



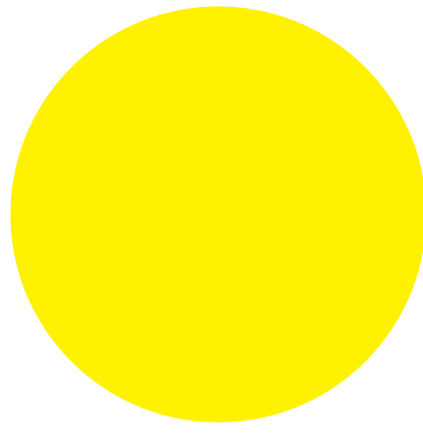
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Saudi FM in Tehran

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan (l) waves to journalists as his Iranian counterpart Hossein Amir-Abdollahian welcomes him in Tehran on June 17, 2023. **PAYAM SANI/IRNA**

Turkey, main obstacle to peace in Caucasus



OPINION EXCLUSIVE

By Mohsen Pakaein
Iran's ex-embassy to Azerbaijan
During his recent visit to Azerbaijan, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan claimed, "Our problem with reopening the Zangezur corridor and connecting Nakhchivan with the Republic of Azerbaijan through this route is not Armenia, but our problem is Iran, and Iran's approach in this matter upsets the Republic of Azerbaijan and Turkey."

Erdogan's statements regarding the Zangezur corridor and his stance against Iran are aimed at distracting public opinion from Turkey's role in prolonging the Nagorno-Karabakh war and closing regional routes. Erdogan believes that the Zangezur crossing should be an international corridor, disregarding Armenia's sovereignty over this route. The crossing called Zangezur is located within the Syunik Province and, based on the principles of territorial integrity upheld by international law, Armenia holds the rightful authority over this passage. Armenia and Turkey have been at odds for years due to the Armenian Genocide carried out by the Ottoman Empire and have no formal diplomatic relations. For this reason, Armenia strongly opposes Turkey's utilization of this passageway. Ankara seeks to nullify this crossing from Yerevan's sovereignty and recognize it as an international corridor, so that it can use it.

Turkey is inciting the Republic of Azerbaijan not to recognize Armenia's sovereignty over the corridor, and to internationalize it. This has caused the prolongation of the war and, in fact, Turkey is the main obstacle to the establishment of peace in the Caucasus and the opening of transit routes. **Page 2 >**

Iran becomes largest dairy exporter in Asia: *FAO*

Economy Desk

Iran was the biggest exporter of dairy products in Asia in 2022, according to figures released by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Iran exported around 1.6 million metric tons (mt) of milk and dairy products and imported 86,000 mt of such products in 2022, according to FAO's report. Iran's milk and dairy exports account for 17% of the nine million mt total exports of such products in Asian countries.



It is expected that exports of Iran's milk and other dairy products will increase to 1.59 million mt in 2023. It also said Iran ranks as the 13th largest producer of wheat, 13th largest producer of rice, and 11th largest producer of meat in Asia. FAO has also predicted that Iran's production of cereals and grains will reach 18.8 million tons in 2023.

Iran-KSA thaw to bear positive outcome for region

International Desk

Saudi Arabia's foreign minister paid a visit to Tehran on Saturday as a first trip by a Saudi top diplomat to Iran in seven years amid a rapprochement between the

two Middle East powers. Prince Faisal bin Farhan was welcomed by his Iranian counterpart Hossein Amir-Abdollahian at Iran's Foreign Ministry ahead of bilateral talks and a press conference.

During the press conference, the two sides hailed the re-establishment of diplomatic relations, which they said would be paramount to improving security across the region. "The Islamic Republic of Iran has never equated security with militarism, and considers security to be a comprehensive concept, which includes political, economic, cultural, trade and social dimensions between all the countries of the region," Amir-Abdollahian said.

The Iranian foreign minister said he discussed a wide range of issues with his counterpart, which included trade ties, joint investments, technology, tourism and transportation. The Iranian top diplomat also said they talked about cooperation on environment, formation of joint economic and political committees and fighting drug trafficking among the

other issues. Both sides also discussed the Palestinian issue, the ongoing conflict in Sudan and some other regional and international issues. For his part, Bin Farhan said Iran and Saudi Arabia are two important countries in the region, adding that "mutual respect, non-interference in the two countries' internal affairs and commitment to the United Nations Charter" will be at the center of bilateral relations going forward, with an eye on securing the interests of both nations.

"I would also like to highlight the two countries' discussions on cooperation on ensuring maritime security and reducing proliferation of weapons of mass destruction," he said. He said that the Saudi Embassy in Tehran will be reopened soon. Bin Farhan expressed hope that restoration of relations

between Tehran and Riyadh would have positive effects on the entire region and the Islamic world, which will also help the security and the development of economic and cultural cooperation in the region. Iran and Saudi Arabia agreed in Beijing on March 10 to resume relations and reopen diplomatic missions within two months. Iran reopened its embassy in Riyadh on June 6, followed by its consulate general in Jeddah and its mission to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) a day later. Tehran has selected Alireza Enayati, a former envoy to Kuwait and a Foreign Ministry deputy for regional affairs, as its ambassador to the kingdom. Saudi Arabia broke ties with Iran in 2016 after protesters attacked the Saudi Embassy in Tehran following Riyadh's execution of a prominent Shia cleric.

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Iran, Egypt agree to form committee to restore ties: *Report*

National Desk

Iran and Egypt have reportedly agreed to form a committee to resume diplomatic ties and security coordination. There are signs of rapprochement between the two ancient countries, especially after a recent détente between Iran and Saudi Arabia after a seven-year rift, which has also encouraged many countries in the region to put aside their differences and restore their diplomatic relations.

Saudi Arabia's Al-Arabiya TV, which has released the report, has not given any further details about the agreement. It comes weeks after the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei welcomed Egypt's willingness to resume relations with Iran. "We welcome this position and have no problem in this regard," the Leader told Oman's Sultan Haitham bin Tariq Al Said in a meeting in Tehran on May 29. Iran and Egypt cut diplomatic ties in 1980 after Cairo admitted the former Shah of Iran and recognized Israel.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Taliban allow
Iran experts
to visit
Kajaki Dam

IFP – The caretaker of Iran's Embassy in Kabul announced that the Taliban have granted permission for a team of Iranian experts to inspect the reservoir of the Kajaki Dam, amid a water dispute between Iran and Afghanistan. "Agreements have been reached so that our experts can go visit the region [where Kajaki Dam is located] and pave the way for the release of water," said Hassan Kazemi Qomi.

Blinken
denies
prisoner
swap deal
with Iran

AP

International Desk

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken rejected reports on Friday that Washington and Tehran were close to making a deal on swapping prisoners or nuclear matters.

"We haven't taken any option off the table, but there is no agreement, and reports to the contrary are simply inaccurate," he said in a press conference. He stressed that Washington continues to work intensely on a regular basis on both matters.

