

Fallah added that the cultural body is reviewing the global registration of storytelling as well, IRNA reported. *Naqqali* (Iranian Dramatic Storytelling) and narrating the 'Shahnameh' is one of the intangible cultural heritages of Iranians registered in UNESCO.

Referring to the actions of the 25th international event, Fallah said the festival aims to popularize storytelling as a deep culture among families.

During the 24th edition of the international event, ten storytellers from across the world attended the festival to share tales from their folk cultures.

Addressing the registration ceremony, Deputy Adviser of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Alireza Tabesh said that the Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults, in cooperation with the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, added storytelling to the national register.

"The important element of literature and storytelling is part of Iran's national identity and cultural attraction; we must transfer literature with its capacities to future generations," Tabesh concluded.



Envoy urges Spanish Iranologists to convey positive image of Iran



IRNA

Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian Ambassador to Madrid Reza Zabib on Wednesday called upon Spanish Iranologists to present a good image of Iran to their nation and Spanish-speaking peoples. "I call upon you to help create an Iranian-Spanish narrative based on facts that serve mutual interests," Zabib told a group of Spanish Iranologists, as well as cultural and scientific elites in Madrid, according to IRNA.

At the meeting which took place at Iran's diplomatic

mission, Zabib said that the image currently depicted of Iran is based on a distorted "American perspective".

"This narrative is heavily influenced by politics and lacks depth, making it incapable of serving the best interests of either Iran or Spain," the envoy added. He pointed out that intellectuals play a key role in altering the perception that the United States has created of Iran by painting a dark picture of it.

"Iran, as a nation, possesses inherent cultural values and traditions. It is

striving to chart its path of progress in alignment with these values."

Zabib hailed the 400-year relationship between Iran and Spain, which is founded on "lofty principles".

"Stable international relations are nurtured through the embrace of lofty ideals and principles such as peace, justice, friendship, and mutual respect.

The enduring bond of over 400 years of amicable ties between Spain and Iran serves as a prime illustration of this approach," he concluded.

Environment activists smear paint on Monet work in Stockholm

Environment activists on Wednesday smeared red paint and glued their hands to the protective glass on a Monet painting at Stockholm's National Museum, police and the museum said. "Two women around the ages of 25 and 30 were arrested," police said, as the organisation Aterstall Vatmarker (Restore Wetlands) claimed responsibility for

the action in an interview with AFP.

The museum told AFP it was "not yet known" if the painting itself had been damaged.

The artwork was Monet's "The Artist's Garden at Giverny" from 1900.

The painting "is being examined by the museum's curators to see if there has been any damage", the mu-

seum said in a statement, while spokeswoman Hanna Tottmar said they hoped to "have more information" today.

Aterstall Vatmarker posted a video on Facebook where the two women, one a nurse and the other a nursing student, could be seen smearing the paint and then gluing their hands to the glass.



VIDEO SCREENSHOT/insiderpaper.com