Situation at
Afghanistan
border
normal:
Minister

TASNIM – Calm has returned to the common border between Iran and Afghanistan after a recent brief armed clash, Iranian Interior Minister Ahmad Vahidi said, noting that cross-border travels are taking place normally. Vahidi said the rulers of Afghanistan have been reminded that they must inform their forces about the rules at the border and take care of their activities, stressing that the Iranian border guards are protecting the national interests vigorously and won't allow anybody to violate the territorial integrity of Iran.

Tehran should be more assertive
on northern borders: *Iran MP*

By Sadeq Dehqan
Staff writer



ICANA

Referring to recent developments in the southern Caucasus region, a member of the Iranian Parliament emphasized that the country's diplomatic apparatus should do away with its reservations when it comes to Iran's northern borders. In an exclusive interview with Iran Daily, Ara Shaverdian called on Tehran to be more vigilant with regard to any development that lays the groundwork for changes in the region's internationally-recognized borders, echoing the Leader of the Islamic Republic's stress on the principle of the inviolability of borders.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran has always pursued a balance in its ties with neighboring countries, but if geopolitical changes are to occur in internationally-recognized borders, it should no longer have such considerations," the lawmaker stated.

"As the Leader underlined, the country's officials must stay vigilant and not let Iran's historical and cultural borders be erased," he said, noting that the border between Iran and Armenia dates back to long ago. Alluding to the controversy surrounding the Zangezur Corridor, the vice presi-

dent of the Iran-Armenia Parliamentary Friendship Group added, "We support the establishment of peace and security in the region but also react to any agreement or event that lays the groundwork for geopolitical and border changes." As Shaverdian pointed out, the Armenian government has repeatedly voiced its objection to border changes that the opening of the Zangezur Corridor entails, but the "third-party countries such as the Zionist regime that are also present in the region" have put pressure on the Caucasus states to "restrict Iran's access". The International North-South Transit Corridor (INSTC), he noted, already connects Iran both to the East through Chabahar port and India, and to Western Europe through Armenia, Georgia, and the Black Sea. "But the opening of the Zangezur Corridor diminishes our presence in the southern Caucasus."

"We are not to allow the presence of Western coun-



iswnews.com

tries, the Zionist regime, and NATO in the region to restrict Iran in such a way," Shaverdian warned. The Zangezur Corridor is supposedly designed to link the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic to the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic and, in a broader sense, to Turkey. "It is worth noting, however, that the three were always linked through Iran," he said. "Iran has never imposed any restriction or customs duties

on the transit or vehicular traffic along the route, and this corridor is, in a way, currently open through Iran. But the Zangezur Corridor would cut Iran's link both to Armenia and the INSTC, which is essential for us." The member of Parliament who represents the Armenians of Tehran and Iran's northern provinces lauded the incumbent government's successful implementation of its policy of increasing cooperation and interaction

with regional and, especially, neighboring countries. "In line with this policy, our ties with other Persian Gulf littoral states including Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Bahrain have been strengthened," Shaverdian stated, calling for further effort to be made in forging closer ties with the states of the Caucasus region. "The improvement in our diplomatic relations with Saudi Arabia, for instance,

will lead to a rise in the level of our trade and economic relations between the two countries as well, which is quite instrumental now that Iran is under cruel sanctions of the West, particularly the United States." The Iranian lawmaker also expressed hope that the recent Tehran-Kabul dispute over Iran's water rights from the Hirmand (Helmand) River and border clashes would be solved through dialogue and diplomacy.

Turkey, main obstacle ...

If this crossing is internationalized, Armenia will be stripped of its sovereignty while Russian forces, or multinational armies, will take control of it. This situation means a violation of Armenia's territorial integrity, which is opposed by Yerevan. Armenia's position is logical; it is supported not only by Iran, but also by the international community and the UN, because the territorial integrity of the countries should not be violated. In addition, if Zangezur is

removed from Armenia's territorial integrity, internationally recognized borders will change, and the border between Iran and Armenia will also be closed. This is another reason for Iran's position regarding the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and access roads of the Caucasus, which is completely principled and in line with international standards. Iran welcomes the opening of routes between its neighbors and considers it a path to economic progress for itself and neighboring countries.

For this reason, Iran has allowed Azerbaijan to connect to Nakhchivan via the Iranian route for over twenty years. At the same time, Iran respects its neighbors' territorial integrity, including that of Azerbaijan and Armenia, and opposes any change in internationally recognized borders. That is why Tehran is against the internationalization of the Zangezur passage-way, which violates the territorial integrity of Armenia and changes the geographical boundaries. By maintaining its sovereignty, Armenia is ready

to open the Zangezur pass to Azerbaijan, allowing it to enter Nakhchivan, provided that Baku respects its territorial integrity. Obviously, since Armenia does not have relations with Turkey, it does not allow this country to use this passage, and this is Armenia's right. In this situation, Turkey is abusing its friendly ties with Azerbaijan and is urging President Ilham Aliyev to push for the internationalization of Zangezur, and even threatens Armenia with military action to open the corridor.

In fact, today Ankara is the main obstacle to solving the disputes between Baku and Yerevan, because Turkey will be the main loser in the establishment of peace in the Caucasus. Ankara's differences with Yerevan are serious and complex, and the process of resolving them will be long. At the same time, if Turkey opens its borders in the north of Armenia and allows this country to reach Europe through Turkey, Armenia will allow Turkey to use this passage, assuming the resolution of differences

between the two countries. Currently, Turkey is against this and has temporarily opened this border just to help Armenian earthquake victims. Armenia is also interested in being able to enter Iran via the Nakhchivan route and connect to Iran's transport routes if the dispute with Azerbaijan is settled. In any case, the transit routes are the prime issue of the Caucasus and, of course, if Turkey stops its provocations, the disagreements between Armenia and Azerbaijan will be resolved sooner.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

Azerbaijan to stop issuing visas
to Iranians at airport

The Republic of Azerbaijan plans to stop issuing visas to Iranian citizens on their arrival at its airport from June 23. The Iranian Embassy in Baku said the decision was announced by the Azeri Ministry of Foreign Affairs, IFP reported. It added that Iranian nationals who want to travel to the Republic of Azerbaijan need to visit the Azeri diplomatic missions in Iran to get their visas, or apply for them on www.mfa.gov.az, which is a website launched by the Azeri Ministry of Foreign Affairs for this purpose. Relations between Tehran and Baku soured several months ago after a man attacked the Azeri Embassy in Tehran. Iran arrested the attacker, saying the man did the attack on a personal motive.



IRNA

Other developments also increased tensions between Iran and Azerbaijan including Baku's push to carve out a chunk of land for its Zangezur Corridor that would obliterate Iran's border with Armenia. Tehran objected to this plan, vowing not to allow any changes in the region's geopolitical map.

UN steps up criticism of IMF, World Bank



From the ashes of World War II, three institutions were created as linchpins of a new global order. Now, in an unusual move, the top official in one – the secretary-general of the United Nations – is pressing for major changes in the other two.

Antonio Guterres says the International Monetary Fund has benefited rich countries instead of poor ones. And he describes the

IMF and World Bank's response to the COVID-19 pandemic as a "glaring failure" that left dozens of countries deeply indebted, AP reported.

Guterres' criticism, in a recent paper, isn't the first time he's called for overhauling global financial institutions. But it is his most in-depth analysis of their problems, cast in light of their response to the pandemic, which he called a

"stress test" for the organizations.

His comments were issued ahead of meetings called by French President Emmanuel Macron in Paris on Thursday and Friday to address reforms of the multilateral development banks and other issues.

Neither the IMF nor the World Bank would comment directly on the secretary-general's criticisms and proposals. But Gu-

terres' comments echo those of outside critics, who see the IMF and World Bank's leadership limited by the powerful nations that control them – a situation similar to that of the United Nations, which has faced its own calls for reform.

Maurice Kugler, a professor of public policy at George Mason University, told The Associated Press that the institutions' failure to help the neediest countries "reflects



United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres
● MANUEL BALCE CENETA/AP

the persistence of a top-down approach in which the World Bank president is a U.S. national appointed by the U.S. president and the IMF managing director is a European Union national appointed by the European Commission."

Richard Gowan, the International Crisis Group's U.N. director, said there is a lot of frustration with the U.S. and its European allies dominating decision-making, leaving African countries with only "a sliver of voting rights." Developing countries also complain that the bank's lending rules are weighted against them, he said.

Guterres said it's time for the boards of the IMF and the World Bank to right what he called the historic wrongs and "bias and injustice built into the current international financial architecture."

That "architecture" was established when many developing countries were still under colonial rule.

Guterres said the institutions haven't kept pace

with global growth. He said the World Bank has \$22b in paid capital, the money used for low-interest loans and grants for government development programs. As a percentage of global GDP, that's less than one-fifth of the 1960 funding level.

At the same time, many developing countries are in a deep financial crisis, exacerbated by inflation, rising interest rates and a standstill in debt relief.

The IMF's rules unfairly favor wealthy nations, he said. During the pandemic, the wealthy Group of Seven nations, with a population of 772m, received the equivalent of \$280b from the IMF while the least developed countries, with a population of 1.1b, were allocated just over \$8b.

"This was done according to the rules," Guterres said. This is "morally wrong."

He called for major reforms that would strengthen the representation of developing countries on the boards of the IMF and World Bank, help countries restructure debts, change IMF quotas, and revamp the use of IMF funds. He also called for scaling up financing for economic development and tackling the impact of climate change.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Over 40 dead in Uganda attack



AP – Ugandan authorities recovered the bodies of 41 people, including 38 students, who were burned, shot or hacked to death after suspected rebels attacked a secondary school near the border with Congo, the local mayor said Saturday. At least six people were abducted by the rebels, who fled across the porous border into Congo after the raid on Friday night.

Mpondwe-Lhubirha Mayor Selevest Mapoze said that some of the students suffered fatal burns when the rebels set fire to a dormitory and others were shot or hacked with machetes.

Ukraine won't have 'easy' path to join NATO: Biden

AFP – The United States won't make special arrangements for Ukraine to join the NATO military alliance, President Joe Biden said Saturday.

"They've got to meet the same standards. So, we're not going to make it easy," the US president told reporters near Washington.

Mali calls for end of UN mission

AFP – Mali's foreign minister called Friday for the UN Security Council to withdraw the peacekeeping mission in his country "without delay," denouncing its "failure" to respond to security challenges. The country's military rulers have increasingly imposed operational restrictions on peacekeepers and also broke Mali's longstanding alliance with former colonial power France.

Khartoum air strikes kills 17



REUTERS – Air strikes killed civilians and pummeled multiple parts of the Sudanese capital on Saturday, residents said, as mediators pushed the warring factions towards a new ceasefire. The Khartoum Health Ministry confirmed a report by local volunteers on Saturday that 17 people including five children were killed in the Mayo area of southern Khartoum and 25 homes destroyed.

Palestinian resistance leading to Israel's downfall: Iran's SNSC

Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Ali Akbar Ahmadian said the proliferation of resistance cells across Palestine will bring about the collapse of Israel.

In a meeting with Secretary General of the Islamic Jihad movement Ziad al-Nakhala, held in Tehran on Saturday, Ahmadian applauded the

Palestinian people and resistance groups' unparalleled perseverance in the struggle against Israel, Tasnim news agency reported. "The cause of the Palestinian nation and the liberation of the holy Al-Quds from the control of the occupying Zionist regime will materialize only through resistance," Ahmadian

said. Reaffirming Tehran's support for the Palestinian people, the Iranian official described support for the Palestinian nation and resistance groups as a pillar of Iran's policies.

He called on the Palestinian resistance groups to join hands and remain vigilant to thwart the Zionist

Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Ali Akbar Ahmadian (R) meets with Secretary General of the Islamic Jihad movement Ziad al-Nakhala in Tehran on June 17, 2023.
● TASNIM



pressed gratitude to Iran for its unwavering and effective support for Palestine and briefed Ahmadian on the latest developments

in the Palestinian territories and the West Bank, as well as the resistance groups' victory against Israel.

African leaders visit Russia to discuss peace plan with Putin

International Desk

South Africa's president arrived in Saint Petersburg, Russia on Saturday ahead of talks headed by an African delegation pushing for negotiations between Kyiv and Moscow even as doubts grow they will bear fruit.

The African leaders are attempting to make the continent's issues heard after it has been buffeted by economic headwinds caused by the conflict, AFP reported.

President Cyril Ramaphosa's arrival in Saint Petersburg "follows constructive discussions with (Ukrainian) President Volodymyr Zelensky," the South African presidency said.

The delegation will "meet (Russian) President Vladimir Putin to seek a road

to peace to (end) the 16 months-long conflict (that's) caused devastating economic impact, loss of life and global instability".

The mission includes four presidents: Ramaphosa, Senegal's Macky Sall, Zambia's Hakainde Hichilema and Comoros' Azali Assoumani, who also currently heads the African Union. The leaders of Uganda, Egypt and Congo-Brazzaville pulled out of the visit at the last moment and sent representatives instead. Efforts to secure peace appear increasingly perilous, analysts told AFP, with both Kyiv and Moscow convinced they can win on the battlefield.

"There must be de-escalation on both sides," Ramaphosa said in a press conference in Kyiv the day

before, calling for "peace through negotiations".

Talks with Russia rejected

But Zelensky ruled out that possibility during a joint press conference with the delegates.

"I clearly said several times at our meeting that to allow any negotiations with Russia, now that the occupier is on our land, is to freeze... pain and suffering," he said. "In our view it is important to listen very carefully to what both countries have to say, and tomorrow we are now going to listen to President Putin," Ramaphosa said.

More tanks needed

The delegation also comes as both sides are focussed on battlefield developments, as Kyiv presses its newly-launched counter-

offensive. Putin's Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu called for more tanks to be manufactured "to meet the needs of Russian forces" in Ukraine.

Kyiv on Friday evening reported tactical successes "practically in all areas where our units are fighting in the south." The Russian president showed little appetite for talks speaking Friday at the Saint Petersburg Economic Forum. "I think that Ukraine's armed forces stand no chance (in the south), as well as in other directions... I have no doubt about that," Putin said.

Warning to West

He also said that his deployment of tactical nuclear weapons to Belarus, something he confirmed for the first time had already happened, was a re-

minder to the West that it could not inflict a strategic defeat on Russia, Reuters reported.

Putin said Russian tactical nuclear warheads had already been delivered to close ally Belarus, but stressed he saw no need for Russia to resort to nuclear weapons for now.

Russia also accuses the West of blocking its exports of fertilisers and threatens to pull out of a deal – that expires on July 17 – that allowed vital Ukrainian grain exports to resume through the Black Sea. Securing the future viability of a deal allowing grain from Ukraine to reach the global market would be one potential goal of the delegation.

"This conflict is also affecting African countries negatively, touching on the livelihoods of 1.2 or

Yazd's magnificent monuments are unique in the world

Iranica Desk

The city of Yazd, in the central province of Yazd, is known as the first adobe and the second historical city of the world.

The old houses built in Yazd, located in a desert region with hot and dry climate, have a special architectural style. So far, 323 historical houses of Yazd have been inscribed on Iran's National Heritage List.

Khane-ye Taq Bolandha

Dr. Kazem Mandegari, a member of the faculty board of Yazd University's School of Arts and Architecture, said one of the oldest mansions of the city, which is locally known as Khane-ye Bozorg (the Great House), Khane-ye Taq Bolandha (the House of High Vaults), and Khan-ye Hosseinian (Hosseinian House) is situated in Fahhadan neighborhood of the city.

He added that its high porch, as a unique and special feature, has distinguished this house from other old structures of Yazd. He noted that various theories have been proposed about the history of the monument; however, regarding the similarity between the main porch of the building and that of the Seyyed Shamsuddin Tomb, it can be traced back to 14th century BCE. The Seyyed Shamsuddin Tomb, located in Char-Menar neighborhood, is the remains of a building



Khane-ye Taq Bolandha
archome.ir



Lariha House
karnaval.ir

complex belonging to 14th century BCE.

Mandegari said, "The house has several names, reviewing each of which can increase our knowledge about the building." According to Karim Pirnia, a prominent Iranian architect, author and theoretician (1920-1977),

the house belonged to a person named Sharafuddin Hossein, who also established the Hosseinieh School in the same alley. Moreover, the name Hosseinian alley is mentioned in a book entitled, "The History of Yazd," which dates back to the 15th century BCE. Thus, most prob-

ably the ancient house and school were parts of a complex established by Sharafuddin Hossein. The name Taq Bolandha, mentioned by Iraj Afshar (1925-2011), a bibliographer, historian, scholar, and an iconic figure in the field of Persian studies, is related to the distinctive

feature of the monument, i.e., its high vaults. The house's proximity to Hosseinieh School and an old mosque show its architectural combination with urban elements. Due to its great significance, the mansion was purchased by the Ancient Monuments Preservation

Organization from its owners many years ago. With regard to several renovation projects implemented in the house, its original architectural style was not identified until 1995, when the ceiling of its main porch, which was destroyed several decades ago, was restored.

Lariha House

Lariha House is among the other popular ancient monuments of Yazd which dates back to the Qajar era. Established in 1869, the house was registered on Iran's National Heritage List. The owner of the house, which extends in an area of 1,700 meters, was a famed Iranian merchant named Mohamad Ebrahim Lari.

The monument, with three courtyards and six residential sections, has several porches, halls and rooms, a *sardar* (doorway) and a *hashti* (entrance gate). The *howz* (a centrally positioned symmetrical pool) and high porch of the courtyard catch the eye of every viewer.

There is a wooden platform, with lattice decorations above the pool, which can be reached with three steps. The owners of the house once sat on this platform in the afternoons, enjoyed dinner and spent time with the family.

The mansion has 22 rooms, all of which are decorated with mirror works and paintings. Several *baadgirs* (wind catchers) were built in various parts of the building to keep the heat away from its interior parts, especially in the summer.

With the help of wind catchers above these houses, the basement areas had natural air conditioning and remained cool during the warmer months of the year, when they were used as sitting rooms.



Khane-ye Taq Bolandha
balad.ir



Lariha House
karnaval.ir

Tamisheh Wall in Golestan Province dates back to Sassanid era

Iranica Desk

Tamisheh Wall, 12 kilometers long, dating back to the Sassanid era, starts in the northern slopes of the Alborz Mountains.

The remains of Tamisheh, an ancient city in Tabarestan, were discovered near Sar Kalateh-ye Kharab Shahr village in Kordkuy, Golestan Province, chtn.ir reported.

Tamisheh, which was a prosperous city during the Sassanid era, was a place of residence for Fereydoun, an ancient Persian king.

According to some historical documents, Tamisheh Wall was built upon the order of the Sassanid King, Khosrow I, who spent some time in the city. The move was undertaken to prevent the Turks and eastern tribesmen from invading the

city. Tamisheh was the easternmost city of Tabarestan, located on the border with Gorgan. However, some archeologists believe that Tamisheh Wall, as a continuation of the historical Wall of Gorgan, was built during the Sassanid era to prevent Hephthalites from attacking the land.

Several brick kilns were built along Tamisheh Wall to provide construction materials for the project. Two castles, which were built in the east and west of the forest heights located in the south of Tamisheh during the Sassanid era, were used until the early Islamic era. Researchers believe that the city, damaged heavily during the Mongol attacks, was ruined completely by the invasion of Timur, the founder of

the Timurid Empire. The northernmost point of the wall was flooded due to a rise in the water table of the Caspian Sea. French archeologist Jacques de Morgan, director of Delegations Archeologiques Francaises in Iran (1897-1912 CE), recorded parts of the wall. An extensive archeological survey of the wall in 2001, directed

by Jebrael Nokandeh and Hamid Omrani Rekavandi, led to the discovery of the wall's continuation into the Caspian Sea and its first exploration by underwater archaeologists. A joint expedition from the Iranian Center for Archaeological Research and the Universities of Edinburgh and Durham carried out geophysical surveys and excavations, from 2005 to 2009.



dehgardi.ir



dehgardi.ir



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Head coach Qalenoey looking to change Iran's 'decade-long approach'

Sports Desk

Iran head coach Amir Qalenoey said he has been seeking to change his team's 10-year approach ever since he replaced Carlos Queiroz in March. Qalenoey made the remarks after his team routed cohost Kyrgyzstan 5-1 in Bishkek to win Group B in the CAFA Nations Cup on Friday.

Porto talisman Mehdi Taremi scored a hat-trick before Leverkusen striker Sardar Azmoun bagged a brace in the space of three minutes in the second half with Mirlan Murzayev netting a consolation for the home side – as Iran booked a place in the final showdown against Uzbekistan at Tashkent's Milliy Stadium on Tuesday.

The victory was a second one in the Central Asian tournament for Qalenoey's men, who had thrashed Afghanistan 6-1 in their opener.

"Some may say that Kyrgyzstan is a weak team but that's not the case, as they came close to a 1-1 draw against Russia until the



● CAFA

closing stages [of a friendly] a few months ago before conceding a late goal," Qalenoey said in a post-match press conference, while he was full of praise for his players who played "with such a high determination." "Iran used to play with a dif-

ferent style for 10 years and I've been trying to change the team's approach over the past three months," added the most decorated manager in the history of the Iranian top-flight with five titles. "I've always been an

attack-minded coach throughout my career and a free-flowing football is what I want to instill in the national team. We'll be looking to improve game by game and there are some top-notch players in the squad, who give their best

to help us achieve our goal," added the former Esteghlal and Sepahan manager, who left his role on Golgozar bench midway through the recently-finished Persian Gulf Pro League season to take the Iran job – a second international spell for the

Iranian after his team was knocked out by South Korea in the shootout in the 2007 AFC Asian Cup quarterfinals.

The 59-year-old's comments was a veiled swipe at his Portuguese predecessor Queiroz, who, despite Iran's decent World Cup performances against football powerhouses Argentina, Spain, and Portugal, was often criticized for adopting a defensive game plan in the team.

Queiroz's tactics did little to help Iran against England and USA in last year's World Cup in Qatar as two defeats either side of a victory over Wales saw Iran fail to progress beyond the group stage – bringing an end to the Portuguese's second stint in charge.

Qalenoey will be tasked with steering his side in next January's Asian Cup in Qatar, where Iran will be looking for a first continental silverware since lifting the trophy on home soil in 1976.

Iran is drawn alongside the UAE, Hong Kong, and Palestine in Group C of the 24-team tournament.

AFC U17 Asian Cup: Abdi hails Iran's patience in Afghanistan rout



Iran head coach Hossein Abdi looks on as his team plays Afghanistan in Group B of the AFC U17 Asian Cup in Bangkok, Thailand, on June 16, 2023. ● the-afc.com

Sports Desk

Iran head coach Hossein Abdi was delighted to see his young guns overcome a nervy start to their opener in the AFC U17 Asian Cup and walk away with an emphatic 6-1 victory over Afghanistan.

Despite dominating possession in the Group B opener in Bangkok, Thailand, Abdi's boys had to wait 28 minutes to get off the mark, when Hesam Nafari headed home a first goal at the event for the country.

Esmail Qolizadeh doubled Iran's lead from the spot four minutes later but Hakim Khan Niazi's deflected free-kick pulled one back for Afghanistan.

Kasra Taheri scored twice either side of the interval and Qolizadeh netted his second in the 51st minute with Reza Qandipour adding the sixth with one minute left from normal time. The victory saw Iran go joint-top of the group table alongside South Korea, which also thrashed Qatar 6-1 on Friday.

"The first game in every tournament is always a tough one and we were lucky to score after missing so many chances early on," Abdi said after the match.

"These players are a bunch of 16-year-olds who often perform with stress or want to do more than they are capable of.

"The big challenge for a footballer at this age is to remain confident and patient, while following the team's gameplan and philosophy. We stayed patient until we broke the deadlock and goals kept coming for us after that," added the 56-year-old manager.

"We took our foot off the gas after we had a comfortable lead in the second half as the players' fitness is also of high priority for us. That's why we made the substitutions.

"It was important to win the first game as the players will have a better recovery and concentration for the future matches," Abdi added.

Next for Iran is a game against Qatar on Monday before Abdi's side squares off against South Korea three days later.

The top two of the four groups will advance to the quarterfinals of the tournament, with the winners of the four last-eight round qualifying for the FIFA U-17 World Cup later this year.

NBA suspends Morant for 25 games over gun videos



● JUSTIN FORD/GETTY IMAGES

BBC – Memphis Grizzlies guard Ja Morant has been suspended for 25 games without pay for "conduct detrimental to the NBA".

Morant, 23, was "suspended from all team activities" in May after appearing to hold a gun in a social media video for the second time in two months.

His return is subject to completing an NBA programme that "directly addresses the circumstances that led him to repeat this destructive behaviour".

Morant was suspended for eight games after the initial incident in March.

On that occasion, a video

showed the All-Star guard, who was the second overall draft pick in 2019, holding a gun in a Colorado nightclub, after which he apologised and said he would "get help".

"I take full responsibility for my actions last night," he added in a statement.

Morant said he is "committed to continuing to work on myself" after the latest incident, when during a live broadcast on Instagram he posed with a gun in a car with several other individuals as they left a social gathering in Memphis.

"I know I've disappointed a lot of people who have supported me," Morant said.

"This is a journey and I rec-

ognise there is more work to do. My words may not mean much right now, but I take full accountability for my actions."

The 2023-24 NBA season begins in October, with each team playing 82 regular-season games.

The National Basketball Players Association, the league's players union, criticised the length of the ban.

"We believe it is excessive and inappropriate for a number of reasons," NBPA executive director Tamika Tremaglio said. "It is not fair and consistent with past discipline in our league. We will explore with Ja all options and next steps."

Crisis deepens for Euro 2024 hosts Germany with Poland loss

REUTERS – Euro 2024 hosts Germany stumbled to a 1-0 loss against Poland in their international friendly on Friday to continue their disappointing run less than a year before they host the continental tournament.

Jakub Kiwior's bouncing header snatched only the second victory for the hosts over the Germans in 90 years. Germany have now won only three of their last 10 international matches.

Four-time world champions Germany, who play Colombia next week in their last international before the summer break, now have less than a year to build a battle-worthy team for their home Euros. Following their disap-

pointing first round World Cup exit in Qatar last year, they have so far failed to show clear signs of recovery even though their second half performance on Friday was improved from their opening 45 minutes. They have managed just one win – over Peru – in their four matches since the World Cup.

"It is still a long way and there is enough time," said Germany coach Hansi Flick. "I am very confident in relation to the path we have to take."

"We will have a functioning team by next June. It is a process we will go together. The team is ready to do it."

"We are in a phase which is not that easy. We will come out of it. We can build on our

second half performance even though the result is, of course, not enough for us." The Germans, who needed two late goals to rescue a 3-3 draw against Ukraine on Monday, were almost caught out when Jakub Blaszczykowski chased down a deep cross but Malick Thiaw's well-timed tackle denied the 37-year-old at the edge of the box.

The hosts kept breaking through the shaky German backline with Jakub Kaminski's shot form a tight angle saved by keeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen.

He was beaten in the 31st when Kiwior's glancing header bounced off the ground first and then floated past Ter Ste-

gen who got a hand to the ball but could not push it wide.

The Germans looked sharper in the second half and piled on the pressure right after the restart, threatening with Robin Gosens before Joshua Kimmich saw his effort bounce off the crossbar four minutes after the restart.

Thiaw, making his Germany debut, got close to an equaliser with a fine turn and shot in the box but keeper Wojciech Szczesny produced his best moment of the night to block it.

Germany had a string of late chances but could not find an equaliser that would alleviate some of the pressure they and Flick will now face on their return.



"I had hoped we could celebrate a success in order to change the mood and get the country behind us," said Gosens, whose pace on the wing in the second half did Ger-

many well. "We all know that can only happen with results and wins. We played a good second half but it is time we start getting rewarded for it."



Germany's Kai Havertz (7) is seen in action with Poland's Jakub Kiwior (14) in a friendly match at Stadion Narodowy, Warsaw, Poland, on June 16, 2023. ● KACPER PEMPEL/REUTERS

NEWS IN BRIEF

Two-month aluminum production tops 112k tons



IRNA – Four Iranian companies produced 112,767 tons of aluminum ingots in the first two months of the current Iranian year (started on March 21, 2023). The corresponding figure for preceding year which was 114,850 tons shows a near two percent decrease, according to a Saturday report by Iranian Mine and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO).

INSTC, safe alternative to Suez Canal



IRNA – Russian Deputy Prime Minister Andrey Belousov said that the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) passing through Iran can be a safe alternative to the Suez Canal. The current transportation infrastructure, which was historically created to move goods between East and West, can no longer meet the needs of the world, the Russian official stated.

Tehran, Moscow to sign FTA



IRNA – The free trade agreement (FTA) between Tehran and Moscow is in the final stages and will be signed soon, said Vladimir Ilichev, the deputy minister of economic development of the Russian Federation. He said that Russia is currently negotiating similar FTAs with the United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Indonesia, as it is expected that these agreements will be implemented in the next two to three years. After the imposition of US sanctions, the dollar and the euro have lost their dominance in the settlement of Russian accounts, the official noted.

Iran-Uzbekistan annual trade to hit \$1b

Uzbek president to visit Tehran today

Economy Desk

Iran and Uzbekistan are planning to increase their bilateral trade to \$1 billion per annum, according to a report by IRNA. Iran's Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade Abbas Aliabadi discussed boosting economic ties with his Uzbek counterpart Laziz Kudratov on Saturday ahead of the visit of the president of Uzbekistan to Tehran. Heading a high-ranking politico-economic delegation, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev of Uzbekistan will visit Iran today. Mirziyoyev is to hold talks with his Iranian counterpart Ebrahim Raeisi, and co-chair a high-ranking delegations meeting. The two sides are also to sign cooperation documents and attend a joint press conference.

Speaking at the meeting of the Iran-Uzbekistan Joint Economic Cooperation Commission on Saturday, Aliabadi announced that talks are underway between Iran and Uzbekistan on a preferential trade agreement (PTA), details of which will be finalized in the coming weeks. He said a list of items has been provided within the framework of the PTA, and officials of the two countries are going to agree on the provision of the agreement. The industry minister also said documents on the development of bilateral trade ties will be signed in the presence of the presidents of the two countries. In the field of customs cooperation, infrastructural rules should be provided, so that the two countries would establish more joint trade activities, Aliabadi emphasized. Accelerating the provision of these infrastructures can help promote bilateral trade between Iran and Uzbekistan, he concluded. In the 15th Iran-Uzbekistan Joint Economic Cooperation



Commission, which was held recently in Uzbekistan, Kudratov said very good agreements were reached between the two countries, as one of the most important agreements is the preparation of a road map

to reach a trade of \$1 billion. A mechanism is being designed so that we can significantly increase the volume of trade between the two countries in the next one or two years, the Uzbek minister noted.

Foreign investment in Iran up 83% in 20 months



Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Iran has grown by 83%, to reach \$6.51 billion, since President Ebrahim Raisi took office in August 2021 until late April this year, compared to the same period the previous year. According to figures published on Saturday by the Organization for Investment and Economic and Technical Assistance of Iran, a total of 401 foreign investment projects, with a value of \$10.76 billion had been approved by the organization since August 2021, IRNA reported.

However, it said some 45 projects had been dismissed due to the failure of foreign investors to make an initial investment required by Iranian law. The figures indicate that some 356 foreign investment projects, with a total value of \$6.05 billion, have been approved under the Raeisi administration. Investors from Russia, the UAE, Afghanistan, Turkey, Iraq and China have accounted for the bulk of FDI recorded in Iran, over the period August 2021 to April 2023.

First Announcement

Copper Cathode Tender Notice
National Iranian Copper Industries Company

Commodity: Copper cathodes LME grade "A" produced in Sarcheshmeh and Khatoon Abad, Kerman Province, I. R. IRAN.

Quality: Copper cathodes LME grade "A" as per following typical analysis:

Cu	99.994	% Min	As	< 1	PPM	Sb	< 1	PPM
Fe	< 2	PPM	Pb	< 5	"	Zn	< 3	"
Mn	< 0.5	"	Co	< 2	"	Ni	< 1	"
S	< 15	"	Cd	< 0.2	"	Te	< 1.2	"
O	< 50	"	Se	< 0.4	"	Sn	< 1	"
Bi	< 1	"	Si	< 1	"	P	< 1	"
Cr	< 1	"	Ag	< 10	"			

Standard: ASTM-B115

Packing: In bundles.

Quantity: 5000 MT (Five Thousand) +/- 2% (seller's option). The less quantity is also negotiable.

Shipment: Partial shipment during year 2023. The exact shipment schedule shall be mutually agreed between buyer & seller at the time of contract settlement.

Delivery: FOB Bandar Abbas, Iran or FCA Sarcheshmeh, Kerman, Iran based on Incoterms 2020.

Price: The price per metric ton of the material shall be the official LME cash settlement price for copper grade 'A' in USD as published in the London Metal Bulletin, during the quotational period plus premium.

The premium could be either flat or plus per ton for delivery term FCA Sarcheshmeh, Kerman, Iran and for FOB term, please advise your premium offer to be able to check and discuss accordingly.

Quotational period: Quotational period for any unknown price is negotiable.

Payment Procedure:

- Buyer shall pay 100% (one hundred percent) of proforma/provisional invoice value amount in Euro (other currencies of payment are also negotiable), prompt net cash payable by telegraphic transfer to a bank which is nominated by seller. Seller will introduce its non-Iranian trustee company and all documents will be issued in the name of that company and the money will be deposited into the its account.
- Proforma/Provisional invoice amount shall be calculated based on provisional price which is average of five consecutive working days prior date of Provisional/ Proforma invoice.
- All calculation of Provisional/Proforma/Final invoices is based on USD, then converted to Euro for payment.
- The exact payment procedure shall be mutually agreed between buyer & seller at the time of contract settlement.
- The final balance, if any, between the provisional payment made by buyer and the final value of the material shall be paid by the owing party by telegraphic transfer against seller's presentation of final invoice within five working days from the date of the final invoice.

Important Notes:

- Offers must be presented to NICICO Sales Dept. only through email sent to sales-tender@nicico.com till end of Tuesday 27th June 2023 local time. It is very important that offers shall be definitely sent to the sales-tender@nicico.com and the ones sent to any other email addresses won't be acceptable.
- In case your offer is accepted by NICICO, it will be advised to you via Email.

P.S. Offers must be include per following items, otherwise won't be acceptable:

- Quantity
- Price; price offer shall include premium according to our stated condition.
- Quotational Period
- Payment Procedure
- Delivery Terms

National Iranian Copper Industries Co.

Sales & Marketing department

**Tel: +98 21 82138099
+98 21 82138060**

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Unregulated weight loss drugs are a growing threat to public health

Social Desk

EXCLUSIVE

In an era marked by rapid technological advancement and lifestyle shifts, the Director General of the Food and Drug Organization's reference laboratories, Mehdi Ansari Dogahe, has issued a stern warning about the dangers of unregulated weight loss drugs flooding the market.

Ansari underscored that the procurement of all medicinal products should be strictly through approved pharmacies. He noted the burgeoning diversity of weight loss drugs available, and the concomitant rise in fraudulent practices associated with them, according to IRNA.

"Human life has evolved significantly over the years," Ansari stated. "Technological progress, lifestyle changes, and sedentary habits have contributed to an increase in weight gain among the populace. This, in turn, has led to a surge in non-communicable diseases, placing a substantial burden on our health system."

Weight loss has become a pressing concern for many, and the high demand has led to a proliferation of weight loss drugs and methodologies. Ansari explained that these drugs vary widely in their mechanisms of action. Some induce weight loss by suppressing appetite, others by accelerating metabolic processes, and yet others by inhibiting the absorption of sugars and fats.

"Each of these drugs should be prescribed and consumed based on the patient's specific needs and under the guidance of a medical professional," he emphasized.

The official further clarified that many weight loss drugs are sold with the

approval of the Food and Drug Organization and are available exclusively in pharmacies. However, he cautioned against the sale of unauthorized weight loss drugs, which are often marketed aggressively on satellite networks and online platforms.

"Unscrupulous individuals are capitalizing on this demand, selling counterfeit weight loss drugs, primarily amphetamines, which are used to boost metabolism and directly impact the central nervous system," Ansari warned. "These substances are often found in free-market products, primarily in perfumeries and online spaces, posing significant health risks to consumers."

Ansari urged the public to disregard sensational advertisements promising rapid weight loss and to be wary of drugs marketed on social networks and online platforms. He stressed that the only reliable source for health-oriented products is a licensed pharmacy. He also recommended the use of TiTEK application and system for verifying the authenticity of various products.

In light of the official's warning, it's better to know that in the digital age, where information is as accessible as it is abundant, discerning fact from fiction has become an increasingly complex task. This is particularly true in the realm of health and wellness, where social media platforms are awash with advertisements for unlicensed medicinal products. These products, often presented as miracle cures or revolutionary treatments, pose significant risks to public health.

The allure of these products is understandable. They promise quick fixes to complex health issues, often at a fraction of the



cost of conventional treatments. However, the dangers they pose are manifold and severe.

First, unlicensed medicinal products are not subject to the rigorous testing and regulatory oversight that licensed medicines are. The Food and Drug Administration in the U.S and similar bodies worldwide enforce strict standards to ensure the safety and efficacy of medicinal products. Unlicensed products, however, operate outside this regulatory framework. As a result, they may contain harmful ingredients, or at best, ineffective ones.

Secondly, these products often lack accurate labeling and dosage instructions. This can lead

to misuse, overdosing, or underdosing, all of which can have serious health consequences.

Thirdly, the use of unlicensed medicinal products can delay the seeking of appropriate medical advice and treatment. This is particularly dangerous for serious or chronic conditions, where early intervention is crucial.

The role of social media in propagating these products cannot be understated. Platforms like Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter have become fertile ground for unscrupulous vendors to peddle their wares. The use of sophisticated algorithms allows these vendors to target vulnerable individuals, often those desper-

ate for a cure. Moreover, the rise of influencer culture has added another layer of complexity. Influencers, often with large followings, can lend an air of legitimacy to these products. However, it's important to remember that these endorsements are often paid for, and the influencer may have no medical expertise or understanding of the product they're promoting.

So, how can consumers protect themselves? Education is key. Understanding the importance of licensed medicinal products and the dangers of their unlicensed counterparts is the first step. Consumers should also be wary of products that promise quick fixes or

use language like 'miracle cure' or 'revolutionary treatment'.

Second, always consult with a healthcare professional before starting any new treatment. They can provide accurate information and guide you towards safe and effective treatments.

And last, report any suspicious products to the relevant authorities.

While the digital age has brought many benefits, it has also brought new challenges. The proliferation of unlicensed medicinal products on social media is one such challenge. However, with education, vigilance, and the continued efforts of regulatory bodies, we can navigate this digital landscape safely and healthily.



Unlicensed products operate outside the regulatory framework.
● IRNA

Iran ranks among the world's top 10 pharmaceutical producers

Social Desk

Amin-Reza Khaleghian, the Director General of Communications and International Affairs at Pardis Technology Park (PTP), announced that Iran has joined the top ten global pharmaceutical producers, distinguished by its diverse portfolio of drugs.

Khaleghian highlighted Iran's position as the sixth leading producer of multiple sclerosis (MS) medications worldwide and its breakthrough in treating

cutaneous leishmaniasis. He emphasized that Iran has pioneered a novel treatment for migraines, thanks to the collaborative efforts of both public and private sectors that led to the establishment of PTP. PTP, a hub for innovation, hosts 400 technology and knowledge-based companies that have engaged in product and technology exchanges with 40 countries. PTP's primary roles include assisting companies in sourcing raw materials and marketing their products internationally.

The Vice Presidency of Science and Technology Affairs has established technology offices in several countries, including Kenya, Venezuela, Turkey, and Georgia, further expanding PTP's global footprint. Khaleghian also mentioned PTP's membership in the International Association of Science Parks and Areas of Innovation (IASP), where he serves as the chairman of the West Asia and North Africa (WANA) division. Despite sanctions, PTP has made significant strides,

including the domestic production and export of broadcast transmitters and the successful use of Iranian-made ventilators for four years without any issues.

Khaleghian expressed optimism for increased cooperation with Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Indonesia in the near future and affirmed Iran's commitment to developing cooperation with Russia in the health, pharmaceutical, and Fin-tech sectors, despite the sanctions imposed on both countries.

Despite sanctions, PTP has made significant strides, including the domestic production and export of broadcast transmitters and the successful use of Iranian-made ventilators for four years without any issues.



Ayatollah Khamenei's books showcased at Doha Int'l Book Fair



Arts & Culture Desk

During the Doha International Book Fair, approximately 30 books authored by Seyyed Ali Khamenei, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, or related to him, were translated into Arabic and made available to attendees. The Leader's literary works received a warm reception from Shia communities in Qatar, Yemen, Lebanon, and Iranians residing in Qatar. The Doha International Book Fair, which holds a distinguished reputation in the region, is one of the oldest and largest international book fairs. It has garnered significant interest from Arab and foreign countries since its inception in 1972 under the supervision of Dar Al Kutub Al Qatariya. Originally scheduled every two years, the fair transitioned to an annual event in 2002.

Alongside the book fair, numerous cultural events such as seminars, lectures, and workshops take place, adding further enrichment to the overall experience. The Shia communities in Qatar, Yemen, Lebanon, and Iranian Arabic speakers residing in Qatar expressed great enthusiasm for the presented books.

Iran's House of Books and Literature, making its seventh appearance at the exhibition, showcased the country's publishing industry through a 36-square-meter booth. The booth featured an extensive collection of 800 titles from 60 publishers, covering diverse subjects including children and young adult literature, rare books, Persian language instruction, Qur'anic themes, interfaith dialogue, and more.

The 32nd edition of the book fair commenced on June 12 and welcomed the participation of Iran, extending a warm invitation to book enthusiasts until June 21.

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Iranians awarded in Shanghai Int'l Film Festival



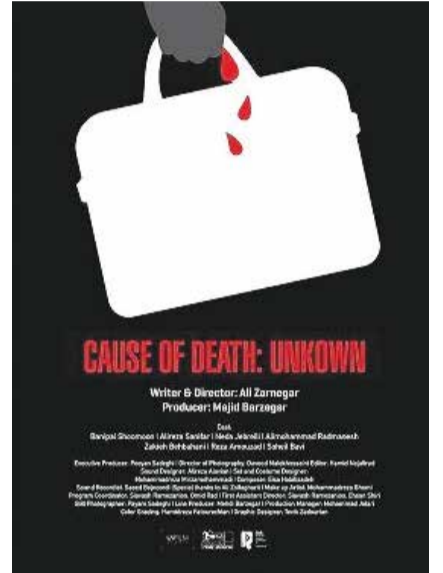
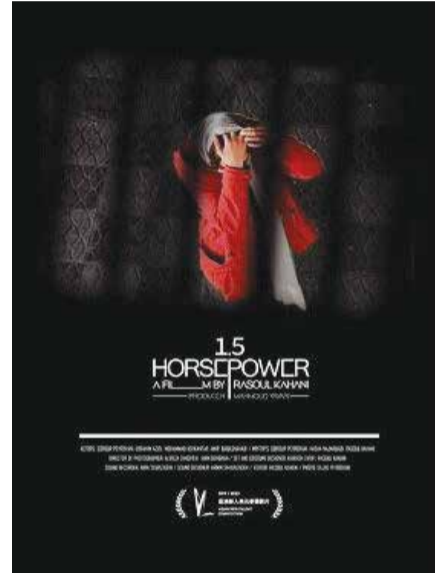
Sorour Peyrovani
 ● INSTAGRAM

Arts & Culture Desk

Two Iranian films garnered recognition at the 25th Shanghai International Film Festival (SIFF), which took place from June 9 to 18. Iranian actress Sorour Peyrovani was honored with the Best Actress Award in the Asian New Talent section of the Golden Goblet Awards for her exceptional performance in '1.5 Horsepower'. Directed by Rasoul Kahani, '1.5 Horsepower' also received nominations for Best Director and Best Screenplay at the 25th SIFF. Davood Malek-Hosseini secured the Best Cinematographer Award for 'Cause of Death: Unknown', directed by Ali Zarnegar. The film awards were part of the esteemed Golden Goblet Awards, comprising five categories:

the main competition for feature-length films, as well as competitions for Asian new talent, documentaries, animations, and short films, as detailed on the festival's official website. Among the Iranian films showcased in various categories at the festival were 'The Annoyed', '1.5 Horsepower', 'Cause of Death: Unknown', 'Dolphin Boy', and 'The Passion of Mahmoud'. Additionally, 'Sunday', directed by Shokir Kholikov from Uzbekistan, was recognized as the best film in the Asian New Talent section.

It is worth noting that the Asian New Talent Awards, known as the Golden Goblet Awards, exist independently from the festival's official competition section, emphasizing



ing the promotion of new and emerging talents. The winners of the festival's main competition, which includes the Golden Goblet Awards, will be announced on Sunday.

In the Asian New Talent section, the Best Director Award was jointly bestowed upon Luo Dong from China for his film 'May' and Aisultan Seit from Kazakhstan for

'Qash'. Notably, Luo had previously participated in the Shanghai festival's project market a decade ago and has since successfully completed another film.

Five Chinese symphonic orchestras invite Iran's musician Rahbari

Arts & Culture Desk

Five orchestras from different Chinese cities have extended invitations to composer and orchestra conductor Ali Rahbari to serve as a guest conductor in their ensembles. The Nanchang Symphony Orchestra, Hangzhou Philharmonic Orchestra, Shenzhen Symphony Orchestra, Kunming Symphony Orchestra, and Wuhan Philharmonic Orchestra are among the orchestras that have sought Rahbari's leadership, as reported by Mehr. Currently, Rahbari is fulfilling the role of a guest conductor at the Mariinsky Theatre in St. Petersburg, alongside the renowned Valery Gergiev. Alongside several international soloists, Rahbari has been invited to conduct these orchestras, with their con-



certs set to commence in late September. In 2015, this internationally acclaimed Iranian composer and conductor received an invitation to conduct the China Philharmonic Orchestra in Beijing. Following the success of that concert, Rahbari extended an invitation to the orchestra to perform in Tehran. Collaborating with the Tehran Symphony Orchestra under his guidance, they held a concert at the prestigious Vahdat Hall.

Iran's musical 'War and Peace' on stage

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's musical 'War and Peace,' directed by Maysam Yousefi, offers a unique adaptation of William Shakespeare's 'Romeo and Juliet' with no dialogue. Yousefi believes that this performance has the potential to be a powerful representative of Iran on the international stage. Yousefi shared the background of the production, stating, "Around two years ago, we collaborated with Marzieh Boroumand and Banafsheh Badeei to produce the musical 'War and Peace' with the participation of children from Yazd for the Tehran Puppet Theater Festival. In the spring of 2021, we staged the public performance at the City Theater, but due to the surg-

ing COVID-19 pandemic, it was forced to halt on multiple occasions". Highlighting the uniqueness of the musical show, Yousefi explained, "This performance breaks away from traditional norms as it solely relies on the language of music, presenting a dialogue that transcends cultural boundaries." Describing the essence of the play, Yousefi expressed, "The essence of 'War and Peace' lies in its interpretation of William Shakespeare's 'Romeo and Juliet,' employing classical and traditional instruments to portray the fictional characters. The romantic tale of Romeo and Juliet unfolds through a symphony of classical and traditional sounds". Emphasizing the significance of the production,



Yousefi stated, "War and Peace' is a 40-minute melodic drama that stands in stark contrast to William Shakespeare's tragic masterpiece. It conveys a profound musical message and has the potential to effectively represent Iran on the global stage. The performance commenced on June 11 and will captivate audiences until July 7.

Archaeologists discover 3,000-year-old mummy under 15,000 pounds of garbage

Archaeologists in Lima, Peru, made an astonishing discovery under thousands of pounds of trash – a 3,000-year-old mummy that was likely a sacrifice. The specimen was uncovered this week by archaeologists and San Marcos University students, according to Reuters. They

first spotted it thanks to its exposed hair and skull. But before examining the ancient mummy, over 15,000 pounds of trash had to be removed from the site, BBC News reported. From there, other items buried at the site – such as corn, coca leaves, and seeds – were also recovered,

Reuters reported. Archaeologist Miguel Aguilar told BBC News the mummy was likely from the Manchay culture, a group of people who lived around modern-day Lima from 1,500 BCE to 1,000 BCE. The Manchay people typically built U-shaped tem-

ples pointed towards the rising sun, BBC reported. Other characteristics, such as the mummy's positioning and where it was located in the U-shaped temple, suggested it was from the Manchay culture, BBC reported. Aguilar said that the person "had been left or



offered [as a sacrifice] during the last phase of

construction of this temple," BBC said.